

*"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.

## CALENDAR

- Jan 26-30** Celebrate Literacy Week
- Jan 28** Early Release/ Professional Development Day
- Jan 29** Odyssey Charter School Board Meeting
- Jan 30** Student Dress Down/ Care of the Environment Day, School Wide Spelling Bee
- Feb 6** Third Interim Ends
- Feb 9** Title I Parent Night- FSA Info Night & Math Night
- Feb 11** Early Release/Professional Development Day
- Feb 12** Interim Reports Sent Home
- Feb 16** No School – Presidents Day/ Professional Development Day
- Feb 18** Odyssey Charter School Board Meeting
- Feb 25** Early Release Day/ Prof. Development Day
- Feb 26** Class/Sports/Club Photos
- Feb 26** Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- Feb 27** Dress Down/ Care of the Environment Day
- March 2-13** FSA Writing ELA Grades 4-11
- March 2-31** CELLA Assessments for ESOL Students

## From the Desk of Reggie Revis



As we are stabilizing in our second semester, it is time for us to review the Montessori elements that are part of our mission and vision. We set the following as standards of operation, and know that we have work to do in order to meet those standards consistently. Those standards include 1) a healthy, high-performance "green" school; 2) a wise nutrition and healthy lifestyles program; and 3) nurturing the whole child to increase academic performance. We recycle, use "green" cleaning products and are switching out our lights so that we use broad spectrum lighting which have a healthier bandwidth. Our Healthy Café serves excellent food on a daily basis, with a keen eye for fresh, local, and even organic food when possible. We are sensitive to the many layers of our OPA community and understand that for children to learn they must be satisfied socially, physically, and spiritually. As we move towards meeting our true mission and vision we need your input and support. Please feel free to reach out to me personally at [revisr@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:revisr@odysseyprepacademy.com) or leave a message at 321.345.4117.

## OPA Leadership Team

**Founder/Head of Schools**  
Ms. Constance Ortiz

**Site Administrator**  
Dr. Reggie Revis

**AP, Technology, Scheduling, Testing**  
Mr. Jon Chace

**Discipline Dean**  
Mr. Mike Davis

**Curriculum Coach**  
Mrs. Paulette Brancaccio

**Literacy Coach**  
Ms. Alexis Rotstein

**Guidance Counselor**  
Ms. Bonnie Moravecky

**ESE Teacher**  
Kimberly Gary

# Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!

## Celebrate Literacy Week

"Reading Accelerates Success"

January 26th - 30th

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida is an annual event during which students, teachers, administrators and parents help students strengthen their literacy skills and become better prepared for academic success. Throughout this week students are encouraged to keep reading and improving in their language skills toward increasing student achievement in literacy. We know that if our students are going to shoot for the moon and achieve great success they must have the literacy skills required for 21st century careers.

The goal of "Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!" is to promote the enjoyment of reading for children and adults of all ages. Here are a few exciting events taking place at our school in celebration of literacy:

- Million Minute Reading Marathon
- Guest Storyteller Kaye Brynes
- Door decorating contest

## Letters of Intent

Letters of Intent have been sent home; if you have not completed one please contact the front office. This form lets us know if you plan on having your student return to OPA next year. Your child's seat may not be reserved for the 2015-2016 school year if this form is not completed and returned by January 30. If your student will not be returning to OPA next year please complete one form per family indicating this. Any family that does not turn in a form will be contacted. Siblings not in attendance this year but who plan on attending OPA next year, must complete a new student application. This application is available at the front desk or on our school website.



## Student Art and Essay Contests

Art and essay contests are open to students in Kindergarten to 12th grade. The theme for this year's essay and art contests is "A Celebration of African-American Innovation and Innovators." Students are asked to share how African-American innovators have shaped Florida.

The art contest is open to all Florida students in grades K-3, and two winners will be selected.

The essay contest is open to all Florida students in grades 4 through 12. Three winners will be selected: one elementary student (grades 4-5), one middle-school student (grades 6-8), and one high school student (grades 9-12). Winners will receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship provided by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Information about the contests and Florida's Black History Month is available on Florida's Black History Month website at [www.FloridaBlackHistory.com](http://www.FloridaBlackHistory.com).

## Keep the Flu Away!

Important Info from the OPA Clinic

It is flu season in Brevard County and we would like to offer some important guidance to help you and your family stay healthy this year. We encourage you to have a conversation with your children about how to prevent the spread of flu and other illnesses.

