

ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS



September 2013

Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos

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

DEAR PARENTS

Welcome back, parents and students! We are looking forward to another great year at Odyssey. With the addition of our middle school and more classrooms both at the upper and lower school, we thought it would be nice to keep you in the loop.

Odyssey Charter News will update you with upcoming events, classroom news, individual recognition, and other special programs. It's great to be a part of such a wonderful school, and I hope you enjoy our first newsletter.

Natalia Ciriaco

Important Dates:

Back to School Nights:

September 19 K-2
September 25 3-5
October 1 6th grade
7:00-8:00 PM

NURSE'S CORNER:

Welcome back to another year at Odyssey! Let's help keep this year healthy for all of us.

If your child has been diagnosed by a physician as having ASTHMA, there should be an inhaler sent into school for emergencies. An Asthma Action Plan signed by the parent and the doctor should be on file in the nurse's office.

If your child was diagnose by a physician with a FOOD ALLERGY regardless of the severity, an Epi-Pen must be kept in the nurse's office, along with Allergy Action

Plan signed by doctor and parents. Also, a food allergy packet should have been sent home with copies of OCS's food allergy policy and a copy of a Food Allergy Agreement. PLEASE sign and return these to the nurse ASAP.

If you need a copy of any health forms, have questions about medication policies, or you have any questions regarding our health policies at OCS, they are now

posted on the updated nurse's link on the OCS website:
http://odysseycharterschooldel.com/school_nurse.html

Paula Lowe, RN, BSN and
Demetra Tzinoudis, R.N., B.S.N.

Inside this issue:

Dear Parents/Student Recognition	1
Nurse's Corner	1
Computer Class	2
Art Class	2
Counselor Corner	2
Classroom Highlights/Greek	3
New Music Program	4

Student Recognition

Zarina Stone, a 4th grader in Mrs. Cimini's class, has received the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Award for High Honors! In the state of Delaware, only 42 talented students are chosen, and Zarina will certainly represent OCS well. Congratulations, Zarina!

COMPUTER CLASS



I am very excited to say we now have computer class!!!! We are kicking the year off with typing. Each grade is practicing the home row keys for the month of September. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders have started practice with the home row keys on Rapid Typing. This is a program that is free to download if any parents want to download it on their home computer. The

website is <http://rapidtyping.com>. The 5th and 6th graders are also starting home row key lessons on a free website called <http://freetypinggame.net>. Also, the 6th graders are learning computer vocabulary. This month we are working on getting to know the computer and safe searching on the Internet. All classes are having fun and learning to type at

the same time! It is my goal to have all students typing with both hands by the end of the year. As technology continues to become a major part of every day life it is extremely important that our kids start at a young age. I look forward to an exciting year and adding technology as a part of the Odyssey curriculum!

Ms. Shank

Art Class



This month in art, grades k-2 all received an overview of the color wheel and mixing colors. Kindergarten is working on primitive cave art, first grade is studying renaissance artists and second grade is working on abstract expressionism with a focus on Jackson Pollock.

At the upper school grades 3-5 are learning about various cultures that create henna art and creating their own version of a henna with their hand/arm on paper. They will also be looking at castles around the world, learning the parts of a castle, and making a castle drawing in charcoal pencil. The six graders are making an architectural drawing of the famous Greek building, the Parthenon, in charcoal pencil as well. This month, they will also be creating an optical illusion of objects floating in the air.

Check out our art blog at <http://odysseyartroom.blogspot.com/>

Counselor's Corner

All students in grades 3-5 have guidance lessons twice a month. Remember to check your child's folder for the Guidance Activity Sheets that come home every other week. The students enjoy the lessons and would

love to share their ideas with you. We will be working on topics such as friendship, bullying, respect, consequences, and others. We will also be starting small group counseling to support children who may be going



through parental separation/divorce.

Mrs. Berrick
School Counselor

Classroom Highlights

First grade is off to a fantastic start! We would like to welcome our new teacher, Ms. Arnao. We're so glad that she is a part of our team!

We have begun the year with lots of activities that help us to get to know one another and create a classroom community. In this time, teachers have also been assessing our students' skills to create differentiated learning groups.

Our teachers are eager

to share all of our classroom activities, routines, and curriculum with our first-grade parents at Back To School Night on Thursday, September 19. We look forward to seeing you there!

In the last week of September, we will focus our learning around a common theme- apples! This week we will learn about Johnny Appleseed (it's his birthday, after all!), compare and contrast apple flavors, smells, and colors, dissect apples to

discover their parts, make our very own applesauce, and attend a field trip to Linvilla Orchard to learn more about where apples come from! It is quite an exciting week!

Coming up in the first week of October, we will be participating in the O.R.E.O. Project. Stay tuned for our project results...

First Grade Team



Greek Class

Kindergarten Greek Math

In Kindergarten Greek Math we are focused on learning about Greece, practicing our rules and procedures in the Greek language, and getting to know each other with our Greek names, phrases and drawings such as the one pictured here. We have also started counting in Greek! Soon students will be bringing home a "me book" all in Greek about themselves for you to keep and enjoy!



Hrysoula (Χρυσούλα) Davis, MA
Odyssey Charter School
Kindergarten Greek Math

We spent the first week of school reviewing school and classroom rules regarding behavior and expectations. Your children have been working very hard towards being wonderful Odyssey Owls! Since then we have introduced the calendar and daily weather. We have to say there are some exceptional meteorologists in our classrooms. We have also spent a lot of time reviewing and playing with patterns and colors. The children colored and cut out maple leaves in all the fall colors from which we made a pattern tree. See if you can find the patterns!

Your First Grade Greek Math Teachers





Dear Parents and Students,

I am Mrs. Demetra Rassa, the Greek Curriculum Coordinator, and I would like to open the lines of communication with you, our best source to understand your child.

I have to say how thrilled we are to continue developing the Greek Program at OCS.

The Greek Department is excited to welcome new and old students for the School year 2013-2014 at Odyssey Charter School. The year started with great enthusiasm: the first few weeks we spent reviewing. Apropos the 5K Running Event, we discussed the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece where the kids contributed wonderful art projects. Now we are ready to begin more challenging content.

We, the Greek Team of Educators, look forward to making our lessons stimulating for your child.

Of course, if you have any queries, concerns or ideas, please feel free to contact me personally by email, or Mr. George Righos, the Vice-President of the School Board and one of our OCS founders, or the Greek Teachers individually.

Demetra Rassa

Greek Curriculum Coordinator

Music Nicholas.Mcgill@odyssey.k12.de.us



Music

This year, Odyssey is excited to be offering a new opportunity to its 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students: Band! The Odyssey Band will consist of students performing on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. This is an exciting new opportunity for students to learn how to play

music in a fun social environment. Those who have participated in any kind of musical ensemble can attest to how rewarding an experience it can be.

There is already a great interest from students that want to participate in the band. If your child already plays a band instrument or you think they might be interested and you haven't signed up yet, please contact Mr. McGill to join.

Nicholas.mcgill@odyssey.k12.de.us

Instrument Donations

We ask that if you happen to have an old instrument lying around collecting dust that you consider donating it to the Odyssey Charter Band. Instruments can be very expensive and because this is a brand new program we are starting with nothing. Odyssey and its students would greatly appreciate any band instrument donations.

If you think you might have an old instrument you would be willing to donate please contact Nick McGill at Nicholas.mcgill@odyssey.k12.de.us