

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS

October 30, 2014

Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Denise Parks

Assistant Headmaster Ms. Jackie Pastis



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Headmasters Message

OCS Families –

Our school has recently been the recipient of major academic awards from the State of Delaware and the Delaware Charter School Network. The awards, for two years of “exceptional academic performance,” strongly support the notion that our students, parents, teachers and administration, working with our PTO, have helped orchestrate dramatic increases in student achievement to record levels at Odyssey.

Just two years ago, at the conclusion of the 2011 – 2012 school year, our school’s third grade reading scores were ranked 35th out of 108 in the state and 27th in mathematics. Our fourth graders were 23rd and 17th, respectively. They have improved to rankings of 11th and 3rd in third grade and 3rd and 1st respectively in fourth grade among all state elementary schools. From those lows two years ago, while the school’s staff and student population have nearly doubled, our academic achievement levels have improved to the point where they have been recognized as “exceptional” by the State of Delaware and our Department of Education (DOE).

The Delaware Charter Network has also recognized this outstanding performance and awarded Odyssey the DCN Academic Achievement Award for the second year in a row. I was also awarded the Delaware Charter Network Impact Award. This award is given to the school leader having the most significant impact on an educational institution in Delaware. Also supporting the focus of teacher academic excellence at Odyssey, our art teacher Mrs. Natalia Ciriaco received the State of Delaware Art Teacher of the Year Award.

The Delaware Recognition Award recognizes the “significant and exceptional” two-year academic achievement improvement from those lows the school touched in 2011-2012, while still meeting Annual Yearly Progress. The award stated that your school has been selected because it was one of the schools that had “exceptional performance,” that met Annual Yearly Progress for each of the past two years, and in 2013-14 ranked based on a weighted score of: percent proficient in ELA, percent proficient in Math, and percent of population in at-risk groups (combined African American, Hispanic, students with disabilities, ELLs, and Free/Reduced Lunch), *all in the most recent year*.

These recognitions of our instructional staff’s two-year performance and our administrative and teacher excellence are what is helping to propel our school to continually higher levels of student achievement. Speaking for the entire school community, I want to commend our students, teachers and administration for these exceptional recognitions.

Our academic rebound has been phenomenal. As we move well into the second year of our middle school expansion and move into new facilities, our staff and students continue to work exceptionally hard to support our school’s theme for the year to “Be more awesome!” With your help, I am very confident we will help our young owls be their best!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Dr. Nick Manolakos



NOVEMBER EVENTS

2014

January	February	March
1 2 3 4	1	1
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
26 27 28 29 30	23 24 25 26 27 28	23 24 25 26 27 28 29

April	May	June
1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29 30 31	29 30

July	August	September
1 2 3 4 5	1 2	1 2 3 4 5 6
6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30

October	November	December
1 2 3 4	1	1 2 3 4 5 6
5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	7 8 9 10 11 12 13
12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	14 15 16 17 18 19 20
19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	21 22 23 24 25 26 27
26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	28 29 30 31

- ⇒ 1 5th grade hayride social, Bellevue, 12-2
- ⇒ 7 Report cards home(5-7)
AR Horte Festival, US gym, 6-7:30
- ⇒ 11 Veterans Day, no school
- ⇒ 14 End of Marking Period(K-4)
- ⇒ 21 Report cards home(K-4)
- ⇒ 24-25 Teacher In-service
Parent conferences
- ⇒ 26-28 Thanksgiving break



Dress Code Update

Solid color (black, blue, brown) Vans-style shoes with no more than three eye-lets are dress code compliant.



SAVE THE
DATE

Winter concert:

- ♦ Wednesday, December 10th
- ♦ 7 PM
- ♦ Dickinson High School
- ♦ 3rd-7th Grade Chorus
- ♦ 4th-7th Grade Band
- ♦ Greek Songs

Congratulations to Cameron Wynn in the 5th grade who won the yearbook cover competition!

His art will be displayed on the front cover and the 5 runner-ups artwork will be displayed on the back. They are: Eleni Staikos, Jennifer Choi, Madison Bellinger, Joshua McCrae, and Sophia Allen.

Yearbooks are on sale at tinyurl.com/OCSyearbook2015 for \$15.00 until October 31st. The price will increase as the year progresses.

We need photos for the yearbook!

