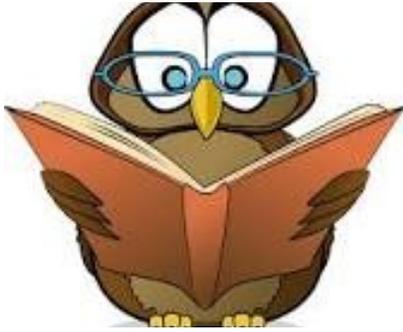


ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS



November 2013

Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

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

Important Dates:

11/6 PTO Meeting

11/8 Teacher In-service
No school for students

11/11 School closed

11/13 5th grade ecosystems field trip

Thank you for voting for your favorite school, Odyssey Charter for the **Give With Target Campaign!** We received a check from Target to be used for school items.

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



Login: Sani.chalima@odyssey.k12.de.us
Password: ocsyearbook2014

For example: Halloween, 5K, Winter events, etc.

Inside this issue:

Important Dates/thanks/yearbook	1
Reading Specialist/Counselors' Corner	2
Classroom Highlights	4-5
Middle School Highlights	6-7
Art class/ Art Club/Greek Class	8-9
PTO News/Olympic Education	10-11

Tips for Parents to Encourage Higher Order Thinking
Adapted from www.readwritethink.org

Why Use This Tip? A main goal of educators today is to teach students the skills they need to be critical thinkers. Instead of simply memorizing facts and ideas, children need to engage in higher levels of thinking to reach their fullest potential. Practicing Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills outside of school will give kids the tools that they need to understand, infer, connect, categorize, synthesize, evaluate, and apply the information they know to find solutions to new and existing problems.

What Can You Do? Families and out-of-school educators can play a significant role in encouraging higher order thinking with their children, even when having a casual conversation. Asking open-ended questions that don't have one "right" answer gives children confidence to respond in creative ways without being afraid of being "wrong." Below are more examples of questions to ask your child to spark discussion, make them think critically, and encourage higher order thinking after reading a text:

"What do you think might happen next?" or "Can you explain what is happening?"

"Does this remind you of anything from your life?" or "What makes the character different...?"

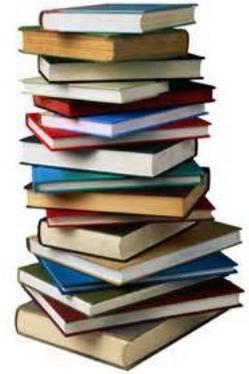
"Can you tell me about what you read today?" or "What is the main idea?" or "What is the theme...?"

"Why did the character act that way?" or "What questions would you ask in an interview with...?"

"What choice would you have made?" or "Can you propose an alternative...?"

"Tell me something you learned about this subject." or "Why is the information in this book important?"

From the OCS Reading Department



Counselors' Corner



The Kindergarteners are working with "jellybean friends" to learn about handling various situations. We are currently helping Angry Arlene cope with her feelings and choose positive behaviors. First grade is reviewing the importance of tattling vs. reporting. Second grade is discussing all their unique and special traits. The students are identifying how these qualities positively contribute to our classrooms and school.

Guidance lessons in third grade will focus on learning about the variety of traditional and non-traditional careers. Fourth and fifth grade will continue with their Seasons of Respect lessons focusing on respecting self and others. Fourth grade will have a cyber-bullying presentation at the end of November covering such topics as Cyber Citizenship, Cyber Bullying, Cyber Security, and Personal Safety.

Classroom Highlights

First Grade

First grade is still into all sorts of fun! We finished October with a week themed around bats. We explored both fiction and non-fiction texts to learn all about the senses, habits and different species of these nocturnal animals. If you see a first grader, ask about his or her favorite “batty fact!”



This month we will read *Turkeys in Disguise* by Scarlet Honeycutt. Each first grader will design his or her own “Turkey in Disguise.” Be sure to check them out – you won’t even recognize them as turkeys! We are looking forward to finishing the month with our annual Thanksgiving Feast. Happy Thanksgiving from first grade!

THIRD GRADE

The third grade teachers welcomed their students to the Upper School and we’re off and running to a great start!

In language arts, we have finished a unit on Literary Genres and have started a Book Club, reading *Charlotte’s Web*. We are applying our reading strategies (Reading is Thinking!) to all types of fiction and non-fiction texts. In writing, third grade is learning how to write our very own narrative stories, concentrating on writing small (seed) moments...as opposed to a big (watermelon) topic. Students are applying their spelling patterns to their writing and are also enjoying how to write in cursive.

