

Odyssey Charter School

NEWS

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER
2012

"Committed to academic excellence and the education of the whole child"

OUR MISSION FOR EVERY CHILD

The mission of Odyssey Charter School is to work in partnership with the family and community, with the aim of helping each child reach their full potential in all areas of life. We seek to educate the whole child with the understanding that each person much achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

GRAND OPENING AND RIBBON CUTTING



Odyssey Charter School's Upper Campus will have a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Wednesday, September 12, at 5:30 pm. The Grand Opening will be sponsored by the Palm Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. All are invited to attend and enjoy refreshments. Tours will be given to those who are new to our school and have not yet visited the Upper Campus.

FEDERAL IMPACT AID SURVEY

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!! Federal Aid Impact Surveys have arrived. They will be going home with your students on September 11. Please fill these out and return them to your child's homeroom teacher as soon as possible. The deadline to return the forms will be Wednesday, September 26. We will be having a friendly school wide competition for the top 3 classes who have all the forms returned first. So show your school spirit and help your child's class win! 1st place – Dress Down Day and 15 min extra recess
2nd/3rd place – Dress Down Day or Jeans Day



ODYSSEY VOTES ON A MASCOT!

The Student Leadership Team on the Upper Campus has been busy helping our school develop. The students have voted on a school mascot. And the winner is...The Odyssey Titans! The Team is now working upon the development of the sports logo and then will begin work on the Middle School Uniform. Great work students!

SUNDAY WITH THE SYMPHONY

Musical Event, Bookfair

Join us for our annual Sunday With the Symphony with the Brevard Symphony Orchestra on September 30, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

Listen to BSO musicians perform, enter to win prizes, and gain insights into the BSO's new season with Music Director and Principal Conductor Christopher Confessore! This event will be at Barnes & Noble (1955 W. New Haven, West Melbourne, FL 32904, 321-726-9505).



Visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

Lower Campus: 1755 Eldron Blvd. S.E.
Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-733-0442

Upper Campus: 1350 Wyoming Drive S.E.
Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

CALENDAR – Sept / Oct 2012

- Sept. 12** – SAC Meeting – Lower Campus, 1 pm - Elections
- Sept. 12** – Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening – Upper Campus – 5:30 pm
- Sept. 13** – Elementary & Secondary Interims Issued
- Sept. 17** – Glee Club Auditions (1st-6th grades) 3-4
- Sept. 26** – Early Release Day, Lower Campus – 1:15, Upper Campus – 2:30
- Sept. 28** – Dress Down Day
- Sept. 30** – Symphony at Barnes & Noble – 2 pm
- Oct. 3** – International Walk to School Day
- Oct. 5** – BIG RED BUS Blood Drive, Lower Campus
- Oct. 10** – The Invisible Children Movement – Upper Campus
- Oct. 11** – End of 1st 9 weeks
- Oct. 12** – Professional Development Day/ Student Holiday
- Oct. 18** – Elementary Report Cards Issued
- Oct. 23** – Secondary Report Cards Issued
- Oct. 23** – OCS Board Meeting, 5:15 pm
- Oct. 25** – Elementary Conference
- Oct. 26** – Dress Down Day
- Oct. 29** – Middle School Conference
- Oct. 31** – Early Release Day, Lower Campus – 1:15, Upper Campus – 2:30

EARLY RELEASE DATES

September 26 and October 31 will be Early Release Days. The Lower Campus will release students at 1:15 pm and the Upper Campus will release students at 2:30 pm.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Our staff directory and teacher certifications can be found on our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The School Advisory Council, known as SAC, is an organization of parents, teachers, and community members who act as a resource to the school and the Principals. The team represents the views of the school community in order to develop solutions to problems that affect the school and its students.

Members of the SAC team meet each month for approximately one hour. The SAC is made up of the School Principals, chairpersons, a secretary and other representatives. Although the SAC has its full membership for this school year, we will be electing officers at our next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 12th at 1:00pm in the conference room on the lower campus. All are welcome to attend.

DRESS DOWN DAYS – September 28 and October 26

On the last Friday of each month, students on both campuses are allowed to dress down out of uniform. Students must still be in compliance with the Brevard County Dress Code. Parents may find links to both the elementary and secondary parent handbooks on the school's website.

