

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS



May/June 2014

Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

Assistant Headmaster Ms. Jackie Pastis

Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Denise Parks

Our final newsletter of the year brings many end of the year events, celebrations, field trips, and shows. On the next page you will see 20 important dates for May and June. It was a great experience being able to create and see what amazing things we are doing here at Odyssey. I hope you enjoyed reading the newsletter as much as I did putting it together. Have a wonderful summer and see you next year!

Mrs. Ciriaco

— [] Inside this issue:

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Important Dates

May

3rd- Upper School Spelling Bee
9th- 3rd grade to White Clay Creek Park
7th and 15th- Kindergarten to Coverdale Farms
9th and 21st- \$2 Dress Down Day to benefit Field Day
13th- Science Fair
15th and 16th- 2nd grade to Bellevue State Park
15th- Bully Presentation for parents 6:30-9:30
16th- 6th grade to U of D Robotics Department
20th- 3rd grade to Meaningful Economics competition
21st- Spring Concert at Upper School *see page 13 for details
21st- 4th grade to ME competition
22nd- 5th and 6th grade to ME comp.
22nd- 5th grade to the Delaware Art Museum
29th- 2nd grade visit 3rd grade's Mini Society

June

3rd-DCAS celebration for upper school students
3rd- Art Show for Lower School students *see page 12 for details
4th- 4th grade to Philadelphia
5th- Art show for upper school students (at the upper school)
6th- Field Day for all students
9th- Last Day of School for Kindergarten
10th- Last Day of School for 1st through 6th Grades

Counselor's Corner

Counselor's Corner:

This is a reminder that on **Thursday May 15th** we will be presenting a **Bully Prevention Evening for Parents from 6:30-7:30 in the Upper School Gymnasium.**

The guest speaker will be :

Patricia Dailey Lewis

Deputy Attorney General

Delaware Department of Justice

Mrs. Dailey has worked in the field of family and child advocacy since 1985 and is an Adjunct Professor at Widener University School of Law.

Mrs. Berrick





IT'S SPRING!

IT'S TIME FOR SAFETY REMINDERS!

With spring comes more fun outside. All this extra exercise is great for our bodies and minds! Sometimes, though, injuries and illness happen. Here are a few reminders about staying healthy and safe as we get back outside more.

HEAD INJURY PREVENTION/ WEAR HELMETS

The best way to avoid head injury is to wear a helmet.

Few children get through childhood without falling on their heads at least once. Most of the time, no problems result, but a child should be watched closely for several days after a fall for signs of concussion. **CALL THE DOCTOR IF:** If your child seems excessively sleepy or confused, feels weak or decreased coordination, nausea/vomiting, slurred speech, complains of headaches or visual disturbances, or if they have a seizure. Your child may develop a bruise or “goose egg” on the head; however, the size of a bump does not indicate the seriousness of the injury. Apply ice to prevent swelling. If your child is sent home from school with a head injury they need to be watched carefully for the above signs of serious injury. Notify your child’s school if your child was injured at home, so staff can monitor them for signs indicating a more serious injury.

SPRAINS & STRAINS

Occasionally children are hurt while playing. The best treatment is prevention, but if that fails, the recommended treatment for these type of injuries include:

R-REST THE INJURED PART

I-AN ICE OR COLD PACK APPLIED, with a cloth covering

C-COMPRESSION SUPPORT BANDAGE

E-ELEVATE THE INJURED LIMB TO REDUCE SWELLING

When you apply ice packs to the site you need to place a barrier (towel) between the ice pack and your skin to prevent frostbite. Ice is to be applied for 20 minutes and removed for at least 20 minutes then reapplied. Some physicians recommend heat or warm soaks after the first 48 hours. Consult your doctor to verify their preferred method of treatment. Also consult your doctor if your child experiences significant discomfort, if swelling is present, or

INSECT BITES

Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools and flowering gardens. Don't use scented soaps, perfumes, or hair sprays on your child. **Repellents appropriate for children should contain no more than 10% DEET**, because the chemical when absorbed through the skin can cause harm.

To remove a stinger gently scrape with a credit card or your fingernail. If your child has an insect bite allergy, inform their teacher or school nurse and make the appropriate medication available to the school to respond to an emergency situation.

