

Odyssey Charter School

NEWS

MARCH / APRIL 2013

"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.

CALLING ALL PARENTS!

We Need You at the next PasP Meeting on Monday, March 4th, 6:30 pm, Lower Campus

Our PasP (Parents as Partners) Recommitment and Re-launch meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb 19th at 6:30. Parents who attended showed their support for three of our upcoming projects: the Spring Fling, our Annual 5K Family Walk/Run, and a Recommitment and Re-launch of our PasP organization. If you missed the meeting, remember it's never too late to get involved! All are welcomed. Your support is vital to our school community! Please join us at our next meeting coming up on March 4th at 6:30 at the Lower Campus.



SAVE THE DATE: SPRING FLING

Adult Wine & Cheese Event March 15th -- Come One, Come All!

Parents, Faculty, Staff and Community Members – We are inviting you to come out and support our School Athletic Programs by attending a Spring Fling at Odyssey's Lower Campus! It will be a night to enjoy and a time to get to know others within our school community. This community fundraiser is coming up on Friday, March 15th and will be held from 8:00-10:30 pm.. There will be an Odyssey art auction, and wine and cheese to be enjoyed by all. The band "Plan B" (made up of NASA engineers who are a well known area band) will be providing live entertainment with their 70's and 80's-style classic rock sound. Those who plan to attend may dress in semi-formal evening attire. All proceeds will go towards providing uniforms, equipment, and other needs to build our growing sports program. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$30 per couple and may be purchased at the door. Be sure to invite your friends and family to come out and support our school and enjoy the evening with us! Please RSVP by March 5th by calling 321-733-0442.

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 – March / April 2013



- March 4** – PasP Meeting. All are Invited! Lower Campus @ 6:30 pm
- March 4-15** – CELLA Testing for ESOL students
- March 5 & 7** – "Odyssey's Got Talent" Show at 8:30 am (Lower Campus)
- March 7** – Barnes & Noble Book Fair 6-8:00 pm
- March 11-15** – Book Fair coming to Odyssey!
- March 12** – "Odyssey's Got Talent" Parent evening show at 6:30 pm (Lower Campus)
- March 13** – Third Nine Weeks Ends. Early Release Day. Lower Campus dismisses at 1:15. Upper Campus dismisses at 2:30.
- March 15** – Spring Fling – Adult Fundraiser
- March 19** – Open House for rising Middle School 7th graders and rising High School 9th graders
- March 19** – Elementary Report Cards Issued
- March 20** – District Science Fair at Melbourne Auditorium
- March 22** – Secondary Report Cards Issued Dress Down/ Clean-Up Day (both campuses)
- March 25-29** – Spring Vacation. No school.
- April 11** – Rising Kindergarten & New Student Pre-Registration/Orientation
- April 13** – 5K (new date – mark your calendar!)
- April 15-26** – FCATS
- April 16** – OCS Board Meeting, 5:30 pm (Lower Campus)
- April 25** – Elementary and Secondary Interims Issued
- April 26** – Dress Down Day
- April 29-May 3** – Field Days

PARENT EDUCATION NIGHTS

Each school year, Odyssey hosts parent education nights that highlight special topics just for parents! In previous years we have offered presentations on subjects such as "cyber-bullying," effective reading strategies, and positive discipline workshops. This Spring, look out for more information on upcoming workshops designed to help you support your child at school and at home. Parent workshops happening in March and April, include:

Developing Capable Young People - 10 week parent training – Mondays, beginning March 11th through Monday, May 20th. This program focuses upon helping parents develop within their children the three perceptions and four skills which determine how effectively they'll deal with life. It helps our students develop competencies to meet life's challenges in learning, relationships, and within the work world more successfully. For a glimpse of this very special program, please visit <http://www.capabilitiesinc.com>.

Positive Discipline Parent Book Club – 4 week Parent Training beginning on Friday, April 5th, through Friday, April 26th, on the Positive Discipline in the Classroom approach to Child Development.

