

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

## **Our Mission For Every Child**

The mission of Odyssey Preparatory Academy 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.

## **Yearbook News**

### **Yearbook Ads for Sale!**

This is another great way for you to advertise and generate additional business!

Cost: \$25 (check/money order only). Orders will be taken through Dec 21st. Please have a scan-able business card with a check or money order made out to Odyssey Preparatory Academy. In the tagline of the check, please indicate Yearbook Ad, and deliver it to your child's Teacher. A receipt will be issued to you once the yearbook staff processes the order. Thank you for your support!

### **Yearbook Dedication Space for Sale!**

We are offering Dedication Space in the yearbook. Space can be bought for \$7 (similar to the size of a business card) which allows for approximately 7 lines. A template is available at the front desk of each campus; please make out your check or money order to Odyssey Preparatory Academy. In the tagline of the check, please indicate "Dedication Space". A receipt will be issued to you once the yearbook staff member processes the order. Orders are taken until Feb. 14th. Thank you for your support.

## **Common Core**

As a public charter school, Odyssey Charter School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy implement the standards determined by the Florida Department of Education. Standards are simply a set of skills that when mastered produce a student that can reach his/her full potential (as noted in our mission). However, in addition to teaching the standards/skills we provide our students with the foundation skills, critical life skills, intellectual, emotional, physical, spiritual, and social, that are needed to have a balanced, healthy, and happy life.

For learn more about the Common Core, please visit the following websites. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your school Director or Principal.

<https://sites.google.com/a/share.brevardschools.org/common-core/>  
<http://www.corestandards.org/>  
<http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>

## **CALENDAR**

- Dec 3 - FCAT 2.0 Writing
- Dec 9 - Classroom Spelling Bee 4-8th Grades
- Dec 18 - 20 - Early Release Days (1:45 p.m.)
- Dec 17 and 19 - No Tutoring
- Dec 20 - Dress Up Day
- Dec 20 - End of First Semester
- Dec 23 - Jan 6 - Winter Vacation, no school for students
- Jan 1 - Feb 15 - Siblings and New Students Apply for 2014-2015 School Year
- Jan 6 - Teacher Workday
- Jan 7 - Students Report - Second Semester Begins
- Jan 7 - Tutoring resumes, Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Jan 9 - Elementary Report Cards issued
- Jan 13 - 17 - Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! - "Reading Accelerates Success!"
- Jan 13 - 24 - MAP Winter Assessment
- Jan 15 - Early Release Day
- Jan 16 - Elementary Conference Night
- Jan 17 - OPA Spelling Bee
- Jan 20 - MLK Jr. Day- Holiday for all
- Jan 21 - 31 - Letter of Intent for Returning Students due
- Jan 26 - Feb 1 - School Choice Week
- Jan 27 - National Preschool Fitness Day
- Jan 28 - 3rd Grade Field Trip: King Center
- Jan 29 - Early Release Day
- Jan 30 - Annual OCS Board Meeting - Elementary Campus (1755 Eldron Blvd)
- Feb 15 - Lottery Drawing for New Students

## **School Spelling Bee**

Our first annual Odyssey Preparatory Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, January 17. Students in 4th and 5th grade have been practicing their spelling since September in preparation for their classroom spelling bees and culminating in the Odyssey Prep Spelling Bee. Our winner will go on to participate in the Brevard District Spelling Bee.

## **ESOL News**

The Haitian American Association of Brevard in collaboration with the ESOL department is sponsoring a parent informational night for Haitian parents. Pass the word and join us. For details, please contact Odyssey's Haitian-Creole ESOL assistant, Sarahjane Felix at [felixs@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:felixs@odysseycharterschool.com) or 321-345-4117.

# Positive Discipline in the Classroom

Positive Discipline- One of Odyssey's essential elements.

The tools and concepts of Positive Discipline include:

- Mutual respect. Adults model firmness by respecting themselves and the needs of the situation, and kindness by respecting the needs of the child.
- Identifying the belief behind the behavior. Effective discipline recognizes the reasons kids do what they do and works to change those beliefs, rather than merely attempting to change behavior.
- Effective communication and problem solving skills.
- Discipline that teaches (and is neither permissive nor punitive).
- Focusing on solutions instead of punishment.
- Encouragement (instead of praise). Encouragement notices effort and improvement, not just success, and builds long-term self-esteem and empowerment.

If you would like to learn more about the Positive Discipline method, we have parent resources available for check out at the Odyssey lower campus media center. If you would like speak to school representative about Positive Discipline, you may contact Michelle Sutton who is certified in Positive Discipline training. Ms. Sutton can be reached at 733-0442 ext. 107 or you can email her at [suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com).

