

Odyssey Charter School

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

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

"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 must achieve a balance of intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual and social skills as a foundation for life.

SCHOOL-BASED LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ms. Constance Ortiz,
Founder

Ms. Wendi Nolder,
Site Administrator

Mr. Mike Davis,
Dean of Students & Bus Transportation

Ms. DeAnna Bernardo,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Suzette Jewell,
Instructional Coach

Ms. Deb Munoz,
Teacher Liaison

Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza
Family Engagement

Ms. Janine Frahm,
PT Guidance Counselor

Ms. Kathy Cicala,
Office Manager, Elementary

Ms. Amy White,
**Director, Preschool/VPK and
Before & After School Care**

A Message from our Principal - Ms. Nolder

Dear Titan Families and Community,

Our parents and families are our students' first and most important teachers. When parents and families are involved in their children's education, the children perform at higher levels and have more positive feelings about school. Many studies show that what families do is more important to children's success than family income and parent education level! How can you support your children's learning at home throughout the school year? Here are a few ideas:

- Partner with your children's teachers and school staff. Attend parent-teacher conferences. Keep in contact with your children's teachers. Ask questions and share concerns.
- Support your child academically. Read aloud to your child each evening (and record your hours for volunteer time!). Have a positive attitude about education. Encourage your child to read. Ensure your child knows/practices their math facts. Make sure your child completes homework. Help your child study/prepare for tests.
- Get involved with our school. Join our Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent Organization. Attend parent/student events. Volunteer at school.
- Encourage your child. Talk with your child about what they are learning. Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently. Encourage active learning – asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests.

We have completed our midyear assessments and are excited to dig in deeply this semester and working to ensure that every child is growing and learning!

Our Parents as Partners (PasP) Parent Organization is going strong! If you haven't had the opportunity to join, please reach out to our Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza, our Family Engagement Specialist, to find out more information. She can be reached at sferrazza@odysseycharterschool.com. Our upcoming meetings are 2/15 and 3/1 at 6:30pm in the Eldron café.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 321-733-0442 or at nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com. Let's finish the year strong, Titans!

Sincerely,

Wendi Nolder
Site Administrator
Odyssey Charter School – Elementary campus



SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

2/14	Early Release Day
2/14	Elementary Interims Issued
2/15	1st Grade Zoo Field Trip
2/19	Student Holiday – NO SCHOOL
2/21	Early Release Day
2/22	Honor Society Induction
2/23	Dress Out of Uniform Day
2/28	Early Release Day

MARCH

3/7	Early Release Day
3/9	Spring Sock Hop Family Dance
3/13	End of 3rd Quarter
3/14	Early Release Day
3/15	Kindergarten Field Day
3/16	Student Holiday- NO SCHOOL
3/19-3/23	Scholastic Book Fair
3/19	Scholastic Book Fair Opening Night
3/20	Elementary Report Cards Issued
3/21	Early Release Day / OCS Board Meeting
3/28	Early Release Day
3/29	3rd Grade Field Trip
3/30	Dress Out of Uniform Day

APRIL

4/2-4/6	Spring Break NO SCHOOL
4/6	Founder's Day
4/9	Students Return
4/11	Early Release Day
4/18	Early Release Day
4/20	End of 4th Interim
4/21	14th Annual 5K Community Run
4/25	Early Release Day
4/26	Spring Music Program
4/27	Dress Out of Uniform Day
4/30	Elementary Interims Issued

MAY

5/2	Early Release Day
5/7-5/11	Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9	Early Release Day
5/11	4th Grade St. Augustine Field Trip
5/11	Kindergarten Round-Up
5/14	4th Grade Lagoon Quest Group 1
5/14	1st and 2nd Grade Awards Night
5/15	4th Grade Lagoon Quest Group 2
5/16	Early Release Day
5/16	4th and 5th Grade Awards Night
5/17	3rd and 4th Grade Field Day
5/18	Dress Out of Uniform Day
5/18	5th Grade Field Day
5/18	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
5/21-5/23	Early Release Day/Exam Day
5/22	5th Grade Stepping Up
5/23	Last Day for Students

From the Desk of our Dean of Students – Mr. Davis



Positive Discipline - Power struggles create distance and hostility instead of closeness and trust. Distance and hostility create resentment, resistance, rebellion (or compliance with lowered self-esteem). Closeness and trust create a safe learning environment. You have a positive influence only in an atmosphere of closeness and trust where there is no fear of blame, shame or pain.