SUNBLOCK

Warmer, sunnier days, also means more sun exposure and risk of sunburns. We encourage students to prevent skin damage by bringing hats to wear outside, and applying **sunscreen SPF 15+** before school. If a student is to use sunscreen at school, they must store it in their book bag, and your child must be able to apply it independently. As the days get warmer, encourage your kids to seek shade, particularly in the middle of the day and to use shady areas during breaks, lunchtimes, sports and trips.

DRINK WATER

When the temperatures soar as they often do during the months of May through August, children like adults, can find themselves at risk for heat related illness. When children are busy and having fun they forget to drink fluids and may dehydrate. Symptoms of dehydration are varied and can include, but are not limited to: dry mouth, dizziness, weakness, muscle cramps, weak or rapid pulse, confusion, fainting and nausea. Relying solely on thirst is often a poor indicator of hydration. By the time a child is thirsty, he is already dehydrated.

In hot weather, a child's response to physical activity is different from adults for several reasons:

- * Children use more energy than adults while doing the same thing.
- * Children have a low sweating capacity.
- * Children's body core temperature rises at a higher rate during dehydration.

For these reasons it is extremely important to monitor the amount of fluids your child consumes. Encourage children to start the day with fluids, i.e. milk and juice and continue drinking throughout the day. Watery fruits and vegetables, such as watermelon,

Classroom Highlights



Kindergarten

How fast a year goes by! It seems that we were just getting acquainted at “*Sneak A Peek*” and now those first *fear* jitters are a thing of the past! Our kindergarten team is confident that the students exiting kindergarten this year are so well prepared for the rigors of first grade.

As always it has been our pleasure getting to know and work with each and every child.

We welcomed two new teachers to our team this year. Ms. Stephanie Sieminski and Mrs. Rachel Ontjes. They have done an amazing job working with our students and staff to become part of our amazing OCS program.

We will close this school year with a field trip to the farm, field day, picnics and of course end of the year testing! Enjoy your summer and see you in the fall.

The Kindergarten Team

First Grade



First graders are in full bloom and growing each and every day in preparation of 2nd grade right around the corner! The first graders are busy prepping for our annual Mother's Day **MA SPA** event! They are super excited to invite their moms in-to school for a day full of pampering. From nails and hair to back massages, what mom wouldn't love this relaxing day away from work! It's a tiny way for them to say "thanks" for everything moms do!

We are super egg-cited to spend one-week caring for and raising **baby chicks** from the New Castle County 4-H Embryology Program. As part of a culminating activity with our organisms unit, the students will get the opportunity to gain hands-on life experience by hatching chicks in the classroom. The students will learn all about the life cycle of a chick. This year sure has flown by in first grade! Have a safe

summer and happy reading!



Second Grade

In May, Second Grade is gearing up for a great end of the year. We are working on Theme 6: The Talent Show. The students will explore many different talents as we read a variety of stories based on realistic fiction to strengthen their reading skills. These skills include acknowledging different characters' point of view. Also, they will practice answering questions such as who, what, where, when and why to determine a greater understanding of key details within the text. In writing, we are working on personal narrative pieces based on a favorite family tradition. In Math we will be concentrating on fractions. The students will be able to recognize and draw various shapes into equal parts. They will understand how fractions are important in their everyday lives.

Third Grade

Third graders returned from Spring Break with great enthusiasm and energy as we are ready to finish up ALL our learning goals for the year!



In reading, we applied our “close reading” strategies and read four different science articles to answer the key question: *How does water change the Earth’s surface*. Students worked in groups to read closely, understand and to discuss each different article. We then located evidence in the text to answer the key question.

In math, we finished our Measurement and Graphing unit and are beginning a review of third grade curricula as we concentrate on word problems and applying ALL our math strategies. Is your child a Multiplication Master? Many students are, as we continue learning our multiplication facts! Parents are working with their child for at least 5 minutes every night and sign a multiplication facts log. Remember that mastery of multiplication facts means *automaticity* and third graders must master their facts by the end of third grade.

Having finished persuasive writing, we are now moving on to creative story writing! We are “rolling a story” where we roll a dice for ideas in choosing our main character, the setting, the problem and the solution to our story. Students are very excited about this unit, as they are becoming great story tellers! We can’t wait to share these original stories.

