

"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

Feb 21 - Brevard Spelling Bee
Feb 25 - FCAT Writes (4th grade)
Feb 26 - Early Release (1:45pm)
Feb 28 - Dress Down/Clean Up Day
Mar 3-Apr 4 - CELLA Assessment (ELL Students)
Mar 6 - Family Dinner/Title I Make & Take
Mar 14 - End of 3rd Quarter
Mar 20 - Report Cards Issued
Mar 21 - Dress Down/Clean Up Day
Mar 21 - Star Gazing - 7:30pm
Mar 24-28 - Spring Vacation - No School

Star Gazing Party

On Friday, March 21, the Brevard Astronomical Society will be at our campus from 7pm-10pm for a Star Gazing night. They will be bringing their large magnification telescopes and children and parents will have the opportunity to view and learn about various stars, planets, nebulae, etc. in our solar system. We hope you will join us for this fun, educational, family-friendly event!



4th & 5th Grade Science Fair

The fourth and fifth grade Odyssey Preparatory Academy Science Fair will be held on February 28th in the cafeteria at 1:45 p.m. 44 students will be displaying experiments based in the fields of physical science, biology, engineering, and chemistry. These students have been working diligently since November on these fascinating experiments. Feel free to peruse the displays and ask questions regarding the processes the students went through to achieve their results.

Car Loop Safety!

Student safety is our primary concern, especially during times of transition such as arrival and dismissal. Please remember NOT to use your cell phone while in the car loop. Also, please make sure your radio volume is lowered and that any music played is appropriate for the children. Thank you!

Title I Family Dinner/Make & Take

Our families are invited to attend a dinner and Reading and Math, Make & Take event on Thursday, March 6, from 5:30-7:30pm. Join our OPA teachers and staff for a delicious dinner prepared by our Healthy Café staff, followed by a Make & Take event. Come learn how to help support your child's learning in reading and math, and take home some fun activities to do at home. Look for an upcoming flyer and be sure to RSVP!

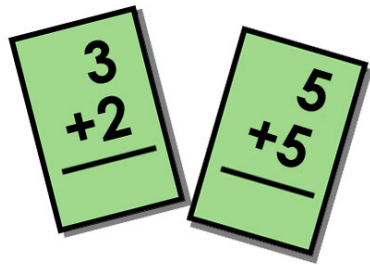
Read Aloud Program and Volunteer Hours

Reading aloud to your child each day helps develop both vocabulary and reading fluency, and pays off in the classroom. Please continue to read to your child each evening for 15 minutes and record on the Read Aloud Form - in addition, this counts toward your required volunteer hours (up to 1 hour per week/4 hours per month)!

Stop Homework Headaches

Homework is important for three main reasons: 1) it helps your child reinforce skills learned in the classroom; 2) it helps you understand what skills your child is working on; 3) it helps the teacher understand how your child is progressing with the content. We certainly need to work together to help our students make the most out of homework. Here are a few tips for all grade levels.

1. Start homework as early as possible. Rest, recreation, family time, healthy dinners, and sleep are very important also and homework should not negatively impact these evening activities.
2. Consider using a timer to help keep your child on a schedule. Pace your child's homework with breaks (15-30 minutes of homework and then a short break).
3. Build confidence in your child by working through a few homework examples together and then give your child a chance to work on his/her own.
4. Make sure the environment is set for learning. Make sure that the TV or electronic devices are off or put away. Check the lighting and comfort level of the area. Find a space that is away from smaller siblings or other distractions.
5. Praise good work habits.
6. Let your child focus by leaving the room and checking on your child every 15 minutes. This allows your child to work independently but also get needed feedback.
7. Build a work plan for large projects. Teachers typically provide timelines to complete large assignments. Put the dates on the refrigerator and check them off together as they pass.
8. Communicate regularly with your child's teacher. If your child is struggling with a concept, forgot something at school, does not have the needed materials, etc., contact your teacher through the planner or by email so that you can work together to support your child. Finally, remember to read the information coming home from the school so that you are well informed.



Math update – WE NEED YOU!