- Decide what you will do and follow through. I will read a story after teeth are brushed. I will cook only in a clean kitchen. I will drive only when seat belts are buckled. (I will pull over to the side of the road when children are fighting.)
- Distraction for Young Children and lots of supervision. Punishment decreases brain development. Children are often punished for doing what they are developmentally programmed to do -- explore. (Please read Positive Discipline for Preschoolers.)
- Get children involved in the creation of routines (morning, chores, bedtime). Then the routine chart becomes the boss.
- Ask what and how questions: How will we eat if you don't set the table? What is next on our routine chart? What was our agreement about what happens to toys that aren't picked up? What happened? How do you feel about what happened? What ideas do you have to solve the problem? (This does not work at the time of conflict, nor does it work unless you are truly curious about what your child has to say.)
- Get children involved in cooperation. Say, "I can't make you, but I really need your help."
- Use reflective listening. Stop talking and listen. Try to understand not only what your child is saying, but what she means.
- Limited choices: Do you want to do your homework before dinner or after dinner. Do you want to set the table or clean up after dinner?

For more information about Positive Discipline please go to: www.positivediscipline.com/

MyON

We are proud to inform you that Odyssey Charter School has been ranked 2nd place in the district for the number of minutes the students are reading outside of school hours. MyON is the first-of-its-kind personalized literacy environment that integrates technology and students' ability to match their reading level with their preferred choice of books into one comprehensive online literacy program.



As a family in our school you are provided free access to myON. myON provides you with infinite access to a growing collection of thousands of enhanced digital books that can be read anytime, anywhere there is an Internet connection, or offline on any device to which the free myON app has been downloaded. In addition to implementing myON throughout our school we are excited to give our families the opportunity to spend time with their children in an engaging, fun reading environment to build reading stamina and fluency.

We hope you find this program as exciting as we do, and will join us in continuing to make myON a success. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact our coaches Ms. Bernardo or Ms. Jewell, or your child's teachers.

Annual 5K

Our Annual 5K Race will be on April 21, 2018. It will take place at Field Of Dreams Park with a start time of 8am. More information to come in the near future, so dust off those running shoes and get ready! We are looking for volunteers to help out. The deadline for volunteer sign-up is March 1st. If you're interested in volunteering for this event, please email our Volunteer Coordinator Alyssa Sferrazza at sferrazzaa@odysseycharterschool.com.



Let's Talk about State Testing!

It's that time of year again when all students in the state of Florida prepare to take the state's standardized assessments.

According to the Florida Standards Assessment website, "Florida's K-12 assessment system measures students' achievement of Florida's education standards, which were developed and implemented to ensure that all students graduate from high school ready for success in college, career, and life. Assessment supports instruction and student learning, and test results help Florida's educational leadership and stakeholders determine whether the goals of the education system are being met."
<https://fsassessments.org/>

At Odyssey, the students and teachers have been working diligently to prepare for the various assessments. We would like to invite our families to participate in the preparation process as well. After all, "it takes a village." (Author, Unknown)

Preparing your Student

Have your student:

- 1) Get a good night's sleep the night prior to the day of testing
- 2) Have a good breakfast on test day
- 3) Relax!
- 4) Feel encouraged to do their best

FSA Resources for Parents can be found at:

<https://fsassessments.org/users/students-and-families.stml>

Preparing Supplies

We provide our students with a special healthy snack on testing days. Would you like to contribute? Our options are: Pretzels, Pretzel Goldfish, Whole Grain Goldfish (Plain, not multicolored), Life Savers Peppermint (Blue Bag) Snacks should be individually packaged to allow one per student. (We have about 100 students per grade level)

Preparing Time

In an effort to maintain a silent and calm testing environment for our students, we postpone our parent/child lunch dates until after testing. Only assigned and planned volunteers are requested to be on campus during FSA testing time. If you would like to volunteer your time to help with monitoring our hallways during testing, please feel free to reach out to Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza via email at sferrazaa@odysseycharterschool.com.

2017 – 2018 Brevard's Testing Window Calendar for Elementary (K-5).

Testing Windows	Assessment	Subject	Type	Grade
SPRING				
1/29 - 3/23	ACCESS for ELLs (WIDA)	Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking	PBT* ONLY	K-5
3/6 Make-up 3/7 - 3/9	FSA-W	Writing	PBT ONLY	4,5
4/11 & 4/12 Make-up 4/12 - 4/17	FSA-R	Reading	PBT ONLY	3
4/16 - 5/18	FSA-R	Reading	CBT*	4, 5
4/16 - 5/18	FSA-M	Math	CBT	3, 4, 5
5/1 & 5/2 Make-up 5/2-5/4	NGSSS	Science	PBT ONLY	5
FSA WRITING - Additional Testing Window- MAKE-UP TESTING ONLY				
3/26-3/30	FSA-W	Writing Make-up- Regular Reporting	PBT	All grades
5/14-5/18	FSA-W	Writing Make-up- Late Reporting	PBT	All grades

* Spring Break: 4/2-4/6 *PBT: Paper-Based Test *CBT: Computer-Based Test

Please know that we are a team. Your student's success is our success. Go Titans!

