

NEWS

MARCH 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.

READY, SET, SUCCESS!

The second annual Tortoise and the Hare 5K Fun Run was an overwhelming success for participants, volunteers and the Odyssey community. Over 150 runners and walkers of all ages participated in the event that was organized through our Parents as Partners Organization.

The day began with the pledge beautifully led by our local Boy Scout Troop. A stretching session was guided by Coach Padilla and Mrs. Grant, which immediately led the participants to the track for a loud air horn start! Nate Archibald was the Master of Ceremony and he kept our runners motivated with music and giveaways!

Teachers, family and friends cheered participants throughout the race and fostered community pride and involvement. Proceeds from The Tortoise and the Hare 5K will be used for new Reading materials at Odyssey.

The two classes with the most students that attended the event were Ms. Rotstein and Ms. Koenig's class and Mrs. Archibald and Ms. Rouzer's class. These classes will be having a Kickball Showdown hosted by Coach Padilla.

The 5K organizers are thrilled with the success of the event and thank all the volunteers that helped make the race so successful.



Congratulations to the following Basket Winners;

Wellness Gift Bags- Alexis Rotstein and Constance Ortiz

Family Fun Night- Hamm Family

Hooked on Fishing- Bell Family, Alexis Rotstein, Constance Ortiz, and Kaylee Abramos

Doggy Basket- Hamm Family

Beach Party- Philip Nunes

Arts and Crafts- Courtney Costa

Billabong- Peri Gaughran

Fitness- Dunlap Family

Gift Cards- Nancy Keane

Downtown Melbourne- Olivia Coon

Principal Supply- Evelyn Eurgatis

Dijon's- Emma Mondor

Running Zone- Charlie Coughlin

Pet Basket- Abby Puipen

In the Kitchen- Dominic Madden

Relaxation- Lauren Holdsworth

School Fun- Katie Stephens

Gardening- Emma Mondor

If you have not received your basket, please contact Ms. Rouzer at rouzerc@odysseycharterschool.com.

CALENDAR



- ▶ **March 5-9:** Book Fair
- ▶ **March 5:** PreK- 2nd grade talent show @ 8:30 am
- ▶ **March 6:** 3rd - 5th grade talent show @ 8:30 am
- ▶ **March 7:** 6th - 8th grade talent show @ 8:30 am
- ▶ **March 8:** Evening talent show @ 6:30 pm
- ▶ **March 23:** Blood Drive for staff and parents
- ▶ **March 23:** Dress down and School Clean-Up Day
- ▶ **March 23:** Report Cards Issued Early Release: K-4 @ 1:15 and 5-8 @ 1:30
- ▶ **March 26-30:** No School – Spring Break

MUSIC NOTES



We have a lot of talent here at Odyssey. Over 40 acts auditioned for our talent show. Unfortunately we couldn't choose all of them.

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to prepare their children for the audition. A letter was sent out to all the students who passed the audition.

The PreK- 2nd grade talent show will be on Monday morning, March 5th at 8:30.

The 3rd through 5th grade talent show will be on Tuesday morning, March 6th at 8:30.

The 6th through 8th grade talent show will be on Wednesday morning, March 7th at 8:30.

The evening show will be on March 8th at 6:30 P.M. All parents are invited to attend this show. Admission is free.

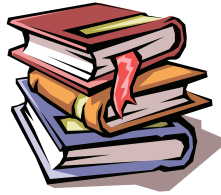
MONTESSORI PRESCHOOL AND VPK

Montessori Village Green is a wonderful and nurturing preschool and VPK program here at Odyssey Charter School. Students explore their world through hands-on, concrete manipulative that teach them about language, math, science and social studies. Our emphasis on the character development teaches and empowers young children to take care of their environment and to become independent learners. The Montessori curriculum is designed to meet the developmental needs of children ages 36 months to 5 years old.

If you would like to enroll your child in our program during the 2012-2013 school year, please fill out an application which is available in our front office. We offer 3 hour morning and afternoon programs and full day programs.

For more information, please contact the Corporate Director, Michelle Sutton, at 321-733-0442 x 107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

PARENT EDUCATION READ ALOUD EVENING



During the month of February, Odyssey Charter School hosted two Parent Education Read Aloud evenings for Preschool through 2nd grade students and their families. Both evenings were a wonderful success with almost 200 participants, in all. Families who attended were treated to a family style meal of baked ziti and salad from our healthy café and given a Read Aloud packet which included helpful hints to ensure children enjoy being read to while having their comprehension skills increased. Parents were taught to have their children use a dictionary to define new vocabulary words, have their child retell the story and ask their students “inference questions” about the story. When parents ask a child an inference question, they are asking them to make a conclusion about the story they have just read. Examples of inference questions would be:

- What do you think will happen next?
- Why do you think the main character in the story made that decision?
- What would you do if you were a character in the story?

If you were unable to attend the event, but would like one of the information packets, please contact our Education Specialist, Michelle Sutton, at 321-733-0442 x 107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

For more information about Odyssey Charter School’s read aloud program, please visit our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com

You may also visit <http://trelease-on-reading.com/> This website is produced by Jim Trelease the author of the “Read Aloud Handbook” and it contains wonderful information about the amazing benefits of reading to your children.