For more information, please contact Ms. Michelle Sutton, Program Coordinator, at 321 733-0442, extension 107. A registration form will be sent home with all students next week.

CELEBRATE LITERACY WEEK

Celebrate Literacy week in February was a great success. Students celebrated reading with extra classroom time to devote to independent reading and even some special guest readers in the classroom throughout the week. Also, if you were on our lower campus, you saw lots of doors creatively decorated as book jackets for our Celebrate Literacy classroom contests.

Congratulations to the students in the classrooms of Ms. Convery, Ms. Morse, Ms. Everington, and Ms. Murray for their outstanding work and for winning the contest! And thank you parents for attending our Read Aloud nights. We enjoyed reading to our students. The weekly theme for Celebrate Literacy this year was "Take the Lead and Read." We all know that reading empowers and enriches everyone. Reading teaches us about the world around us, develops our imaginations, and opens doors to higher learning. Keep encouraging your children to read, read, read!

CELEBRATE READING

Come to our Bookfair! The theme for this year's Book Fair is "Story Laboratory". Our bookfair officially opens on the Lower Campus on Monday, March 11th. So mark your calendars! Our goal for this fair is to sell 1,000 books to benefit your child as avid readers and to enrich the School's goal to provide numerous reading resources for our future leaders. As an incentive, our Principal, Ms. Nolder, will appear on March 11th in her pajamas and fuzzy slippers for an entire school day to help us celebrate our love of reading! Our Assistant Principal, Mr. Chace, has agreed to grow a beard if we meet our goal...so, let's buy some books! Online shopping is available on the 9th and 10th. The bookfair will have extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:00 and on early release day on Wednesday from 2:00-4:30. Read, read, read Titans!



OPEN HOUSE/INFORMATION NIGHT

For rising Middle School 7th graders and rising High School 9th graders

Attention current 6th and 8th grade families. Are you excited about middle school and high school? We are and we invite you to come learn about our new Cambridge Program designed to provide rigor and to challenge our Jr./Sr. High School students. Our continued focus on Global and Environmental Education will be highlighted. We will also share our plans for growing our middle and high school athletics program. Come meet our teachers and tour our upper campus. Please plan on attending this event designed for our Odyssey families entering middle school or high school. Open House will be held at our Jr./Sr. high campus, 1350 Wyoming Drive on Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.

5K ANNUAL WALK/RUN

Odyssey is hosting its Annual 5k Family Walk/Run on Saturday, April 13th! This is always a fun family event and community members are invited to participate! Join us at the Bayside High School track for this fun and healthy Odyssey fundraiser benefitting our student athletes. Registration information will be sent home with your student or can be obtained at Odyssey's front desk. Support your school and stay active – See you at the 5K! Registration begins at 8 am and the race begins promptly at 9.



THANK YOU!

Our Red & White Ball was a Huge Success!

The fourth grade hosted its Second Annual Red and White Ball. All lower campus students were invited to bring a special loved one from their household to spend the evening with. Dinner was served, followed by a delicious dessert. The rest of the evening was spent dancing the night away with friends and family. Professional portraits were also available to purchase at the Ball. All proceeds went towards the Fourth Grade St. Augustine trip. Thanks again to all of our families that came out for this special evening and helped support the 4th grade field trip!



MIDDLE SCHOOL ARRIVAL

Important Parent Notification

Parents, please make certain your student does not arrive to the Upper Campus before 8:20 am when faculty supervision begins. Our doors for the cafeteria open at 8:25 where students can receive a very nice breakfast and have some time to socialize in a supervised setting. Parents of students arriving before 8:20 will now be notified by school administration. Tutoring and enrichment students are the exception. Thank you for your assistance in keeping all of our middle school students safe.