## The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

Habit 1—Be Proactive

### You're in Charge

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

HABIT 2—Begin with the End in Mind

### Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.

HABIT 3—Put First Things First

### Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

HABIT 4—Think Win-Win

### Everyone Can Win

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

HABIT 5—Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood

### Listen Before You Talk

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try and see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

HABIT 6—Synergize

### Together Is Better

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.

HABIT 7—Sharpen the Saw

### Balance Feels Best

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising, and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.

# The Five Finger Test



Helping Your Child Choose that "Just Right Book"

Sometimes it is difficult to know if a book is going to be too easy or too hard just by looking at it. The Five Finger test is one way to "test" a book before you spend too much time with it and get frustrated.

1. Choose a book you would like to read.
2. Open it to a page near the middle.
3. Begin to read the page. It is best to read the page aloud while doing the test so you can hear the places where you have difficulty.
4. Each time you come to a word you don't know right away, hold one finger up.
5. If you have all five fingers up before you get to the end of the page, this is a book that mom or dad might need to read to you. Right now it is too difficult for you to read it on your own. All five fingers up is called a **Too Hard Book**.
6. If you have no fingers up when you finish the page, then the book may be an easy read for you. No fingers up is called a **Too Easy Book**.
7. If you have less than five fingers but more than one or two fingers up when you finish reading the page, the book may be just what you need to grow as a reader. Some fingers up is called a **Just Right Book**.

**Too Easy Books** - This is the kind of book that can be read independently as it will build your child's confidence. You can still have fun reading it, but next time try to choose a book that is a little more challenging.

Qualities of a "Too Easy" Book:

- You have read this book many times before
- You understand the story very well without much effort
- You know and understand almost every word
- You read it smoothly without much practice or effort?

**Just Right Books** - This is the kind of book a child can read independently and can be used for guided instruction. These are the books that will help you make the most progress in your reading.

Qualities of a "Just Right" Book:

- A book that is new to you
- You can understand most of the book
- A few words per page you aren't familiar with

**Too Hard Books** - This is a book that an adult can read to the child. Alone, the child will reach frustration.

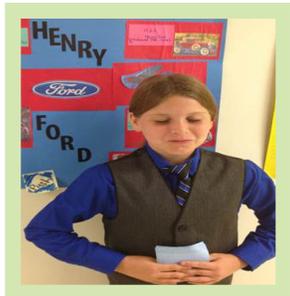
Qualities of a "Too Hard" Book:

- More than a few words on a page that you don't recognize or know the meaning
- You are confused about what is happening in most of the book
- When you read, you struggle and it sounds choppy



## Historical Presentations

The 4th and 5th grade Wax Museum had a wonderful turn out and was very successful! Many families came out to watch the students come alive! Our 4th graders represented Famous Floridians such as Wallace Amos, Chief Osceola, Jacqueline Cochran, Hulk Hogan and many more. Our 5th graders were Famous Scientists and Inventors such as Stephen Hawking. Thanks to the support of the families, the 4th and 5th grades raised a total of \$244.20! The money raised will go towards the students' end of the year field trips. A huge thank you to Ms. Graham and Ms. Wyman and all that helped contribute to the success of our inaugural Wax Museum.



Ms. Chaney's 1st/2nd grade classroom students celebrated people in history who have made a difference in our world. We read about many people in our classroom who have played a role in changing our world for the better. The children then chose one of these people to research at home and create something to share with their classmates. The most fun part of all was that they got to dress up as this character as they shared information about them in class. Not only was this fun and creative, but it allowed the children the opportunity to stand up in front of their classmates and learn how to speak in front of an audience in an environment in which they feel safe as the audience are their peers they spend time with every single day! It also allowed the children to be an audience, support their friends, to work closely on research at home with their family, and to learn about some amazing people in history! Some of the characters we met during this special week of sharing were Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, Maya Angelou, Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Mother Theresa. It was a fun and informative time shared by everyone in our learning environment!



Our 3rd grade students researched famous U.S. Landmarks and brought in physical representations of their landmark. Students also gave oral presentations to their classmates and families who came out to support their learning. Researched landmarks included the Statue of Liberty, the Empire State Building, and the Grand Canyon.



## Spread the Word!

Do you love your experience at our school? Do you and your kids love the healthy school lunches? Tell your friends and family in the community about Odyssey and encourage them to apply for the upcoming year. We host tours most Tuesdays at 10am – invite a family you know to come see our school in action. Also, please share your positive experiences on the web! There are many school rating sites that will give you the chance to tell others about the exciting things your students are doing and better understand what our school is like from an insider.

