



November 2012

OCS Aftercare monthly

Welcome to
Odyssey Charter School's
Aftercare Program.

Dear Parents,

The success of the Aftercare program is attributed to the structured schedule that was implemented to the aftercare program at the beginning of 2012 and to the huge success of our first Summer Camp.

Within a supervised environment, the students are placed into groups by grade level where a snack and drink is provided first. We begin by having the students do their homework first and then the program is followed by Art, Theater, Greek Music/Singing, Computers, Greek Mythology and more activities, which are taught by Greek teachers. The goal is to find creative and fun ways to enrich and expand what the students learn during the day, especially in the areas of Arts and the Greek Language. At the same time, we keep in mind that this is an aftercare program and the children are given plenty of play time.

This year, the enrollment to the program has doubled since last year.

Our staff has made great strides to structure a schedule that accommodates the needs of all ages and class sizes. As we all know, by keeping some principles in mind, such as respecting each other, paying attention in class, and proper manners, will ensure the continued success of the Aftercare program. Please be aware that for safety and distraction reasons, the school does not allow any toys from home, including trading cards. The school provides all the materials needed to carry out the objectives of the aftercare program. Odyssey Charter School is proud to be able to offer such a unique and enriching program to our students.

Thank you for your support,
Fratzeska Belafemine
Program Director



Who we are...

Babis Anastasiadis - BA in Food Technology, BA in Education with 13 years experience in teaching

Fratzeska Belafemine - BA in Education, MA in Counselling & Vocational Guidance, MA in Adult Education with 21 years experience in child education

Sani Chalima - BA in Graphic & Media Design with 15 years experience on the subject

Hryssoula Davis - BA in Child Psychology, MA in Clinical Psychology with 5 years experience in education and research

Goulielmos Dounavis - BA in Education, MA in Applied Geography & Spatial Planning with 8 years experience in education

Jo-el Fetizanan - parent volunteer with 3 years experience in education

Maria Galantomou - BA in Classics, MA in Education & Human Rights with 6 year experience in teaching Ancient Greek, Modern Greek and Latin

Bernadette Hardy - 7 years experience in education

Eva Jannelli - BA in Art & Art Education with 12 years experience in art and teaching

Eleni Katapodi - BS in Psychology with 3 years experience in education

Giannis Kokkinomalis - BSc and MSc in Chemical Engineering with 5 years experience in education

Ourania Lalioti - BA in Education, BA in Theology, MA in Theology with 23 years experience in education

Efi Latifi - BA in Education with minor in Theater and 10 years experience on the subject

Katina Parascharaki - BA in Business Administration, BA in Education and 17 years experience in teaching

Giannis Sporidis - BA in Early Childhood Education, MA in Family Mediation with 7 years experience in education

Anna Stoupaki - BEng in Mechanical Engineering, MSc in Information Technology

Thaleia Tsourka - BA in Philosophy & Education, MA in Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning and 5 year experience in teaching

Sofia Vazou - BA in Education with 9 years experience in teaching



Art

The Art activity of our aftercare program had an exciting start this year. We started with the "Maian-dros" (the Greek Key).

We talked about the origin of this design, its linear form, and its uses.

We then created and decorated with it Olympic Torches and picture frames. Our goal is to reinforce the Greek language while exposing the students to Greek art and culture, so we will continue in the same spirit...

This year, the students have a second Art period in aftercare during which we are working on the Greek children's book "Ntenekedoupoli." As your children will explain to you, this book is about a "can (tin) city," in which the characters are faced with real life issues, such as getting along, standing up to bullies, etc... We spent the first 2-3 weeks reading the book and getting to know each character. We are finally on our way to creating a unique Can City. Each student is working on a can puppet. We are delighted to see how much the students love this activity! Our goal is to eventually stage a puppet presentation... Stay tuned!...