In preparation for life, for classroom success, and for FCAT readiness, all students should be working on math facts at home – addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (as appropriate by grade level). At this point, all 3rd-5th grade students should know ALL of their math facts from addition through multiplication. How you can help:

1. Use flash cards to practice quizzing your child at home. Children are 'fluent' when they can provide the answer without thinking or counting.
2. Have your child skip count by 3's (or 4's, 6's, 7's, whatever number he is working on) i.e. 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36.
3. Have your child work on timed math drills to see if she can improve her time.
4. Use the following website for timed math drills in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division (and mixed facts) - <http://oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/mathmagician/maths1.html>
5. Practice math facts on the way to school, on the way home, before dinner, before bed.

Peace Pole Dedication

On Tuesday, January 21, our Odyssey Prep students participated in the dedication of our Peace Pole in front of the school. The Peace Pole states "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in 8 languages, celebrating many of the students' cultures who attend OPA. We enjoyed a presentation on Peacemakers and Peace Education from our Odyssey's Founder and Head of Schools, Ms. Constance. The students will be learning about peacemakers in the coming months as a follow-up activity.



Visiting Conductor

On Monday, February 3, Ms. Staci Cleveland, conductor of the Melbourne Municipal Band, came to Odyssey Prep and gave a presentation to our classes. Ms. Cleveland taught the children the difference between a band and an orchestra (hint – the strings), how a conductor reads music, and how to conduct their own music (using a pencil). Ask your child how to conduct a loud, bouncy, happy song!



100th Day Kindergarten Celebration

Our kindergarten students celebrated their 100th day of school by sharing 100 objects counted at home, and by doing various other counting-to-100 activities during the school day!





Third Grade Attends “Alice Rocks Wonderland”

On January 28th, the third grade classes enjoyed a production of *Alice Rocks Wonderland* at the King Center. This version of Lewis Carroll's 1865 classic work was presented by the Atlantic Coast Theater for Youth. This adaptation was set in the present while Alice read the book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* for a school book report. Our classes were engaged in the story and were able to participate by dancing and singing along with the characters. Students were encouraged to lose themselves in books as Alice lost herself in the enthralling world of Wonderland. Both Mrs. Culbreth's class and Mrs. Severance's class had spent time studying the original work and enjoyed making connections with the musical presentation. The students raved about the show, and parents and teachers enjoyed sharing the experience with them.

Student Field Trip Reflections:

We went on the bus, and we talked and sang on the bus. When we got to the King Center, a worker guided us to our seats. We waited ten minutes for the show to start. Everyone was excited that the show started. We saw all the characters, and they were so cool. And at the end everyone clapped. Then we got back on the bus after Mrs. Culbreth's class. We made rubber band bracelets and sang on the bus. We had fun. We laughed and laughed until we lost our voices. All the people giggled and giggled. Finally, we arrived at the park. When we got off the bus we ate lunch at the park.

-Brady Tschorke and Cory Harper

At school the class went on a trip to watch a play. It was so fun because the class was laughing at the play. Then we went to eat lunch with my friend named Matt. Then we went on a hill and saw a dog. It was funny. The class went to the park and me and Matt and Odin played a game called tag. It was fun. Then I played football with Cory and Brady. I almost won, but Cory and Brady were too good. The class went back to school and we talked on the bus. When I got back to the class, the teacher was talking about the play. When we talked about it, it was fun because every person was laughing about the play.

-Matthew Alvarado

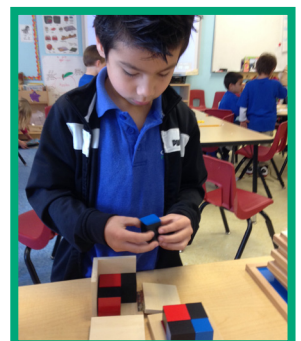
Today I went on a field trip. We went to go see *Alice and Wonderland: The Play*. The play was outstanding! When the play was finished, we went back on the bus. When we were on the bus, I was sitting by Annalisa. Then the class and I went to Wickham Park and ate lunch. We had lots of fun. Also on the bus, we sang songs. All of the songs were my favorite songs. I got to go on bus three, and that is my bus that I ride on to go home. And that is what we did today on the field trip.

