



Dear OCS families,

On **Sunday, April 2nd, 2017**, the Greek American community will be celebrating Greek Independence Day in downtown Philadelphia with a parade down the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Odyssey Charter School will be providing bus transportation and snacks to and from the event for parents and students interested in attending the parade. Please note: attendees are not simply observers of the parade, but actually participate in the walk and be rewarded for attendance with a dress down day the following Monday, April 3rd.

Buses will leave promptly at **12 noon** from the OCS **lower school** on **Sunday, April 2nd**.

In order to secure a seat on the bus, please fill out the following survey monkey **by Monday, March 27th**:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFL73P7>

Please be advised that all **students attending the parade must be supervised** at all times by an adult both during the parade and on buses.

Further information about the parade schedule, duration, and route can be found at <https://hellenicfed.org/greek-independence-celebration/>

Thank you and Happy Greek Independence Day!

Sincerely,

The Greek Department of OCS

March 25th - Greek Independence Day

Greek Independence Day is observed in Greece and celebrated annually by Greeks all over the world on March 25th as a national day, which commemorates the start of the War of Independence in 1821 and marks the birth of the modern Greek state.

196 years ago, on March 25th, 1821, the Greek Revolutionary Forces raised the flag of revolution and declared that Greece would be freed from Ottoman rule. 400 years of agony, suffering, and enslavement under the yoke of a brutal conqueror was about to end.

Inspired by the classical Hellenic standards of Marathon, Thermopylae, and Salamis, the gallant patriots of 1821 proceeded to show the world the true meaning of the word courage, and abided to the fullest by their motto; "FREEDOM or DEATH."

The Greek War of Independence restored freedom and eventually democracy to the land that gave birth to these concepts.

Ζήτω η 25^η Μαρτίου!

Long Live Hellenism!