In math, we have completed several units - place value, rounding, addition and subtraction concepts and we are ready to learn multiplication and division! Students should continue practicing their addition & subtraction facts up to 20 until they become automatic. By the end of third grade, students will also be expected to master their multiplication (0-10) facts. We communicate our mathematical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as master our computation skills every day.

In social studies, we have finished our civics unit on communities, rights, responsibilities and privileges. Our third graders are becoming such great Odyssey OWLS! In science, we are finishing up one of our favorite units - the human body. We learned about our skeletal, muscular, nervous and circulatory systems. We used the scientific thinking process to conduct owl pellet investigations, build a human leg model and watch what happens as a stimulus triggers a response of our human body.

Thank you for sending us your children prepared and ready to learn every day!

Fifth Grade

Greeting from Fifth Grade! This month we have been hard at work on our first Science unit, Ecosystems. We have built our own fully sustainable ecosystems that grow grass, alfalfa, mustard seed, elodea, algae and duckweed. The ecosystems are home to crickets, pill bugs, mosquito fish and snails! It is very exciting observing these organisms daily. In continuing our unit we are taking our first field trip to Ashland Barn on Friday, November 1st to observe other organisms in their natural habitat.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has had an exciting month of October! We have kicked off our newest fall science curriculum about trees. The students in kindergarten become true scientists by making observations about trees, learning how to accurately draw trees, and properly labeling tree diagrams. The OCS kindergartens are not only able to tell you about the parts of the tree, but why those parts are important! We also take a closer look at leaves too!

As an extension of our trees unit, the kindergarten classes went on a field trip to Milburn Orchards! The students had the opportunity to learn about apple trees, types of apples, and the many ways Milburn Orchards uses their apples. The best part was when the students each had an opportunity to pick their own apple right from an apple tree! Our kindergarteners are becoming true tree experts!

On Monday, October 28th the Elsmere Fire Company visited Odyssey Charter School to do a special presentation for our Kindergarten students on Fire Safety.

Captain Rodriguez and his daughter, Firefighter Allen, held an informative assembly on Fire Safety in our Lower School gym. They discussed the importance of "Stop, Drop, and Roll!", calling 911 for a fire emergency, and having a "Family Plan" in place at home for fire safety.

Firefighter Allen, also explained the firefighter gear and demonstrated to the students how a firefighter (male or female) might look and sound if they were helping someone who was trapped by a fire. They also sounded the location device for firefighters who may be injured or trapped by a fire themselves.

Following the assembly, the students were treated to a tour of one of Station 16's firetrucks, complete with warning lights. The two firefighters reviewed all of the firetruck's equipment and it's importance. Afterwards, each class had their class picture taken in front of the firetruck!

Middle School Highlights

6th Grade Social Studies

In 6th grade social studies, we have just wrapped up our unit on geography. Students have created art projects and composed written reports as a final project for our geography unit. 6th graders explored the Five Themes of Geography: location, place, human/environment interaction, movement and regions. They have turned in a variety of colorful, informative and thought-provoking projects and writing pieces, which reflect all the interesting and exciting new things they have learned about in social studies.



– Mr. Corcoran

Greek

In 6th Grade continuing Greek Language classes, we focused on how students can present themselves and start/continue a conversation with new friends. All this preparation ended up with a plethora of wonderful “All about Me” Greek Boards, some of which are exhibited in the 6th Grade building hallway!

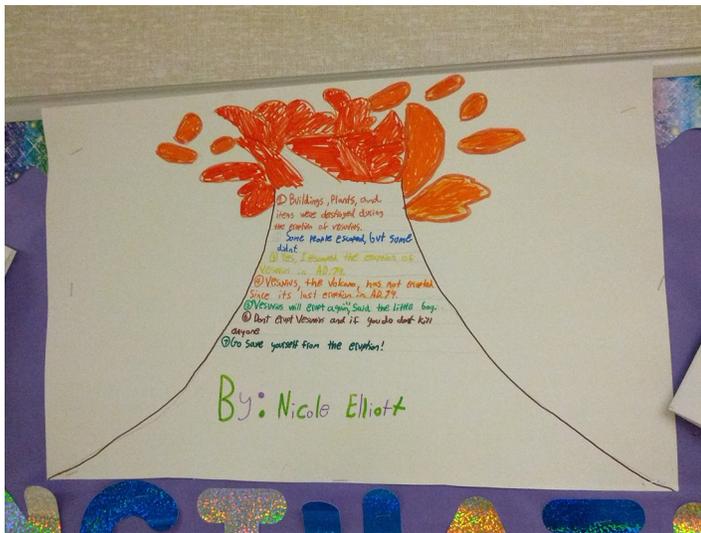
Our next project - a virtual trip to Greek Islands and mainland - has already started!!! We have already been working on what we need in order to make a trip to Greece (e.g. get a passport and arrange for a plane ticket) and we are about to get aboard, get through Greek customs, go to a hotel and then start enjoying the amazing Greek sites and fantastic cuisine we watched in some videos! You are all welcome to join us! Just make sure to use your Greek! Athens, the capital, will be our first stop, Santorini island will be the next one and who knows what comes next!!!!