If you are unsatisfied in any way with the Odyssey experience, consider joining a school improvement committee or volunteering more in an area of need. There are many ways to be an active parent and get involved – your thoughts matter and your contributions are necessary for your child's success as a student! If you need help addressing your concerns, make sure you follow our grievance policy so we can assist in resolving your issue with the right person. The grievance policy is in each newsletter and posted on our website.

## Guidance Corner

I am Ms. Bonnie Moravecky\* and I'm thrilled to be the school counselor at Odyssey Charter School! I am here every morning and I am available to every student, parent and teacher for conferences and consultation. A little bit about me....

I am a certified School Guidance Counselor K-12 with a B.A. in Special Education and a Master's Degree in Mental Health Counseling. I am a member of the Space Coast Mental Health Counselor's Association and I am the mother of two beautiful daughters. I enjoy reading and spending time with friends and family. Please contact me anytime at (321-733-0442 ext. 105). I look forward to working with you and your child this school year!

*\*Ms. Moravecky is also available to work with and support Odyssey Prep students.*

## Uniform Policy Reminders ~

Cold weather appropriate dress:

- Solid Black or solid Navy jacket or sweatshirt (with or without an Odyssey logo)
- Long sleeve under shirts – solid color black or white (only under uniform shirts)
- Leggings or stockings under skirts for girls (skirts and shorts MUST be mid-thigh or below)
- Khaki pants

### DRESS DOWN DAY REMINDERS

- Shorts and skirts MUST be mid-thigh or below
- No holes or ripped jeans/clothing
- No spaghetti straps
- No flip-flips or sandals

## Welcome to our new paraprofessional!

We welcome Ms. Kavel Green to our Odyssey Prep family as Paraprofessional. Ms. Green will be supporting our classroom teachers and our students by working with small groups and supporting learning in our computer lab. She can be reached at 321-345-4117 or by email at [greenk@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:greenk@odysseyprepacademy.com).



## Jump Rope for Heart

On October 30th Odyssey Prep's students participated in the American Heart Association's Jump-Rope-for Heart event. This year our school community raised over \$600.00. Wow!!! What an effort. David Francis from Ms. Weber's 1st grade class raised the most money for the cause with \$150.00. Ms. Weber's class collected the most with approximately \$250.00 raised. Odyssey Prep raised a total of over \$650.00, including online donations. Students learned about the importance of heart health and how physical activity contributes to heart health.



I would like to thank all the students, parents, families, and staff from the Odyssey Prep community who contributed and helped in making this such a successful event. Some of the prizes have been awarded to students already but the bigger prizes that students have earned come from the American Heart Association and we expect them to arrive in the next few weeks. Thanks again for your support of Coach Padilla and this event.

Third grade student reflections on our Jump Rope for Heart event:

*"My favorite part of jump rope day was that we went to teach kindergarten how to jump rope. We got to teach three kindergarten classes. It was so fun. I got to choose two people from each class that went to Jump Rope for Heart. We got to put our groups together. It was very fun, and I liked it very much."* (Saniya Lovett)



*"Jump roping is better than I thought! Helping is good, too. We raised money for Jump Rope for Heart to help people who need heart surgery and other help. They gave us prizes for helping out. We saved lives, and we're proud. Now I love jump roping."* (Skyler Franklin)

*"Today was Jump Rope for Heart. It was really fun with Coach Padilla outside! All the kindergarteners were really good when they came to join us outside at P.E. It was really fun out there with the kindergarteners. They really liked us. The next day, the whole entire kindergarten (even my little sister) wanted to come with me inside the classroom because they liked me when I helped them."* (Makayla Sierra)

## Science Investigations

Ms. Saraj's 1st grade students became "Pumpkin Investigators" on October 31st. They started by learning the life cycle of a pumpkin earlier that week and recreated the cycle in various ways throughout the week. On October 31st, students were given their own pumpkins to investigate. They had to name, measure, compare the inside- to the outside, count the lines, and weigh their pumpkins. The most exciting part for most students



may have been when they had to predict if pumpkins would sink or float in water. Mrs. Selikoff, our art teacher, came in to observe the experiment with the class. The whole class participated in the experiment, and the results were very surprising for most. We won't give you the conclusion to the experiment, try it out for yourself!



Ms. Culbreth's class enjoyed a visit from a classroom parent, Mr. Back, who helped them learn about how and why some people taste things differently than others. The students had a wonderful time doing various blind taste tests on unlikely items! The students were able to graph their own data via PowerPoint and see how they compared to the rest of the population in terms of how strongly they tasted certain things. Mr. Back allowed the students to use fun scientific materials and it was interesting to see how many students in the class were carriers of the particular "Supertaster" gene!



