

# NEWSLETTER April / May 2014

Visit our website at odysseyprepacademy.com 1350 Wyoming Drive S.E. • Palm Bay, Florida 32909 • 321-345-4117

"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.

### **Family Engagement Dinner** and Literacy Celebration Night

We had such a wonderful time celebrating Math in March that we decided to do it again in April with Reading! Please join us on Thursday, April 3, at 6pm for dinner followed by literacy stations to help you work with your children at home on improving their reading skills. Our event begins at 6pm.

Tables will be set up to help you work effectively at home to support your child in learning important literacy skills: print awareness; phonological awareness; phonics; fluency; vocabulary; comprehension; and writing. We look forward to working with you in partnership to help your child further develop their skills, and their enjoyment of reading for both learning and pleasure.

Additional information will be provided about our Read Aloud Program, where you can earn volunteer hours at home reading to your child! Earn up to 1 hour per week toward your required 18 hours (25 hours for 2 or more children).



## CALENDAR

Mar 3 – Apr 4 – CELLA Assessment (ESOL students) Mar 31 – Apr 4 – NEW Kindergarten Pre-Registration Apr 3 - Family Dinner and Reading Make & Take Apr 5/6 – Relay for Life – Odyssey Champions Apr 6 – Odyssey Founder's Day Apr 12 – Hershey Track Meet @ Bayside High School Apr 14 - May 7 - FCAT 2.0 Reading/Math/Science (3rd-5th grade) Apr 15 - OCS Inc. Board of Directors Meeting Apr 18 - Teacher/Student Holiday - NO SCHOOL Apr 22 – Earth Day Apr 24 - End of Fourth Interim Apr 25 - No Uniform Day/Clean Up Day Apr 26 – Run for Peace - Odyssey Annual 5K Apr 30 - Elementary Interims Issued May 5-9 – Teacher Appreciation Week May 5 – Lagoon Quest (4th grade) May 7 – Walk/Bike to School Day May 7 – Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast May 9 – Field Day (K-5th grade) May 12-23 – MAP Assessment period (all grades) May 15 – End of Year Music Program May 23 – No Uniform Day/Clean Up Day May 26 - Memorial Day Holiday - NO SCHOOL May 29 - Last Day for Students May 29 - Elementary Progress Reports Issued June 4-6 – Early Registration July 23-24 – Student Orientation (final registration)

# Yearbook

Odyssey Prep is proud to offer our very first yearbook, commemorating our inaugural year! What a wonderful keepsake for students to remember our year together and to save for years to come. If you have not yet ordered your yearbook, please turn in your payment (check or money order for \$16, payable to Odyssey Prep Academy). We will provide time at the end of the school year for students to collect autographs from their friends. Ms. Wyman is our yearbook coordinator and can be reached at wymans@odysseyprepacademy.com or by phone at 321-345-4117. Order yours today!



### 2014 Brevard Riverfest Sustainability Award Winner



Our Founder, Ms. Constance Ortiz, and Odyssey Charter School have been recognized by an elite panel of judges as the 2014 winner of Keep Brevard Beautiful's Second Annual Sustainability Award in the Education category. Ms. Constance and Odyssey were selected based on the visionary design features of the facility and the exemplary implementation efforts of the Founder and school in helping create a sustainable community in Brevard County! Please join us in celebrating our Founder's vision and our school mission by attending the Riverfest event on Saturday April 5, 2014 at the Cocoa Riverfront Park in Cocoa Village. Festivities begin at 5:00 p.m. For more information, check out http:// keepbrevardbeautiful.wordpress.com/riverfest-2014/

Some highlights from the nomination:

Ms. Constance is a forward-thinking philosopher and entrepreneur, who has revolutionized public education platforms by developing green and healthy facility/campus designs that work in partnership with holistic curriculum to promote student achievement/learning gains, and support health/well-being.

Sustainability, environmental conservation and planet stewardship is an ingrained philosophy and culture of the school. These efforts are part of the "green and healthy" education model inherent within the school's mission for children that strives to provide students with the skills and knowledge to lead our citizens of the future with a strong sense of responsibility to one another and to the planet, and encompasses the effective use of natural resources.