- Keep your children home if they are showing cold or flu like symptoms
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Wash your hands often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth

For more information visit the Center for Disease Control's website: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm>

## Medication Reminder

- Medication may be only administered by trained school staff with the proper forms from the parent and doctor.
- Students are never allowed to bring in any medication – even cough drops and other over-the-counter medicines.
- All medication must be in the original package, not zip lock bags.

## Title One Parent Notification

Title I is a program funded by the federal government to improve students' academic achievement. Title I money can be used to expand and supplement the services children are already receiving in the classroom. Title I schools use their funds for a variety of items, including the following:

- Instructional personnel;
- Professional development;
- Family/parental involvement activities;
- Extension of school day/year;
- Extended learning opportunities;
- Classroom interventions;
- Reduction of class size; and/or
- Supplemental tutoring.

As a parent of a Title I school you are given the right to inquire about the qualifications of your child's teacher. Each parent of a student at Odyssey Preparatory Academy has the right to request information about the professional qualifications of the student's teacher (s) and any paraprofessionals who serve the student. This information will be provided upon request.

Todo padre de familia de un estudiante en Odyssey Preparatory Academy tiene el derecho de solicitar información acerca de las calificaciones profesionales del(los) profesor(es) del estudiante y de cualquier profesor asistente que ensene al estudiante. Esta información se proporcionara a solicitud.

Chak paran de yon etidya nan Odyssey Preparatory Academy Lekol la genyen dwa pou mande enfomasyon sou kalifikasyon pwofesyonel sou pwofese etidyan an epi nenpot asistan pwofese ki founi sevis pou etidyan yo. Nou pral founi enfomasyon sa sou demann.

If you have any questions regarding Title I funds and supports/resources please feel free to contact our Title I Parent Contact: Kim Gary ([garyk@odysseyprepacademy.com](mailto:garyk@odysseyprepacademy.com))

## Parent Involvement Plan

The district Title I PIP has been approved. A copy is on our school website and in our Title I binder in the school's front office.

## Keep Florida Learning Committee

The Department of Education is issuing a call for Floridians to serve on the newly established Keep Florida Learning Committee.

The Keep Florida Learning Committee will review further deregulation opportunities for the school system; review instructional material review processes used by school boards; identify strategies to increase parental involvement; and review the implementation of the Florida Standards and the Florida Standards Assessment over the next year.

All Floridians interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to submit an online application to the DOE. To apply, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/about-us/fsacommittee.stml>. Interested Floridians have until January 31, 2015, to submit their application. The first meeting will be an organizational conference call and will take place in March. Committee members will be announced in February.

The committee will be comprised of 11 members, including the Commissioner of Education, legislators, teachers, superintendents, school board members, higher education representatives, and members of the public.

For a list of frequently asked questions regarding the Keep Florida Learning Committee, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/about-us/KFL-FAQ.stml>.

## Florida Standards Assessment

The following Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) will be administered for the first time in Spring 2015:

- Grades 3–11 English Language Arts (Writing component in grades 4–11)
- Grades 3–8 Mathematics

Parents can promote student success by staying involved with the school, talking regularly with your child's teacher, and offering positive support, feedback, and encouragement to your child throughout the spring testing. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the information and resources available on the Florida Standards Assessments portal ([www.FSAssessments.org](http://www.FSAssessments.org)) and the FDOE website ([www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)). Please contact your child's teacher if you need additional information about the FSA.

## School Spelling Bee

Students in 4th through 6th grade will participate in a classroom spelling bee in January. The classroom finalist will be participating in the school wide spelling bee on January 30th. Parents of finalists are invited to attend the school spelling bee. The event will include the entire 4th-6th grade finalists. The school winner will go on to compete in the Brevard County Spelling Bee on Wednesday, February 25 at Brevard Public Schools Educational Services Facility. There, a winner and runner-up will be chosen to attend the 56th Annual Brevard County Spelling Bee sponsored by the Orlando Sentinel in Orlando in March.



## Yearbooks

Odyssey Prep Academy is announcing that our 2014-2015 school yearbooks are going to be available for pre-order! Each yearbook has a soft cover with 48 full-color pages that will feature many things about this school year including all of our students! The yearbook will cost \$17. A yearbook order form will be sent home with your student in mid-November.

## Black History Month

We would like to share an important opportunity with you for both your students and their teachers. This week, Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott announced the 2015 Black History Month contests, honoring both students and educators.