If you need to reach me, feel free to email our Testing Coordinator, Ms. Kavel Green, at greenk@odysseycharterschool.com

Tardy Policy

Elementary students are expected to be in their seats and ready to learn by 8:00 AM. If you arrive at 8:00 or later, parents must park and walk their child into the office, sign them in, and have a tardy slip issued for admittance to class. Parents, please do not park in the fire lane – this is a safety concern. We thank you for making the effort to have your students to class on time each and every day.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (WIDA) is a statewide assessment for all English Language Learners (ELLs). As such, at Odyssey, from January 29-March 23, we will be participating in this assessment process. This test does not determine whether or not ELL students are retained or promoted. It mainly provides information to parents, teachers, our school, and the state on the progress of ELL students within our school, district, and state.

ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 is an English language proficiency assessment for Grades K–12. The test is administered every year to help school districts monitor the English language development of students identified as English language learners. It measures students' abilities to understand and produce English used within school settings. The four sections of the test are Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing.

Please contact Flavia Nelson at 321.733.0442 or nelsonf@odysseycharterschool.com if you have questions about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0. You can also get more information about ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (WIDA) at <https://www.wida.us/assessment/ACCESS20.aspx>

Early Check-out for Students

Parents, we are asking that if you need to check out your elementary student early, that you do so by 2:00 PM. It can become a dismissal safety concern when students are checked out too close to the dismissal time. Students may be checked out of school by their parent or legal guardian. If you are checking your student out, please present your valid state-issued photo identification at our front office. Please remember that we do not take dismissal changes over the phone. All changes made to your child's normal means of transportation home are required in writing. We would also like to encourage you to make appointments for your child outside of our school hours in order to maximize your child's learning time and minimize classroom disruptions for all students. We thank you for your partnership!

Yearbooks

Pre-Order your yearbook for only \$23.00 and save \$5.00! They are hard-bound, full-color with 76 pages of memories! You can purchase them online at commpe.pictavo.com. Pre-Orders must be due by February 28th. After that you can order through March 19th for the increased price of \$28.00. **Get yours today!**

Getting to Know iReady

You may have heard your student talk about iReady in the classroom or at home. If you were able to attend either our math or reading parent nights, you will have received information on how to help your child login to iReady at home.

iReady Instruction (grades K-8) provides each student with a personalized instruction plan based on the results of the iReady Diagnostic. Students at Odyssey Charter School take a Diagnostic at the beginning, middle and end of the year. This allows the teachers to meet each student's unique needs. Because the iReady Diagnostic is an adaptive assessment, teachers and parents can feel confident that each student's instructional path is highly prescriptive and built uniquely to meet each student's needs.

How can you help your child get the most out of i-Ready?

- Speak with your child about how using i-Ready will help him or her prepare for class work. Also explain that i-Ready will show teachers where your child is doing well and which topics need some more review.
- Encourage your child to take each lesson and quiz question seriously. Emphasize "thinking before clicking," because just clicking through will not give teachers an accurate report of what your child knows and is able to do.
- Help your child identify and become familiar with the different parts of the student dashboard.
- Encourage your child to use the tools that will appear at the bottom of the screen in some lessons.
- Discuss your child's results by looking at "My Progress" together to see the number of lessons your child has completed in i-Ready and the percentage of questions your child answered correctly in the quiz at the end of each lesson.
- Contact your child's teachers about how often your child should practice at home, or with any other questions about i-Ready.

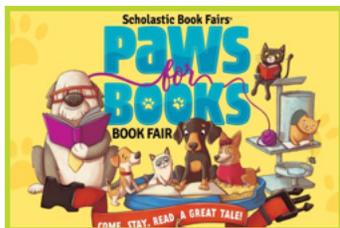


Odyssey of the Mind News

Odyssey of the Mind (OM for short) is a creative problem-solving program that gives students the opportunity to learn imaginative brainstorming, teamwork, self-reliance, and respect for other's ideas and strengths. There are teams of 5-7 students that are given problems with specific instructions; no talking with working together can't use hands, etc. They have to creatively and swiftly solve the problems presented to them. This portion is called Spontaneous. Spontaneous can be word problems, word questions, or what's called Hands On Spontaneous. This is where objects have to be used to build a structure that may support another object or create/use the item(s) within an imaginary setting. The other portion of OM is a performance of the students' own creation. The students write the script, build a set, make costumes, and perform (act, sing, play instruments, dance...). There, again, are specific instructions and rules that have to be followed in the aspect of the performance.

As for our team, our OM members are: Sophia F., Isabella H., Nicholas H., Kahless K., TJ P., Nadra T., Colin T.

OM requires a lot of time and dedication from the students and adult volunteers. The club is led by Odyssey teachers Ms. Jafrate and Ms. Clark in addition to parent volunteers Ms. Friel and Ms. Holpfer. Their first competition is Regional Competition Saturday, March 3 at Viera High School. We wish them luck!



Scholastic Book Fair Paws for Reading Coming Up!

