

# Odyssey Charter School

## NEWS

May 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.

### UPPER CAMPUS DIRECTOR

#### Welcome and Aloha to our New Upper Campus Director for 2013-2014 School Year!

The Odyssey Board of Directors and Founder, Ms. Constance Ortiz, are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Dan Kuhar as Director of Odyssey's Junior/Senior High School. After a national and on-line search to fill the position that lasted several months, Mr. Kuhar has been selected and will begin as the School's new leader on July 1st. A native of Florida and graduate of Charlotte High School in Punta Gorda, Mr. Kuhar received his Bachelors of Science in Zoology and his Masters in Science Education both from the University of Florida.

He most recently served as Director of Kihei Charter School in Hawaii. Mr. Kuhar spent ten years in curriculum design and school leadership positions where he was responsible for building one of Hawaii's most innovative and highest performing charter schools. Dan worked with his local school board, community partners, and a great staff, to create innovative learning environments with a custom designed educational program. The school in Kihei implemented a unique, blended learning model that integrates 21st century distance learning tools, high value STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) experiences and rigorous, relevant face-to-face activities. Kihei Charter School was Hawaii's first STEM school, and is still the only school in the state to provide STEM education to every student. Mr. Kuhar has directly taught and led schools with students in grades K - 12, in a variety of educational settings.

Away from school, his interests include sports, outdoor activities, and exercise such as basketball, surfing, free-diving, and fishing. Mr. Kuhar is relocating to the area and is eager to become an active member of the Odyssey family.



Visit our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://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 - May 2013

- Apr 22-Apr 30** – FCAT Computer-Based Testing and Make-Up Testing
- Apr 29-May 10** – MAP Spring Assessment
- Apr 29-May 3** – Spirit Week
- Apr 29-30** - Civics EOC Field Test (7th grade)
- Apr 29** –Field Trip: Pump It Up (select 4th Graders)
- Apr 30** – Field Day 4th-6th Grade
- Apr 30** – Parent Informational Night, Odyssey Jr/Sr High, 7-8 pm – Upper Campus
- May 1** – Field Day 7th-8th Grade
- May 2** – Field Day KG-3rd Grade / 4th Grade Field Trip to St. Augustine The Pied Bag-Piper of Hamelin. Lower Campus @ 6:30pm (RSVP)
- May 3** – District Writing Assessment  
Lower Campus Day showing "Grease". Lower Campus @ 9:00am
- May 6** – Book Bash
- May 6-10** – National Charter Schools Week / Session 2 Extracurricular Activities End / Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 7** – Algebra EOC Exam (8th Grade Algebra)
- May 8** – Bike to School Day / 3rd Grade Field Trip: Lori Wilson Park  
Upper Campus Glee presents "Grease". Lower Campus @ 6:30pm
- May 9** – Family Literacy Night. Lower Campus @ 6:30pm (RSVP)
- May 10** – 5th Grade Field Trip: Brevard Zoo / 6th Grade Field Trip: Medieval Times / Preschool Year-End Get-Together (Mrs. Brown's class)
- May 11** – Algebra Entrance Exam for Select Students, 9 am, Upper Campus
- May 13** – Lower Campus Glee presents "Grease". Lower Campus @ 6:30pm
- May 14** – Upper Campus Career Day / Upper Campus Student Awards Night. Upper Campus @ 7:00pm
- May 15** – Writing Camp Parent Meeting. Viera High School @ 6:30 pm
- May 15** – 4th-6th Grade Student Awards Night. Lower Campus @ 6:30pm
- May 16** – Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Lower Campus Café @ 8:30am  
1st-3rd Grade Student Awards Night. Lower Campus @ 6:30pm
- May 17** – Dress Down/Clean-up Day / 1st & 2nd Grade Field Trip: Beach clean-up / Safety Patrol Field Trip: Universal Studios / Upper Campus 8th Grade Tribute Dance. Upper Campus @ 6:30-9:00pm
- May 18** – 6th Grade Dance Lower Campus @ 6:00pm-8:00pm
- May 20-22** – Early Dismissal Upper Campus @ 2:30pm. Lower Campus @ 1:15pm.
- May 21** – Parent Informational Night, Odyssey Prep, 6-7 pm, Odyssey Jr/Sr High School, 7-8 pm – Upper Campus
- May 22** – Last Day of School / Elementary Report Cards Issued  
8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. Upper Campus @ 10:00am
- May 23-24** – Teacher Post-Planning Days
- May 23** – BIG RED BUS Blood Drive. Lower Campus 9:00am-1:00pm
- May 31** – VPK Orientation. Lower Campus @ 6:30pm
- June 3-21** – 9-11:30, Summer Soar – Summer School for select students
- June 18** – Parent Informational Night, Odyssey Prep, 6-7 pm, Odyssey Jr/Sr High, 7-8 pm - Upper Campus