-Katia Fulmore

Kindergarten

Mrs. Back's kindergarten class is busy learning many things:

- how to use our new Montessori materials
- how to work together
- how to count on
- how to make words
- how to add numbers



ART FAIR at the Melbourne Square Mall

From Sunday January 12 until Saturday, January 25, twenty-three beautiful artworks created by our talented OPA student artists were prominently displayed at Melbourne Square Mall. Select students from Kindergarten to Fifth grade showed their artistic ability in a variety of media.



Fifth Grade Orchestra Field Trip

The soothing sound of orchestra music has hypnotized various cultures for decades. To celebrate Odyssey Preparatory Academy's dedication to the art of music, our fifth grade class was able to witness the majestic feel of the orchestra first hand. The students took a field trip to the King Center on February 5th, accompanied by Ms. Wyman and our parent volunteer, Mrs. Burke.

The students' first stop was Wickham Park, where they enjoyed a picnic lunch under one of the many large pavilions. After arriving at the King Center, the students were seated in three front rows, which gave them an amazing view of the stage. They were then be immersed in the sounds of a variety of instruments: winds, brass, percussion, and strings. The orchestra group played music from various genres, Beethoven to Angry Birds. The student's favorite song played was the Imperial March, Darth Vader's theme in the movie Star Wars. It was a wonderful experience for all in attendance.

ESOL

- Our ESOL students are working on BrainPOP ESL and in small groups to assist with language acquisition. BrainPOP ESL uses lively, engaging content to teach English. The lessons featured in BrainPOP ESL reinforce vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, reading comprehension, and writing skills. All of the students really enjoy using this resource in their learning.
- The attendance in our after school ESOL tutoring program is fantastic!
- The students participating in our tutoring program all made learning gains on their Winter MAP assessment. Way to go!!!
- Parents can assist in learning by spending at least 20 minutes each night reading with their child at home.

ESE

- Our kindergarten and 1st grade students have been working very hard on learning their sight words and number sense.
- Our 2nd & 3rd grade students have been working on reading comprehension and basic math skills.
- Our 4th & 5th grade ESE students have been working on reading comprehension, math fact fluency, and academic goal setting.
- Parents can assist in learning by spending at least 20 minutes each night reading with their child at home.

Honor Roll List – Second Quarter

Congratulations to the following students for their hard work and their achievement of a 3.0 or higher Grade Point Average (*students received a 4.0 GPA)! Keep up the great work!



3rd Grade

Cristian Alexander
Jayda Anderson
Precisha Aubin
*Kaelynn Back (4.0)
*Avery Held (4.0)
Ella Held
*Leitizia Jean (4.0)
*Abigail Lupe (4.0)
Julia Maldonado
Tatyana Viruet
Cory Harper
Joe Waldron
Brady Tschorke
Matthew Sauter
Brianna Morales
Dylan Minter
*Nevaeh Mannier

4th Grade

Hailey Cartechine
Mason Moffitt
Mechiah Kirton
Tim Waldron
William Greene

5th Grade

Adam Anderson
Brandon Kelly
Brianna Tuttobene
Corinne Frontera
Hayden Berry
Jordan Baskerville
Mason Imperato
*Andrew Vickers
*Natajha Tompkins

Perfect Attendance!

Congratulations to the following students for perfect attendance during our second quarter!

Elijah Arrigo
Shyanne LaBarge
Alivia Moss
Joshua Zimmerman
Ashlea Back
Camar Blackwood
Elexis Mercier
Jaidyn Velleca

Leitizia Jean
Giovanni Jean
Josh Celestine
Elie Davilmar
Corinne Frontera
Natajha Tompkins



Montessori Village Green VPK

In January, our VPK children learned about Martin Luther King, Jr; as well as the importance of peace, love, and dreams. Students created an art project that consisted of painting one hand black and one hand white to help demonstrate equality. VPK students are also in the midst of learning sight words to help prepare them for Kindergarten!

First Grade Science Research

Ms. Weber's first grade class has been working on synthesizing information from nonfiction texts. They recently conducted research projects, with each student focusing on a different plant or animal. The students were each able to abstract information from their texts in order to create both a life cycle research packet and a visual aid to go along with it. The visual aids can be admired below.



"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

~Thomas A. Edison

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
**Constance Ortiz 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.
Constance Ortiz can be reached at cortiz@greenapplesm.org, or 321-676-8737.