Ms. Constance created Florida's FIRST "green" public school building with sustainability features that include the latest technologies in superior indoor air quality, solar power, non-toxic building materials and cleaners, and natural earth parking. Additionally, the school is designated as a National Wildlife Federation Campus.

The school applies simplistic sustainability practices as well as technological and engineering advances to curriculum and experiential learning. Some examples of these practices are the use of rain barrels, a solar powered hydroponic garden, classroom food gardens, native wildflower/ butterfly gardens, recycling/composting programs and an aquaponic food farm is in development.

In the words of education pioneer, Dr. Maria Montessori,

"An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking: it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to times in which they live." [Maria Montessori, Education and Peace, translated by Helen R. Lane].

Ms. Constance, Founder of the Odyssey Education Model, and Head of Schools, embraces and carries forth these ideals of Dr. Montessori. We are all fortunate to have the opportunity to share in this truly magnificent school, its holistic education mission, and, to be a part of shaping a greener and healthier world for the future. Congratulations and Kudos to Ms. Constance and Odyssey!!

Nomination by Dr. Jane Martin, President, Board of Directors, Odyssey Schools



# FCAT is coming!

Our students have been working all year on learning the standards and required skills for their grade level, and to increase their knowledge and develop a love of learning! In this last marking period, students in 3rd-5th grade will have the opportunity to demonstrate all that they have learned this year by taking the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or FCAT. Testing begins on April 14th and ends May 15th with any necessary make-up testing. Students have been learning and reviewing FCAT content and test-taking strategies in order to build both their knowledge and confidence.

You can help by making sure your child is well-rested and has a healthy, protein-rich breakfast on test date mornings (and every morning). Please also encourage your child to stay relaxed and give their best effort on the assessment. Please note the FCAT schedule below.

Odyssey Prep FCAT Schedule:

### 3rd

Monday, April 14th through Thursday, April 17th Reading, Sessions 1 & 2 Mathematics, Sessions 1 & 2

### 4th

Monday, April 14th through Thursday, April 17th Reading, Sessions 1 & 2 Mathematics, Sessions 1 & 2

### 5th

Monday, April 14th through Thursday, April 17th Reading, Sessions 1 & 2 Science, Sessions 1 & 2 AND

Monday, April 28th through Thursday, May 1st Computerized Test: Mathematics, Sessions 1 & 2

### Bus Transportation Updates

Due to construction on Palm Bay Road and Minton we may be changing times and bus numbers for a portion of our students. We apologize for any inconvenience the changes may cause. However, safety and possible delays make adjustments to our routes necessary. If you have any questions about your child's route or pick up time or if you have any questions/concerns about busing in general, please contact Mike Davis, Dean of Students, at 321-345-4117 or at davism@ odysseycharterschool.com.



# 4th & 5th grade math/science update

5th grade: Refreshed from Spring Break, fifth grade will begin a study of the human body. They will be studying organs and different body systems. In Math they will use multiple formulas to find the area of two dimensional shapes: triangles, trapezoids, parallelograms, etc.

4th grade: Continuing where they left off before Spring Break, fourth grade will continue learning about seed and seedless plants, flowering plants and fruit plants. In Math they are beginning a measurement unit. They will learn how to find an area of a rectangle and irregular shapes, and how to calculate perimeters of shapes.



## National Walk/Bike to School Day

Odyssey Prep will be celebrating our first Annual National Bike to School Day on May 7, 2014. Please take a few minutes to walk or ride to school with your students on this special day. Additional personnel and volunteers will be at key locations to help make the passage to school a safe one. Here are some reasons to support walking and bicycling to school from http://www.walkbiketoschool.org/:

**It Promotes Healthy Habits** - The trip to school is a chance for children (and adults) to get the physical activity they need each day.

It Helps Promote a Cleaner Environment - Replacing car trips to school with walking or bicycling can reduce congestion and air-pollution.