Please submit photos to

<http://www.replayit.com>

Register online, and choose

Odyssey Charter School, Wilmington, DE



October and November are our months to complete Vision, Hearing and Spinal Screenings here at OCS.



Vision and Hearing screenings will be completed on all kindergarten, 2nd, 4th, and 7th graders, as well as students new to Delaware public schools, and those with special needs

Lower School: Hearing Screenings have been completed, and vision screenings will start October 22nd.

Upper School: Hearing and vision screenings will begin in early November.

Posture screenings will be scheduled for the first week of December.

*****If you're interested in volunteering to help with these screenings, please let Nurse Lowe know your availability.*****

Please Make sure your child remembers to **bring their glasses and hearing aids** every day to school, and are wearing them as prescribed. They should bring these with them when they go to the nurse office for screenings.

If a deficit is found, a letter will be sent home with your student to refer them for further testing. *****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.*****



COUNSELORS' CORNER

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Our PBS Kick-off was a great success! Students, K-7, enjoyed gathering together and having a visit from Ozzie the Owl! Your children will continue receiving tickets when they are "caught being good." Surely they will be excited to tell you about the various cash-out rewards they choose!

Guidance lessons are continuing in grades K-7. Kindergarten and first grade are working on dealing with their angry feelings in a positive way. Second grade has been discussing rumors and the harm they cause, while third grade is identifying positive attributes.

At the Upper School, Personal/Social topics are concentrated on Bullying and Respect. We will be covering "how to get along with others", "understanding how our behavior affects others" "how to give and get respect", etc. Academic and Career topics will also be offered.

Kristin Nannas, Lower School Counselor
Barbara Berrick, Upper School Counselor

KINDERGARTEN CLASS



Kindergarten is working hard! We are continuing to work on establishing all the rules and routines in all areas of the school. The students are LOVING getting OWL tickets for cash out 😊 We are busy, busy, busy in reading, starting our new curriculum, and centers! We are focusing on the author Leo Lionni to help assist the skills of main idea/details and asking questions. In math, we are working on number sense. Our trip to Milburn Orchards was an awesome way to make our tree unit in science more concrete. We are looking forward to showing off our Halloween costumes at the parade on the 31st!



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FIRST GRADE

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October has been a fun-filled month in first grade! Each class participated in the nation-wide O.R.E.O. (Our Really Exciting Online) Project this month. We used Oreos all week long to stack, tally, sculpt, add, subtract, compare and graph. We even used Oreos as our topic in writing to practice descriptive words and how-to writing pieces. It was a delicious week! First grade also spent time this month learning about fire safety, bats, and pumpkins. We love exploring non-fiction texts to learn about the world around us!

SECOND GRADE

Second grade is having a great year! We finished Benchmark Unit 1 with our Reader's Theater performance of *Under the Sea with Jacques Cousteau*. The children practiced their learned skill of reading with fluency as they acted out their parts. We definitely learned that reading is fun!

Our students are off to a great start with Accelerated Reader. They received the most points during the first week of the program. Congratulations to all second grade classes.

During math, we will soon complete Module 1 as we learn strategies for addition and subtraction within 100. It is exciting to observe many students fluently add and subtract using mental strategies and applying those skills to word problems.

We love Science! The students are studying Soils. It has been a "slimy" experience getting to know our worms. We started the Unit with worm observations and **checked them into their "worm hotels"**. We will observe the benefits of worms in soil. In addition, we will conduct various experiments with the soil components of sand, clay and humus to identify their properties that help plants grow.

Last, our first fieldtrip is to Ramsey's Farm on Tuesday, October 21st. To supplement our science unit, the students will learn about growing pumpkins and how the soil is an important part of the process. We also will go on a hayride and explore a corn maze. Happy fall!



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THIRD GRADE

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Third graders have finished unit #1 of our new reading curriculum, concentrating on identifying the main idea and supporting it with text details. We even performed our very first Reader's Theater production of *Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad* with our small groups! In math, we studied addition and subtraction concepts focusing on regrouping up to four digits. Students are mastering their addition/subtraction facts while taking timed calculation quizzes! We are improving our own personal narratives starting with "great leads", and adding details, dialogue and voice to our stories. Our first science unit on the Human Body, is teaching us about bones, joints, muscles and reflexes. We created our very own "Mr. Bones" and even investigated what's inside owl pellets!



