

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS

December 2013



Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

Assistant Headmaster Ms. Jackie Pastis
Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Denise Parks

[Important Dates]

12/18 Upper School Concert,
A.I. Dupont High School
(see details on page 5)

12/19 Lower School Concert,
Upper School Gym
(see details on page 5)

***Please submit photos for the
yearbook to
<http://www.replayit.com>

Register online, and choose
Odyssey Charter School, Wilmington, DE
For example: Halloween, 5K, Winter
events, etc.



[Inside this issue:]

Important Dates/yearbook	1	Middle School Highlights	6-7
School Nurse	2	Art/Greek Class	8-9
Classroom Highlights	3-4	PTO News	10
Counselor/Music	5	Olympic Education	11
		Reading Specialist	12



October and November were our months to complete Vision, Hearing and/ or Spinal Screenings here at Odyssey.

Vision and Hearing screenings were completed on all kindergarten, 2nd and 4th graders, as well as students new to Delaware public schools, and those with special needs. If a deficit was found, a letter was sent home with your student to refer them for further testing. *****Please let us know if you have scheduled a follow-up appt. or are having a difficult time scheduling and/ or paying for further testing. We may be able to help you.*****

Phase 1 Posture/Spinal Screenings were completed on all 5th and 6th graders. A letter will be sent home to let you know if any deficits were found and if there was a need for a Phase 2 screening to be scheduled through Dover's DOE office.

It's that time of the year: Cold and Flu season is upon us.

Please remind your children that good hygiene, eating healthy foods, and getting plenty of sleep are important ways to prevent illness. They should wash their hands before and after eating, after blowing their nose or coughing into their hands. Also, remember to cover all coughs and sneezes.

How to know if your child is sick enough to stay home from school:

Students at Odyssey Charter are expected to attend school everyday. However, the possibility that they will get sick during the year is always present. Illnesses can be lengthy, and many times it is difficult to decide whether or not to send your child to school. The following guidelines may be helpful in making the decision.

A student should NOT attend school if:

- A fever (100.6 or greater) is present and it last 24 hours without medication.
- The child has a cold with persistent heavy nasal discharge.
- A persistent uncontrollable cough is present.
- The child has a very painful sore throat or a sore throat lasting longer than 24-48 hours and is getting worse.
- Vomiting or diarrhea occurs in last 24 hours.
- An unidentified rash is present.
- Child is pale, lethargic or generally does not feel well.

Classroom Highlights

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Food Drive



In addition to their academics, our Odyssey Owl kindergarteners were busy helping those less fortunate this November with Odyssey Charter School's 8th Annual Kindergarten Food Drive. All six kindergarten classrooms worked diligently together and brought in mounds of non-perishables, including hygiene items, during November 15th thru November 22nd. Carrying cans and boxes in their backpacks and toting bags of hygiene items, they proudly accumulated an abundance of food and necessities that will help stock the shelves of St. Stephen's Food Pantry located in Wilmington's Trolley Square area.

First Grade

First grade is about to embark on a journey to travel near and far to see a glimpse of "Holidays Around the World". This is a great way to integrate the holiday theme into our curriculum!

There are 8 countries to learn about and a craft for each country. This unit ties in reading, writing, social studies, and math. The countries our kiddos will be learning about are: The Netherlands, Israel, Germany, Mexico, Australia, Italy, England & America.

Another fun day we have planned for the children is "Grinch Day". After reading the popular classic How the Grinch Stole Christmas, we will have a day of Grinch themed creative writing & mathematics activities planned for our firsties.

In mathematics, we completed our two-week long unit on place value. We are all excited to begin our next unit on double-digit addition. As a team, we have numerous fun and engaging lessons planned that we hope the students will love!



Third Grade

Third graders are “tracking” their reading! What makes a GOLD level reading track? It’s when we make a meaningful track that shows we are thinking about the text and understanding it. It often has the word “because” in it. By making meaningful tracks, readers are applying their critical thinking skills to what they are reading. After Thanksgiving break, we will begin our unit on fractions and then we will go into multiplication & division concepts. Over the break, students created their own multiplication facts cards (up to 12!) By the end of third grade, we will master our multiplication facts and celebrate with an ice cream party – the more facts you know, the bigger & better your ice cream sundae will be!

After learning how to write our own narrative stories, third grade will now focus on informational writing. What is your child interested in? Would they like to pursue in-depth knowledge of this subject? Or would they like to learn something new? It’s time to read the research, write our very own informational text and find out!

Thinking about visiting a region of the United States over winter break? Come in and check out our travel brochures! Third graders studied map skills, geography (Greek word!) and each of the 5 regions of the U.S. We then worked in groups to create travel brochures with highlights on each region and presented them to our classmates. In our next social studies unit, we will become American pioneers as we join Lewis & Clark in their amazing expedition of the West!

Odyssey’s enthusiastic third graders are reaching for the stars!