In our school community, students are taught the philosophy of respect for life. They learn to respect oneself, each other, and their indoor and outdoor environment. Along with this respect is an inherent message that we are accountable to each other and to the care of the earth we live upon. During certain times of the year on Dress Down days, students may use a hour of the school day to further develop and demonstrate this care for their learning environment, both indoors and outdoors.

5517.01 POLICY AGAINST BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to a new state law, the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for all Students Act, the Brevard County School Board recently adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 32 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.



The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employee and may involve but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyberstalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

Odyssey Charter School is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to the upper campus principal, Mr. Brent A. Christensen at christensenb@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117, or to the lower campus principal (K-6th), Ms. Wendi M. Nolder, nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0442 ext. 110. Anonymous reports can also be made by calling the Speak - Out Hotline at 1-800-423-8477.

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit the Stop Bullying Now website at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.

HEALTHY CAFÉ



Free and Reduced Applications are still available for this school year! Please drop by the Cafe or the school office and fill one out. Reduced price lunch is \$.40 and breakfast is \$.30. Ask your student about their lunches, I've been seeing a lot of trays with a rainbow of colors from the salad bar! It's so great to see them choosing so many fruits and veggies. This year we've encouraged taking more of one fruit and the children are loving it. Feel free to stop by and have lunch with your student anytime, adult lunch is \$3.50. We look forward to seeing you!

CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to the following students for scoring a LEVEL 5 on last Spring's FCAT 2.0:

READING:

Adam Anderson
Genevieve Archibald
Magnus Billings
Dylan Bissessarsingh
Andres Carlos
Charlie Coughlin
Chloe Harmon
Julien Moscol
Riley Sibol
Sydney Skinner
Jose Vargas
Lilly Burke
Maya Carter
Tyler Shockley
Zion Wright
Maya Bachman
Jackson Carter
Madison Dobbs
Andres Ramos
Jacob Smith
Luke Whitworth
Lauren Anderson
Alexa Carlos
Kayla Lanza
Taylor Oakes
Ricardo Quinones
Gabriel Camba
Cameron Cheek
Sabrina Jacques
Jacquelyn Julian
Samuel McCormick
Gabriella Oye
Olivier St. Louis

MATH:

Genevieve Archibald
Anthony Arruda
Magnus Billings
Andres Carlos
Charlie Coughlin
Cullen Fry
Jacob Gagnon
Merrick Ryan
Riley Sibol
Sydney Skinner
Ashley Zavodny
Olivia Archibald
Lilly Burke
Caliosa Dempsey
C.G. Goddard
Ellie Harris
Samuel Morehouse
Devin Myers
Danicha St. Amour
Maya Bachman
Madison Dobbs
Joel Rogers
Tabitha Sanchez
Zachary Seneschal
Lexine Sibert
Lauren Anderson
Brandon Bullock
Angie Derisance
Samantha Otto
Sebastian Rivera
Cameron Cheek
Heather Costa
Samuel McCormick
Olivier St. Louis

starred students scored a PERFECT FCAT 2.0 score

ESOL

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself: my name is Lisa Rosati and I am the ESOL contact/teacher here at Odyssey Charter School. ESOL is an acronym that stands for "English Speakers of Other Languages". A great big welcome to all of our Spanish, Jamaican, Creole, Arabic, Chinese, and Portuguese families!

GLEE CLUB IS BACK!

Odyssey's most popular after-school club is now accepting students for auditions. Glee club auditions will be held in the café on Sept. 17th from 3:00-4:00. Pick up time is 4:00. Any participating student must have a permission form turned in before auditioning. Permission slips will be available to any interested students and emailed out to all of our parent email subscribers. Permission forms are due no later than September 15th.



TARDY POLICY

Being tardy to class disrupts learning for all students. Students are required to report to their classrooms ready to learn at the Lower Campus by 7:55 a.m. and at the Upper Campus by 8:45 a.m.

Students tardy on either campus must be walked into the office and signed in by a parent in order to obtain a tardy slip and enter their classroom. Chronically tardy students will be referred to the principal.

For the middle school student, excessive tardiness to school may result in detention before school or other appropriate disciplinary action. Detention will be issued after three (3) tardies to school. Students present, but tardy to their classes, must report to the Principal. Detentions will be assigned on Tuesday and Thursday from 7:45-8:45.