FOURTH GRADE

Things are already in full swing in fourth grade! We are almost finished with our first reading unit, which focused on main idea and details, and we are preparing to take our unit one assessment this week. In writing, we are working on our personal narratives, which retell a trip we have taken. Boy do we have some globe trotters in the fourth grade! In math we have jumped head first into our next unit, and we are currently working on finding missing variables in equations and number patterns. We will be taking our unit two assessment and then we will be moving on to multiplication in the next few weeks. We are really excited! Finally, we started our science unit about structures of life. We looked at the life cycle of seeds, sprouting seeds in our room, and discussing the properties of seeds and fruits. Next, we will be beginning our project on animal adaptations. This will be our first group project and the students are very eager to start! As always, we would like to thank all of our parents for their support of their fourth grader at home, we couldn't do it without you! We are looking forward to a spectacular rest of the school year! And don't forget to practice your multiplication facts!



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Fifth grade has had an exciting month of October thus far! We are continuing our novel study of *Wonder*, which has quickly become a favorite among students. Our work on reading strategies of questioning and finding the main idea and details, using both fiction and non-fiction pieces, has been on going. All routines have been set in place, and our differentiated small groups have been moving along quite nicely. We wrapped up our first writing piece of the year, personal narratives, and will be sharing them within the next few weeks. **We are looking forward to beginning reader's theater using plays to practice our strategies.** If you have not done so already, please send your hayride money in as soon as possible. Be on the look out for information regarding Halloween activities!!

Mrs. Yarram and Ms. Potochney

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The sixth grade ELA students have been making good use of the *Scholastic Scope* magazines that supplement our curriculum very well. Each month, an article, poem, or essay from the magazine has perfectly served as a companion piece to the stories in our textbook. These companion pieces have helped us in practicing our compare and contrast skills. They have also served as a springboard for writing our own compare and contrast essays.

The sixth graders have also finished reading their 1st quarter novel in the genre of realistic fiction. Our final project, a plot diagram detailing the events of the book, has been completed. Projects included diagrams on paper, posters, and Power Point Presentations, and many were creative and very well done!

Ms. Dawson and Ms. Coupe

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In 7th grade ELA we have been working out our grammar skills and showing off with parts of speech. Our sentences are getting diagramed and we are becoming critical thinkers with our reading and writing. We are focusing on individualism and breaking away from conformity. As a team, we are creating a stronger understanding of what defines a **person's character and how those characteristics make us who we are.**

Ms. Todd and Ms. Stockl



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5th grade Math thinkers have been working hard this past month. They completed their first round of MAP testing successfully and taken their first assessment in class. They continue to deepen their knowledge of decimals. They have now moved on to adding and subtracting them. Lining up the decimal has been a strategy used for decades and they could tell you why it is important to do so! Next week they will tackle multiplying decimals. Wish us luck!

Mrs. Reynolds

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In our 6th grade math class, we are making discoveries about the equivalency of rational numbers. We are extending our knowledge of fractions, decimals, and percents to count, measure, and compare quantities. We are also exploring ratios and rates. The students are going to be amazed to see how useful unit rates are in problem-solving! The goal of our unit is to solve problems involving rational numbers of all shapes and sizes, and to explain, compare, and quantify happenings in the world. We are in for a fun-filled number adventure!

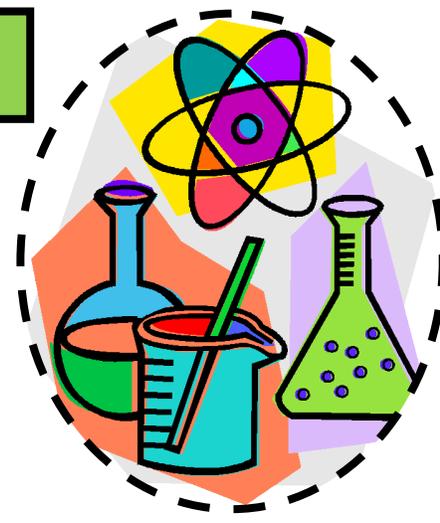
Ms. Rehrig

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The school year is in full swing in the 7th **grade hallway!** We've begun an interesting unit on operations with rational numbers (positive **and negative numbers**) in math. **Students are working with “chip” models that give them real life applications of the meanings on “in the red” or “in the black” when talking about money. All classes have been working in great collaborative teams. It's been exciting to** watch students engage in group-led mathematical discussions. They are creating algorithms for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers. Their understanding of negative numbers have grown exponentially and we are just getting started!