~The Third Grade Teachers

Counselors' Corner



The holiday season is quickly approaching, bringing with it excitement as well as stress for many families. All of the preparations for celebration can leave many parents more preoccupied than our already busy lives dictate.

Important points to remember:

- 1. Look for opportunities that will teach children to appreciate what they have and experience the feeling of helping someone in need.**
- 2. Children want more of you not necessarily more “stuff”. The best gift you can give your child is your time and attention. Maybe plan something with your child that will bring you into their world. They will welcome you, but you must ask.**



Music Concert

The 10:00 A.M. performance for LS includes Mrs. Ontjes, Ms. Coyne, Mrs. Strauss, Mrs. Burridge, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Arnao, Mrs. Belair, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Vaccarini.

The 1:30 P.M. performance for LS includes Ms. Sieminski, Mrs. Giordano, Mrs. McManus, Mrs. Baldwin, Ms. Bradley, Ms. Gladney, Mrs. Hershner, Ms. Warwick, and Ms. Pasquale.

Both of those performances are in the upper school gym on Thursday, December 19th. Two tickets per child will be sent home. Only ticket holders will be admitted to the concert.

The Upper School concert includes members of 3rd through 6th grade chorus, band students, and recorder students who returned the permission slip. That concert is Wednesday, December 18th, 7:00 p.m. at A.I. du Pont H.S. Only ticket holders will be admitted to the concert.

All performances will feature Greek as well as holiday music.

Middle School Highlights

Greetings from the Sixth Grade Science Classroom!

During the month of December, students will be continuing their work on learning the major organs and systems in the human body. Prior to Thanksgiving break, our friends in sixth grade science drew “mental maps” of the internal organs and went on to construct 3-D models of selected human body systems using different colored modeling clay.

Following a Reader’s Theater Script, students discussed the functions of the liver in the digestive system, learning how it works within the digestive system and with the circulatory system in accomplishing its duties. After a preliminary investigation of the interaction between an antacid tablet and vinegar, students will begin to design and perform an investigation to determine the effect of mechanical breakdown on the speed of chemical breakdown.

Our friends in sixth grade will also perform activities to investigate gas exchange and the transport function of blood, particularly the transport of gases, nutrients, and waste. In order to understand the working valves of the heart, students will analyze the pumping action of two different bulbs, and relate the pumping action to the presence or absence of a valve.

By the end of the month, students will have lots of new information to share about the digestive, respiratory, and circulatory systems of the human body with their families over Winter break.



Sixth Grade Math Class

Did you know that statistics can give us specific insight into our surrounding world? Sixth grade students extended their knowledge from our last unit on rational numbers by interpreting these interesting statistics and making connections to what we have recently been learning in Math class.

Brittany Rehrig

6th Grade Math Teacher



Art Class <http://odysseyartroom.blogspot.com/>

Lower School

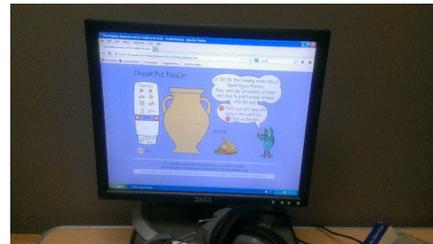
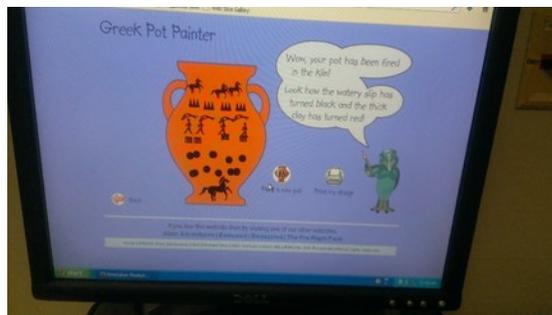
Kindergarten artists are focusing on ancient art. We used technology to create Greek pottery. You can play the game at home using the following web address:

<http://www.schoolsliaison.org.uk/kids/greecepot.htm>

First grade is beginning a study of Pointillism. We will focus on the art of Georges Seurat and Paul Signac. Learn more through this link:

<http://www.starfall.com/n/artmusic/seurat/load.htm?f>

Second grade continues their study of pop art with a focus on Andy Warhol. We are learning the difference between commercial art and fine art. We will create repeated pattern projects with labels from our favorite foods. We will do our own printmaking by carving designs into styrofoam, rolling ink over them and stamping them on paper in repeated patterns.



Upper School

Upper school students just completed their sandwich collages inspired by Henri Matisse. Matisse started "painting with scissors" when he was 72 years old and created some very beautiful and famous collages at that time. The students created a sandwich out of paper in which they needed to use various materials and textures to make it look realistic. Many students realized how difficult it can be to create with just paper and scissors. We used our Friday pizza boxes for the buns of the sandwiches!