**Summer Office Hours – 9am-1pm – closed May 27, July 4**

## NEW CHARTER SCHOOL

Odyssey Preparatory Academy to include VPK and Toddler Program!

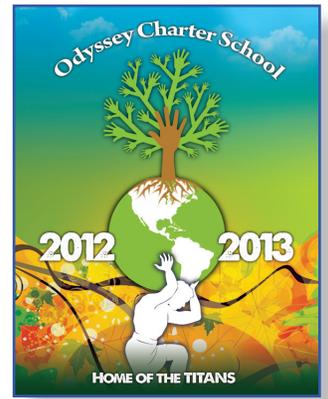


Our new charter school, sponsored by Odyssey Charter School, Inc., has been approved by the Brevard County School Board and is opening at the Upper Campus in August. Odyssey Preparatory Academy will be open to Kindergarten through 5th grade students this coming school year. The school will be a replicated model of Odyssey Charter School and will accommodate many parents and their children who have waited for years for entrance into our school. The school will also have its own VPK program and our first ever Toddler Program for children ages 24-36 months. For more information, please contact our Program Coordinator, Ms. Michelle Sutton, on the Lower Campus, or call Ms. Christine Watt, at the Upper Campus.

## YEARBOOKS

are Coming Soon!

Odyssey has partnered with Dean Stewart Photography to create a beautiful 2012-2013 yearbook, which is chock full of great Titan times! This year it will feature both the Odyssey Upper and Lower campus student photos and memories in one book. Our Titan yearbook is hardbound, contains 92 color pages, and has a custom art cover! In addition to all of the individual student portraits, you will also find group pictures of our athletic teams and many candid action shots. Celebrate another great year by owning one for yourself and keep the memories close. Yearbooks will be arriving around May 8th and still cost only \$32. It's not too late to reserve your copy! Stop in your campus front office and submit your check or money order today!



## Important School News

### A FRESH, NEW LOOK – NEW Upper Campus Uniforms

When the Upper Campus Leadership elective was tasked with choosing a new uniform it was a challenge the students eagerly accepted. The students thoroughly researched Brevard County Schools uniform policy, selected a distributor, and elected uniform colors and styles.

What sounded like an easy job that might take a few days, turned out to be an arduous task. The students learned how challenging and time consuming making important decisions can be! After all the research, meetings, discussions, and compromises, the students made well-informed decisions that will have a lasting legacy at Odyssey Charter School's Junior/Senior High.

The students selected timeless uniform colors that are always in style beginning with the 2013-2014 school year; Upper Campus pants and shorts will be offered in black or khaki. A larger variety of shirts (both polo and t-shirt) will also be available; Upper Campus shirt colors will be royal blue, light blue, white, and heather grey. Ladies also have the option to purchase a fitted-style polo in any of the chosen colors. A PE uniform will be offered as an optional choice for students who wish to dress out for PE.

### ODYSSEY UNIFORM CHANGES for 2013-2014 School Year!

Next year, Odyssey will be making changes to our uniforms for students on both campuses. Below is a list of changes that will take effect at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

#### *Lower and Upper Campuses:*

- Students will need to wear either a black or brown belt.
- Students will need to have shirts tucked in.
- Only OCS sweatshirts or jackets will be worn while in school.
- All shoes must have backs or straps. Students may not wear open back shoes.

#### *Upper Campus Only:*

- Students will wear grey, light blue, royal blue, or white polo's and t-shirts with the proper logo.
- Students may wear either khaki or black shorts, skirts, and pants.
- Students may transfer over only the white polo or tee shirt from Lower Campus. (The green polo and tee shirt will remain for Lower Campus students only and may be donated to the front desk at Odyssey's lower campus.)