Ms. Vinton





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5th graders made self-contained **ecosystems** and are studying the **effects of salting** roads when it snows, **over fertilizing** our farms and gardens, and how factories and emissions create **acid rain**. The terrarium contains crickets, pill bugs, grass, alfalfa, and mustard seed. The aquarium contains mosquito fish, snails, and elodea. Our essential questions are; How can change in one part of an ecosystem affect change in the other parts of the ecosystem? How do humans have an impact on the diversity and stability of ecosystems?

We are writing in our journals and following processes just like scientists! Fifth grade students need to be able to generate focused questions and informed predictions about the natural world. Students need to be able to design a fair investigation that provides accurate data to provide evidence. Fifth grade students should be able to justify the results by using evidence to form an argument.

Mrs. Horgan

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Our friends in 6th grade have been hard at work learning about proper elements of experimental design to wrap up our unit on **Studying People Scientifically**. Students have been practicing identifying and applying these elements by designing and conducting various investigations in class. The activities reinforced the importance of experimental design and students were introduced to the idea that variables in an investigation must be kept constant so that effects of a treatment can be recognized. Students began by investigating touch receptors and their individual sensitivity to 1-point and 2-point touches on the forearm, palm, and index finger pad. To deepen our understanding of the nervous system and touch receptors in our hands, students conducted an experiment to determine the smallest distance (0.7cm, 1.5cm, or 2.0cm) at which they could still feel two points on their palms. This past week, our friends completed Part 1 of **Data Toss**, which tested their ability to catch a porcupine ball with one hand as compared to two hands. As an extension, students are currently designing their own experiments with their partners to investigate how a variable of their choice affects their ability to catch a porcupine ball.

Ms. Manolakos

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During this month, we had exciting new additions in our 7th grade science classroom. For the past couple of weeks, students have been looking at living organisms through microscopes. They not only can operate a microscope correctly, but also set up a wet mount slide and be able to identify microorganisms. Students viewed the Amoeba, Euglena, Flagellates, Paramecium, and Elodea leaf. Before we put our microscopes away for a few

months, students will investigate what organisms can be found in a drop of water. By the end of the month, we will be starting our next unit on plant and animal cells. Ms. Adamek





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In 5th grade Social Studies we are finishing up our Amendments Model Unit strong. Soon the students will take on the role of the Supreme Court, and rule on actual court cases throughout history. When that unit ends, we will move on to the Due Process Unit, where they will learn that the government must follow its own rules when taking actions against citizens.

Mr. Morley

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This October the 6th grade students wrapped up their unit on mental mapping and geography. They culminated the unit by producing an illustrated dictionary of geographic features and then creating an imaginary island! We will continue to study geography through November taking time to study cultural patterns and diffusion. The students will finish the unit with an understanding of what makes places culturally unique, and how cultures spread. I look forward to hearing the students share information about their cultures and I hope our classroom will be a place where our differences are shared and respected.

Ms. Beeson

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The 7th Grade Social Studies Class is wrapping up the Expansion of Freedom Unit. Students just finished making posters on a specific court case. They worked in groups and created an illustration or collage that relates to their case. They also had to analyze an amendment that was used during the case. The projects have turned out great! We will be moving on and discussing how environment and culture impact one another in the Green Cities Unit.

Mr. Altmeier



K

In kindergarten we have been reading Eric Carle's "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in Greek in order to help us learn our days of the week and how to graph the fruits the caterpillar ate! We are also learning a Greek song about the days of the week!

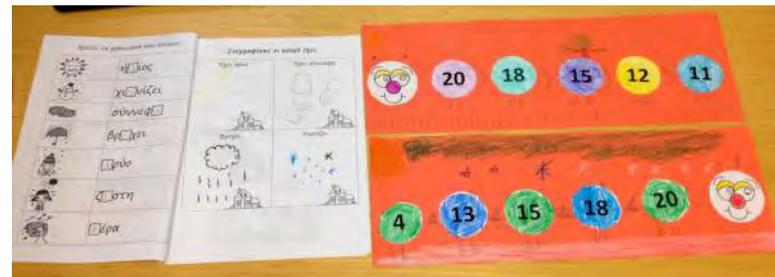
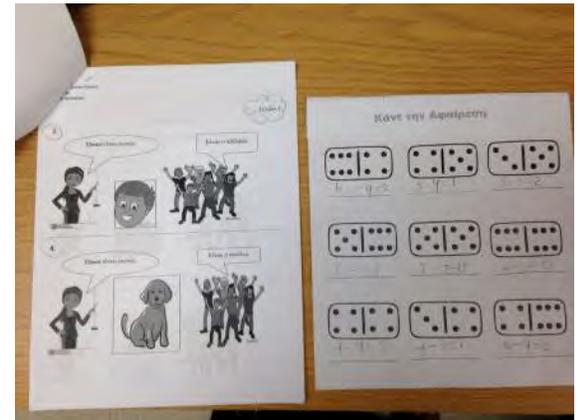
Kindergarten Greek Team
Hrysoula Davis, Maria Gourgouliatou, Giannis Sporidis