It Builds Positive Community Relations - Reducing traffic congestion, boosting a sense of community, and improving neighborhood connections is a benefit to the whole community.

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# Spotlight on Music ~ Ms. Eckey

I am happy to be part of the Odyssey Prep family as the General Music teacher. For the last nine years I lived in Europe and I am excited to share my experiences from living in the Czech Republic, Ireland, and Germany. The students and I have been having a wonderful time making Music and exploring all the many possibilities for using rhythm instruments, melodic Orff-barred instruments, and the colored-tuned tubes nicknamed Boom-Whackers. The students have already sung one of my favorite German songs 'Mein Hut', and have been studying the drumming style of South America. We have been working on reading iconic rhythms as well as reading note rhythms. All the music classes are illustrating word rhythms and Fifth Grade will be working on a project by illustrating a selected poem from their Language Art's class with notes or icons. We will be performing these poems, and this project will be on display in April. The Fourth grade started to play recorder the end of February, and in March Mrs. Severance's class began recorder. Both classes are making fast and steady progress. Many of students are able to play 'Hot Cross Buns', 'Gently Sleep' and 'Merrily We Roll Along'. Mrs. Culbreth's class will begin recorder after Spring Break. All students will be playing recorder in fourth grade next year so our third graders are getting a head start. The students amaze me with their beautiful singing voices and their abilities to sing both modern and traditional songs. The students are singing low, medium, and high notes represented by iconic/note charts and are able to play these on the Orff instruments.

Currently, we are planning our end of the year concert which will be held on May 15 at 6:30pm. The concert will be especially exciting for the students. They will be singing and accompanying their music pieces as well and doing some fancy dance moves. The students are very energetic, sensitive and extremely creative so, we are planning a program that will not only show off their beautiful voices, and recorder playing, but will also showcase their creativity. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at our end-of-the-year concert showcasing our wonderful Odyssey Prep students. I am also extremely excited about building a choral and instrumental program at Odyssey Preparatory Academy and Odyssey Charter School!

# Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Our school and our students count on our volunteers to help in the classrooms, on field trips, with book fairs, and at home by cutting out materials or participating in our Read Aloud Program. On Wednesday, May 7, we will celebrate all of our volunteers at a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Our breakfast recognition will be held at 9:30am in the Healthy Café. All volunteers are welcome to attend. Please RSVP with Ms. Hearndon, hearndond@odysseyprepacademy.com, or by calling 321-345-4117.



Spring is upon us and the end of the school year is in sight! On Friday, May 9, our students and staff will be participating in our first annual Field Day. Families are encouraged to join students and teachers for an activity-filled day at a local park, including a barbecue lunch hot off the grill! Please contact Coach Padilla, padillaj@odysseyprepacademy.com or 321-345-4117, if you would like to volunteer, or make donations of food or field day supplies. Look for permission slips coming home in mid-April.

# 4th Grade Lagoon Quest

Our 4th grade will be learning about the importance of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most bio-diverse estuaries in North America which is right in our own backyard. Students will be learning about the Lagoon in the classroom, and will participate in standards-based activities integrating science, social studies, math, and language arts. This thematic unit will culminate in the Lagoon Quest field trip on Monday, May 5, along with other 4th grade students across the county, designed to encourage family involvement in learning and to develop stewardship. If you are interested in learning more, or would like to volunteer, please contact Ms. Wyman at wymans@odysseyprepacademy.com. Volunteers will fully participate and should plan on getting wet!

# **MAP** Assessment

Our final Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment will take place from May 12-23. Assessment results will be additional evidence of student mastery of grade level standards, and/or demonstration of annual learning gains over the course of the school year. Students should be prepared for these assessments by getting a good night's sleep and a good breakfast prior to test days.

### Early Registration/Student Orientation

We will be holding and Early Registration for our new and returning Odyssey Prep students. Early Registration will be held June 4 through 6 (Wednesday through Friday). Families should be prepared to complete their registration paperwork and should bring all required documents (list them here). Families can register on the following schedule:

Wednesday, June 4, 9am-1pm Thursday, June 5, 9am-1pm or 6pm-8pm Friday, June 6, 1pm-3pm Student Orientation (final registration) will be held July 23-24.