ODYSSEY ANNUAL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



STAY ACTIVE – WALKING & BIKING TO SCHOOL

Odyssey's Annual Board Meeting was held on January 31st. The School's focus continues to be upon developing our teaching faculty and building our educational programs. Our founding Executive Director, Constance Ortiz, and the administrative team discussed with the OCS Board the need for an excellent Middle School program like Cambridge International Examinations for the Upper Campus. Cambridge is the world's largest provider of international education programs and its program is in over 160 countries around the world. The Cambridge Program is recognized and respected throughout the world by universities and employers. The mission of Cambridge is to provide world-class international education through curriculum, assessment, and services to expand high-quality education. Also discussed was ongoing development of teacher training from Teachers College, Columbia University through its Reading and Writing Project as well as developing Environmental Education modules. For more on Cambridge, please visit their website at <http://www.cie.org.uk/aboutcie>. For more on the Reading and Writing Project, please visit <http://readingandwritingproject.com>.



At the Annual Meeting and Dinner, Mr. Andy Vega, Odyssey Board Member, receives an award for 10 years of volunteer service to the school's board of directors! Mr. Vega's daughter, Gabby, is an Odyssey alumni and honors student. Mr. Vega helped the school through many stages of growth from Odyssey's early days in a church building through the building of Odyssey and expansion to a new campus. We appreciate your contribution, Mr. Vega, and thank you with all of our hearts!



The OCS Board (from left to right): Mr. Cliff Repperger, Esq., Dr. Jane Martin, Ms. Wendi Nolder, Principal, Mr. Christ Glatz, President, Ms. Constance Ortiz, Executive Director/Founder, Ms. Jessicah Nichols, and Mr. Andy Vega.

Within the span of one generation, the percentage of children walking or bicycling to school has dramatically decreased, from approximately 50% in 1969 to just 13% in 2009. While distance to school is the most commonly reported barrier to walking and bicycling, private vehicles still account for half of school trips between 1/4 and 1/2 mile—a distance easily covered on foot or bike. Did you know the prevalence of obesity is so great that today's generation of children may be the first in over 200 years to live less healthy and have a shorter lifespan than their parents? Besides the obvious health benefits of additional physical exercise, there are many other community and environmental benefits to walking and biking as well. Here are a just a few good reasons to get your kids walking and biking to school:

- It's fun! Walking and bicycling brings a sense of joy and independence.
- It's healthy! It's an easy way for kids to stay active.
- It's a stress reducer! No more commutes in busy morning traffic for parents, and being outdoors is great for your child's overall well-being.
- It reduces traffic congestion and is better for the environment!
- It promotes safety! Kids learn how to safely put in to practice safe pedestrian & riding skills. Also, community planners are more easily encouraged to add sidewalks in areas of need.
- It benefits the community! Pedestrians make neighborhoods a friendlier place and getting to know one another strengthens the sense of community.

If you live close to school, think about having your child walk or bike to school at least once a week, and ease into a daily routine if that is practical for your family. If you have young children, consider starting a "walking school bus" in your neighborhood, taking turns with adults in your neighborhood to lead a group of children school. If you live too far away to leave the car at home when picking up your child, you can still make a difference by choosing not to let your car idle while waiting for your student to be released from school.

Information adapted from Safe Routes to School National Partnership and walkbiketoschool.org websites.

ATTENTION PRESCHOOL AND VPK FAMILIES

Preschool and VPK registration for the 2013-14 school year will be held on Friday, May 31st from 6:30-7:30

On Friday, May 31st we will hold our Preschool and VPK registration. Families who have received a letter of acceptance into the program should plan to attend this event. Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate, your child's immunization form, your child's physical form, the VPK voucher for the 2013-14 school year and if applicable your child's Individual Education Plan.

A VPK voucher is issued by the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard. Students who wish to enroll in a VPK program will need to apply for the voucher in order to participate in the VPK program. VPK is a free three hour pre-kindergarten program for all students who turned 4 on or before September 1st. If you have not attended a VPK roundup

and do not have your voucher by the date of our registration, you may turn it in after you attend the round up. To find out the location, dates and times of the VPK summer round ups, please visit the Early Learning Collation of Brevard's website at www.elcbrevard.org.