Students must bring materials to study during detentions. Students who do not bring materials will be considered unprepared and further disciplinary action will be taken. At least one day's written notice will be given to the student and parent concerning the date and time of the detention.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY

Walking and bicycling to school enables children to incorporate the regular physical activity they need each day while also forming healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Regular physical activity helps children build strong bones, muscles and joints, and it decreases the risk of obesity. In contrast, insufficient physical activity can contribute to chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stroke.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that children and adolescents get one hour or more of physical activity each day. Research suggests that physically active kids are more likely to become healthy, physically active adults, underscoring the importance of developing the habit of regular physical activity early.

Odyssey will participate in the Walk to School Day on October 3, 2012. <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/ready/why-walk-or-bike/healthier-habits> Look for more information coming soon!



GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
Step 3: **Contact Constance Ortiz at Academia Central Florida Management Company

Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board of Directors Meeting if unresolved
Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

**Constance Ortiz, Odyssey Founder and Academia Central Florida Director, has been designated by the OCS Board of Directors as the Representative to Facilitate Parental Involvement, provide access to information, assist parents and others with questions and concerns, and resolve disputes according to charter requirements. Ms. Ortiz can be reached at cortiz@academicacfl.org, or 321-216-7525.

MAKE-UP WORK

Students have the right to make up work missed due to absences. However, to receive credit the assignment has to be successfully completed and turned in within ten (10) days of the absence. A student who is absent on a pre-announced test date should be prepared to take the test on the day of his/her return to class, unless other reasonable arrangements are made with the teacher. We give the teachers at least twenty-four (24) hours to have the homework ready in the attendance area. Please call the attendance office prior to picking up the homework.

STUDENT CHECKOUT

Students may be checked out of school by their parent, legal guardian or a designee specified in writing by the parent or legal guardian. When checking a student out of school, please present photo identification to our front office staff.

In order to maintain the order and focus in our classrooms, children will not be called from class to retrieve items brought to them during the school day. If a student forgets an item, we ask that you keep the item at home and have the student bring it to school the next day. If a student forgets lunch items, the front office will notify the teacher before the students lunch period and the student will pick up the lunch item on the way to the café.

Students may not be checked out after 2:00 pm at the lower campus (K-6th) or 3:00 pm at the upper campus (6th honors-8th). Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the principal.

TARGET DONATIONS

TARGET® TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION®

Target offers another way for families and friends to help earn money for our school with their Take Charter of Education Program. Target Credit Card and Target Visa Credit Card account holders can sign up for this program by visiting Target.com/tcoe. Enroll free and designate Odyssey (account ID 113492) as your school. Target will donate an amount equal to 1% of your Target card purchases at any Target store and Target.com, and ½% of your Target Visa Credit card purchases made everywhere else Visa credit cards are accepted.



Pass the word and thank you for supporting Odyssey!!

(Thank you to all who voted for Odyssey Charter School at Target.com. With your votes, Odyssey earned gift cards in the amount totaling \$150!)

OCS BOARD MEETINGS

Parents and staff are encouraged to attend the Odyssey Charter School, Inc., Board meetings. Our next Board meeting is October 23, 2012 at 5:15 pm.



FALL SPORTS

The Odyssey sports programs are well under way! We would like to recognize the following athletes and wish them well in their upcoming seasons!

5th-6th Grades Girls Volleyball Team

Coaches Christine Koeing and Katie Gillen

Olivia Archibald, Sindy Bonilla, Dylan Encarnacion, Cailosa Dempsey, Katelynn Galligan, Kayla Hamm, Ellie Harris, Rylee Howard, Darby Koob, Bria Madaffri, Ashley Shockley, Macy Ysaquirre, Emma Prieto, Kiara Sanchez, Emily Strawser, and Emily Wilson

MS Girls Volleyball Team

Coach Jose Padilla

Samantha Brown, Kayla Burke, Mariah Charriez, Kalli Hamm, Kayla Lanza, Angelica Lenza, Alexandra Morales, Alana Newell, Imani Nisbett, Arbreska Ortiz, Nina Planinz, Nathalie Ramirez, Alyssa Shalosky, and Victoria Waddell