Middle School

Pop art was the style of art with this project! Andy Warhol inspired us to draw everyday objects and use bright colors. Students learned that all objects are made out of lines and when you first start drawing you need to look at the object closely. The paper was divided into 6 squares and each square needed to have a different view of the object. The bright colors really made it POP!



Greek Class

First Grade

We have spent the month of November working on base 10. The children can now recognize hundreds, tens and ones. They can represent numbers in different forms and they know how to navigate the 100 chart. One of the biggest hits was the song which explains how we go about navigating the 100 chart. Have your child chant it for you and hop along with him/her!

Evi Sourlou, Niki Tantalou

Kindergarten Greek Math

In kindergarten Greek we have been having a lot of fun learning our Greek song for the holiday concert! In Math we have all joined the counting club and can count to 10 in Greek all alone!

OCS PTO

Paving The Way Fundraiser

Our "Paving the Way Campaign" is off to a phenomenal start. **THANK-YOU** to our families that have contributed so far we have over \$4,000 but we have a long way left to go...

Just a few reminders:

- We are fundraising for classroom technology
- We now we offer a credit card option for your convenience.
- Please check with your employer for employee contribution match
- The campaign will run from November thru April 1st.

- Last years fundraiser provided our children with Compass Learning Software and 8 Smart Boards.
- If every student donated \$50 the PTO would surpass the goal (that is less than \$10 a month)
- You can spread your payment out over time.

Please remember that charter schools are not afforded the same luxuries that traditional schools are. The PTO must supplement our children's educational needs.

Volunteer!!

The PTO is looking for volunteers to chair and be members of all of our PTO fundraising opportunities and events. Your school and your children need you.

Labels for Education, Car Line LS, Special Person Dance (Grades 3-6), Field Day, Open Gym Nights, Paving the Way Campaign, Pizza Friday LS, Pizza Friday US, School Library US, Staff Appreciation Week & Yearbook.

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please contact:

Used Uniforms will **ONLY** be available for purchase @ 6:30pm before the monthly PTO meetings. We are sorry, but we are unable to fulfill requests for used uniform through email or phone calls.



Five Below Fundraiser: Saturday 12.7.13 and Sunday 12.8.13 ALL DAY.
Locations: Concord Gallery, Kirkwood Highway and Christiana.
10% of your purchase goes to OCS PTO. You must present a flier (coming soon in backpacks).

Physical Education – Olympic Education – Club “Tai Chi for children at ODYSSEY” 2013 - 2014

WELCOME to our *Olympic Corner*

The Olympic Education program has already started for our Aftercare students!

Introductory Activity

Students of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Grade were introduced to the goals of the program and formed their project teams. Their initial mission was to first choose their team's name and agree on the rules of their operation. A protocol of good behavior and team spirit was announced and they had to design their team poster.

The **OLYMPIC CORNER** will host the student's projects – here we post the results of their work and serve as an information-spot for the whole school.

First Thematic Area – The Ancient Olympic Games

We'll travel back in time with our time-machine and visit Olympia. Students will learn and understand the way the Olympic Games were held in ancient Greece. This topic has three sections.

In the theoretical section students will watch a video and discuss about the ceremony, the disciplines and the procedures of the Games. Some of the activities are crosswords of the ancient Games, The Pentathlon, A walk around Ancient Olympia, the Olympic Truce and the the Torch Relay. In the art section they'll use various techniques to construct the ancient sport equipment that were used. They will also design and construct a model of the Museum in Olympia and demonstrate the museum exhibits in posters. During the practical section children will be introduced to the ancient athletics and play games and relay races.

TAI CHI for children at ODYSSEY

Our Tai Chi program will start right after Thanksgiving holidays during the first week of December!

Application deadline is the 2nd of December. Tai Chi classes for students ages 5-9 are held Wednesdays 4-4:45pm and for students ages 10-12 on Wednesdays from 4:45-5:30pm.

Mrs.Amy Chatzipanagioti, greek P.E.Teacher, Tai Chi Instructor and Coach.



Καλώς ήρθατε!

Reading Specialists

Comprehension Strategies

Comprehension is the ability to understand and remember text. Research shows that there are a number of strategies proficient readers use to improve comprehension. These strategies help us, as readers, to pay attention to our thinking as we read.

This month's targeted strategies: **Making Predictions** and **Visualizing**

Making Predictions

builds interest by involving the reader in thinking along with the author
 model and discuss examples of inaccurate and accurate predictions while reading
 model and discuss the evidence from the story that helps form the predictions
 Confirm or revise predictions as the book is read

Was your prediction correct? Do you need to change your prediction?

use before reading- use book title, chapter headings, illustrations, diagrams, charts, table of contents

What do you think the story or book will be about? What do you think you will learn?

use during reading- stop and discuss what will happen next

What do you think will happen next? What words or ideas in the story help you think that?

Visualizing (or paint a picture in your mind)

enhances meaning with mental imagery
 places you in the story
 stimulates imaginative thinking
 makes reading more enjoyable

Stay tuned for next month's focus!