New Uniform Provider: Odyssey uniforms, sweatshirts, and jackets can be purchased through our new partner, All Uniform Wear. Uniforms can be purchased online at <http://www.alluniformwear.com> or at their store located at 2585 W New Haven Ave West Melbourne, FL 32904.

## SPORTS UPDATE!

Odyssey's first year of sports programs has been very successful! This year, we were able to offer the following sports for Elementary: Kindergarten soccer, 5th/6th Basketball, Cheerleading, Flag Football, Volleyball, and Track. Middle School offerings included the following sports: Basketball, Cheerleading, Flag Football, Track, and Volleyball.

Our school participated in the Space Coast Christian League which consisted of private and charter schools. The following teams placed in their divisions: Kindergarten Team "A" took home first place, 5th/6th Girls Basketball won their division, and 6th Boys Basketball placed second in their division. Wow!! Way to go Titans!

Overall, there were over 100 students who participated in our first year of sports programs. I am looking forward to next year and with the support of everyone our programs will continue to grow.

The year isn't over yet – show your support for our amazing OCS Titans at our upcoming flag football games and the annual Hershey Track Meet. Our 7th/8th grade Flag Football teams will play on April 13th at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon and on April 27th from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The games will be played at Brevard Christian School located at 1100 Dorchester Ave, West Melbourne. The track team will participate in the Hershey Track Meet at Bayside High School on April 20th. Another meet will take place on May 4, 2013 at Holy Trinity High School. Come out and show your support!

Any questions please contact Ms. Castro at 321-345-4117 or [Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com).

## SPIRIT WEEK- DO YOU HAVE ODYSSEY TITAN PRIDE?

SPIRIT WEEK is the perfect time to show your Titan pride! Odyssey's Upper and Lower Campuses will be celebrating spirit week April 29th through May 3rd. For just \$1 donation, students can sport spirit week attire for the entire week! Donations will be collected at lunchtime April 22-26 and will benefit our cheerleaders and athletic teams!

Monday 4/29

**Silly Sock Day** – Fuzzy, polka dotted, colorful socks are fun! Show your silly side with festive footwear!

Tuesday 4/30

**Opposite Day** – Turn your clothes inside out or backwards on opposite day. Who knows if you will be coming or going?

Wednesday 5/1

**Twin Day** – Get together with a friend and wear matching outfits on Twin Day!

Thursday – 5/2

**Favorite Team Jersey Day** – Wear the jersey or t-shirt of your favorite sports team!

Friday – 5/3

**Odyssey Hat/Headpiece Day** – Show your creative side by making an Odyssey Titan hat or headpiece. Recycle an old hat or headpiece and create a masterpiece!

## GOOD TIMES AT ODYSSEY'S FIRST ANNUAL SPRING FLING

The recent Spring Fling raised \$1735 for our Athletic teams. Thank you to all who gave and to all who participated to benefit our wonderful Titans! Special guest speaker, Josh Wofford, who plays Defense for the University of Central Florida's Knight's Football team, spoke about the importance of sports in teaching qualities for a successful life. Josh graduated from Palm Bay High School. Special Guest appearance came from Odyssey alumni, Galen Macpherson, who also attends the University of Central Florida's Environmental Engineering program. A nice time was had by all for a most worthy cause.

**Thank You ALL for supporting our Titans!**

Our Odyssey Titans are very lucky to have such a dedicated team of teachers and hardworking support staff. The second week in May is teacher appreciation week – we would like to recognize all of our teachers and support staff with a BIG THANK YOU for all that you do to ensure our students are successful, safe, and cared for each and every school day!



## OCS Upcoming Events



### FIRST ANNUAL BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY!

Remember the thrill of riding a bike for the first time? There's a feeling of joy and independence – a sense of adventure – that doesn't fade. When biking, parents and children get to appreciate the things they don't notice while driving or riding the bus – listening to the sounds of the neighborhood, seeing friends and neighbors and feeling connected with their community. Parents, children and friends can enjoy one another's company without the usual distractions, while enjoying the fresh air and companionship of one another. <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>

Odyssey will be hosting our first National Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 8, 2013, at both our lower and upper campuses. We encourage you to participate in this event by riding your bike to school. Additional personnel and parent volunteers will be at the school to help ensure student safety.