1

In First Grade Greek Math, we have been working on greater than, less than and equal to, and have been sharpening our addition and subtraction skills. The children have created some cute caterpillars with numbers and the greater or less than symbols and have been adding and subtracting dominoes! In Greek Language, we have been learning about the weather and the days of the week and how to combine the two to make simple sentences! The children have created some beautiful books on these topics! We have also been learning about the family and family members, and how to describe them in terms of their physical characteristics. Please check our family related books!

First Grade Greek Team
Elpida Bairaktari, Evi Sourlou, and Niki Tantalou



2

Second Grade Greek Language

In second grade Greek the students have been hard at work learning and practicing how to introduce their family members. They have designed a model of their home and created puppets to represent members of their families. As a culminating activity the students are currently proudly presenting their project to the Kindergarteners who have been very receptive to learning new information from the older students. Please take a look at some of the projects we created!

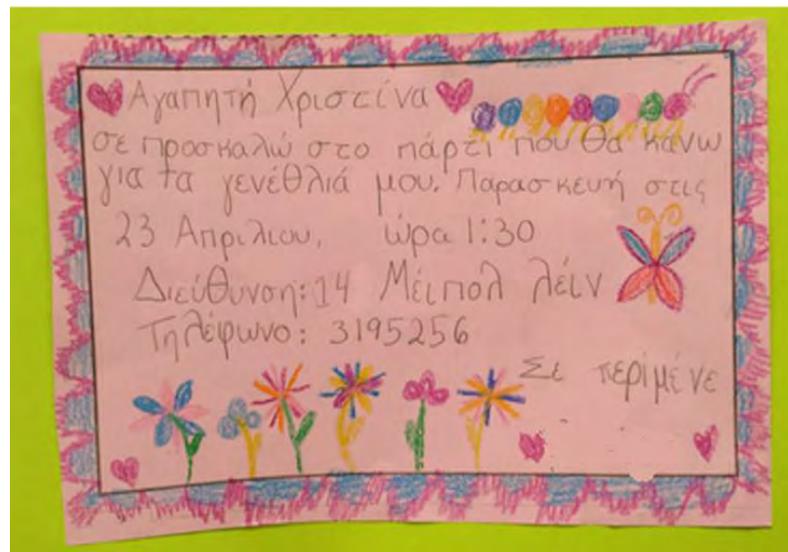
Tina Iliadis, Sofia Vazou, and Alexandra Pantelidis



3

In Third Grade Greek Language we are continuing the unit "Family Economics". Specifically, we are learning about the Greek vocabulary for Birthdays and other celebrations, as well as the differences and similarities of those special occasions. We learned the Birthday song, explained the meaning of the different wishes, created our own invitations and birthday cards and read texts about these celebrations.

In Third Grade Greek Math we are continuing the unit "Operations and Algebraic Thinking". We are focusing on learning how to add, subtract and multiply both mentally and using written methods. In order to make the learning process more rewarding and enjoyable, we play games using flash cards and dominoes. Also, for Greek "OXI" day we are planning to make arts and crafts.



4

Fourth Grade Greek Language and Greek Math

In 4th Grade Greek language class we have been reviewing our prior knowledge. We have learned the days of the week, the months of the year, the weather conditions and we focused on some letters of the Greek alphabet which is challenging for the students. We practiced the daily routines at home and school using present tense. Our next step will be to start using the past tense of the same verbs.