BLOOD DRIVE

Parents – Please Support Our Blood Drive! The “Big Red Bus” is coming to Odyssey on March 23rd and will be parked in the green parking lot from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Donating blood is one of the easiest and most valuable contributions you can make to help others in need! Look for more information coming to you soon. Details will be coming home in flyers with your students and sent to you via e-mail.



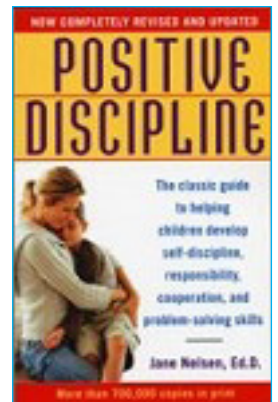
QUARTERS FOR CORAL

The Primary Gifted Students who meet with Mrs. Heine on Wednesday produced a short video called Danger on the Coral Reef. The Intermediate Gifted Students wrote a book and a Powerpoint presentation. Both classes studied about coral reefs and how the reefs are being damaged by human actions and environmental conditions. They learned about Coral Restoration Foundation through the Brevard Zoo and the website coralrestoration.org. Coral Restoration Foundation takes small samples of healthy staghorn and elkhorn coral, allow it to grow in ocean nurseries, and anchor it in areas of the Florida reef that have little or no live coral. They have been successful in restoring coral in several locations. On their website, they ask for support in the adopt-a-coral program whereby \$100 allows you to put a name on the base that anchors the nursery-grown coral. These students want to adopt a coral for \$100 with the name Odyssey Charter School. They invited classmates to bring quarters, a dollar, or even small change towards this goal.



POSITIVE DISCIPLINE PARENT RESOURCES

Exciting News! Odyssey is working on a parent resource area which will be located in our school’s media center. We have just added several books about Positive Discipline. “Recent research tells us that children are “hardwired” from birth to connect with others, and that children who feel a sense of connection to their community, family, and school are less likely to misbehave. To be successful, contributing members of their community, children must learn necessary social and life skills. Positive Discipline is based on the understanding that discipline must be taught, and that discipline teaches.” (<http://www.positivediscipline.com/about.html>).



For more information about our positive discipline parent resource materials, please contact our Education Specialist, Michelle Sutton, at 321-733-0442 x 107 or email her at suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com

ODYSSEY CHARTER SCHOOL, INC. ANNUAL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Each year in January, Odyssey Charter School's Board of Directors holds an Annual Meeting to review the progress made over the past year and make plans for the future of the school. This year's meeting had several areas of focus:

Re-Commitment Progress – We shared our progress in our recommitment to Odyssey's Essential Elements (Montessori Philosophy, Positive Discipline in the Classroom, Nutrition Education, and Professional Learning Communities), while always keeping our mission for children in mind.

2011 School & Student Achievements – First and only charter school in Brevard to be fully SACS accredited, earning 3 commendations; achieving High Performing Charter School status; making an impressive showing at district science and art fairs.

Program Development – Developing and aligning our curriculum; creating Odyssey traditions and established practices through field trips, classroom literature, and grade alignment; developing Professional Development Wheels for teacher training.

School Advisory Council – Reviewing our School Improvement Plan; focusing on select projects such as decreasing student tardies (efforts realized a 40% decline in student tardies).

Legislative Updates – Florida Statute 1002.331 allows High Performing Charter Schools to increase enrollment by 15%, expand grade levels and add grade levels, submit quarterly financials, and be automatically renewed for up to 15 years.

Charter Renewal – Consistently performing well with rapidly increasing diversity; some inconsistencies due to periods of growth, relocation and changing student demographics; outperforming district in subgroups of economically disadvantaged and minority.

Amended Budget – Received nearly \$200,000 in Title I funding as we achieved Title I status; funds spent on technology, technology support, instructional supplies, salaries, and professional development.

Expansion Plans – Looking at replication of Odyssey in Orange County, possibly in Brevard County; considering addition of grade levels to eventually include high school!

We invite you to view the Annual Board Meeting PowerPoint, available on our website at www.odysseycharterschool.com under "Annual Board Meeting" on the homepage. Remember, parents and community members are welcome to attend our Board Meetings. You can find the schedule of meetings on our webpage under OCS Board.

PRESCHOOL LAUNCHES ITS BOOK BAG PROGRAM

Beginning at the end of February, the preschool launched the Read Aloud book bag program. Each week, preschool students will receive a book bag with three new books that they can read together with their family. Inside each book bag is reading log to help the children keep track of all of the wonderful books they have read. Our children and parents are very excited about the new program. We know that reading aloud to your child is one of the greatest gifts you can give. We are excited that our families have partnered with us by supporting our read aloud program. Way to go parents!



ODYSSEY CHARTER RENEWAL

As a High Performing Charter School, Odyssey is up for an automatic 15-year renewal! A team of people worked for 2 months crunching data and analyzing the effectiveness of the school over the past charter period (10 years), producing a charter renewal document for the District to review. This document is available on our website, www.odysseycharterschool.com, on the front page under "Charter Renewal".