## JOIN US FOR OCS FIELD DAYS!

Field days will be held the first week in May – coinciding with Spirit Week - Just in time to unwind after the FCAT! Show your Titan spirit all week long and plan on participating in Field Day with a BBQ picnic at Fred Lee Park. Lower Campus K-3 students will be enjoying Field Day on Tuesday, April 30th; 4-6th Grade students will be on May 2nd. Upper Campus Field Day is on Wednesday, May 1st. Coach Padilla and Coach Morgan have a fun-filled day planned for each age group. Younger students will work on building skills with fun outdoor activities and older students will get to experience some light competition and play a variety of sports.

Families – you are invited to join in on the fun and enjoy some quality time with your children. The years pass by fast, so we welcome you to enjoy the day with us, stop by, volunteer, or help out on the grill! For those of you who can't be there, please consider showing your support by donating picnic supplies or BBQ food items. A list of food donation items was sent home with student permission forms. Each student who is attending Field Day must have a signed permission form. Forms were due on April 24th. Parents, please contact your campus location if you can donate food items or volunteer to help out!

## END-OF THE-YEAR EXCITEMENT FOR 6TH GRADERS!

The 6th grade students have worked hard this year, and to celebrate their accomplishments they raised funds for their end of the year field trip and a "Moving Up" Dance by hosting a very successful carwash fundraiser at Odyssey on Saturday April 20th. The field trip and dance will be for ALL 6th graders at both the Upper and Lower Campuses. Thank you for your considerable contribution of time, donations, or both to our 6th grade class!

## 6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP TO THE PAST!

Upper and Lower campus Sixth graders listen up! We are having a field trip to Medieval Times. The field trip is on May 10, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in Kissimmee. The cost is \$40 but you can pay the amount in two payments. The cost is for the bus and food. At least put a deposit so we can hold a place for you on the bus. So come on out to our field trip to Medieval Times.



Our lunch is: Oven Roasted Chicken, Garlic Bread, Tomato Bisque Soup, Herb-Roasted Potato, Spare Rib, Pastry of the Castle, Select Non-Alcoholic Beverages.

## 6TH GRADE END OF THE YEAR "MOVING UP" DANCE



Odyssey is hosting an end of the year "Moving Up" Dance for our upper and lower campus 6th grade students to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments this year. This event is on Saturday, May 18th. It is from 6-8 p.m. at the lower campus cafe. The theme will be announced later. The tickets are \$5. So get ready to party and celebrate!

## OCS FAMILY EDUCATION AND ENTERTAINMENT – A Special Invitation

Bringing families and school together for dinner and performance at our Lower Campus, we invite you to join us for two upcoming May family events:

"*The Pied Bag Piper of Hamelin*," Thursday May 2nd – 6:30 p.m. In cooperation with the King Center Theatre for Youth & Outreach Program, hosted by Odyssey Charter School, a live performance that will capture your attention and captivate the mind. Please RSVP with number of attendees by April 24th.

"Kaye Byrnes presents Family Literacy Night," Thursday May 9th – 6:30 pm, Storyteller Kaye Byrnes will share her passion for storytelling, drama, and entertainment with Odyssey's families as she brings stories to life. Please RSVP with number of attendees by May 3rd.

A family dinner will be served both nights with no charge; however, a reservation is required. Won't you please RSVP with Ms. Gonzalez at [gonzalezv@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:gonzalezv@odysseycharterschool.com) or call Ms. Gonzalez at 321.733.0442, ext. 106, for additional information.

## GLEE CLUB SPRING FINALE: "GREASE"



Odyssey's Upper and Lower Campus Glee Club members have been working hard to produce an original performance of Grease, written by our very own, Mr. Hoffman! Mr. Hoffman, Odyssey's music instructor and Glee director extraordinaire, worked with several other teachers to adapt the well-known musical "Grease" for a younger audience. Ms. Hamm, one of our Glee club's sponsoring teachers, wrote a humorous version of the song, "There Are Worse Things I Could Do". Ms. Hamm stated, "I really enjoy writing songs! This one was fun to write from a kid's point of view." The children also seem to be having fun learning these songs, new dance moves, and just being on the stage as performers. We are seeing stars being born! The Lower Campus evening show is on May 13th at 6:30pm. Upper Campus Glee stars will perform May 8th at 6:30. Both shows will be held on the Lower Campus. Be there or be square!