### Odyssey 15th Year Anniversary



#### A day of Celebration and Dedication to our Founder/Head of Schools

This May commemorates the 15th year anniversary of Odyssey Charter School!! On May 23rd, the school will celebrate our Founder and Head of Schools, Ms. Constance Ortiz, by dedicating a Peace Pole and Education Garden in her honor at the original Eldron Blvd. campus. Without Ms. Constance, the school simply would not exist; but because of her, thousands of students have been able to experience an education of unparalleled excellence and opportunity.

As we mark this occasion, it is fitting to reflect upon the history of the school and its creation. In the 1990's, Ms. Constance, a Montessori teacher and single parent of 3 children, observed a need for a different kind of school. With a dream of offering children an education that addresses the whole child and the relationship between learning potential and the learning environment (both physical and cultural), Ms. Constance created the Odyssey Holistic Education Model. The mission of the school: to work in partnership with the family and the community to help each child reach full potential in all areas of life. The premise: 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. The Odyssey education model combines the best practices in education and child development with the best practices in healthy living and environmental stewardship.

In the school's inaugural year, 1999, Odyssey served 112 students within the rented spaces of a church building. In addition to running all aspects of the school, Ms. Constance worked tirelessly to continue to develop and grow the unique mission and vision for children's education. Due to the strength of her convictions, her innate wisdom, her dedicated efforts and her enduring love for children, Ms. Constance brought together diverse groups of supporters and raised millions of dollars to fund Florida's first "green and healthy" public school building. In 2005, a school unlike any other opened its doors and welcomed students in grades K – 8. Today, over 1100 students attend Odyssey, a grade "A", award winning, high performance, SACS accredited, healthy "whole school" that includes nutritious, whole foods and made-from-scratch, delicious meals. A culture of peace, of respect, of tolerance and appreciation for individuality, guides the school community. Connections to nature and a focus on experiential learning are additional pillars in Odyssey's whole school-whole child education model.

Odyssey remains the life work and legacy of Ms. Constance. She is the glue that has kept Odyssey together since writing the original charter in 1998. Ms. Constance is the behind-the-scenes mover and shaker, always inspiring us to make greater strides and raise the achievement levels for our children. Ms. Constance continues every day to lead and direct the educational programs. We are very fortunate to have such a talented, committed, and capable woman in our midst!

Please, take a moment of time to reflect on the creation of Odyssey, and to show your appreciation to Ms. Constance when you see her, regardless of where, whether it is in the hallways, the classrooms or in the gardens. Consider writing your thoughts down as we will be selecting several inspiring student essays on peace and on the Odyssey education model to read aloud at the dedication ceremony in May.

"Ms. Constance, on behalf of our entire community, we appreciate all that you do each and every day for our school. We thank you for dedicating your life to providing children with a healthy learning environment in which to grow and develop their own successes and dreams!"

~Sincerely, Dr. Jane Martin, OCS Board President

# Spring Scholastic Book Fair Fiesta!

Thank you to everyone that helped to make our Spring Scholastic Book Fair a huge success! Our sales were nearly double this spring, with sales of almost \$2500.00! The school will be receiving about \$1500 in Scholastic dollars to spend on our classroom libraries. We had about 10 volunteers who worked during our spring fair. Thank you to all the volunteers that made the book fair possible! ~Ms. Hearndon

### Odyssey Adventure Summer Camp



Now accepting registrations!

Reserve your spot for Odyssey Charter School's Summer Camp. Students will begin their summer by exploring Florida's eco system and the part we play in this diverse environment. Through hands on learning students will discover the delicate balance in Florida's environmental system. Campers will create a plan of action to restore and preserve resources found on and around the school's nature trails and gardens. As students learn about their surroundings and the importance of caring for the Environment, their foundation for exploration has been set and the possibilities are endless!

This promises to be a summer filled with fun. Students will Journey to Space, Around the World, Through the Human Body, and back home to Odyssey's We've Got Talent!