5th-6th Grades Boys Flag Football Team

Coaches Andy Breese and Ryan Williams

Jacob Anderson, Leonce Aubin, Christian Barton, Antonio Bernardo, Michael Bonanno, Justin Cadle, Anthony Damms, Dillon Davis, Kwabena Flewellyn, C.G. Goddard, Robert Hemingway, McKenson Jean, Christopher Marciniak, Jesse Martin, Isaiah Mayers, Jacob Meeks, Myriam Mehu, Marvin Montrose, Anthony Pitta, Emir Refeek, Tyler Rios, J.D. Sanchez, Joel Sanchez, Jose Sanchez, Tabitha Sanchez, Tyler Shockley, Danicha Stamour, Rafaela St Juste, Jah-Shua Watts, Luke Whitworth, and Cody Wilson

MS Boys Basketball Team

Coaches Brett Butler and Aaron Washington

Christopher Alexis, Barrett Altizer, Jordan Bailey, Kameron Brown, Malik Brown, Jacob Cook, Richard Durbreus, Anthony Lambrelli, Tyrese Laverdure, Keirano Lewis, Kinley Louissaint, Nour Moaoui, Lihlenz Olivier Saint-Louis, Julian Scites, Joshua Torgusen, Darnel Victor, Weston Wood, Jonathan Youte, Lorenzo Torres, and Joel Rogers

LOWER CAMPUS NEWS

Safety Patrol

We are happy to announce that Odyssey Charter lower campus (K-6th) will soon start using Safety Patrols for arrival and dismissal once again! Safety Patrols are our 5th and 6th grade students who assist other Odyssey students during arrival and dismissal. They perform duties such as opening and closing car doors, greeting students and families during arrival and dismissal, raising and lowering of the American flag, and monitoring students' safety. We look for mature and responsible students to help us perform these duties.

Car Loop

Thank you parents for proudly displaying your child's name and grade cards in the lower campus car loop! It has really helped expedite our loop. Also, we appreciate the courtesy we have seen in the car loop, both in the a.m. and the p.m., with drivers being patient and taking turns merging into our pickup lane. **Reminders: For the safety of our students, we ask that parents not use their cell phones while in the car loop. Parents must adhere to the 5 mph speed limit while on school property.**

Media Center

The Read Aloud program is extremely important to your child's success. The Media Center is open to students and parents after school to check out books for Read Aloud (5 book max). The Media Center is closed after school on Wednesdays. Book Bash books are coming in and those who wish to participate need to start reading at least 5 to be considered. We also encourage students to enter and start reading the following:

5th grade - Newbery Award winning books

2nd-4th grades - Magic Tree House and Junie B. Jones book series

K-2nd grade - Caldecott Award books.

All of these books are engaging. Reading and connecting with your child is a great teachable moment. This is going to be a great year! Odyssey wishes to thank all faculty, staff, volunteers, and parents who made our first Open House Book Fair a success.

UPPER CAMPUS NEWS

Open House Success

The Upper campus staff would like to thank everyone for the great turn out at the Open House held August 23rd. Thank you parents for your support in educating your child.

Book Fair

Thank you parents and students for your support during our recent Book Fair. Mr. Durrant was pleased to report that the Book Fair was a huge success!

Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) Search Begins

All Odyssey Charter School 7th graders who scored at or above a 95th percentile on at least one portion of last year's FCAT are invited to participate in the Duke University 7th Grade Talent Identification Program. Students who would like to participate will take either the SAT1 or the ACT assessment college entrance exam. For further information or to enroll, please visit the Duke University website at www.tip.duke.edu/enroll. Informational brochures are also available at the front office. Students who have qualifying high scores may qualify for a recognition ceremony in the State of Florida or Duke University. Students may also qualify for TIP's Summer Studies Program.

Social Cause: The Invisible Children Movement

A part of our school's philosophy for our middle school student is to help them become global citizens who are aware of and capable of making life better for themselves, others and the planet they live upon. We seek to help them connect to greater meaning through social causes that will enable them to further develop empathy and a caring for life, wherever it may be.

On Friday, October 19th, the Upper Campus students will take part in a film currently in production and suitable for Middle School students on The Invisible Children Movement. The theme of the film will mostly center around inherent connections among all of us, using dance as an example of a universal language. The movement is composed of a global community of young people that look to bring a permanent end to the recruitment of child soldiers in the remote border regions of the South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central American Republic. A central idea of the Invisible Children Movement is the idea that human life is equal and that where you live shouldn't determine whether you live.

For more information, please contact Mr. Bayard at bayarda@odysseycharterschool.com