We also finished our last science unit, which was on water; the only element on Earth that comes in three states of matter (solid, liquid and gas). We conducted water observations to identify properties of water, we built a thermometer (Greek word!) and we compared hot and cold water, sinking/floating, evaporation, condensation and of course water energy that comes from a water wheel. Third graders will also go to their second field trip for the year to White Clay Creek State Park, where we will apply what we learned in our Rocks & Minerals unit.

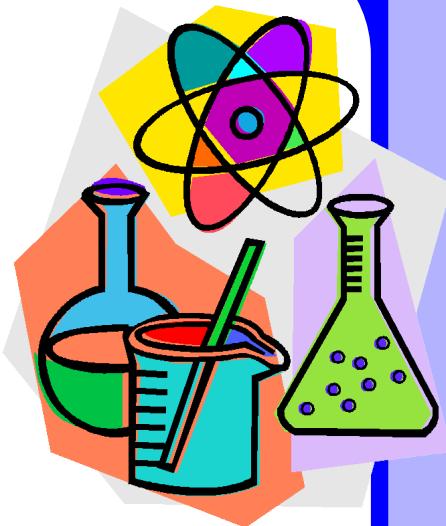
Third graders are anticipating our famous “Mini-Society” economics (Greek word!) social studies unit. We will be learning economic concepts such as, saving and spending money, advertising and creating our own business, pricing, buying and selling! They will earn “money” for doing homework and following our society’s laws. Second graders as well as parents will come in to shop and the real money raised will go into a culminating 3rd grade picnic at Brandywine Springs Park.

Lastly, as part of our Greek Program’s initiative with the Center for Hellenic Studies of Harvard University in Nafplion, Greece, Mrs. Yiantzos’ class is collaborating and will be teleconferencing with third grade students in Mr. Ioannis Nakis’ class! We are preparing a “video book” and power-point presentation of our Western Expansion/Lewis & Clark/Delaware unit. Mr. Nakis’ students will share some of the local history of their city/state. We can’t wait to meet them!

Third graders had in an amazing year of learning!

Fourth Grade

We've had a wonderful year in fourth grade! We would like to sincerely thank all of our students for their hard work and the families who have supported their child's academic and personal growth this year. The fourth grade teachers are excited about the forthcoming last few weeks of learning and growing with our students!



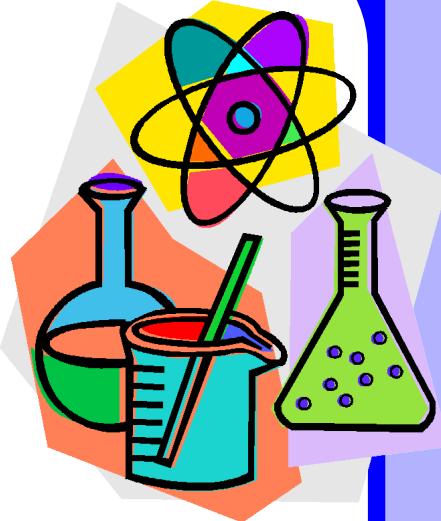
We would like to congratulate our students for their outstanding effort on the first round of spring standardized testing, while also reminding our students and their families to keep in mind that we still have a number of assessments to take before we conclude our year. We ask parents and guardians to continue to encourage and support their child to work hard at night as well as in school each day, especially on the upcoming assessments.

We would like to send a sincere thank you to everyone for their support of our Ellis Simulation that occurred prior to break. We feel very fortunate to have had the media, both ABC News and Delaware Online, share coverage of the event, thanks to the upper school secretary, Mrs. Principe's, efforts. However, we are most grateful for being able to provide our students with such a quality learning experience. We would like to also thank all the parent and staff volunteers who assisted in the preparation and the actual simulation. Last, thank you to Mrs. Seipel for reaching out to the Delaware Children's Theatre, who graciously allowed us to borrow adult costumes. The simulation simply wouldn't be the same without these costumes! In addition, Mrs. Seipel picked up the costumes, delivered them to the school, and took them back to the theatre! This was a huge undertaking and the fourth grade teachers are immensely grateful for this assistance!

Thank you, as always, to our students and families for the support and effort in all that we do and learn in fourth grade! We are so happy to come to school each day and be a part of our students' lives.

Fifth Grade

Biography Research Unit begins in March. Students will learn about important people who have had a positive effect on society and the world. The people that we will be researching have made a historical significance. We will be following the 5th grade writing standards for research and write a five paragraph essay. Biography Research and Speech Presentations went very well. All students engage effectively in their research and also in speaking and listening to their peers. They came prepared, posed and responded to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others. This was a large unit that encompassed many grades in reading and writing.