Our Scholastic Book Fair is coming back again! Our new theme will be Paw for Books. Come, Stay, Read a Great Tale. Our Book Fair will be held Monday, March 19th-23rd during school hours and our

Family Shopping Night will be on Monday, March 19th from 6:00-8:00pm. We are still looking for volunteers to help with set up, tear down, assist students with shopping, and read books to classes. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer, please contact Melissa Procter at procterm@odysseycharter-school.com or visit our Scholastic website to at www.scholastic.com/bf/odysseycharterschool7 to pick a time slot. Parents are able to sign in the front office anytime during school hours and come into the Media Center to preview or purchase books for their students. You will also be able to purchase books for your child's classroom. Every purchase helps our school purchase more books for our Media Center. Our last fair was so successful; Scholastic has bumped up our inventory to a larger Book Fair! This means much more selection for your students to choose from, an extra cash register for our Family Shopping Night and new titles as well. Come to our Book Fair for a purr-fectly paw-tastic time!

Casual Dress Days

Casual dress days are on the last Friday of each month. Students are welcome to dress out of uniform but must follow the Brevard County Dress Code outlined in the Brevard County Student Handbook. A copy of the handbook can be found on our website www.odysseycharterschool.com. Dress down days for Elementary students for the first semester are: February 23, March 30, April 27, and May 18.

Parent's Right to Know

Each parent of a student at Odyssey Charter School has the right to request information about the professional qualifications of the student's teacher(s) and any paraprofessionals who serve the student. The information must be provided on request, and it includes, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher is certified in the grade levels and subject areas he teaches;
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional certificate through which licensing criteria have been waived;
3. The bachelor's degree major of the teacher, and any other graduate degree or certification the teacher may hold, and the field or discipline of that degree or certification;
4. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Substitute Teachers Wanted for Elementary and Secondary -- We Need You!

If you are yearning to make a difference in children's lives and are looking for a part-time job working during your child's school hours, look no further. Odyssey needs you! Won't you please take a moment to apply to become an Odyssey substitute by contacting Ms. Barbara Marcus at (321) 733-0442. All substitutes must undergo and pass the Brevard County Fingerprinting and Background Checks.

Illness Guidelines

If your child will not be attending school for any reason, it is very important for you to call and notify the school office of the reason for the absence. This helps us to keep track of illnesses among our students. It also helps us be assured that your child is safe at home. With the arrival of colder weather, we have entered the cold and flu season. For the health of your child, other students, and school staff, it is important to know when your child should stay home due to illness.



Students should stay home if they have had any of the following symptoms in the last 24 hours:

- fever
- fatigue
- severe congestion and/or nasal excretions
- vomiting and/or diarrhea
- sore throat
- aches and chills
- nausea

Good Habits to Keep You and Others Healthy

- Wash your hands frequently. You may use soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rinse (alcohol rinses are available at all pharmacies and should contain at least 60 percent alcohol). Remember to wash your hands for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Viruses are often spread after a person touches something that is contaminated with the virus and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick. If your coworker is ill, steer clear of his or her sneezes and coughs. When possible, avoid shaking hands with someone who is ill with a respiratory infection. If you are caring for an ill family member, wash your hands frequently and minimize proximity to his or her face.
- Cover your mouth or tuck it into your elbow when coughing or sneezing and encourage others to do so. Wash your hands afterward.
- Stay home if you have a respiratory infection when possible.

Handwashing is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of illness.

- Wash your hands often — when they are dirty, before eating, after using the restroom and after sneezing into a tissue
- Use soap and warm water and rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds before rinsing and drying.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are ok to use when your hands aren't visibly dirty, but hand washing is preferable
- Make it fun with kids – sing a song and model thoroughly soaping up!
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea — “the stomach bug” – are often transmitted via a fecal/oral route, meaning virus is shed in the stool, gets on hands, and then enters the body through the mouth. Thorough hand washing after using the bathroom helps prevent this type of illness.

How should you wash your hands?

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.
- Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Be sure to lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
- Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Cough Etiquette

- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands – use a tissue, or your shoulder or elbow

Field Days / Physical Education

Physical Education has some very exciting events approaching within the next couple of months! March 14, 2018 is Kindergarten Field Day. This will take place on our P.E. field from 9:30-12:30. On March 15, 2018 First and Second Grade Field Day will be at Fred Lee Park from 9am-2pm. Also, the Annual Clash of the Titans 5K Race will be held on April 21, 2018 at The Field of Dreams Park located in West Melbourne. The race will start at 8am so get a good night's rest! Field Day for 3rd-5th grade will be in May. More information will be given at a later date.

Rock on!

Coach Delaune and Coach Mario

Uniform Policy Reminders

- All students are required to wear khaki or black UNIFORM STYLE pants, shorts, skirts or 'skorts'. Shorts, skirts and 'skorts' length must be at least mid-thigh. Legging style pants are not appropriate.
- Students must wear a collared polo shirt or a t-shirt. Student polo's and t-shirts must be solid green or white. All shirts must bear the Odyssey Logo.
- Shoes must be closed in the back. Light-up shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- If a student chooses or needs to wear a jacket or sweatshirt due to cold weather, it must be a solid color and in accordance with the individual schools' uniform guide.