Panagiotis Tsakalis, M.A., Ph.D.
Odyssey Charter School
6th Grade Greek Language



6th grade English Language Arts

After studying sentence types, end punctuation, and the many uses of commas, the sixth graders recently put their punctuation knowledge to the test. They were tasked with creating Punctuation Projects centered around the theme of Pompeii (which was the setting of a story they read in class). The English Language Arts classes created posters, letters, and brochures demonstrating commas used in various situations.



Art Class

Kindergarten students have been doing a Leo Lionni author study in class. We have done several art projects based on this author's loveable characters, including "Swimmy" murals and chameleon pipe cleaner sculptures from "A Color of His Own." First graders continue their study of Claude Monet and other impressionists. We have been experimenting with different mediums, tools and effects. We have used watercolor, crayon, pencil, and torn paper collage. Second graders continue their pop art unit with a SWEET study of artist Wayne Thiebaud. Projects include lollipop sculptures and gumball machine pictures.



Upper school students have finished their study of Pop Art and Wayne Thiebaud cakes. They used pastels to show the 3-d cake forms, added shadows, and mixed colors to achieve different affects. Students are now learning all about color! Primary, secondary, cool, warm, complementary, tertiary, and monochromatic. The students created a painting that included a pumpkin and a background and had to choose 1-3 colors groups to use in their painting. For example, they may paint their pumpkins in primary colors and the background in complementary colors. The 6th grade class has been painting in perspective and making objects look far in the distance. They also have been mixing colors to add depth and variety to their work. They are now finishing out the quarter with a clay coil pot, which will be glazed and fired in the kiln.



Please see our processes and results at odysseyartroom.blogspot.com

Art Club

This year we started an Art Club at the OCS upper school. The purpose of the Odyssey Art Club is to offer a more in depth opportunity for those students who have an interest in and an inclination for the visual arts. The response to the Club has been overwhelmingly positive. Currently, we have two after school groups, one on Tuesdays and another on Thursdays. We started with a charcoal study. We continued with a colored pencil still life with a fall theme. You may see some of this amazing work displayed in the hallway entrance of the upper school. My goal is to help the students see the world around them as an artist. I also hope to sharpen their technical skills while at the same time preserving their own individuality. It has been a real pleasure working with these great students.

Eva M. Jannelli



Greek Class

In kindergarten Greek Math we are working on the numbers 1-10. We can count them, write them, graph them, put them in order, and read them out of order all in Greek! Here is a picture of our caterpillar projects that are hanging in the halls!



number line projects that are now hanging in the halls!

In Greek language we celebrated a holiday called Oxi Day. We did a Greek costume celebration called Apokries. Take a look at the masks we made for the Apokries on Halloween!



we celebrated a Greek holiday and learned about the tradition called Apokries. We made masks for the

OCS PTO NEWS

Hello OCS Families,

We hope that this note finds all of you back into the swing of the new school year. The PTO has been off to a great start with the Back to School Social, Kidstuff Fundraiser, Pretzel Tuesday's, Pizza Friday's and a Family Fun Night. We are looking forward to more exciting events as the school year progresses.

Please note that the bi-monthly PTO Newsletter will no longer be published, however, there will be PTO News & Information within the OCS newsletter. Also, the emails sent from "OCS PTO" are separate from the "Odyssey School" emails and have information relative to our school, volunteering, important dates and fundraising opportunities. Please do not disregard with the thought that these emails are a duplication of the school's emails. Any questions, please contact a PTO board member.