In Greek Math class we have worked with 7-digits numbers and place value. We learned how to round the multi digit numbers and master addition and subtraction. The students were also challenged with higher thinking of solving multi-step word problems. This past week we started working with multiplication 2 digit by one digit and 2 digit by 2 digit. The students were introduced to two different methods of multiplication using the vertical multiplication and the table. We will continue working with multiplication and extend our skills to multiply 4 digit numbers by 2 digit numbers.

Kiria Thaleia and Kiria Anna



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5th Grade Greek Language

Each group of our 5th graders are making terrific progress now in reading and writing in Greek. We are all enjoying constructing and deconstructing Greek words. They are becoming quite word wizards.

Stamidi Alexia



6

6th Grade Greek Language

In the 6th grade classes, we are now fully engaged with reading and writing in Greek. Individually, in groups and as a class, the students are communicating and conversing in Greek and making terrific progress. As a part of the initiative to build our classroom communities, we have also recently completed a crafts project, in which each student contributed their own signed handprint cutout/leaf, towards the creation of a single class tree.

Kyriakoula Michal

6th Grade Greek Language Teacher



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Knowing the historical value of Greek language, which is the root of Latin and all the western languages, and according to Cicero the “Language of gods”, we can easily realize the huge advantage of the education offered by “Odyssey”. This school year we are introducing, as part of the Greek classes, starting from 7th Grade, the Subject of “Classics”, which is known as a separate scientific branch and Department of the best universities and colleges in the U.S. and the entire world. Our goal is to reach academically the spirit of this unique History, Tradition and Culture, through Greek Philosophy & ancient Greek literature and possibly later in High school, through ancient Greek original texts. Our 7th Graders, have shown great interest in this subject, which is being taught in the English language, and are introduced to the three greatest philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. By studying, analyzing, and comparing their work and life;and are taught to create their own philosophical thinking.

Tasso Dimas

7th Grade teacher



ELLINOMATHEIA

Through an unfortunate error of omission, Zarina Stone's name was left out of the list of our students who had recently succeeded in passing their Ellinomatheia exams.

Zarina, please accept our apologies and our heartfelt congratulations. We are proud for your success. Bravo!

Fratzeska Belafemine
Greek Program Coordinator



GREEK CULTURE

We started out our journey to Greece and Greek Culture by taking a plane across the Atlantic Ocean and landing in Athens Greece. After a short introduction to Greece's geography, we visited Athens and we learned a few things that make this city unique: from its geographical position, history and world renowned monuments and museums to the mythical origin of its name. The children had fun learning all these interesting facts, listening to stories, watching videos, playing games, writing and creating beautiful artwork! Please take some time to look at their beautiful work!

Kirios Giannis, Kiria Niki, kirios Panagiotis, kiria Tina



The Myth of Athena & Poseidon's contest for Athens!



Lower School

Kindergarten artists are beginning a study of prehistoric cave art. We will use oil pastels to create cave man drawings. Check out class website, <http://www.odysseartroom.blogspot.com>, for a virtual tour of the Lascaux caves in France!

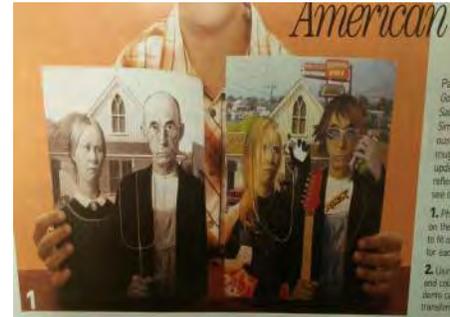
First graders are beginning a study of the renaissance. We will work on portraiture and Sistine Chapel ceiling drawings! Check our class website, <http://www.odysseartroom.blogspot.com>, for a virtual tour of the Sistine Chapel.

Second graders are working on abstract expressionism projects. You can visit our class website, <http://www.odysseartroom.blogspot.com> to find a link for an online abstract art game!

Third graders are exploring cave art. We will be making petroglyphs, cave paintings, hand stencils, and tools and artifacts like prehistoric cave people did! See the Kindergarten section for a web link.

Fourth graders are working on parodies of Grant Wood's American Gothic!

Mrs. Roosma



Upper School

Art Projects this month are all about Greek Art!

5th grade students are creating Greek Mosaics about a person, place, or thing that is important to them. They used cut paper, paint chips, and magazines to make the mosaic. 6th grade students learned about the Parthenon, the importance of Athena, and how it was built. They drew their own Parthenon in one-point perspective, and used charcoal for shadows. The 7th graders picked a Greek god that they admired, and learned about their symbols, and characteristics. They drew their Greek gods, shaded them in with charcoal and included various elements about their god. I especially love seeing what ideas the students come up with on their own!