Cold weather appropriate dress:

- Solid Black, Navy, or Gray jacket or sweatshirt (with or without an Odyssey logo)
- Long sleeve under shirts – solid color black, green, gray, navy, or white (only under uniform shirts)
- Leggings or stockings under skirts for girls – solid color; black, green, gray, navy, white (skirts and shorts MUST be mid-thigh or below)
- Shoes must be closed in the back. Light-up shoes, flip-flops, slippers, or high heel shoes are prohibited.
- Elementary Campus: Khaki or black UNIFORM STYLE pants/shorts/skirts (On cold days if students wear jeans they must bring uniform bottoms to change into at school)

DRESS DOWN DAY REMINDERS

- Students must adhere to the Brevard Public Schools Dress Code policy.
- Please wear shorts and skirts that are at least mid-thigh length
- Please do not wear items with holes or rips
- Please do not wear light-up shoes, flip-flops or sandals. Shoes must be closed in the back.

Intervention

In reading intervention we are using the Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) from Fountas and Pinnell to accelerate the growth in students' reading abilities. With LLI, students work in small groups with an adult, in order to target specific reading behaviors that must be mastered to progress to the next reading level. The primary focus is reading comprehension. We address the literal meaning of the text as well as the implied message. Students also analyze the techniques the author uses to convey their message. Beyond working on comprehension, students also practice to achieve reading fluency and improve word decoding skills. You can help your student improve their reading at home by asking them questions that require them to think carefully about what they have read. For example, follow up a question about what happened in the book with a question about why it happened, or you could ask what a character was feeling at a certain point in the story. That type of critical thinking is the key to strong reading comprehension.

Safety First at Arrival & Dismissal -

School Hours and Car Loop Reminders

The school's car loop certainly has its limitations and we thank you for your patience and support during arrival and dismissal. Our school hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 2:50 p.m. each day. On Early Release Wednesdays, Elementary students are released at 1:30 p.m. We appreciate your willingness to share the space with other parents as you travel and merge through the loop. Please continue to exercise caution and safety during arrival and dismissal. Our children are counting on you! Remember to follow these tips to keep traffic flowing and students safe in our car loop:

- Be sure to honor the 5mph posted speed limit
- Refrain from using cell phones
- Always display your car loop pick-up sign in your window
- Remember, when turning onto Eldron, RIGHT turns ONLY during arrival and dismissal times
- Reserve disabled parking for vehicles with disabled parking permits
- Always drop off children at the designated orange cones – nowhere else in the car loop area
- Do not use Pineapple Cove's parking area

The car loop is the safest and most efficient way to drop off and pick up your child. During our busiest times, it takes just about 5 minutes from the driveway entrance to the driveway exit during the car loop. The car loop is least busy in the morning from 7:40-7:50 and in the afternoon from 3:05-3:15. Students can be dropped off beginning at 7:30am for breakfast.



Honor Roll and National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS)

On Thursday, 1/25, we celebrated the hard work and dedication of 157 3rd-5th grade students who made the A/B Honor Roll with a special Honors Breakfast! Students enjoyed a delicious meal and learned about the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS). NEHS students are selected based on specific criteria including

Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character. Honor Students in 4th-6th grades were provided an NEHS application packet, which is comprised of a student resume, letter of recommendation, essay, and teacher evaluations (3). Interested students must complete the application requirements and submit to our NEHS Sponsor, Dr. Baldwin, by 2/12 for review. Our NEHS Induction will take place on 2/22. Congratulations to our Honor Roll Students!

Spelling Bee

Every year, there is a school-wide Spelling Bee in preparation for the District Spelling Bee. Our OCS Spelling Bee was a success this morning! We had 13 rounds of spelling action. Three students from each grade level 4th-8th participated in our school level Spelling Bee on Friday, January 26th. Every participant received a certificate of recognition and participation. The 1st Place winner of the school-wide Spelling Bee goes on to represent Odyssey at the district level.

This year's 1st place winner at Odyssey Charter School was 8th grader Sarah B. and our runner up was 6th grader Torrin G. Odyssey Charter is proud to acknowledge Sarah as she represents our school and moves on to compete at the district level Spelling Bee held on Friday March 2, 2018, at the Brevard County School Board.



Student Medication

Any student requiring medication should have it checked into the front office by a parent or legal guardian. Students may not bring medication to school at any time. If a student requires an asthma inhaler or epi-pen on his/her person, the inhaler or epi-pen must be checked in through the office and must be accompanied by a doctor prescription stating the child must carry it with them at all times. Please also notify school administration of any medical conditions your child might have that you believe we should be aware of.

Read Aloud Program – for Volunteer Hours



The Read Aloud program is a wonderful way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours while supporting their students academically, socially, and emotionally. In 1983, the U.S. Department of Education report "Becoming a Nation of Readers" found that, **"the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children."**

To participate in the Read Aloud program, parents should spend at least 15 minutes reading aloud to their child each day in order to maximize your child's benefit, select a book that is two grades above their independent reading level. In order to receive volunteer hours, simply complete the Read Aloud log available on our website, in the office, or from your child's teacher. You can turn in the log at the end of each month to your classroom teacher or to the front office. Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza is recording the hours.