Goulielmos Dounavis
Eva Jannelli
Giannis Sporidis

Dancing

So far we have been learning the traditional dance "Chassapeko," which is an evolution of the dance that the soldiers of Alexander The Great used to dance in 335 BC. We will continue with another traditional dance called "Podaraki."

Ourania Lalioti
Katina Parascharaki

Aesop's Fables

This group meets only on Fridays. We have read the Fable for The Wind and The Sun (Ο Βοριάς και Ο Ήλιος). The story is in Greek. We try to read and translate with the help of the illustrations. When finished, the children get to act out the story with role play. Finally, we have started working on constructing our own sun masks. The children colored the sun, cut it out, glued the rays and made their own masks. The next Fable to be read is The Rabbit and The Turtle (Ο Αλαγός και Η Χελώνα).

Maria Galantomou
Anna Stoupaki

Singing

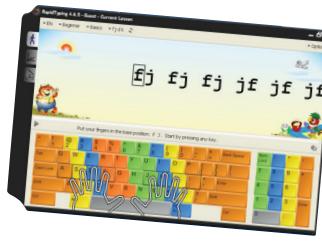
Our goal of the Singing class is to teach Greek songs in a recreational manner, such that students may be integrated into the traditions, rhythms, and sounds of a different culture. In order to achieve this, we have been practicing a number of Greek songs and rhythm/movement games. We have been working on "The Owl," "The Big-Eared Donkey," "Clap your Hands," and "Little Margarita," all of which are fun Greek children's songs. For December, we are also working on some songs for different grades to perform at the Holiday Concert, including "The Owls from Space" (by Ourania Lalioti), a winter song in the tune of "O Christmas Tree," "Rudolf the Red Nosed Raindeer," and a traditional Greek Holiday song from the Island of Kefalonia.

Hrysoula Davis
Ourania Lalioti

Computers

In the computer lab, we have been busy getting comfortable with computers by learning and having fun at the same time. We have been dividing our time into two sections: learning how to type and playing "cool math" games. In our near future, we will learn how to be responsible digital citizens and safely use technology.

Sani Chalima
Yiannis Kokkinomalis



Theater

The goal of the theater class is to create a community in which we can express ourselves. To achieve this, we have been playing trust and theater games that build community and help us learn to express ourselves physically and vocally. Some of the games we have used most are "mirror" and "pantomime" in order to learn to become good observers and control our bodies when responding to what we see. We will continue to play with the volume and quality of our voices in order to convey messages to audience members at various distances. We will also practice control, coordination, cooperation, and concentration of our bodies, movements, and ideas.

Hrysoula Davis
Ourania Lalioti
Efi Latifi

Homework

In the homework group, the students are encouraged to complete their homework during this designated time. Our major effort is to help students by explaining the homework in a way that helps them come to the right conclusion by themselves. We also appreciate all the extra assistance that the teachers give for special assignments. We often observe students discuss their projects or homework and exchange ideas. For the Greek homework there's a Greek teacher available.

Every Friday, since there is no homework, we watch a movie. After students view the movie, we spend some time discussing the positive messages or behaviors we observed and we try to promote ideas about cooperation, responsibility, respect and kindness.

Jo-el Fetizanan
Bernadette Hardy
Eleni Katapodi

Greek Mythology

The main purpose of this class is to introduce the Greek myths to students from K through 5th grade through many activities, such as reading, drawing, coloring, role play and movies. The students obtain knowledge of the Greek heroes and their heroic traits, according to the traditional Greek mythology.

Since the beginning of the school year we have been working on the 12 Tasks of Hercules. We have been watching movies in Greek Language, trying to encourage the students to reproduce and visualize what they watched through drawings. Next month, we are planning to "explore" the Odysseus's adventures, The 12 Olympian Gods, and the myth of Demeter and Persephone, through creative and interactive activities.

Babis Anastasiadis
Maria Galantomou
Giannis Kokkinomalis
Thaleia Tsourka
Sofia Vazou