Mrs. Ciriaco



Lower School

October is so much fun in music class! All grades have been singing lots of spooky songs and songs about fall. Kindergarten learned the difference between whispering, speaking, singing, and shouting voices. We also read "We're Going on a Leaf Hunt," and did a song and dance with leaves. 1st Grade learned a folk dance to "The Noble Duke of York" and sang "The Witch of Willowby Wood." 2nd Graders are reading about the legend of William Tell and performed a parachute routine to Rossini's "William Tell Overture." In 3rd Grade, we have been studying Mexican folk music. We sang "La Cucaracha" and learned the dance "La Raspa." 4th Graders composed and performed their own body percussion compositions to the tune "Chicken on a Fencepost." We've also been studying the music of American composer Aaron Copland. Ms. Dries

Upper School Music Class and Band

Things are finally moving along in the music room in October! 5th, 6th, and 7th graders have all been busying diving into their first long term units as we're getting close to the end of the marking period.

5th graders have learned, and designed their own version of, a Russian Folk Dance, and are now working an English Country Dance emphasizing proper decorum and royal behavior in the classroom. 6th graders have been spending more time behind keyboards while learning to identify notes on the staff and proper hand positions for performing our first song. And 7th graders are just a couple of weeks away from performing their compositions that we have been working on in class with "non-traditional" instruments.

Upper School Band has finally had their first after school rehearsal which went incredibly well! (Thank you parents to keeping pace with all of the emails) We're starting to spend more time on concert music in both sectionals and full rehearsals and hope to have a full piece together in the next few weeks. 5th graders are just starting with full rehearsals and are getting their first experience playing with a full ensemble this year. And finally, 4th grade, after much patience, has started band at the lower school! We have a great deal to work on in the next two months and a lot to look forward to. Mr. Kelley



Lower School

Your children and I have been doing very well and we are all excited about moving into a new array of fun and challenging activities!

Lower School students are beginning their second unit of study in Physical Education. Kindergarten will be introduced to locomotor skills: (traveling with their body via different movement practices) skills, while First grade refines and learns other new locomotor skills. Both Kindergarten and First grade will reinforce these skills through a variety of fun interactive games. Second through Fourth grades will be participating in Fitnessgram, **Delaware's version of the Presidential Fitness Test**, which includes pushups, curl ups, trunk lifts, pacer and the back saver sit and reach. Second grade will be focusing on learning proper techniques and safety practices while being oriented to an assortment of body weight aerobic/anaerobic/flexibility tests. Third grade will build on their prior knowledge of these exercises and will document their progress both now and again at the end of the school year. Fourth grade will be asked to take Fitnessgram tests most seriously as their data will be tracked on software which will generate student and parent reports that will show where they are on the Healthy Physical Activity Spectrum.

Genuinely,

Mr. Plerhoples

Upper School

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade just wrapped up their first unit of the year on soccer. The students had an opportunity to play against each other in small sided games and learned various skills throughout the unit. The students spent time practicing dribbling, passing, and shooting. Next up for the middle school is floor hockey where students will have a brief introduction to the sport and learn about the rules and history of hockey. During the unit they will work on proper stick handling, dribbling, different types of shots, and common offensive and defensive strategies. At the end of the unit they will have 2 class periods to participate in a floor hockey tournament.

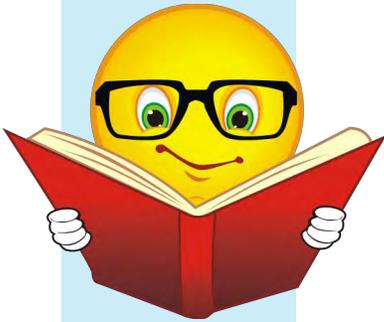
Mr. Laudeman



Lower School

We are getting acquainted with our library and it is now a familiar and welcoming place! We can identify parts of a book, and we know the checkin/checkout procedures. We recognize that the spine label is the address of the book, and will soon be able to find and retrieve any book in the library, **either by the Dewey decimal code, or the author's last name.** Each week we have one "just right" AR book and one book that is just for pleasure. We are climbing to the top of Mount Olympus in grades 2, 3, and 4, and grades K and 1 will be starting the AR program soon. There are fabulous incentives in store for the students! Our Odyssey Owls love to read!