For more information about the importance of reading aloud to your child, please visit Jim Trelease's web site at: <http://www.trelease-on-reading.com/>

5517.01 Policy Against Bullying and Harassment

Odyssey Charter School follows the Brevard Public Schools Student Code of Conduct. In response to state law the "Jeffery Johnson Stand Up for all Students Act," the Brevard County School Board adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment.

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 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:

- Elementary Campus Site Administrator:
Mrs. Nolder, nolderw@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-733-0112
- Jr/Sr High Campus Site Administrator:
Dr. Knight, knightm@odysseycharterschool.com, 321-345-4117
- Anonymous Reports: Speak-out hotline, 1-800-423-8477
- Bullying Report Form: <http://www.brevard.k12.fl.us/forms/pdf/BullyingWitnessReportFormElementary.pdf>

To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it visit: www.stopbullying.gov/bullying

Field Days

Field Day is coming up for Kindergarten on March 14 and then March 15 for 1st & 2nd grade. If there are any parents that would like to volunteer we could really use your help. Kindergarten will be here on our P.E. field from 9:15am-12:00pm and 1st & 2nd will be at Fred Lee Park from 9am-2pm. If you are unable to attend, but would like to contribute, please check with your child's homeroom teacher for a list of items to donate.

Thank you in advance for helping make your child's Field Day a success!
-Coach Delaune

Parent Resources

Check out the newly launched Parents for Healthy Kids website! This resource is offered through Brevard Public Schools with the goal of educating and empowering parents to be a part of creating healthier schools. The site shows parents how to reinforce healthy habits at home and provides an online platform for sharing personal stories. Check it out with this link: <https://parentsforhealthykids.org/>

Volunteer System - Raptor

All volunteers must complete the volunteer application process and go through a background screening prior to starting any volunteer activity at OCS. As a potential volunteer, you will be asked to provide the information necessary to perform a background check. You may not be on campus as a volunteer until your background check has been completed and you have been approved as a volunteer. OCS is participating in the district-wide Volunteer and Visitor check in system to add additional security to our campuses. The system, called Raptor, scans state-issued photo licenses and ID cards, required for admittance to the building past the front office.

Steps to Becoming a Volunteer

- 1) Please go to the Brevard County Schools web Page PLEASE USE INTERNET EXPLORER: http://www.edline.net/pages/Brevard_County_Schools/
- 2) Click the Parents & Students heading.
- 3) Scroll down to Volunteer Information (Please use Internet Explorer; Google Chrome is not compatible).
- 4) Complete the Pre-Application.
- 5) Level A: payment and Raptor Application are on the same link.
- 6) Level A+: complete Raptor Application first, then return to the same page and make payment.
- 7) Level A+: after completing Pre-Application and Raptor Application payment, please visit:

District and School Security

2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Viera, FL 32940

Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- 1) Please wait five days after being fingerprinted to contact Alyssa Sferrazza for status or any volunteer related questions.

Parents – Are you earning your hours for the year?

All of our parents are valued members of our volunteer team and are key stakeholders in their children's success at school. Please make sure you are planning how to fulfill your volunteer requirement of 18-25 hours for the school year. Opportunities for volunteering are sent out in our newsletters and through the Odyssey parent e-mail list from Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza, our volunteer coordinator. Ms. Sferrazza can help you find volunteer opportunities that best align with your availability. If your classroom teacher has a volunteer opportunity for you, please make sure you make arrangements to check in with Ms. Sferrazza. As our volunteer coordinator, she will track your hours and ensure all safety/screening requirements have been met if you will be chaperoning or helping on campus. Stop in and say hello – you can find her in the front office at 321-733-0442 x103 or email: sferrazzaa@odysseycharterschool.com.



Upcoming Volunteer opportunities

If you're interested in helping, please email Ms. Sferrazza at sferrazzaa@odysseycharterschool.com

FSA Hall Monitors

We are looking for 5-6 A + volunteers per date.

- Times: 7:30am to 2:30pm
- Dates: March 6, 7 (possibly 8, 9, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30)
April 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30
May 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Here's what we are asking for you to do on testing days:

- 1) Arrive at the front office at 7:30 AM (If you are not able to get here at 7:30AM, no worries, just let me know)
- 2) You will be assigned to a classroom to help the students within that specific classroom use the restroom prior to 8:10AM.
- 3) During the test session, you will be assigned a spot in the hallway to monitor student/staff movement to ensure silence in the hallway.
- 4) During the test session, we would like for you to periodically walk by your assigned classroom door to see if you are needed to escort a student to the restroom or pass messages on to the front office.
- 5) If you do escort a student to the restroom, we ask that you ensure that the student walks SILENTLY to ensure test security.
- 6) If all testing is not over by lunch time, we will assign a few of you to the cafeteria to assist with maintaining silence until the "ALL CALL" is made (The ALL CALL is the announcement that testing has been completed for the day.)