Please help support Odyssey's Music Department and buy a \$2 ticket. This ticket can be used for admittance to the Grease performances on May 8th and 13th or just as a donation to help pay for the cost of the show. Mr. Hoffman will be giving out ticket request forms to be filled out by anyone who is interested in pre-purchasing tickets.



## CELEBRATING QUALITY EDUCATION: National Charter Schools Week May 5-11

Odyssey has a lot to celebrate – another year as an A+ school, an exceptional support team, highly qualified instructors, and achievements such as being designated as a high performing charter school by the Commissioner for Education. We have even grown from a small student population of 112 students in 1999 to serving over 760 students across two campuses and earning the SACS seal of approval for our educational programs.

Odyssey has earned a reputation as a unique school that provides a high quality education. It is a joy to serve all of our hardworking students and help each child take pride in their own strengths, personalities, and gifts. We all know that educating children “takes a village” – so we also have you to thank as partners in your student’s academic endeavors! We truly appreciate the loyalty and support of all our wonderful Odyssey families!

Being an Odyssey Titan comes with bragging rights! See the chart below to get an idea of what charter schools offer and see how Odyssey stands apart as a high-quality public charter school.

General Advantages of Charter Schools	Specific Advantages at Odyssey Charter School
Ability to offer longer school days. Charter schools may set their own operating hours to boost student achievement.	Freedom to implement innovative schedules for students. Extended day tutoring and weekend Homework Clubs offered.
Freedom to adjust curriculum to meet student needs.	Hands-on instruction is encouraged school-wide and Montessori materials are used in early elementary/pre-school programs. Nutrition Education is taught school-wide. Co-teaching and “differentiated instruction” is used to reach students at all academic levels.
Ability to define a platform for creating a unique school culture.	Odyssey employs a staff that is caring and dedicated. We hold all faculty and staff members to a high standard with ongoing professional development. Unique and innovative programs for your children include: brain gym & positive discipline; Montessori philosophy; a Jr./Sr. High school with a global citizenship focus that appeals to the spirit of the young adult; an optimal learning environment at our Lower Campus “green school” building (which features high indoor air quality, green building materials, and naturally day lit classrooms); a healthy school lunch program; an appreciation for all cultures and walks of life; and a wellness policy,....just to name a few!
Room to grow: Charter schools develop next generation learning models. Charter schools are completely rethinking the meaning of the word “classroom” to produce exciting and innovative environments that create life-long learners.	Did you know Odyssey is on the path to being duplicated as a national model? The programs and methods that define our school culture set the stage for a unique and engaging learning environment that is rewarding for teachers and students.

## THE BIG RED BUS IS BACK! Thursday, May 23rd

Parents, families, and staff, it’s your turn to model how important it is to give to others and help save the lives of those in need! Blood drives help patients of all ages with all types of medical challenges from mothers and fathers suffering from cancer or heart disease to premature babies. Our next scheduled blood drive is coming up on Thursday, May 23rd (the day after the last school day for students) for staff and community members. Our last drive in October brought in 20 donors and collected enough units to help 63 Brevard patients! Walk-ins and appointments will be accepted. Please e-mail Ria Tutzarakis to reserve your appointment time today at [info@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:info@odysseycharterschool.com).

## VPK ORIENTATION – FRIDAY, MAY 31ST

**Attention: NEW 2013-2014 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 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

The Early Learning Coalition of Brevard issues a VPK voucher. 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 Coalition of Brevard’s website at [www.elcbrevard.org](http://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. Students who attend the school’s VPK program have priority enrollment into Odyssey’s kindergarten.

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](mailto:suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Upper Campus News & Events

### ALGEBRA ENTRANCE EXAM

On Saturday, May 11th, at 9 am, on the Upper Campus, select students returning to Odyssey for the 2013-2014 school year may be invited to take the Algebra Entrance Exam at the Upper Campus. Students that are currently in 6th or 7th grade, have a desire to accelerate, have maintained a 3.5 GPA in Math, have a 4 or 5 on the 2012 FCAT, and are recommended by their Math teacher will receive an invitation for the Algebra Entrance Exam. Students that meet the criteria to take the test and pass will be placed in Algebra for High School Credit.