We will meet in the school café at 6:30pm for a presentation about our Montessori preschool program. At 7:00, you will be invited to take a walking tour of the Montessori classroom and you will receive your registration packets to fill out and turn in before you leave for the evening. Children are invited to the event, but childcare will not be provided.

For questions about our Montessori Preschool and VPK program, please contact Michelle Sutton, Program Coordinator, at 321-733-0442 x 107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS:

Odyssey would like to recognize the superb efforts and high achievements of our students.



Perfect Attendance – Semester 1

KG - Joshua Cassler, Benley Mehu, Olivia Norton

2nd - Kelcey-Ann Francois

4th - Jacob Gagnon, Tianna Laverdure

5th - CG Goddard, Myriam Mehu

6th - Isabel Camba, Brendia Givens, Guillermo Mercado, Marvin Montrose, Colin Nichols, Rafaela St. Juste, Tamia Stewart, Karlee Strooband, Luke Whitworth

7th - Angi Derisance, Anika Flewellyn, Joshua Laguerre, Kayla Lanza, Tyrese Laverdure, Jason Pierre, Daniflor St. Amour

8th - Gabriel Camba, Vilianeka Dorceus, Olivier Saint Louis, Joshua Torgusen

Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the students advancing to the Southern Division Elementary Science Fair! Way to go! The South Area Science Fair will be held March 19-21st at the Melbourne Auditorium.

4th Grade: Biological: Marissa Ramm Environmental: Austin Jones
Physical: Charlie Coughlin

5th Grade: Biological: Dylan Encarnacion
Environmental: Raelin Snyder Physical: Delaney Pappalardo

6th Grade: Biological: Jesse Martin Environmental: Isabel Camba
Physical: Zachary Bourne

Honor Societies

The National Honor Societies are more than just an honor roll. Being inducted into the Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a student. Honor society students strive to uphold the five pillars of citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship and character. Members have service projects throughout the year, in school and outside of school. Special recognition goes out to the following new members, and all of our honor society members, for upholding the standards that have set them apart as stellar students and individuals. Our new members are:

National Elementary Honor Society – New Members

Genevieve Archibald, Dylan Bissessarsingh, Andres Carlos, Charles Coughlin, Calliosa Dempsey, Kristen Livasy, Evan Marinelli, Riley Sibol, Sydney Skinner, Danicha St. Amour, Jordan Wiggins

National Junior Art Honor Society – New Members

Casey Clark, Sabrina Degnan, Skye Dempsey, Sierra Sterling, Gabrielle Demontigny

National Junior Music Honor Society – New Members

Durjon Cherisma, Anika Flewellyn, Kwabena Flewellyn, Marlyssa Mauricin, Mireya Nieves, Kristen Skinner

Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica – New Members

Eva Burgoon, Emily Cardona, Sydney Gray, Kayla Lanza, Lihlenz Olivier Saint Louis, Andres Ramos, Cameron Ryan, Marlene Vargas

National Junior Honor Society – New Members

Abigail Brown, Casey Clark, Karime Delgado, Vilianeka Dorceus, Alexandra Morales, Nathalie Ramirez

KEEP UP TO SPEED
AND CHECK OUR
SCHOOL WEBSITE
WEEKLY!

www.odysseycharterschool.com



SIGN UP FOR OCS NEWS AND KEEP IN THE COMMUNICATION HOTLINE!

Always feel like you are “out-of-the-loop” when it comes to what’s going on at school? Well, if you haven’t signed up yet for our Odyssey e-mail group, then you might be missing out! Here are some of the great features we offer to our parent e-mail subscribers:

- Weekly emails highlighting important events
- Reminders about events and deadlines
- Electronic versions of forms that get sent home (or lost!) in backpacks
- Special messages from the principal
- Electronic copies of the school lunch menu and school newsletter
- Signing up is easy! Just go to www.odysseycharterschool.com
- Find the spot on our home page inviting you to join our e-mail list and type in your e-mail address, then hit submit.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook



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.