

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS

January 2014



Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

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

[Important Dates]

1/6 School reopens

1/17 In-Service, school closed

1/20 Martin Luther King Day, school closed

We need school photos

***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.

You can also bring photos to the main office if you cannot register

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Counselors' Corner

Lower School-Small groups will continue in the Lower School. Classroom guidance has been moving right along! The students will be discussing qualities of a good friend this month. Hope everyone had a wonderful break!

Upper School-Counseling groups will continue with some new additions based on the needs of our students. There will be two new counseling interns starting in January. Lauren Matarasso, an undergraduate from the U of D. and Tesia Williams, a graduate student from Wilmington U. are both looking forward to working with students at the Upper School.

Ms Kristin Nannas

Mrs. Barbara Berrick



Classroom Highlights



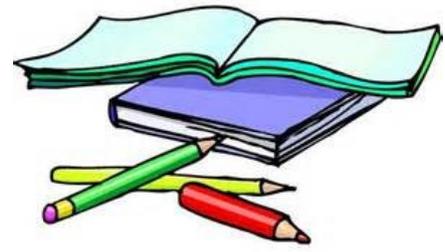
Second Grade

Our second grade students have been quite the owl experts lately. The students were given a specific owl to research. They did a wonderful job researching by identifying important information, taking notes, writing rough drafts, editing, and completing final copies. They used this research to create fantastic books on their given owl. They even added non-fiction text features to their books!

In January, the second graders will be learning all about the many helpers we have in our community. The students will gain an appreciation for the jobs that so many people do to make communities so special. Since we are fortunate enough to know so many community helpers, the students will write letters thanking them for doing such an amazing job. This will be a great way for them to learn how to write a friendly letter.

In Mathematics, the second graders will be practicing subtraction with and without regrouping. They will also learn how to check their subtraction work by using addition. The students will use this skill, along with many others, to answer word problems using the correct operation and strategy.

We are looking forward to beginning the 2014 year with so many exciting and interesting things to learn!!!! Happy New Year from the Second Grade Team!



5th grade

Science: Mixtures & Solutions Unit. Students investigate basic concepts of chemistry (periodic table introduced) – properties of mixtures and solutions, dissolving a solid in a solvent, concentration and saturation of a solution, evidence of chemical reaction, evaporation, and crystal formation. Students gain experience with laboratory tools and techniques.

Reading: Reading and writing poetry, focusing on the THEME of the poem.

Math: Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators and multiplying and dividing fractions.

5th Grade Team



Music

The music department at Odyssey along with the help of the Greek staff kicked off the Holiday season with two winter concert programs. The upper school began a new tradition of a formal evening concert including the debut of Odyssey's Concert band and Choirs. In addition to these new groups there were performances by the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade on recorder playing festive holiday music as well as a presentation of holiday songs in Greek to round out the program. +

The lower school presented a holiday concert as well, in the upper school gym, to continue the festivities of the season. Ms. Dries presented "A Bugz Christmas" with the Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students. The lower school finished out their winter concert with Greek holiday songs and traditional Greek dances.

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and faculty members that helped to make these performance an absolute success.

Middle School Highlights



In (6th grade) Social Studies, we have been studying Civics. We learned about different types of governments, focusing on democracies. We learned about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Our unit on Civics culminated with a series of lessons called "Stranded!", in which students pretended that during a class vacation to Greece, their plane crash-landed on a deserted island! Students engaged in a practical exercise exploring the main functions of government. Our students created their own rules for the island (writing laws), assigned responsibilities to each member (levying taxes), met, and established relationships with other groups on the island (conducting foreign policy) and had to deal with the threat of a dangerous band of pirates on the island (declaring war)! All in all, everyone enjoyed this unit and learned a lot about the powers of government. We are looking forward to future units in Social Studies dealing with History and Economics.

Mr. Corcoran

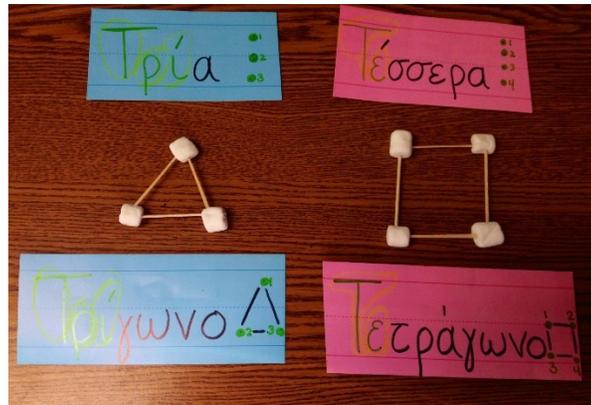
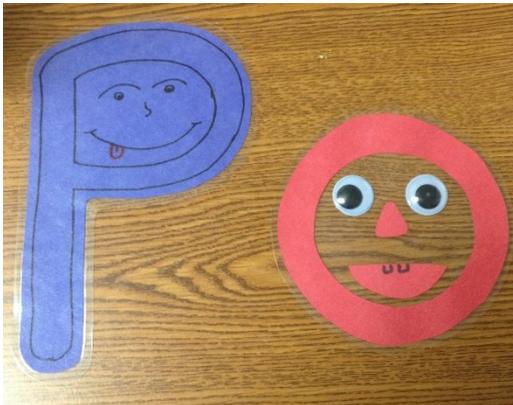
Social Studies teacher

Greek Class

Kindergarten

In Greek language we are reading stories about Greek letters and learning how to make new syllable sounds!