### CAREER DAY—

**Be Inspired and Dare to Dream!**

*"In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure." – Bill Cosby*

On May 14th from 9 AM to 11 AM the upper campus of Odyssey Charter School will be hosting its first ever career day! Students will be able to hear and learn from a myriad of professionals; including pilots, electricians, government workers, doctors, lawyers, "green" architects, dentists, entrepreneurs, and many more. If you or someone you know is interested in speaking, please be sure to contact Andrew Bayard at the upper campus to see if there is still space available. You can e-mail Mr. Bayard at bayarda@odysseycharterschool.com. We are looking forward to having some meaningful discussions with these special professionals from our very own community. These are individuals who have achieved their goals and they are excited to share with our students how they can do the same!

### 8TH GRADE TRIBUTE DANCE

**All Upper Campus Students are invited!**

Come dance and celebrate with the Odyssey 8th grade students of 2013. We have a professional D.J. with big sound and bright lights to bring down the schoolhouse on a banner year for the upper campus. Dress up in your best, out do the rest, in semi-formal attire and preserve your memories in the photo booth with all of your friends. See who is crowned King and Queen of the Tribute Ball. Don't be left out. Enjoy snack food, talk, laugh, act goofy, and dance, dance. Each ticket is only \$10.00 and you can purchase them at the school ahead of time in your homeroom. Clear your calendar now and put a reminder on your mobile, Friday, May 17th is for dancing and celebrating the Odyssey 8th grade at the close of the first year of the upper campus. See you there!

### ENVIRONMENTAL NATURE TRAIL AND OUTDOOR CLASSROOM! Coming Soon....

Our upper campus Environmental Science Elective has taken on two wonderful tasks – developing an environmental nature trail and creating an outdoor classroom on campus. The students have been working hard doing research, collecting materials (for 'lasagna gardening'), and marking off the area for the outdoor classroom. The class has already begun to beautify the front flower bed using the technique of 'lasagna gardening', a method of building a garden which layers organic materials that will 'cook down' over time, resulting in a rich soil for the plants. In addition, the students have researched the steps to have the upper campus 'green certified' through the National Wildlife Federation and have organized themselves into 7 committees, one for each step. The students aim to complete the process by the end of the school year. Go Environmental Titans!

## Summer News

### SUMMER WRITING CAMP

Viera High School (a presenter for the Daytona Beach Writing Project) will be facilitating a Young Writers Camp this summer. This camp will only be open for students in grades 5-11. A parent meeting for those interested will be held at Viera High School Media Center on May 15, from 6-7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Agile Milton at milton.agile@brevardschools.org.

### SUMMER REGISTRATION & BACK-TO SCHOOL INFO

This year summer registration will occur earlier in July. Stay tuned for final registration dates to be announced via our summer newsletter which will be mailed and posted on our website at [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com). Summer registration is mandatory for all new and returning students. All families will receive a summer newsletter by mail and by e-mail with more information.

Make sure if you have an incoming Kindergartener or 7th grader for the upcoming school year that you are able to get their immunization and physical record updated as soon as possible! Students with expired health records are not allowed to attend school, by order of the Health Department, and will accrue unexcused absences until the school receives updated records. Make your appointments early- don't delay!

The first day of school for all 1st-9th-grade students at Odyssey is Wednesday, August 14, 2013. The first day of school for all kindergarteners will be on Monday, August 19, 2013. Odyssey follows the Brevard County Schools calendar.

### OCS E-MAIL - STAY CONNECTED!

Stay connected during the summer months and be ahead of the game this fall, simply by joining our parent e-mail group. Signing up is easy! Just go to [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com). Find the spot on our home page inviting you to join our e-mail group and type in your e-mail address, then hit submit.

### ODYSSEY GETS 10% AT OFFICE DEPOT

Did you know Odyssey gets 10% off each purchase when you shop at the Office Depot? Just mention Odyssey at the checkout. Remember to go to Office Depot for all your back-to-school supplies this summer. Back-to-school supply lists for each grade level will be posted on the Odyssey site, available in local stores, and e-mailed to all our parents on our e-mail list prior to the first day of school.

# SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP AND TAKE PART IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT ITS BEST!

Odyssey Charter School is accepting registration for the Summer Environmental Education Program. Students will begin their summer camp journey by experiencing and observing their local environment. Students will take what they have learned about their environment and will create a plan of action to preserve and conserve resources found on and around the school site.