### Excellence in Education Award:

Students, parents, teachers and principals are invited to nominate full-time, African-American educators in elementary, middle and high schools for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award. All entry forms and guidelines for the contests can be found at [www.FloridaBlackHistory.com](http://www.FloridaBlackHistory.com).

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## Title I FSA Parent Information Night and Math Night

Please join us on February 9th at 5:30p.m.-6:00p.m. to be updated on our Title I information. We then will meet to learn about the upcoming Florida State Assessment. Parents of students in grades 3-6 are strongly encouraged to attend, we welcome all other grade levels to learn about FSA. We will be hosting a Math Night immediately following the FSA meeting; you will be leaving this event with many activities that you will be able to utilize at home. Please look out for a flyer, with more details of the event.

## Class/Sport/Club Photos

### Feb 26

DSP will be at our campus to take class photos on Thursday, February 26th. Students will have a class photo taken in their school uniform. Students who participate in a sport or club will also have their photo taken and will be allowed to change into their sport jersey or club t-shirt. Photos will be available for purchase for families. Odyssey receives a portion of the proceeds on all photo packages sold – We thank DSP for partnering with our school.

## National Honor Society

Students who are eligible to participate in the Elementary or Junior/Senior Honor Society will be receiving an application packet. To be considered for the Honor Society, students must have a Grade Point average of 3.0 or higher and they must display qualities of leadership, service, citizenship, and character. For questions about the National Elementary Honor Society, please contact Ms. Michelle Sutton at 321-733-0442 x 107 or by email at [suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:suttonm@odysseycharterschool.com).



## Car Loop Reminders

For the safety of our children please:

- Refrain from cell phone use
- Follow the 5 mph speed limit
- Watch for families in the cross walks
- Unless you are walking your child into the school, please use the car loop drop off to safely deliver your child to the building entrance.

## Preschool Applications for 2015-16 School Year

Montessori Village Green at Odyssey's Wyoming campus offers a Classical Early Childhood Education Program for children 3 years old through Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK). Our program is staffed by supportive degreed Early Childhood teachers. Our traditional program is supplemented with Montessori learning materials and the Core Knowledge Reading program, which is a rich literature based program.

Our preschool program also offers a tuition based morning and full day program for 3 year olds and non-VPK four year olds and a free VPK program. Please visit the following website <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/232/registration-information> to learn if your child qualifies for VPK and steps to receiving your voucher. We accept School Readiness vouchers from the Early Learning Coalition to help parents who have a financial need with tuition. To learn more about School Readiness, please visit the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard's Website: <http://www.elcbrevard.org/p/218/school-readiness-subsidized-child-care-program>

Students that attend Odyssey for VPK may receive priority preference for enrollment into Odyssey's Kindergarten Program. Applications for the 2015-16 preschool program are available at the school's front office. To learn more about our preschool program and to set up a tour, please contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 Ext 126, or email her at [whitea@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:whitea@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Read Aloud Book Club

The Read Aloud Book Club is a great way for parents to fulfill their volunteer hours. All that is required is for parents to read to their child every night for 15 minutes!

Reading aloud helps in the building of attention span, develops vocabulary and improves reading and listening comprehension skills which all lead to increased academic success. By reading to your child regularly, your child stands a greater chance of developing a love of reading and becoming a lifelong reader. Most importantly, it creates a bond between the parent and the child. With so many working and single parent families, this is an excellent way for parents to spend quality time with their child. So take some time several times a week, turn off the TV, crack open a fascinating good read and begin the read-aloud adventure.

Here's how the program works:

- Read to your child each night for at least 15 minutes.
- Refer to the Read Aloud Recommended Book Lists at the school's website (<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.html>) to select a book to read – parents may select other high quality literature as well as student textbooks, etc.
- Record the book title, author, and minutes read on the Read Aloud recording form which are available at the front office or at the school's website (<http://www.odysseycharterschool.com/read-aloud.html>).
- At the end of each month, return the form to your child's teacher.
- You will receive volunteer hours, up to 1 hour per week, 4 hours per month per child.

## Dental Screenings

The Brevard County Dental Society is participating in the American Dental Association's annual event for improving access to care for children. The screenings for this event will take place on the following dates:

Friday, 01/30/2015, 8:30am – 3:30pm at the Melbourne Health Dept.  
Tuesday, 02/03/2015, 8:30am – 3:30pm at the Rockledge Health Dept.  
Thursday, 02/05/2015, 8:30am – 3:30pm at the Rockledge Health Dept.  
Friday, 02/06/2015, 8:30am – 3:30pm at the Titusville Health Dept.

### THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR EXAMINATION & TREATMENT!

Your child may qualify if the following apply:

- You are available to bring your child for treatment at the Health Dept. or at a dentist office in Brevard County
- Your family is financially disadvantaged
- Your child does not have dental insurance
- Your child is not currently under the care of a dentist
- Your child does not qualify for Medicaid coverage or Florida Healthy kids
- Your child is 3-17



### YOU MUST SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO BE SEEN; NO WALK-INS

Please contact Kandace at the Brevard County Dental Society at 636-1820 or [bcdssecretary@msn.com](mailto:bcdssecretary@msn.com) for more details and to schedule. We will do our best to accommodate your child's immediate needs during this event. Parents, our dentists are volunteering for this annual project, please do not expect continuous ongoing care. The dentist will do what they can do help your child at their visit.

### We would love to help improve your child's dental health!

Hillary Prill, DMD  
Project Dentists Care Coordinator, Brevard County Dental Society

## Lost and Found

As the season gets cooler we see an increase of jackets in our lost and found box. Please mark your student's first and last name in their jackets so we can make sure they get back to them if they are misplaced.

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Kindergarten:

The last week of December Kindergarten took a trip around the world to learn about different holiday traditions and compared them to our own traditions in the United States. In England we learned about stockings, Christmas trees in Germany, Hanukkah in Israel, poinsettias from Mexico, and using clogs instead of stockings in Holland. We ended our journey with a trip on the Polar Express and had a pajama party complete with healthy homemade hot chocolate in the crockpot and popcorn!



## CLASSROOM NEWS (con't)

### First Grade:

First grade went around the world in the month of December learning about the continents and oceans. We began the month by visiting the Brevard Zoo and journeying through their areas representing 4 of the continents. Then we pulled out our passports, suitcases, and brochures to travel to several countries to learn how they celebrate a special holiday.



### Fourth Grade:

Fourth grade has just completed a unit on the Middle Ages. The students have learned so much information from this unit. We learned about the Feudal System and about the roles of lords, monks, serfs, kings, and the middle class in Medieval Society. We gained all this knowledge while sharpening our ability to read non-fiction text. This unit focused in on important reading skills such as identifying text structure, identifying cause and effect, as well as determining the author's main point in a text. In our upcoming ELA unit, we will be studying poetry. We will be reading poetry composed by great authors such as Langston Hughes and Nikki Giovanni. Students will also be composing our own poems throughout the unit. We will be reviewing theme and how to identify a theme in a poem. To make sure that we continue to grow in our ability to read and understand non-fiction text, we will also be doing a cross-curricular Geology unit in which we continue to review non-fiction reading skills as well as the science fourth grade standards. We look forward to becoming even better readers and being fully equipped for the upcoming ELA state test.

### Fifth and Sixth Grade:

To wrap up the first half of the year, 5th and 6th graders created reading projects.

The fifth grade completed posters and flip books that highlighted their knowledge and comprehension of a favorite chapter book. The project boards featured a wide range of novels, including *Frankenstein*, *The Watsons Go To Birmingham*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Color Me Dark*.

The Sixth grade created book jackets for their chosen tomes. The instructions called for unique illustrations, text-related drawings, summaries, and opinions about the book. They, too, chose a variety of novels, including *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Hatchet*, *Dangerous Waters*, *Ghoulfriends Forever* and *the Ghost of Graylock*.

The students exceeded the expectation with their artwork and presentations, which are displayed around Ms. Wilson's classroom.



Sixth Grade participated in Brevard School Districts Space Week. Prior to attending our field trip, the 6th grade students studied the parts of the International Space Station, learned about trusses and how to build a prototype out of newspaper and masking tape, and discussed the effects of gravity not only on earth but also in space. On December 12, the students went to NASA and participated in discussions with NASA personnel regarding the history of the space program, the future of NASA, the ORION series of space craft, and put their problem solving skills to work creating a TRUSS structure using KNEX. The trip ended with the students experiencing a simulation of a shuttle launch.



### OPA Grievance Procedures

- Step 1: Request Teacher conference to clarify issue
- Step 2: Contact the Site Administrator 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

\*\*Mr. Jon Chace 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. Chace can be reached at [chacej@odysseycharter-school.com](mailto:chacej@odysseycharter-school.com) or 321-345-4117.