Ages: Incoming Kindergarten -6th Dates: June 9, 2014-August 8, 2014 9Closed July 4th) Hours and Tuition: Camp Only \$85 (8am-4pm) Full Day Camp \$100 (7am-6pm) Summer Session Themes: Session One (June 9-June 20) Discovering Florida Session Two (June 23- July 3) Space Invaders/Exploring our Universe Session Three (July 7-July 18) Global Excursions/World Exploration Session Four (July 21-August 1) Body Systems/ Who are we and how do we work?

Session 5 (August 4-August 8) Odyssey's We've got Talent!

## Bully Busters: Everyone is Responsible for Addressing Bullying



Please take a few minutes to talk with your children about bullying. It is important to note that bullying is not the same as conflict – conflicts occur between

2 individuals and they work on conflict resolution using problem solving skills. Bullying occurs when behaviors (systematic and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on a target) are repeated often; purposeful/intentional rather than a mistake; and an imbalance of power exists between the bully and the target.

Together, we can build a community that is kind and compassionate. For more information on strategies to address bullying, please visit the National Stop Bullying website at http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/ what-you-can-do/, watch webisodes on bullying with your child at http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/webisodes/index.html, and review the tips on the National Education Association's website at http://www. nea.org/home/51629.htm

# 3rd Grade ~ Ms. Culbreth

Mrs. Culbreth's class has had a great quarter. We were pleased to have guest speaker "Sir Cedric" from Trinidad join our class to tell us about the culture of Trinidad and their traditions in the spring such as Carnival! We also enjoyed learning math through fun outdoor games with Mr. Back. In March we welcomed a new class pet, "Frizzle Frazz, the Hamster", and our class has been demonstrating great respect for this little animal. We also have been narrowing in on our Spalding with comfortable small group lessons and have been really successful with our Oral and Written Phonogram Skills. We recently read two chapter books "Shiloh" and "Nasty Stinky Sneakers". The class sincerely enjoyed their story elements. It was great to hear laughing out loud because of something they read! Finally, our class has picked up fractions like they were old pros! They really seem to be enjoying the excitement of learning fractions and challenging each other with multiplication. We are looking forward to taking on the FCAT and the remainder of the year.

# Art Update ~ Ms. Selikoff

• Kindergartners have been learning about some art styles of Japan and Australia.

• First and Second Grade have been studying Portraiture and Still Life.

• Third grade has been learning about the art styles of Surrealism and Expressionism.

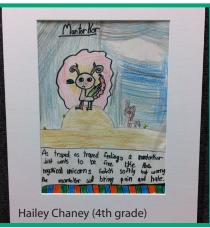
• Fourth grade has completed a unit on Medieval Art.

• Fifth graders are studying American landscape painters, and learning to paint a watercolor landscape.

Also, congratulations to our many talented Odyssey artists, who are featured at the School Board Art Show from April 4-10!

- Hailey Chaney
- Yeseinia Torres
- Jeremiah Davis
- Abby Ahmed









## 1st/2nd Grade ~ Ms. Chaney

In the 1st and 2nd grade classroom, there are many lessons the children use to work through their work cycle. Many of these are Montessori lessons. One of the favorite lessons is the bead cabinet where the children work on skip counting, repeated addition, and multiplication. Another favorite lesson is fractions where the children use manipulatives to learn what fractions are and to compare them. They also enjoy using the golden bead material in order to learn about the place value of digits, and then to add and subtract with and without regrouping to the thousand's place. The children write down their work in a notebook where all of their completed assignments are kept. In this way, there is a portfolio of growth for each child. Each child works through a work plan that is individually designed for him or her. All the children are working on their own lessons, at their own instructional level, and are choosing the lessons from their work plan. There is a discussion time before the day begins where the class meets to work on community building, self-awareness activities, peace lessons, and sharing to ensure the day unfolds smoothly, a favorite time among the students in the class!



