



December 2012

# OCS Aftercare MONTHLY

Dear Parents,

As someone who has seen Odyssey Charter School blossom from a dream into a full-fledged K-5 school which still grows, I am proud of what has been accomplished since Odyssey first opened its doors to the children of our community in 2006.

I am very proud not only of the quality of education our students receive at Odyssey, but also of the wonderful staff of American and Greek educators and administrators, in both Upper and Lower schools, who collaborate and devote their lives to educating our young people.

It has been gratifying to see how quickly our aftercare program took flesh and bones under the direction of Mrs. Fratzeska Belafemine. Fratzeska is a seasoned, dedicated educator who has served as Headmaster in Greek Schools. She administers the Aftercare program with the assistance of the other Greek teachers.

I congratulate Fratzeska for her professionalism, and I thank all of our teachers for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Sincerely,  
George Righos



## Theater

This past month, children learned how to express themselves through movement theater and dancing. They experimented with different kinds of motion, using the floor, and different levels of the space. They tried to express different emotions and everyday activities through movement (without talking). They did several theater games such as mirror, pantomime, freeze dance, statues, and they improvised on different themes by themselves or with a partner. They also created characters collaboratively and separately, they used either silent emotion or voices without motion in order to act out those characters.

Hrysoula Davis  
Ourania Lalioti  
Efi Latifi

## Art

We have been very busy in Art! A few weeks ago we made a "koboloy" (worry beads), and we talked about how they are used in Greece. While the students practiced their fine motor skills they really enjoyed their colorful creations. After the Thanksgiving break we moved into seasonal activities...We created giant snowflakes (another big hit!) and ornaments. This week we will make gift tags..."Shhh"...



In our "Ntenekedoupolis" (tin can city) group we are just about finished creating our can puppets. We are now fine tuning them, giving them names and personalities. Soon we will start working on dialogues between the characters in preparation for a puppet show. We might send home a few lines for the students to practice during their break.

Happy and Safe Holidays!

Goulielmos Dounavis  
Eva Jannelli  
Giannis Sporidis



## Dancing

We have now been learning how to do the "Podaraki (little foot)," a traditional dance of a region in Northern Greece called Thrace. The name comes from the action of the dancers hitting their foot on the ground with a very distinctive way.

Ourania Lalioti  
Katina Parascharaki

## Aesop's Fables

This group meets only on Fridays. We have read the fable for Rabbit and the Turtle (Ο Λαγός και Η Χελώνα). 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 already worked on constructing our own masks with the turtle. The children got to color the turtle, cut them out and make their own masks. With the holidays fast approaching, we will start working on a relevant project with the children.



Maria Galantomou  
Anna Stoupaki

## Computers

Extending our typing skills we now enjoy playing typing games on the BBC website. Furthermore, we challenge our creativity and tease our brains by solving engineering and physics riddles, designing sophisticated hi-tech devices and learning how to properly use them!



Sani Chalima  
Yiannis Kokkinomalis

## 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

## Singing

In singing the students spent the last month practicing their Greek songs for the holiday concert. Along with some general singing exercises, we worked on rehearsals to improve the students' Greek performances.

Hrysoula Davis  
Ourania Lalioti

## Greek Mythology

This month we have been working on Prometheus myth who stole the fire from the gods to give it to people. The main idea of the myth concentrates on the free will of the person who neglects the divine punishment. Also we explored the myth of Daedalus and Ikaros where we could see the first attempt of people to fly on the sky before brothers Wright.



Babis Anastasiadis  
Maria Galantomou  
Giannis Kokkinomalis  
Thaleia Tsourka  
Sofia Vazou

## Who we are...

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

**Elpida Bairaktari** - BA in English Language and Literature, MA in Foreign Language Teaching & Learning Methods (ESL-Applied Linguistics), M. Ed Program in Linguistics and Education and 20 years experience in foreign language education

**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

**Hrysoula 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

**Niki Tantalou** - BA in Linguistics and Classics, MA in Modern Greek Language and Literature, MA in Cognitive Science, JD in Law and 5 years experience in teaching

**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