Understanding their surroundings will provide a foundation for session two on Florida plants and session three on Florida wildlife. Students will use their experiences and observation from session one "taking care of our diverse environment" to develop and create a field guide describing native plants in their environment. Students will evaluate which species of plants are invasive and will discuss how they can protect their local ecology from these species. Students will develop an action plan to "clean-up" the campus, which may include removing invasive species, trash and other debris. Students will learn how to properly dispose of these materials.

Students will break from the environmental education work to celebrate our nation's independence on July 3rd and 5th. As part of a service-learning project, students will work to revitalize and clean up the school trails and the tortoise preserve. Students will also work together to create a guidebook that will be published and bound for each of our classrooms. This book will educate students about our Gopher Tortoise habitat.

In our final summer session, students will reflect on their personal connection to the environment. Students will make the connection that we must care for our bodies just as we care for the environment. Students will participate in physical activities such as relay races, team sports, indoor games and activities that will strengthen their bodies and minds. Students will develop a cookbook using local, farm raised produce. This cookbook will be bound and presented to the café at the end of the summer. As a capstone to our summer program, students will participate in a talent and award show on Friday, August 3rd.

**Ages:** In-coming Kindergarten -6th Grade

**Dates:** June 10, 2013-August 2, 2013 (Closed July 4th)

**Hours:** 7:00am-6:00pm

**Fees:** Registration Fee-\$30.00 includes the fee for the camp t-shirt/ Weekly Tuition (8:00am-4:00pm)- \$70.00 / Before Care (7:00am-8:00am)- \$5.00 per week/ After care (4:00pm-6:00pm)- \$10.00 per week/ Sibling discount 10%

## Summer Session Themes:

Session One (June 10-21) Taking Care of our Diverse Environment

Session Two (June 24-July 5) Discovering and Caring for Florida's Native Plants

Session Three (July 8-July 19) Discovering and Caring for Florida's Native Animals

Session Four (July 21-August 3) Our Place in the Environment

## Field Trips and Activities:

Session One: Brevard Museum of History/ Florida Solar Energy Center/ Brevard Zoo Habitat Invaders Education Program/ Solar Energy Projects/ School Energy Audit/ School Wide Recycling Project/ Arts and Crafts/ Gardening/ Team Sports/ Yoga/ Computers

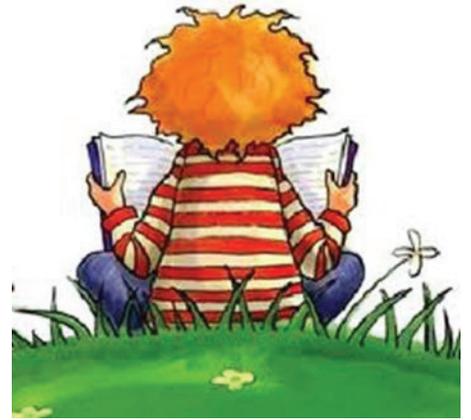
Session Two: Guided Tour of Turkey Creek Sanctuary/ Bowling/ Galaxy Skate Way/ Inspiration Park/ Create a Native Florida Plant Field Guide/4th of July Celebration/ Arts and Crafts/ Gardening/ Team Sports/ Yoga/ Computers

Session Three: Forever Florida Eco Safari/ Florida Gator Land/ School Yard Safari/ Native Animal Exploration/Gopher Tortoise Habitat restoration/ Arts and Crafts/ Gardening/ Team Sports/ Yoga/ Computers

Session Four: Galaxy Skate Way/ Inspiration Park/ Pump it Up/ Scavenger Hunt/ Relay Races/ Obstacle Course/ Summer Camp Talent and Award Show/Arts and Crafts/ Gardening/ Team Sports/ Yoga/ Computers

**Note: Activities subject to change based on enrollment and weather**

For more information you may call Martha Shamblen at 321-733-0442 x 126 or Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 x 107 or you may email [shamblenm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:shamblenm@odysseycharterschool.com)



## REQUIRED SUMMER READING

### The "SUMMER SLIDE" ...It's not what you think

Nope – we aren't talking about playgrounds or water parks! The "summer slide" refers to the learning loss that occurs to students during the summer months.

It is estimated that school summer breaks cause the average student to lose up to one month of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected (Cooper, 1996). A wealth of research supports the critical importance of developing summer reading habits, which play a vital role in providing the foundation for later success. When children are given the opportunity to listen to, discuss, and read books on topics that they select, they will develop extensive background information, which can serve as a platform from which to engage in their own independent reading. Children who enjoy reading will read more and become proficient at the same time. A report from the National Institute of Education (1988) concluded that, "...the amount of reading done out of school is consistently related to gains in reading achievement."