Classroom support

Contact Ms. Alyssa Sferrazza for opportunities to assist with classroom needs such as copying, sharpening pencils, and working with small groups of students (Level A+ volunteer).

Donations Needed

1. Donations for Clinic
 - ~ Ziploc Sandwich Bags
 - ~ Hand Sanitizer
 - ~ Crackers
 - ~ Large Band-Aids
 - ~ Gluten free crackers
 - ~ Unscented baby wipes
 - ~ Mini Refrigerator

2. Donations for Family Fun Basket for Book Fair 3/19:
 - ~ Popcorn
 - ~ Reusable Water Bottles
 - ~ Redbox coupons/ freebies
 - ~ Family Movie tickets or DVD's (G rated)
 - ~ Board or Card Games
 - ~ Small craft or art sets
 - ~ Any gift certificates or promotion cards for family fun activities



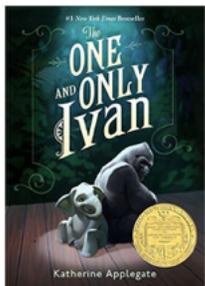
Kindergarten News : Kindergarten, Kindergarten – 100 Days Smarter!

One hundred Sight Words, counting to one hundred, one hundred days of school. The number one hundred



is very important to our grade level and on February 2nd, Odyssey Charter School Kindergarteners celebrated their 100th Day of School! In honor of the day, students demonstrated their super knowledge with 100th Day Capes, decorated with one hundred items. Mr. Senick and Ms. Chaukhtoura's super scholars have been practicing skip counting during their calendar time and were so excited to finally be able to finish their counting by 5s and 10s to 100. Ms. Lustig and Ms. Zoller's little learners completed the Montessori 100 Board with the assistance of technology by using iPads. In Mrs. Adorno and Mrs. Curtis' room, with the help of Jack Hartman, these stupendous students moved and grooved to 100 with 10 groups of 10 different exercises. And Ms. Strom and Ms. Wilson's excellent education explorers showed their number knowledge by decorating their 100th Day crowns with number cards counting to 100 by 10s in the correct order. A kindergartener's day is full of fun and their work and learning is never done. Up and down the hall, students showed off their 100 days of knowledge and explored during Work Cycle, Small Groups, and more. A huge thank you to the parents and volunteers who assisted in classroom activities and helped create such wonderful 100 day capes!

2nd Grade News



Second grade has embarked on a literary journey. We are reading *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. This is a fictional story about a silverback gorilla raised in captivity in a strip mall for nearly 30 years. The book is inspired by a real silverback gorilla named Ivan who lived in a strip mall for nearly 30 years before being moved to Zoo Atlanta where he lived a celebrity existence until his death at 50 years old. We are using the text to study two English Language standards: Point

of View and Author's Purpose. As this book is told from Ivan's point of view, it offers an interesting perspective. Although the author's main purpose is entertainment, the story also offers information about the plight of wild animals in captivity. In addition, the story persuades us to consider how animals in captivity should be treated. This story offers rich vocabulary and a powerful story to engage the students and allow them to pursue higher order thinking including the meaning of friendship and how events can change one's perspective. The book is filled with wonderful quotes such as:

"Memories are precious ... they help tell us who we are."

"I like colorful tales with black beginnings and stormy middles and cloudless blue-sky endings. But any story will do."

"Humans waste words. They toss them like banana peels and leave them to rot. Everyone knows the peels are the best part."

"They think I'm too old to cause trouble. Old age is a powerful disguise."

"Homework, I have discovered, involves a sharp pencil and thick books and long sighs."

"A good zoo," Stella said, "is a large domain. A wild cage. A safe place to be. It has room to roam and humans who don't hurt." She pauses, considering her words. "A good zoo is how humans make amends."

4th Grade News:

BRING THE FAMILY FOR A NIGHT OF DANCING AND FUN

On March 9, 2018, the Odyssey Charter School 4th grade class will be sponsoring a Spring Sock Hop Family Dance. We are encouraging students and families to dress in 50's style or semi-formal attire to celebrate the theme of the night. The entrance fee is \$5 per student or \$10 per family. 4th grade parent volunteers and teachers will be selling popcorn, pizza, muffins, and glow sticks throughout the night, all ranging between .50 and \$1.00. Families are also welcome to take pictures at the photo station in front of a 50's diner backdrop. 3-5 pictures will be taken at a time and formed into a collage for the family. These photos are \$5. All proceeds from the dance will benefit the 4th grade students and their field trip to St. Augustine. If you would like to be a part of the fun as a volunteer, please contact Ms. Wyman via email: wymans@odysseycharterschool.com. In addition, if you cannot attend the dance, but would like to donate to our 4th grade field trip, you can also send an email to Ms. Wyman and she will provide you with help on how to support 4th grade. We hope to see you all at the dance!

How is Spanish taught at OCS?