In Greek math we are learning about the relationship between the names of shapes and the numbers of corners they have. We are also building shapes out of tasty marshmallow corners!



Art Class

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

Lower School

Kindergarten did a study on winter holidays around the world and made Diwali Rangoli designs. We focused on shape and color patterns.

First grade is studying pointillism with a focus on French artist Georges Seurat. After the holidays, we will move on to a post-impressionism study with a unit on Vincent Van Gogh.
<http://www.starfall.com/n/artmusic/seurat/load.htm?f>



Second graders wrapped up their classroom research projects about owls by making representations of their assigned species in the art room. Some of the owls we made include: gray, elf, eastern screech, buffy fish and spectacled owls.

Upper/Middle School

3rd and 4th grade students are finishing up their cone optical illusions where they learned about the effects of using shadows on 3-d shapes going back in the distance. They produced images that move and look very realistic.

5th grade students are making clay house out of cubes, pyramids, cylinders... They also added details with windows, doors, porches, and various textures. Some of the students were very creative and made pineapple, igloo, and satellite houses.

6th graders finished up their colorful and bold African masks and are now creating their clay coil pots. Some are adding clay beads, braids, and swirls on the outside of their coil pots.

Check out the clay process at:

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



Art Club

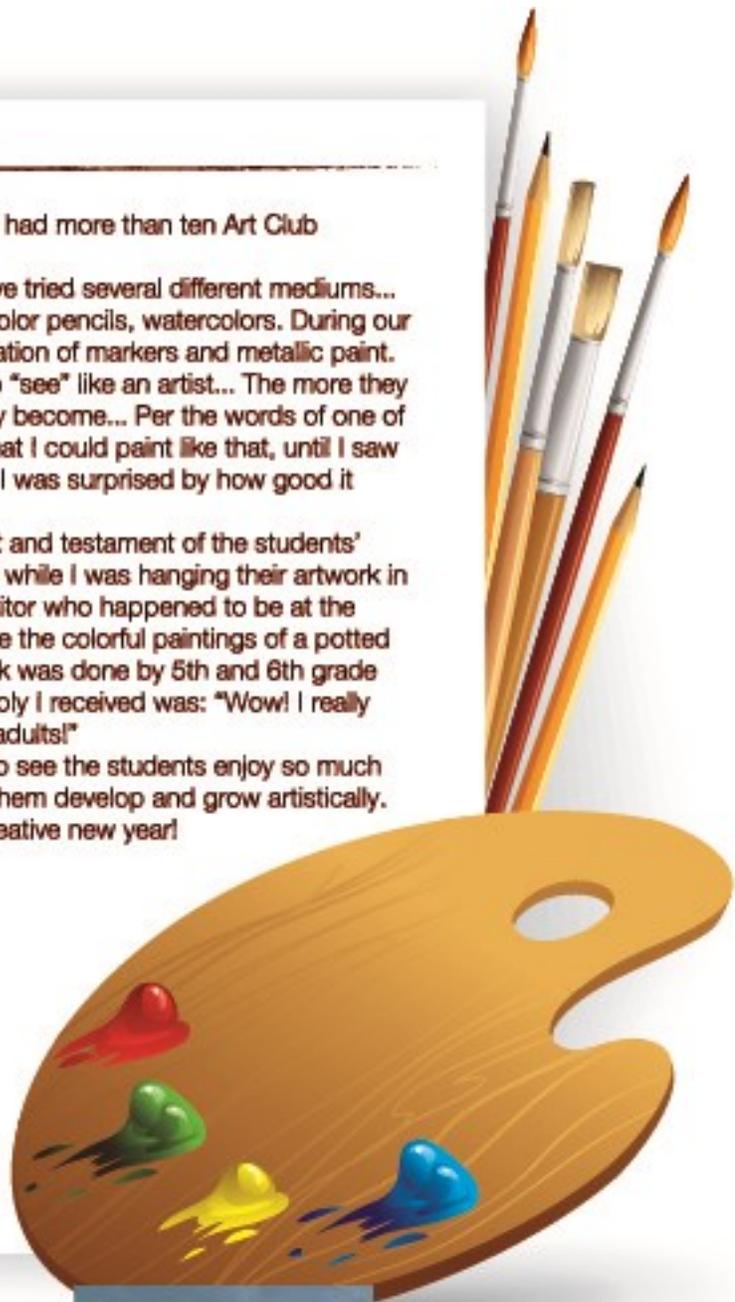
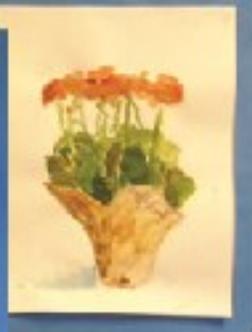
I cannot believe we have already had more than ten Art Club sessions!

