

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS

February 2014



Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos
Assistant Headmaster Ms. Jackie Pastis
Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Denise Parks

Important Dates

We need school photos

- Last year's Field Day
- DCAS celebration
- Band/Chorus concert

***Please submit photos for the yearbook to

<http://www.replayit.com>

Register online, and choose
Odyssey Charter School, Wilmington, DE

- 2/12 Kindergarten field trip
- 2/13 Second grade field trip
- 2/14 In-service, schools closed
- 2/17 Presidents day, school closed
- 2/25 Second grade field trip
- 2/26 Cimini/Avayou field trip
- 2/28 Poulos/Berrick field trip
- 2/28 Charter School Art Show

Inside this issue:

Important Dates/yearbook	1	Greek class/Art class	8-9
Counselors' Corner/Nurse	2-3	PTO news	10
Classroom Highlights	4-6	ACE program/Common Core	11
Middle School highlights	7		

Counselor's Corner

One of the many things that we can be proud of here at Odyssey is our PBS (Positive Behavior Support Program). Our staff and students go through training at the beginning of each school year to make sure everyone is working towards the same goal- having a positive learning environment. We have a PBS team with members from each grade level that meets monthly to strategize ideas for upcoming events, creative rewards, ongoing training, etc.

Students are continuing to work at being caught modeling the Odyssey OWLS behaviors:

O-Outstanding Effort

W- Winning Respect

L- Living Responsibly

S- Showing Kindness

Remember to ask your child what they are saving their Owl tickets for whether they choose to save for the larger events, dress down days (first Friday of the month) or cash out on a weekly basis in class.

Ms Kristin Nannas

Mrs. Barbara Berrick





Do you have a long list of New Year's resolutions?

Take it one day at a time with encouragement and ideas from the “**31 Days to a Healthier You**” social media campaign from Delaware Health and Social Services’ Division of Public Health (DPH). Use the Twitter hashtag #healthDE to access how-to videos, tips, photos, and links to start your healthier habits.



'5-2-1 Almost None' means eating at least five servings of fruit or vegetables daily, watching no more than two hours of recreational screen time daily, being physically active for at least one hour a day, and drinking almost no sugar-sweetened drinks.

“**Small steps mean big rewards,**” says DPH Director Dr. Karyl T. Rattay, MD, MS. “For instance, drinking one less 12-ounce can of regular soda each day can prevent a 15-pound weight gain in a year.”

For More Information:

<http://www.nemours.org/service/health/growuphealthy/521almostnone.html>

Classroom Highlights



Kindergarten

The OCS Kindergarten team is excited to be visiting the DuPont Theater for Children on February 12, 2014 to see *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. This is the first school trip to the theater for our 2013-2014 class of kindergarteners. All are very excited to visit the theater to view a live performance of such a beloved children's book!

The kindergarteners will also be celebrating their first 100 days of school on February 20th. Many fun activities are planned for this momentous celebration. There will be fun and games, special treats, and even a 100 Museum.

All in the spirit of learning about the magic of math and the number 100!

First Grade

In Language Arts, we have been reading various versions of the story of "Stone soup," including those written by Marcia Brown, Tony Ross, and Jon Muth. We are comparing and contrasting the stories and learning about characters, setting, and story theme. We will be making stone soup together.

In Math we are learning to multiply. The goal of this unit is to introduce various methods of multiplication. We are using four methods. We are using repeated addition, skip counting, making equal groups, and drawing arrays to solve the problems. We are learning new math terms such as *product*, *times*, and *array*. We are using our multiplication skills to solve word problems. We are playing multiplication games and using manipulative materials to learn these skills.

In Science, we are learning about solids and liquids. The theme helps us to understand the properties of various materials. We have been analyzing how various materials roll, float, and change shape. We are doing many fun experiments!

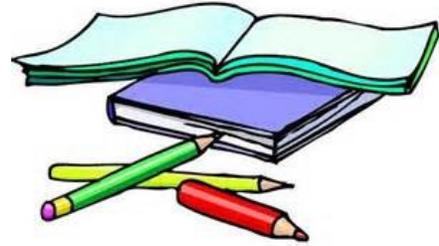


Second Grade

Our OCS Second Graders have two field trips in February! On February 13th, they will be visiting the DuPont Children's Theater to see the play, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. Also, on February 25th, the second graders will be going to *Alpine and Raffeto Orthodontics* office. In Language Arts, the students will continue learning about community helpers. They will be working with place value to the ten-thousands in Math. In Science, the students will begin learning about different kinds of bridges and how engineers utilize a plan to build them. Please continue to have the students read and practice math facts each night.

Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is having a blast so far this year! We would like to thank all of the students and their families for their continued support as we move into the second half of the year. There are lots of exciting things happening in fourth grade! We have recently begun our unit on Ellis Island and Immigration in Language Arts. In Social Studies, we are learning about the American Revolution. In math, we are chomping away at fractions and will be heading into our unit on decimals next. In Science, students have been learning about magnetism. We will move into electricity soon. We will be taking our first field trip to the Delaware History Museum to support our unit on American Revolution at the end of February. (Please note, there are a limit to the number of chaperones that can attend. If you signed up, your child's teacher will contact you either way once all the forms have been turned in. We choose chaperones randomly to be fair.) We plan also to visit Philadelphia later this spring. We are very pleased with our students' progress academically. The MAP scores have shown great improvement thus far. Please congratulate your children on their successes! Last, we ask that parents/guardians PLEASE encourage their children to study their multiplication facts regularly. We find it continues to affect math performance, either positively or negatively for all our students. Thanks again for a great year!



Third Grade

Third Grade said goodbye to 2013 with a Scholastic Book Fair and classroom parties. THANK YOU for your continued support of our wonderful school, and of course your generous help in the classroom! We welcomed 2014 with frigid temperatures and snow days! However, we were still able to accomplish so much.....

In Language Arts, students learned the second meaning of author 's "point-of-view"that is, how someone feels about a topic, the author's own opinion. We read a pet owner 's and a scientist's point-of-view about "Animal Emotions". Ask your child whose point-of-view they agree with? The answer, of course, is always the one that is supported with details from the text!

We have been doing word problems with all four operations in math! We finished our unit on Fractions and are currently learning about elapsed time, one of the more challenging concepts in third grade. Students are continuing to practice their multiplication facts every night, and parents are logging students' minutes on the log provided. We take weekly quizzes to show our progress in automaticity of multiplication facts!

Students finished their informational writing pieces, and have already chosen a famous person to write about. They will be creating a Biography Booklet on this person. We certainly appreciate that parents were able to find the recommended biography books at your local library. We will be presenting and sharing our biographies by the end of January.

Our Social Studies unit is culminating with our very first field trip this year! It is a play at the DuPont Theater called "Freedom Train" about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad! This unit is one of our students' favorites, since they learn about Lewis & Clark, the original 13 Colonies, the Louisiana Purchase, the state of Delaware, the Oregon Trail and the Gold Rush! Along the way, we also learned about landforms (geography) and how they can impact history!

Our mid-year assessments are almost finished with students taking the MAP reading and math tests by the end of January.

What a productive start to our new year!

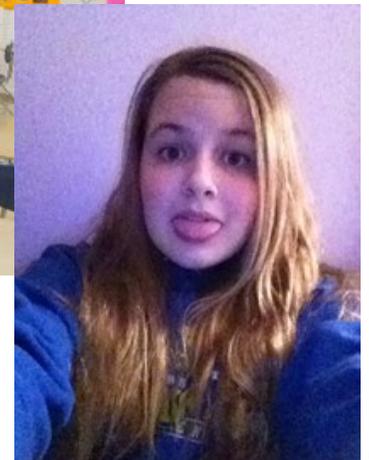
Middle School Highlights

In their English Language Arts classes, the 6th grade students have been learning about figurative language (similes, metaphors, idioms, etc.) The middle schoolers have been identifying examples of these literary techniques within literature, song lyrics, and poetry. The children will also be working to incorporate some figurative language into their own writing through their upcoming Poetry Projects.



The 6th graders also had a chance to really “get into” idioms on Monday, January 13th. On that day, the students had the opportunity to dress as an idiom for their ELA class. Most of the students were really “on the ball” that day, and some of the costumes “cracked us up”. Several of the idiom costumes included: put your money where your mouth is, open book, bite your tongue, dressed to the nines, green thumb, let the cat out of the bag, tickled pink, as poor as a church mouse, and smarty pants.

It seems that the 6th graders really “have a handle on” figurative language!



Greek Class

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten, Greek Math and Greek Language

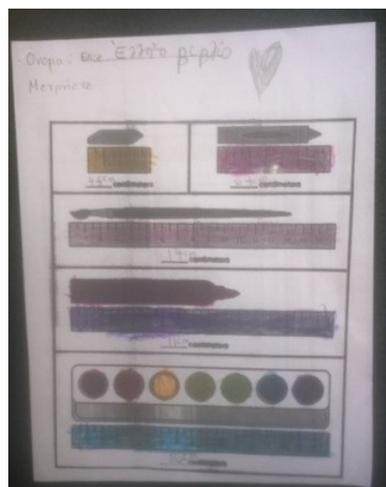
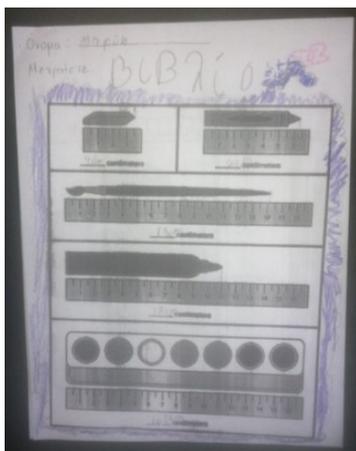
worked together to make one project from both units. Students picked a farm animal they learned in language and made it out of the shapes they are studying in math! These will be hanging up around the school during parent-teacher conferences!

First Grade

For the past few weeks we have been working on measurement. We have learned how to measure with standard and non-standard units of measurements. We have learned how to estimate, how to measure, how to compare and contrast. The children had lots of fun working with marshmallows, cheerios, paperclips, cubes, rulers and measuring a variety of things from their shoes to fish.