At Odyssey Lower campus, students are learning Spanish once or twice a week during the school year. We are proud to share that most classes are learning level 1 basic Spanish vocabulary; other more advanced classes are learning level 2 basic Spanish vocabulary. The goal of the Spanish program is to provide a foundation for mastery early on in order to promote a smooth transition to middle and high school classes. This allows students to be the most successful in learning while providing a deep level of understanding in accordance with Florida state standards. Did you know that we incorporate Total Physical Response (TPR) as a tool in our Spanish instruction? TPR is a language teaching method, it is based on the coordination of language and physical movement.



4th grade students incorporating Total Physical Response; they use body language to remember Spanish words.

Elementary Spanish Resources

<http://www.spanish4teachers.org/ElementarySpanishResources.html> -Lessons

<http://www.uni.edu/becker/Spanish3.html>

<http://studyspanish.com/pronunciation/alphabet.htm> - Audio Spanish

<https://rockalingua.com/> - Elementary songs

Technology

Students in 2nd-4th grades will be wrapping up our PowerPoint unit by creating a presentation about themselves. 5th grade will be completing a presentation about 1 of the 50 states. Grades K-1st will be continuing their typing skills and mastering the computer mouse. All grades will be learning about the importance of internet safety, what a Digital Footprint is, cyberbullying, and what it means to be a digital citizen. Older students will, also, be learning about how to evaluate websites.

Typing resources:

K and 1st- <https://tvokids.com/school-age/games/keyboard-climber-2>

1st and 2nd- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr>

2nd-5th- <https://www.typing.com/student/login>

SPART

In February 2018 students will move into the rest of the Elements of Art; value, texture, and space. Students will also continue to master their skills in using art materials and continue to learn more techniques as well. We will also be starting to focus on district wide Art Fairs. The Mall Art Show was a great success, we had some wonderful work. Upcoming events include; The Art and Science Fair March 12-14th, and the Brevard District Art Show April 18th, 2018. Art Club students will be participating in the Cape Canaveral Poster Contest and Art Show, as well, beginning in May.



Thank you for all your support,
Ms. Claflin-Bryant

Titan Athletics

Odyssey sports are in full swing. We currently have over 100 K-5 students participating in our soccer and basketball programs. Next year we will be shifting the focus of our athletics to skill building for all grades. We will have select sports that we will focus on and teach students, with qualified coaches, the basic skills needed to compete at higher levels when they reach the Jr/Sr high athletic program. If anyone is interested in helping out with the athletic programs please contact Natalie Beckett beckettn@odysseycharterschool.com or Mike Davis at davism@odysseycharterschool.com.

Gifted and Talented GATEway News!

GATEway is always concentrating on the questions we need to ask ourselves to discover deeper insights. Independent learning is our goal for these students who have demonstrated brain differences relating to their advanced pace of learning. Above-grade GATEway level abilities, observed by teachers, require students to adopt personal responsibility for independently finding new learning every day with support.

Our focus this Winter quarter is to plumb literature deeply and find what our stories are **REALLY** about using: research into an authors' recurring themes, making cross curricular connections about settings, identifying powerful word choices, and writing about revelations we've discovered. In addition, we've also explored some sentence diagramming, and used a free Hands-On-Equations introduction to Algebra app. Kindergarten GATEway will start in February on Wednesdays, and introduce ourselves to some computer programming.

Music

We are deep into our music curriculum this month, playing games and beginning projects that help us refine our rhythm and pitch. We have revisited some fun percussive classroom instruments like drums, maracas, and tambourines to help us. We will also be reviewing our Orff instruments (xylophones, metallophones, and glockenspiels) to learn fun songs. Older students have started working on violins this month and will continue that work through the end of the year. Fifth graders have a field trip coming up to see the Brevard Symphony Orchestra on February 8th. Additionally, our Glee Club is working hard to prepare our Spring Musical, Aristocats, which will premiere on April 26. Meet you in the Music Room!



Sincerely,
Ms. G

Raise money for OCS by shopping!

Do you shop at Target or Amazon? Well did you know that you can help raise money for Odyssey Charter School when you make purchases at either of these places.



AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your purchases to Odyssey Charter School all you need to do is:

- Go to www.smile.amazon.com (use the same log in that you use for Amazon.com)
- Search Odyssey Charter School Palm Bay, FL
- Select our school and that's it!
- Now 0.5% of your purchase will go to our school.



Target's Take Charge of Education (need to be a holder of a Target REDcard credit card)

- Go online to Target.com/TCOE
- Sign me up, look up our school ID # 113492 and select enroll
- Next enter your name and REDcard number. That's it!
- Now, for every purchase you make at Target using your REDcard 1% will be donated to Odyssey Charter School.

Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: **Contact Board Designated Parent Representative
- Step 4: Contact the President of the Governing Board
- Step 5: Present issue at the next monthly Board Meeting if unresolved
- Step 6: Seek mediation with the Sponsor

**Ms. Cindy Gilmore 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. Gilmore can be reached at cgilmore@greenappleschools.com or 321-676-8737.