During this time the students have tried several different mediums... such as charcoal, pencil, watercolor pencils, watercolors. During our last session they used a combination of markers and metallic paint. The students are learning how to "see" like an artist... The more they practice, the more confident they become... Per the words of one of the students... "I did not know that I could paint like that, until I saw my work hanging in the hallway. I was surprised by how good it was!"

Another unexpected compliment and testament of the students' wonderful work was given to me while I was hanging their artwork in the hallway near the library. A visitor who happened to be at the school that day paused to admire the colorful paintings of a potted plant. I explained that the artwork was done by 5th and 6th grade members of the Art Club. The reply I received was: "Wow! I really thought that they were done by adults!"

It has been very fulfilling for me to see the students enjoy so much what they are doing and to see them develop and grow artistically. I wish you all a wonderful and creative new year!

Eva Jannelli



OCS is Now an Examination Center

The OCS has been recently accredited by the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Culture and Sports and the Centre for the Greek Language as an examination center for the Exams for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek Language and Culture. OCS's Examination Centre number is 10021.



Our students and other students or adults from the broader area will sit for exams for the first time in May 2014.

The Certificate of Attainment in Greek The Certificate of Attainment in Greek was established in 1998. It is an official test that examines the second/foreign language learners in their various skills in Greek. People who obtain the Ellinomatheia certification are recognized worldwide for their language qualifications, which can be used to study in universities in Greece and in Europe or for professional reasons.

Certificates are issued for successful candidates at any of the following six levels of attainment in Greek: A1, A2, B1, B2, Γ1 and Γ2. The levels are linked to the corresponding levels of the Common European Framework (CEFR).

Certificate of Attainment in Greek for Professional Purposes The Certificate of Attainment in Greek for Professional Purposes was established upon recommendation of the European Commission to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs for reasons of compliance of the national legislation to European Union rules. It is intended for professionals who are European Union citizens and who wish to work in Greece and have to prove their proficiency in Greek. Candidates are tested at level A2 of the Common European Framework (CEFR).

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ELLINOMATHEIA EXAMS 2014

The Ellinomatheia Examination Centre of the OCS (10021) would like to inform all interested participants that registrations for the Ellinomatheia exams will be taking place from February 3, 2014 until March 21, 2014.

The exams are open to everyone and will take place at OCS campuses as follows:

A1 (elementary knowledge for children, ages 8-12)

Tuesday morning on May 20th, 2014

A1 (elementary knowledge for teenagers and adults)

Tuesday morning on May 20th, 2014

A2 (basic knowledge)

Tuesday afternoon, on May 20th, 2014

B1 (average knowledge)

Wednesday evening, on May 21st, 2014

B2 (good knowledge)

Wednesday morning on May 21st, 2014

C1 (very good knowledge)

Wednesday evening on May 21st, 2014

C2 (excellent knowledge)

Thursday morning on May 22nd, 2014

Please Note:

You will need to bring a copy of the applicant's passport.

An oral examination will follow the written exam.

For more information, please:

Call OCS at 302-655-5760 and ask for Mrs. Demetra Rassia

Visit the website of the Centre for the Greek Language

www.greeklanguage.gr/certification/node/16

Study the guide to the examination for the certificate of attain-

ment in Greek <http://www.greeklanguage.gr/certification/sites/greeklanguage.gr.certification/files/guide2012.pdf>

Preparatory Course: Certificate of Attainment in Greek, Levels A1 and A2

OCS offers to everyone who has completed three or more years of Modern Greek Language Study preparatory courses for the Certificate of Attainment in Greek, Levels A1 and A2, on Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 a.m.(see OCS's website)

For our OCS students (kindergarten to Grade 8), our curriculum allows them to obtain certification for levels A1, A2, B1, B2 after age 8. The OCS Curriculum is based on the precept of Greek being a second/foreign language and follows the FLES Curriculum, ACTFL's standards <http://www.actfl.org/publications/all/national-standards-foreign-language-education> and the levels and objectives which are tested for in the Ellinomatheia exams.

With the help of our educators, who are specially trained in the FLES Curriculum and in the levels of Ellinomatheia, our purpose is to encourage our students to take part in the exams, enabling themselves to assess what they are learning at OCS and to obtain an official certificate recognized worldwide.

In the future (in grades 8 and above) we are going to introduce our students to the Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek that has been aligned to the Checkpoint B learning standards for LOTE (Languages other than English). The certificate is taken under consideration for Regents credits in foreign language studies for qualified students of public and nonpublic schools. It is widely accepted by public school principals in the State of New York and elsewhere in the USA and has benefited thousands of students since 1973.