Measurement is one of the most fun topics that we will cover this year. Please reinforce this skill with your child. Pictures of your children's wonderful work are attached below.

Evi Sourlou and Niki Tantalou



Art Class

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



We have an art show coming up! On Friday February 28th from 6-8 pm we will have our first **Charter School Art Show** for the whole state of Delaware. District art shows are always happening during the year and I felt it would be nice for the charters to have one as well. I planned this art show wanting to have the same feeling of a district show. I was able to get 15 schools to participate and we are having it at Newark Charter's new high school. There will be around 150 pieces displaying what we are teaching our children in art class, and some will have a writing piece displayed with their art. We are really excited about this event! The students chosen for the show are on our blog, check out their beautiful artwork.

Mrs. Ciriaco and Mrs. Roosma

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

The 10 students chosen are:

Dante Begatto-K

Eleni Staikos-4

Ayden Warwick-K

Graceanna Szymanski-5

Vanessa Ngamau-K

Danielle Weyl-6

Sophie Rozanski-1

Kylee Mulrooney-6

Ben Nerlinger-2

Rhys Levine-6

Our very own Rebecca Roosma was nominated for the Life Changer of the Year award by an Odyssey parent! Vote for her by leaving a comment on this link.

<http://lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com/2014/01/09/rebecca-roosma/>

PTO News

Our "Paving the Way Campaign" is off to a phenomenal start. **THANK-YOU** to our families & friends that have contributed so far!

- ** now we offer a credit card option for your convenience
- ** please check with your employer for employee contribution match
- ** campaign will run from November thru April 1st
- ** last years fundraiser provided our children w/ Compass Learning Software and 8 Smart Boards
- ** we are again fundraising for classroom technology
- ** if every student donated \$50..the PTO would surpass the goal (that is less than \$10 a month)

Please remember that charter schools are not afforded the same luxuries that traditional schools are. The PTO must supplement our children's educational needs. Please visit: www.odysseycharterschooldel.com/pto/fundraisers

INFO : Jen Gannon : jengannon426@gmail.com



OPEN GYM FRIDAYS: Beginning Friday, January 24th through Friday, February 28th from 6 pm – 8 pm, we will open the gym to allow our kids to run off the winter blues and socialize with their friends. ****PLEASE NOTE:** We can only accommodate OCS students; we are unable to accommodate siblings and OCS alumni. All students must be accompanied by an adult during the entire event (no dropping off). All students must behave like Odyssey Owls and lastly, there will be no access to the school. **-NO OPEN GYM NIGHT Friday 2.14.14-**

DOLLAR DRESS DOWN DAY - 2/21/14: This is an opportunity for the school to make a difference in their **community** by donating a **\$1** to a cause voted on by the members of the PTO. Each student who donates will be able to dress down on the day selected. Last year our school donated over \$560 to Justin's Beach House. We will decide which charity or organization will be this year's beneficiary at the next PTO meeting on 2.4.14. PTO members in good standing can submit ideas for this year's beneficiary and a vote will take place. All submissions and/or questions can be directed to Shelly Huber, PTO President -rachele_huber@yahoo.com. To purchase Spiritwear contact Stephanie Carini: DECSRC@Comcast.net

On going fundraising...

Box Tops & Labels for Education
Keep clipping!!!

 **SHOP at TARGET often?**

To participate or to see how much has been contributed towards our next check, please visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142.

School ID: 145713

<https://www-secure.target.com/redcard/tcoe/home>

COKE Rewards Program

It's as easy as visiting:

<http://www.mycokerewards.com>.

Register and select Odyssey Charter School as your school of choice.

amazon.com

Amazon.com School Rewards! Fundraise while you shop! Each month, Amazon pays us up to 10% of all purchases made by shoppers who reached Amazon through our link. Bookmark and share our School Rewards link.



The Third Round of **Pretzels Tuesday's** will begin Tuesday 3.4.14 and run thru Tuesday 6.3.14.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday 3.22.14 Family Night at the 87er's.
More Info Coming



ACE Program

The ACE program is in full swing. All grades have studied poetry and presented discovery projects on everything from mythical creatures to atoms. I'm so impressed with their work! Several of these projects will be displayed around the school.



Common Core



Common Core Initiative in Mathematics

Guided by the Delaware Department of Education's Common Ground trainings, OCS staff Ms. Hrysoula Davis, Mr. Vassilios Guidoglou, Mrs. Charlotte Horgan and Mrs. Kathryn Standish are working with administration and faculty to bring the Common Core initiative in Mathematics into action. A major focus of the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics is to enhance student math ability by focusing on fewer key concepts in greater depth. The team led a workshop during the January in-service day with the aim to analyze the changes proposed in the Common Core, identify areas of need in the current curriculum, and create a recursive process to maintain student success at every level. We hope to unify our Mathematics curriculum at Odyssey by adopting these changes while continuing to serve as a successful example of a collaborative, bilingual Mathematics program.