Summer reading programs have been developed as part of the solution to the "summer slide". Current research points out that increased summer reading reduces summer learning loss. Summer reading assignments will be distributed to all Odyssey students prior to the last day of school. The assignments should be completed during the summer and will be due the first few weeks of the new school year.

Odyssey has your child's summer reading selections available for check out in our media center. A complete list of Odyssey's grade level summer reading selections for your student can also be found on our website at, [www.odysseycharterschool.com](http://www.odysseycharterschool.com) on the left side menu under the Academics tab. Avoid the "summer slide" and slip into a good book this summer! (Summer reading assignments are collected and reviewed by your child's teacher during the first week of school.)

### ODYSSEY ART WINNERS AT BPS ART SHOW

Two Odyssey students placed at the Brevard Public Schools art Show! "Best of Show" for middle school goes to Samuel McCormick, 8th grade. And for the 6th Grade 2-D category, our very own Gabrielle Demontigny won 3rd place! Both students were recognized at the awards ceremony held at the school board meeting on April 23rd. Winning students came forward and shook hands with the Superintendent, School Board Chair, and received an award certificate and art lapel pin. Congratulations to our talented artists!



### ODYSSEY'S ANNUAL 5K

On Saturday, April 13th we held our annual 5K event at Bayside High School. This year the event was themed "The Titan Dash" as all money raised from the event went to support the Odyssey Titans athletic teams. Over \$1200 was raised for our Titan athletes! Thank you to all who participated in the event or came out and volunteered. We had well over 100 Odyssey family members who came out and showed their support. A special thanks to the sponsors listed below who helped make this year's event a success.

A big THANK YOU to our 5K Sponsors: Texas Roadhouse, Elite Fitness, Palm Bay Shore Lanes, Andretti's, Funtown, Brevard County Manatees, The Majors Golf Course, EA Sports, Running Zone, Health First Fitness, Publix, Walgreens, Petsmart, Canine Cabana, the Schuck family.



### PASTA FOR PENNIES:

OCS Students, Staff & Community Helping Save Lives!

Every year, Odyssey takes part in special fundraisers and blood drives that help raise awareness in our community to support special programs to help care for those in need. This year Odyssey hosted canned food drives and an ongoing fundraiser to recycle/donate new and used shoes. Odyssey elementary students also participated in Jump Rope for Heart – a fundraiser for the American Heart Association – and raised nearly \$1200 last October.

More recently, students from the Lower Campus exceeded the goal for funds that was set for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Pasta for Pennies program sponsored by Olive Garden. In the course of three weeks, the students raised \$1,645.41, when the original goal was set at \$1,000. The students achieved their goal by simply collecting spare change in small boxes given out by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Since the students did such a great job raising money, the LLS provided pennants to our top six classrooms. Those classrooms are:

Ms. Keane and Ms. Crouchley  
Ms. Chaney and Ms. Krasny  
Ms. Munoz and Ms. Murray\*  
Ms. Everington and Ms. Bernardo  
Ms. Rotstein and Ms. Koenig  
Ms. Kelly and Ms. Macheska

Ms. Munoz and Ms. Murray's class raised the most money and will win a catered lunch from the Olive Garden to be served on April 26th! Fundraisers like these give kids a chance to grow a heart to help others. It's also a great illustration of how we can all make a big difference when we each give just a little bit!

### CHINESE PRINCIPALS TOUR ODYSSEY

Through an agreement set up between the Head of the Department of Education and Interdisciplinary Studies at Florida Institute of Technology, Dr. Laslo V. Baksay and the Chinese government, 28 principals — all men and two women -- from the Chinese equivalent of the Board of Education visited from the Jiangxi Province to learn about the United States education system. The Administrative Team at Odyssey enjoyed giving the Principals a tour of the unique qualities of our "green" and holistic school – the only elementary program they toured while in Brevard. Steven Zhou, 2nd grader, in Ms. Krasny and Ms. Chaney's class, enjoyed conversing with the Principals in Mandarin Chinese.

#### 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 Green Apple 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 Green Apple Management, 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@academicaf.org, or 321-216-7525.