In Science we started studying Motion & Design. Students learn that a force is any push or pull on an object and that an unbalanced force is needed to make an object start to move, stop moving, or change direction. They will explore forces such as friction and air resistance. They investigate energy using the simples of devices – a rubber band. They will also gain knowledge in building design requirements, test their vehicles and modify their design plans.

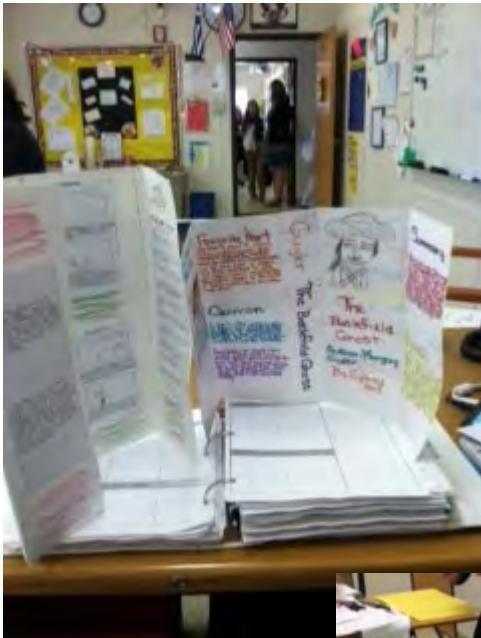
Math – Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and addition. Classify two dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.

DCAS Science testing is fast approaching! This assessment is a culmination of all science lessons since Kindergarten! This includes, Delaware inquiry standard, physical science, earth science, and life science standards. We will be incorporating science into our reading and writing lessons. We will also practice our speaking and listening skills during research presentations on the earth, life, and physical sciences that we have learned throughout educational years in Odyssey!

Middle School Highlights

6th Grade ELA:

The 6th grade has finished their final genre assigned book report. Students completed different creative book reports. Students identified different story elements from their book. As we get closer to the end of the school year, 6th grade will begin working on their Greek god/goddess research paper. Lastly, 6th grade is preparing for the second round of spring DCAS testing!



6th Grade Science

Our friends in 6th grade are digging deep into their Earth History unit, learning about different types of rocks and the Rock Cycle. After learning about igneous and metamorphic rocks, students are currently examining common types of sedimentary rocks and how they are formed. Students were able to observe and compare rocks exposed at two locations within the Grand Canyon, the North Canyon and the Nankoweap Canyon. By identifying common properties, such as color, texture and presence of fossils, as well as utilizing an acid test, students correlated similar rocks at the two sites to better understand how the Colorado Plateau comprises many layers of rock. In the upcoming week, students will continue their investigations on sedimentary rocks by making their own sandstone, shale and limestone layers in a basin and creating calcium carbonate by blowing into limewater!



Art Class

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



Lower School Art

Kindergarten has completed their unit on the art of the ancient Aboriginal people of Australia.

We watched some videos of Aboriginal dance and a didgeridoo concert, and made bark paintings of our favorite animals. Watch a young lady play the didgeridoo here:

<http://vimeo.com/38531855>

First grade is working on making their own tints and shades of their favorite colors and will begin a unit on Pablo Picasso next week. We will learn about cubism and dissociation while making Picasso inspired portraits of our mommies for Mother's Day! Play a fun game at mrpicassohead.com

Second grade has begun a unit on blown glass artist, Dale Chihuly. Since we can't blow glass at school and don't have a 2200 degree oven, we will use coffee filters and spray starch to create macchia designs.

We watched this amazing video of Chihuly's studio in class: <http://vimeo.com/19463157>

You can see his impressive work in person at the Delaware Art Museum and the Borgata hotel in Atlantic City.



Upper School Art

Save the Date!



Odyssey Charter School Art Show

Lower School Showcase: Tues. June 3

Upper School Showcase: Thurs. June 5

Spring Concert- “Music in the Park”

On May 21st Odyssey Charter School will host its **Spring Concert in the Upper School gymnasium.**

The concert was originally supposed to be held at a different location but had to be moved because of a facility issue. Parents please note this change of location.



