

*"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

May 28-June 1	Early Release / Exam Days
May 29	6th Grade Stepping up Ceremony
June 1	Last Day of School for Students
June 2-3	Teacher Post Planning Days
June 8-July 2	Rising 7th Grade Mathematics Camp
June 17	OCS Board of Director's Meeting
Mid-June	Secondary Report Cards Issued



#### **Odyssey Charter School Awarded the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School for Exemplary Practices and Initiatives in Reducing Environmental Impact and Cost, Improving the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff, and Providing Environmental Education Incorporating Stem, Civic Skills and Green Career Pathways.**

On April 22nd U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was joined by Managing Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Christy Goldfuss to announce the 2015 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools award honorees. Fifty-eight schools, 14 districts, and nine postsecondary institutions were honored for their promising efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and ensure effective environmental education, including civics and green career pathways. In addition, nine colleges and universities were honored with the Postsecondary Sustainability Award, in the first year of that award category.

"These honorees are compelling examples of the ways schools can help children build real-world skillsets, cut school costs, and provide healthy learning environments," Duncan said. "U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools are an inspiration and deserve the spotlight for embodying strong examples of innovative learning and civic engagement. We also are thrilled to add institutions of higher education to the list of honorees this year for the first time in the award's history."

"With so many tough challenges facing our planet, it is more important than ever to inspire and prepare the next generation of environmental stewards," said Goldfuss. "By creating healthier learning environments, reducing their carbon footprints, and teaching students lasting lessons about innovation and sustainability, today's honorees are leading the way for schools and districts across the country."

Congratulations to Ms. Constance, our school's Founder and Head of School's, and all faculty, staff and students on receiving this prestigious award. We thank everyone who has supported Odyssey now and in the past for building a beautiful "green and healthy" learning environment for the children of Palm Bay.

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Odyssey Jr/Sr High is one of only two Project Lead the Way schools in Brevard County to offer PLTW Engineering and the only school to offer PLTW Computer Programming courses. Check out PLTW at <https://www.pltw.org/our-programs/experience-pltw>.



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Odyssey Charter School outperformed all of the local middle schools last school year.



## Teacher of the Year

Special Congratulations  
to Odyssey Preparatory  
Academy's Teacher of  
the Year! **Melissa Back**



*The Best Teachers*  
By Joanna Fuchs

*Teachers open up young minds,  
showing them the wonders of the intellect  
and the miracle  
of being able to think for themselves.  
A teacher exercises  
the mental muscles of students,  
stretching and strengthening,  
so they can make challenging decisions,  
find their way in the world,  
and become independent.  
The best teachers care enough  
To gently push and prod students  
to do their best  
and fulfill their potential.  
You are one of those.  
Thank you.*

**We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our teachers and staff who work diligently to educate our children.**

## Summer Registration

If your family has not completed a registration packet please come in to the front office as soon as possible to fill out your registration forms and to save your spot for the 2015-16 school year.

Please watch for our summer newsletter for the date to attend our FINAL SUMMER REGISTRATION event. During registration, you will complete the paperwork for the upcoming school year and find out your student's class assignment (paperwork/activities to be completed: free/reduced lunch from, bus registration and payment of student fees).

## Summer Camp at Odyssey - Under the Sea



Odyssey will once again offer a summer program for students. This summer's theme will be Under the Sea. Summer camp will run from June 8th to July 31st and will be open to children entering Kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year through 6th grade. Students will enjoy Science Discovery, Yoga, Soccer Instruction, and Conscious Kids & Martial Arts. Each Wednesday, students will go on a field trip. The culminating field trip will be to Sea World, Orlando!

Odyssey's Under the Sea Summer camp is open to Odyssey Charter School and Odyssey Preparatory Academy students, as well as the general public. The location for camp will be the Odyssey Elementary Campus at 1755 Eldron Blvd SE. Registration forms are available through the school's front office. Registration forms are due by FRIDAY, 5/29. Space is limited, so sign up today!

For more information about our summer camp, please contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 or email her at [whitea@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:whitea@odysseycharterschool.com).

## Young Engineers and Scientists Summer Camp (YES)

With the success of our YES After School Program, we have partnered with Dr. Larry Chew to offer YES Summer Camp. YES camp will run from June 15th - July 10th. Students in grades K-2, 3-5, & 5-9 will engage in STEM explorations with our YES trained, certified teachers and will have three distinctly different weekly themes to choose from. YES is from 9:00am-3:00pm, with before/after care, breakfast, lunch & snack included in the weekly fee.

Register ON-LINE ONLY at [www.youngengineer.us](http://www.youngengineer.us). For more information about YES summer camp, please contact Amy White at 321-733-0442 or email her at [whitea@odysseycharterschool.com](mailto:whitea@odysseycharterschool.com)

## Volunteer News

If you have not already done so, please take a moment to register as a volunteer in KeepNTrack. It is important to get registered because your volunteer hours are tracked in the KeepNTrack system. You can find the link to sign up to be a volunteer on Odyssey's website, located under the "Parent Tab." Look for the Volunteer Opportunities listing or you can register at the Brevard County School website under the Parents and Students tab. The price to register does vary depending on which level you register under.

## 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).

## Annual 5K Fun Walk/Run

On Saturday, April 25th, Odyssey held their annual 5K fun walk/run at the Jr/Sr High Campus. Students and staff gathered together to walk or run the 5K track. Coach Padilla helped the crowd limber up with stretching and Mario Bernardo encouraged the walkers and runners by playing several drum solos. When Mario was not playing, Mr. Hoffman was playing upbeat music to inspire the crowd. Children who attended were delighted to have their faces professionally painted by volunteer, Ambier Gonzalez. They also enjoyed participating in the jump rope and hula hoop contest run by Coach Padilla. We would like to extend special thanks to our parent volunteers, Beverly Squire-Wiggins who's company PIP Printing produced our beautiful 5K T-shirts, Mr. and Mrs. Broom along with their children who helped distribute water and fruit to the runners, Mindy Jackson, who coordinated with TD Bank to have resalable bags donated, and Summer Light who provided the cases of bottle water. We also thank our many teachers and staff who ran the registration table and the start/end stations at the event. This was a wonderful community gathering and we are pleased that so many of our Odyssey families and staff came together!



## Bully Busters: Everyone is Responsible for Addressing Bullying

**What is Bullying:** Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

**The roles kids play:** There are many roles that kids can play. Kids can bully others, they can be bullied, or they may witness bullying. When kids are involved in bullying, they often play more than one role. Sometimes kids may both be bullied and bully others or they may witness other kids being bullied. It is important to understand the multiple roles kids play in order to effectively prevent and respond to bullying.

**How to talk about Bullying:** Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role to play in preventing bullying. They can: Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.

Keep the lines of communication open. Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns. Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior. Model how to treat others with kindness and respect.

For more information about bullying visit:  
[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov); <http://www.nea.org/home/neabullyfree.html>



**Parents~ Help prevent math loss over the summer. Go to <https://www.tenmarks.com> and sign up for the FREE Math program.**

**Happy learning!**

### 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.