### **Seeing Stars!**

Brevard Astronomical Society visited OPA for the second time on Friday, March 21, 2014. It was a cloudy night, but our second star party enticed many of our kindergarten families to attend. They were able to see a slide show on many different cosmic sights, such as nebula and star clusters. For brief periods of time, we were also able to see Jupiter, which is one of the brightest objects in the sky this time of year. It was an amazing sight to see!

# Odyssey Olympian Honor Roll

(3.0 or higher, \*perfect 4.0\*)

#### 3rd Grade:

**Cristian Alexander** Jayda Anderson Precisha Aubin \*Kaelynn Back\* Kiley Crawford Odin Cruz Nickie Flores Skyler Franklin \*Avery Held\* Ella Held \*Leitizia Jean\* \*Abbigail Lupe\* Julia Maldonado Dylan Minter Brianna Morales Jaiden Patterson Trinity Peters Lauryn Roberson Matt Sauter \*Jadyn Small\* Tatvana Viruet \*Joe Waldron\*

#### 4th Grade:

Alana Lopez Giovani Jean Hailey Cartechine Hailey Chaney Mykurist Hatcher-Wright Mechiah Kirton Nazliyan Duman Timothy Waldron

### 5th Grade:

Jackson Alford Adam Anderson Hayden Berry Gisele Flores Mason Imperato Brandon Kelly Hannah Sharpe \*Natajha Tompkins\* Brianna Tuttobene \*Drew Vickers\*

\*perfect 4.0 GPA

## Odyssey Run for Peace – 5K Fun Run

Spring is here and it is time to pull out those sneakers and get ready for Odyssey's upcoming Run for Peace. We are excited to announce that this year's 5K fun run/walk will be held on Saturday, April 26th, at Palm Bay Regional Park. This beautiful park is located at 1951 Malabar Road NW, Palm Bay, at the west end of Malabar Road. The Run for Peace is a non-timed event for both runners and walkers, however for safety and security no animals will be allowed.



The entry fee is \$15/person, or \$40 for a family of four or more. Proceeds from this event will go towards our growing athletic programs and to help support Odyssey's 15th Anniversary Celebration with our Founder's Education and Peace Garden, Participants will receive a tee-shirt and goodie bag. To make sure you get a shirt in your size please make sure to sign up at the front desk no later than April 23rd.

Race packets will be available for pick up on April 24th and 25th and at 6:30am the day of the event. For more information or to volunteer for this exciting event, contact cappsm@odysseycharterschool.com.

### **Perfect Attendance**

- 3rd Quarter (1/7/14-3/7/14)

Congratulations to the following students for perfect attendance for the 3rd marking period.

### Kindergarten:

Alisha Ahmed Elijah Arrigo Rylie-Lynn Cummings Haley Freeman Lauren Freeman Ansleigh Friday Jada Jones Alivia Moss Sayvion Rivera Galylea Rodriguez Evelyn Scrivano Shaynah Semervil Alicia Zimmerman Joshua Zimmerman

### 1st Grade:

Camar Blackwood Jeremiah Davis Raul Gutierrez Elexis Mercier Jamare Patterson Christopher Sauter Andre Smith Jayden Springer Jaidyn Velleca Andrea Ventress

#### **2nd Grade:** Anthony Grimaldi Brandon Krause

Gavin Tschorke

#### 3rd Grade:

Matthew Alvarado Precisha Aubin Kaelynn Back Darla Davilmar Leitizia Jean Matthew Sauter Annalisa Torres Joseph Waldron

#### 4th Grade:

Giovanni Jean Asya Jewett Alana Lopez Alexis Ruiz

#### 5th Grade:

Jackson Alford Hayden Berry Mason Imperato Brandon Kelly Nicholas Lanza Viegelie Oscar Raven Ricketts Natajha Tomplins Andrew Vickers



On Monday, March 3, Odyssey Preparatory students, families and staff participated in our official ribbon cutting ceremony along with our Founder/Head of Schools Constance Ortiz, members of the Greater Palm Bay Chamber of Commerce, and Palm Bay Mayor William Capote.

#### **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

\*\* 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. Jon Chace can be reached at chacej@odysseycharterschool.com, or 321-345-4117.