Also because of limited capacity the concert will have two separate parts:

3rd and 4th grade Chorus, A Band, and 3rd and 4th grade Greek songs will start at 6:00pm. Students should arrive at 5:30pm for preparations.

5th and 6th grade Chorus, B Band, and 5th and 6th grade Greek songs will start at 7:30pm. Students should arrive at 7:00pm for preparations.

There will be a break in between the first half and the second half so that those who participated in the first half can leave, and we have enough room to accommodate parents and relative for the second half of the concert.

The concert will also have a theme of “Music in the Park.” We are trying to bring the outside in and make the audience feel like they are enjoying an outdoor concert. To help create this atmosphere, we are encouraging all families to bring **beach chairs, lawn chairs or anything you might sit on for an outdoor concert.**

We hope to see you there!



Lower School Greek Class

Since the last newsletter, first graders have been busy with **FRA/FRACTIONS**.

The children enjoyed this unit very much. Two of our favorite activities were fraction pizzas and fraction kites.

We have since then moved to the unit of geometry. Children have been learning all about plain shapes, angles and sides.

We expect that the unit of Geometry will be completed in the next two weeks.

We hope that the fractions kites "flew" home. If not, here is another one to brighten these spring rainy days!

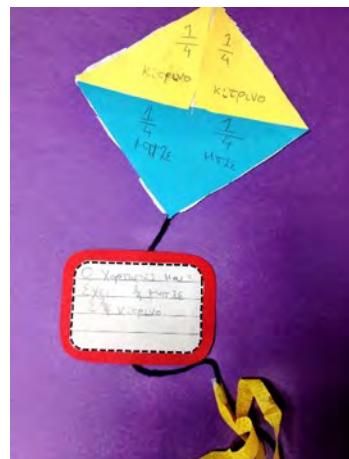
Niki and Evi

In kindergarten Greek we have been learning about Greek food and Greek money (Euros). In Greek language we made menus and in Greek math we made Greek money and added prices to our menus. We will end the unit by role playing a Greek Taverna restaurant where we order and pay for food.

in Greek.

Hrysoula Χρυσούλα Davis, MA

Odyssey Charter School



Upper School Greek Class

6th Grade Greek Feast

On Friday, April 11, our 6th graders were treated to a delicious lunchtime feast of some authentic Greek cuisine. This was another exciting step in the yearlong journey through the “Trip to Greece” curriculum. The students have already had many experiences through the use of multimedia, discussions and conversations.



This “multisensory” experience gave them an opportunity to share a meal and a social event together, while having the opportunity to sample three homemade traditional baked dishes: tyropita (cheese pie), spanakopita (spinach pie) and pastitsio (similar to lasagna). A special thanks to Eleni Katapodi for cooking all the dishes!



Another recent experience for our students came with the classroom visits by our own Kathryn Standish, the Curriculum Coordinator for OCS, to whom we owe a big Thank you! In her presentation to the students, Ms. Standish shared slides, stories and impressions about her recent trip to Greece (Athens and the volcanic island of Santorini). It was very valuable for our students to hear about Greece from the perspective of an American visitor. There were lively discussions and the students asked many good questions!

Kyriakoula Micha, M.S.Ed.

Panagiotis Tsakalis, M.A., Ph.D.

Odyssey Charter School

6th Grade Greek Language



Art Club

The older Art Club group completed their artwork for the parallel project with the school from Greece. I think you will agree with me that the end result is amazing!

The students who collaborated on the large project are: Sara Grumbine, Rhys Levine, Emily Ortiz, Maya Ganzke, Ella Jones and Erin Lay. The single figures were created by Zarina Stones and Leopold Pullella.

We will hold our teleconference with Greece on May 10th. We are all looking forward to getting to know the Greek students, as well as exchange ideas with them.

Overall, we had a very productive year in the Art Club. The students put their heart and soul in everything they did. Their artistic growth is undeniable. I enjoyed teaching them very much... and I hope to be able to continue to do so next year.

Thank you all for your continuous support.

Have a great summer!

Eva M. Jannelli



Reading Specialist Team

Summer Reading Tips for Parents

Efforts should be made during the summer to help children sustain reading skills, practice reading and read for enjoyment. Reading builds visualization, thinking and language abilities. Following are a few tips to make reading enjoyable for your children this summer:

1. Read aloud together with your child every day.

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you.

2. Set a good example!

Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.

3. Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

This is the way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.

4. Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction.