Mrs. Graham



Upper School

Library Research

Research can be fun, especially when participating in "Look It Up!", the almanac competition taking place in Library Research class this month. Students compete by table while sharpening their information finding skills. Last week, we finished up our Introduction to the Library unit and began our Gathering Information unit with Parts of a Book, an exercise designed to familiarize students with finding book information needed for bibliographies. Next, we will explore audio books, honing our listening comprehension and predicting skills in a fun, fall-themed activity and project. One last note on the course structure: We had initially planned to post power points on the library webpage for each lesson. However, in the interest of fully maximizing the weekly class time, we decided to limit the use of power points in favor of more hands-on learning activities. Since this is the first year of Library Research at OCS, our unit timeline will be fairly fluid as we fill in the gaps of knowledge in each class. Most students have a dedicated library folder or space in an existing binder for library materials. We have set aside shelves in the library for the folders so students won't have to add another weight to their already weighty backpacks! They are expected to bring their AR book and folder to every class as they will have opportunities to take AR quizzes at the end of the class period.

Mrs. Huelsenbeck and Mrs. Hoffman



TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS EDUCATION CLASS

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Grades 2-7

Typing with Technology! In the Lower School, we have been learning keyboarding skills – students are typing words using the Home Row Keys. We are also practicing our lifelong technology learning skills during our “Explore and Share” time: Students explore the many word processing functions in Open Office and then teach the class what they’ve learned. Adapting to continually changing technology is an essential life skill for our 21st century learners!

Trustworthy Technology? In the Upper School, we are learning how to be safe and responsible digital citizens. Students have been sharing experiences they’ve had on social networking sites, and we have watched an eye-opening video explaining that even small bits of information shared with (or seen by) strangers can be dangerous. All students have been given “homework” to make a list of all of their usernames/screen names, analyze them, and change them if they are deemed unsafe. (Parents: Please work with your students to ensure this, as well as scrutinizing all online profiles created to ensure that no personal information is shared with anyone your child does not personally know.) Utilizing various programs in Open Office, students will show what they’ve learned by creating Internet Safety projects. In order to facilitate this, all students will need a USB flash drive for use in Technology class starting the first week of November.

Mrs. Stoume

(ACE) Academic Acceleration & Enrichment

Hello Families,

Our ACE Pull-Out Program is in full swing at both the Upper and Lower Schools. I am happy to work with many of your children for the second time and I’m excited to learn all about our new additions. This month, we are creating rules and procedures to assist students in keeping the terms of their ACE contract. Students will also spend time learning about their own preferred styles of learning. We are doing team building exercises to get to know one another and practice working cooperatively in groups. The Jr. Great Books program will begin on October 20th. Remember that the students will be required to re-read one short story a week at home.

Thanks,
Mrs. Smith

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PTO Notes

Greetings from the OCS PTO!

We hope that all who attended the Hayride at Coleman's Tree Farm had fun!! ***Thank you very much to the co-chairs for that event, Janelle Abosch and Mary Ellen Naugle, for making the outing possible!***

OCLS (Odyssey Charter Lower School) Hats Off to Health is November 4th!

Our K thru 4th graders will be busily collecting pledges from 10/20 to 10/30 for our first Lower School fundraiser.

Class Prizes: The class that raises the most money in each grade will win a class party!

Individual Prizes:

\$25 gift card to Barnes and Noble for the person in each grade who raises the most money!

\$15 gift card to Target for the person in each grade who raises the second highest amount!

\$10 gift certificate to Scholastic Book Fair, being held 12/8 - 12/12, for the person in each grade who raises the third highest amount!

Our students will wear a hat of their choice and their sneakers and enjoy a walk full of FUN, school spirit, fitness and great memories!

Contact Shamekia Martin via email at shamekia76@comcast.net with any questions!

Thank you,

Odyssey Charter School PTO

Looking Ahead

- ⇒ 11/4 LS Walk A Thon
- ⇒ 11/5 PTO Meeting – George Chambers, President of the OCS Board of Directors, is scheduled to speak
- ⇒ 11/7 Gift Card Pick Up@LS
- ⇒ 11/12 Board Meeting@US
- ⇒ 11/20 Gift Card Orders Due
- ⇒ 11/21 \$1 Spirit Wear Day