Some highlights include:

- Consistently outperforming the district with our Economically Disadvantaged Student Proficiency (Free/Reduced Lunch) as our population increased to 64%
- Consistently outperforming the district with our Black Student Proficiency as our population increased to 19%
- Consistently outperforming the district making Adequate Yearly Progress
- Becoming fully SACS accredited
- Commendations by SACS on our stakeholder commitment to mission/vision; healthy, high performing school building; healthy school lunch program
- Increasing student and teacher access to technology and integrating it into the curriculum
- Refocusing on Odyssey's Essential Elements:
 - Montessori
 - Positive Discipline in the Classroom
 - Nutrition Education
 - Brain Gym
 - Read Aloud Program
- Formation of a School Advisory Council (SAC)

We look forward to hearing from the district in the next month regarding our renewal!

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2—Dr. Seuss's birthday. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books. This year we are celebrating in Media Class with some Dr. Seuss activities and every student in grades Kindergarten through sixth grade will receive a new book!

Our Spring Book Fair will be on March 5-9. We are open during school hours for anyone to come. Parents are invited to come and shop anytime. We could also use volunteers. Our Family Fun Night will be during the evening Talent Show on Thursday evening, March 8th. We will be open before and after the Talent Show. We have a new feature this book fair. It is an online book fair. Go to our school's website and click on the book fair in the middle of the page. That will take you to the webpage that I developed. Just click on the online book fair. You will be able to place an order and it will be sent to our school and I will deliver them. There is no shipping and handling charges. Our school will get credit for the books you order. You may want to try our new feature. Odyssey's Media Specialist and Loving It! Mrs. Baker

LEARNING IS FUN

At Odyssey, we believe that students learn in all kinds of ways – textbooks and lectures are not always in the equation! Let these creative ideas inspire you to look for fun ways at home to help your kids master their facts and figures and create some memories along the way! Learning is Fun in...

1ST & 2ND GRADE: Mrs. Archibald and Ms. Rouzer's class have secret pen-pals with Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Seppi's class. This helps us to practice writing a letter and addressing an envelope. We then send each other our special letters back and forth. The children love receiving and sending their secret messages! The children will soon discover who their secret pen-pal is!

3RD GRADE: We bring math to life by playing fun games like multiplication bingo and fraction tic-tac-toe. We practice for the FCAT using the fun, interactive web site www.fcateexplorer.com at school or at home.

5TH GRADE: Mr. Breese & Mr. Hamby's classes are working on a superhero elements project. We will be researching an element and then creating a superhero or a villain that has powers that derive from the element! We will be creating a story and poster based on our hero or villain.

6TH-8TH GRADE: When Mrs. Williams teaches grammar, laughter can be heard coming from her classroom. Instead of using sentence examples from the book, she creates her own sentences featuring her students and wacky scenarios to keep them interested and make the material more memorable.



In the computer lab, Ms. Trousdale encourages the students to get creative with their assignments by including personal art, clip-art, and doing fun visual projects.

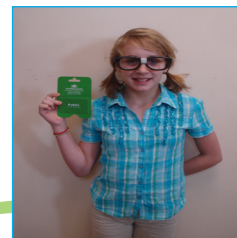
PUBLIX MATH FUN NIGHT

Publix Math Fun Night is a night designed to get parents together with their children to help them apply their in school math skills to real life situations. In February our school hosted two Publix Math Fun Night events, one for grades 3-5 and another for grades K-2. The students who participated came out to our local Publix between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00 on either February 16th or 23rd. They were given a clipboard, pencil and question sheet by the wonderful teachers (Ms. Murray, Ms. Rotstein, Ms. Koenig, Mr. Hamby, Ms. Rouzer, Mrs. Keane, Ms. Kromko, Coach Steven, Ms. Mayo, Ms. Hamm, Mrs. Madden and Mrs. Grant) who volunteered to come and help out. They were then instructed to go around the store with their parents to figure out the answers to their questions! Once the students were done they returned to the check in table where they would turn in their completed question sheet to the box.

Entering their question sheet would give them a chance to be drawn the following school day to be the winner of a \$20.00 Publix Gift Card! After they entered their sheet Publix provided each child with a delicious treat of sliced apples and either blueberries or grapes and a cold cup of milk. We would like to thank Publix for the \$40.00 total in gift cards, snacks, and pencils for each student who participated!

Pictured below are our winners from each night, Kiera Piatt 5th grade (Feb. 16th) and Joseph Menashe 2nd grade (Feb. 23rd). Congratulations to you and your families! Spend your gift card wisely!

Also we want to extend an extra BIG THANK YOU to each and every student and family who came out to support the Publix Math night event!



KEEP UP TO SPEED AND
CHECK OUR SCHOOL
WEBSITE WEEKLY!

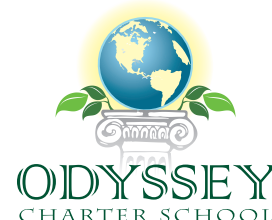
www.odysseycharterschool.com



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, 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 321-676-8737, ext. 2001.



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