It will only discourage the reading habit.

5. Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability.

Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

6. Take your children to the library regularly.

Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children.

7. Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Highlights for Children*, or *National Geographic World*.

Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

8. Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals.

Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email is another option.

9. Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices.

Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

10. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.

Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

Article adapted from www.readingrockets.org by Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities



Enrichment Program Updates

I can't believe that the end of the year is closing in so quickly. It has been a whirlwind. Thank you for your support of your students and of this new program. As with all new programs, there are kinks to iron out. I'm looking forward to a fresh new school year and have many plans to improve ACE. Your suggestions are welcome! I have finished setting up our ACE blog to keep you updated on what's happening in our classes and special programs. That address is <http://ambersmith76.edublogs.org/>. Please check it out when you have a chance. Next year, with your permission, students will be able to write and update our blog right along with me!

All ACE pull-out students are currently working on their last project of the year. We will be doing much of the research at school but they will be organizing their presentations at home. I would like these turned in mid-May but they may take some extra time if needed. If they wait until the end of the month, I can't guarantee that they will get to present their project to the class so please encourage them to turn them in earlier.

Math Olympiad officially ended on May 29th when teams of selected 4th and 5th grade "mathletes" competed in the Egg Harbor Township Tournament for Jersey Shore Athletes. I am happy to report that both teams worked hard and represented the Odyssey Owls well. I'm excited to announce that our 5th grade was awarded second place in the team competition. Our own Nathan Donohue earned 2nd place in the individual competition. Congratulations to all!

Sixth Grade ACE has been working on a service learning project to benefit Forgotten Cats (www.forgottencats.org). This is a local organization that cares for homeless cats. They will be running a Bake Sale during our Upper School Spelling Bee on Saturday, May 3rd. I am very proud of the work they put into researching their cause and organizing this fundraiser.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF THE UPPER SCHOOL SPELLING BEE PARTICIPANTS! I'm excited to see the results of all your studying!

Once again, thank you for supporting your students and the ACE program.

Amber Smith
Academic Acceleration & Enrichment
Odyssey Charter School
1-302-655-5760 Ext. 219

PTO News

Gift Card Fundraiser

The pick up times for the gift cards are:

Friday, May 2: 7:30 am to 9:00 am & 2:30pm to 4pm
@ the lower school.
Wednesday, May 7: 6 pm-8pm
@ the upper school.

Cards **WILL NOT** be sent home in back packs. Any questions can be directed to Louise Antenucci at noochfred@msn.com

Staff Appreciation Week

Our committee has some very exciting plans for our amazing OCS Staff and emails will be sent via the PTO so we can keep some things a surprise. Please keep an eye out for those emails and if you need to be added, please contact Danielle Wenzel at wenzeldn@udel.edu.

We will need volunteers, donations and supporters please contact Kathleen Seipel at kdseipel@comcast.net for more information on how you can help.

WE REACHED OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL

We have completed the final counts for our Paving the Way to Our Future Fundraiser and we are happy to announce that with your donations we have raised **\$31,184** that is \$11,184 over our goal of \$20,000!

Thank you to everyone who made a donation. This is an amazing amount of money and ALL of it will go back into YOUR child's classroom.

We are humbled by your generosity and we are so grateful.

Thank You!

Scholastic Book Fair

May 12th - May 16th



To volunteer please see the contacts below:

Lower School: Jen Fleming

jraign@yahoo.com

Upper School: Naomi Hoffman
naomi@americanwhale.com



The following PTO Volunteer positions are in need of Chairpersons for the 2014-2015 school year:

Labels for Education—Family Fun Nights
Fundraising Chair—Field Day—Pizza Friday LS

Keep in mind that if we do not have chairpersons or volunteers the events or fundraising opportunities will not happen.

Changing for the Better

With OCS growing every year so has the demand of the PTO Board. For this reason the PTO By-Laws were edited and approved this year. There will be two additional VP and Secretary positions added to the board as well as duty changes for the President and the Treasurer. The PTO strives to support our families, teachers, staff and board members.

The following positions are new to the board:

Vice President of Membership, Recording Secretary & Correspondence Secretary Voting for all board positions will be voted on at the May PTO meeting.

Nominations will only be accepted with consent of the nominee and must have their full contact information before submission to the PTO.

For a complete look at the by-laws please visit: http://odysseycharterchooldel.com/pto_bylaws.html