All our best for a successful year! *Shelly Huber, Jo-el Fetizanan, Louise Antenucci & Danielle Wenzel*

Fall Scholastic Book Fair

**Monday 12.2.13 through Friday
12.6.13**

If you have not volunteered and find that you are able to please contact:

Lower School

Jen Fleming at jraign@yahoo.com

Upper School

Naomi Hoffman at naomi@americanwhale.com



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.

Book Fair LS, Book Fair US, Box Tops, 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: Jo-el Fetizanan Jo-el.Fetizanan@odyssey.k12.de.us

Our "**Paving the Way Fundraising Campaign**" will begin on November 4th!



This year the campaign will run from November 4th through April 1, 2014. For your convenience we are now offering a credit card option for your donations with the ability to pay monthly. This information will be passed along soon.

Last year's fundraiser provided our children with additional Compass Learning Software and 8 SMART Boards. This year we are again fundraising for classroom technology. If every student donated \$50 (less than \$10 per month for the length of the campaign) the PTO would surpass last year! Please remember that charter schools are not afforded the same luxuries that traditional schools are and our

OCS families have the ability through this campaign to supplement our children's educational needs. More information will be sent home following the November PTO Meeting on 11/6/13!

On-Going Fundraising

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.

SHOP at TARGET often?

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

COKE Rewards Program

It's as easy as visiting:
<http://www.mycokerewards.com>
Register and select Odyssey Charter School your school of choice.
Thank you!

**Box Tops &
Labels for Education
Keep clipping!!!**



**Kudos to Angela Marconi and Clissa Taylor
for their hard work on Box Tops!**

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



WELCOME to our Olympic Corner

Presenting Our New Physical Education Program for the Current School Year 2013-2014

This year all Aftercare students will have the opportunity to enroll in two alternative programs: **Olympic Education** and **Tai Chi**. Both will soon be available to enhance students' wellbeing while adding some fun and excitement to the school routine. Below you will find a brief synopsis of each.

What is Olympic Education???

Olympic Education is committed to teaching children the basic Olympic Principles through sport, art and culture. Through its many activities, the program will not only build knowledge of the Olympic Games, their history, ethics in sport and folklore but also explore sportsmanship and teamwork, social skills and appropriate behaviors, and cultural values and practices. Sport Science has recognized its value and Olympic education is meanwhile being taught in many countries of the world. It is officially promoted by the IOC (International Olympic Committee). The core philosophy of Olympic Education is expressed through the following phrase: “I learn, I get sensitive, I participate, I create”. Olympic Education participants will use their athletic abilities, critical thinking skills and artistic talents for various projects and events including athletic games, ancient games revivals, school art exhibitions and field trips. It is a wonderful multifaceted pedagogy that in combination with Physical Education brings to light the obvious connections between the various disciplines students study in school. Finally, the entire holistic approach is presented in a comfortable and supportive environment, allowing its participants to enjoy and share delightful moments while developing a life-long love for sport and athleticism.

What is Tai Chi for children???

Tai Chi Chuan is an ancient Chinese internal martial art and mild form of exercise that became very popular when famous Tai Chi Chuan Masters travelled the world to promote the value of Tai Chi.

Some of the many benefits of the program include: improved fitness, self-esteem and focus, improved balance, flexibility and muscle tone, as well as improved changes in behavior. It is recommended for all children, but presents additional benefits for children with ADD, ADHD and other special needs and circumstances. Tai Chi can be practiced in small groups or in large classroom settings, indoors or outdoors, and is appropriate for children of all ages. Scientific studies and research systematically proved the therapeutic benefits of Tai chi. Today it is widely used in various recreational and educational settings as well in rehabilitation institutes and clinics all over the globe. It has received much praise for its phenomenal results in both public and private schools across the United States and Europe. As a certified Tai Chi Chuan coach from the World Tai Chi Chuan Federation of Tai Chi Taipei, Taiwan, I am committed to the work and promotion of Tai Chi. The club, Tai Chi for Children at Odyssey, will begin with two groups, each consisting of 15 students. One group will be for students between the ages of 6 and 9, and another group will be available for students between the ages of 10 and 12. For enrollment and information on the formal application procedure, please contact Mrs. Amy or the aftercare directors.

Amy Chatzipanagiotti, greek P.E. Teacher, Tai Chi Instructor and Coach. Links:

Mrs. Amy blog : taichi-xanthi.blogspot.com (use google translate)

www.taichiforkids.com

<http://www.uktaichi.com/children.html>

www.worldtaichiday.org

http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletters/Harvard_Womens_Health_Watch/2009/May/The-health-benefits-of-tai-chi