### Fourth and Fifth Grades get visit from United Launch Alliance contact:

On Friday, November 15, OPA had a visit from Fred Wyman, the Customer Relations contact for the United Launch Alliance (ULA). Mr. Wyman gave a presentation to our 4th and 5th grade students about the MAVEN project that ULA and NASA launched on Monday, November 18. MAVEN, the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution project, is the first mission devoted to understanding Martian atmospheric changes. The presentation related to the Space Research and Exploration unit (SC.4.E.5.5) that was being discussed with the upper classes. The presentation was very informative, and the students seemed to immensely enjoy the idea that scientists are studying Mars. The classes learned that not just the United States is involved in space exploration, and that, on average, 80 rockets per year are launched around the world. The students are now more in tune with the kind of research methods being developed by the companies at Cape Canaveral, and have more of a connection to their extended community. They are excited to hear what information ULA and NASA accumulate during the rocket's 10 month, 400 million-mile trip to Mars, and the research that will come from the MAVEN orbit around Mars.

## Honor Roll Students – first marking period

The following students were recognized for their hard work and outstanding academic effort in the first marking period. These students earned a minimum 3.0 GPA and received a complimentary ticket to Ice at Gaylord Palms and a complimentary Orlando Magic ticket! Congratulations on a job well done!

### 3rd Grade

Jayda Anderson  
Precisha Aubin  
\*Kaelynn Back  
Ella Held  
\*Avery Held  
Leitzia Jean  
Tatyana Viruet  
\*Abbigail Lupe  
Saniya Lovett  
Neveah Mannier  
Dylan Minter  
\*Brianna Morales  
Brady Tschorke  
Joe Waldron  
Odin Cruz  
Skyler Franklin

### 4th Grade

Alana Lopez  
Hailey Chaney  
Mason Moffitt  
\*Mechiah Kirton  
Nazliyan Duman

### 5th Grade

Adam Anderson  
Brandon Kelly  
\*Andrew Vickers  
Hannah Sharpe  
Hayden Berry  
Mason Imperato  
Natajha Tompkins

Key:  
3.0 GPA or Higher  
\*4.0 GPA



## Titans Sports Update



5th/6th Flag Football: I am proud of our two coaches who have been working very hard with the 5th & 6th students. Their dedication to our young athletes have inspired them to play hard but also work hard in the classroom. Every Saturday that I am out there watching them play, they light up with joy to be representing as Odyssey Titans!

5th/6th Basketball: Will be starting soon! The plan is to have a 5th grade team, 6th grade team and 5th/6th girls' team. They will play games against other schools in the Space Coast Christian League which will be held on Saturday's and some week days. The gymnasium locations and schedules have not been determined as of yet. FYI: If there are not enough students who sign up for the individual groups your money will be refunded.

Soccer: Will be starting soon for the following grades; K, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, 5th/6th. They will play games against other schools in the Space Coast Christian League which will be held on Sunday afternoons. The field location have not been determined as of yet. FYI: If there are not enough students who sign up for the individual groups your money will be refunded.

Check out the school website under Athletics, then sports calendar. This area will have all the practice times, games days, and address to all locations. Lydia Castro, Athletic Director. [Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:Castrol@odysseycharterschool.com) or 321-345-4117.



## News for New & Returning Students for August 2014

The time of year is approaching when families must secure their student's spot at Odyssey by returning the Letter of Intent form. The Letters of Intent will tell us your plan to return to Odyssey next school year and reserve your student's seat. The Letters of Intent will also help us plan for any additional children in your household you plan on sending to Odyssey next year so we can reserve their spot too. Siblings get priority placement so don't forget to include them! These are very important forms that will be sent to you in January. All forms will be due Friday, Jan 31. \*If you have a sibling who will be new to Odyssey next school year, a paper application must be submitted indicating the student is a sibling in order to ensure sibling priority\* The 2014-2015 applications will only be available after Jan 1, 2014.\*

The annual lottery drawing is held on February 15th to accept new students from the community who apply. All applicants interested in having a student attend for the August 2014 school year must submit an application. Applications for the 14-15 school year will be available AFTER Jan 1, 2014. Applicants who wish to have the chance to participate in the lottery drawing must apply prior to the end of the day on Fri Feb 14th.

### Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact Principal if unresolved with the teacher
- Step 3: \*\*Parent Liaison
- 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

\*\*Dan Kuhar, Director of Odyssey Charter School, 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. Mr. Kuhar can be reached at [kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:kuhard@odysseycharterschool.com), or 321-345-4117.