



OCS Board Bytes
June 2020

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Dear Odyssey Community,

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 – our inaugural graduating class!!

I want to thank the students' families for all their support over the years. I want to thank our hard working administration, staff, and faculty for all they did to make the inaugural Odyssey High School graduation ceremony a success.

I also want to thank all the honorable guests who came to celebrate with us. Their vision and support laid the foundation for what OCS is today. Mrs. Daphne Skoutelas, the wife of the late Mr. Skoutelas – a founding member of our school and the first Head Master of Odyssey; our previous Head Master, Dr. Nick Manolakos; our past Board Presidents, Dr. George Chambers and Mr. Dimitri Dandalos; the Supreme President of the National AHEPA chapter, Mr. Horiatis. The day was all about the graduates and a celebration that brought together the past, the present, and the future of the OCS community.

Lastly, I would like to thank the National and local Wilmington, DE chapters of AHEPA, the Daughters of Penelope, the PTO, and the Board of Directors for providing gifts to the graduating seniors.

In this edition, you will find information about:

- Update on probation
- Committee updates
- Community Outreach
- Press
- Introduction to the two new Board Members
- Juneteenth message

Please feel free to reach out to any of the Board members with your comments and questions at: [ocs-board@odyssey.k12.de.us](mailto:ocs-board@odyssey.k12.de.us)

We look forward to our journey together. Odyssey Charter School is a choice school - thank you all for choosing to be a part of our charter school community.

Sincerely,  
Elias and the Board



### **Probation**

As was previously shared with the community Odyssey received a letter from Secretary Bunting on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup> that released us from probation. We can now focus on moving the school forward into its next chapter and create the best environment possible for our students.

### **Board Meetings:**

Next Board meeting on 24 June 2020 at 6:00pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81196710246?pwd=WEtQakNzZzBYN1pRRVdzRDRQbUhYUTQ9>

### **The Skoutelas/Yiannos Memorial Scholarship:**

- The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) CH #95 and The Daughters of Penelope Xanthus #149 gave two graduating Odyssey Charter School students (a male and female) a \$1000 scholarship per student.
- The first two recipients of the Skoutelas/ Yiannos scholarship
  - Jenna Yost
  - Jahzier Bratcher

### **Committee and Working Groups Updates**

#### **● Fundraising Committee: Alisa Moen/Melissa Tracy**

- In the process of creating a resource library that OCS employees can access.
- The next meeting is forthcoming.
- Virtual Olympics: Raised \$850 and has a \$500 commitment from AHEPA. The proceeds will go to the Athletics Department.

#### **Individual results from Virtual Olympics are:**

##### **Running**

Top Male - Samuel Bird 71.5 miles  
Top Female - Marianthi Buckley 111.3 miles

##### **Body Weight Squats**

Top Male - Ethan Moen/Robert Cassidy 100  
Top Female - Michelle Elmore 70

##### **Front Plank**

Top Male - Max Moen 3.5 minutes

Top Female - Michelle Elmore - 4 minutes

##### **Push Ups**

Top Male - Don Elmore 400  
Top Female - Michelle Elmore 300

##### **Curl Ups**

Top Male - Max Moen 200  
Top Female - Alisa Moen 125



- **Search Committee: Elias Rigas/Erin Allard**

- The search firm K12 has interviews with various stakeholder focus groups including Odyssey teachers, parents, staff, and school leadership. This data will be used to help refine the job description for the Head of School. The plan is to finalize the job announcement and post the position around the end of June.

- **Diversity and Inclusion: Helen Anderson / Eva Jannelli**

- Zoom Meeting on Tuesday 23 June at 6:00-7:00pm  
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424221542?pwd=a04zUXdha2VVU3RkOGtiZEJkTFVsUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 2422 1542

Password: 1ynsVp

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,85424221542#,,,0#,,874514# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,85424221542#,,,0#,,874514# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 854 2422 1542

Password: 874514

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc1vhPNIMg>

- **Immersion Committee: Rodrigo Torres/Erin Allard**

- A meeting date will be announced soon for the next meeting.

- **Signage Working Group: Eva Jannelli/Riccardo Stoeckicht**

- Signage working group has been meeting and working into finalizing indoor and outdoor bi-lingual signs for the campus.

- **Communications Working Group: Maryann Yarram/Eva Janelli/John Nicholson/ Erin Allard**



- Food drive Article: [Odyssey Charter School Food Drive on NBC News](#)
- Face shield Article and donation of face shields to Christiana Care: [Article in Town Square Delaware](#)
- Developing continued internal and external communications.
- If you have other ideas for press releases, please contact Maryann, Eva, Erin, or John.

### **Community Outreach**

#### **Food Pantry: Eva Jannelli/Paula Lowe**

- Mrs. Lowe and Mrs. Jannelli transitioned the food drive into a food pantry that is now in building 22. It will be open once a month during the summer (the dates will be announced soon). However, families in need of food can contact either one of us at [eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us](mailto:eva.jannelli@odyssey.k12.de.us) and [paula.lowe@odyssey.k12.de.us](mailto:paula.lowe@odyssey.k12.de.us) and they will be happy to meet them at the school or deliver food to them.

A thank you note from Mrs. Jannelli regarding the food drive:

On behalf of the OCS Board of Directors, I would like to express my sincere and deep gratitude to all of you who helped make our food drive such a successful event!

Over the course of seven days, we were able to give food to over 60 families. In addition, we donated significant amounts of food to the Food Bank of DE, to the Newark Empowerment Center, to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their FISH ministry, and to an organization called Forget Me Not Families. Moreover, we now have enough food left to start our very own OCS Food Pantry. This effort will continue in the months to come.



Most importantly, this initiative brought us together as a community. I am most proud of the fact that we were able to overcome all disagreements of the past and work in harmony towards the greater good. Everyone, from the Board of Directors, to the administration, to the counselors, the nurses, the facilities department, the food department, the transportation department, the PTO, the awesome teachers, and the amazing OCS families came together to support those of us in need.

Thank you all for your volunteering your time, sending generous donations, and dropping off food. More than 120 families/individuals contributed to this campaign.



Your generous spirit is heartwarming and reconfirms the belief that we are a close-knit family that pulls together and cares for its own and for the community. I am sure that we will overcome these uncertain and turbulent times stronger and more united than before.

**Introduction to the two new Board Members:**

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|  <p><b>Georgia Halakos</b><br/>AHEPA appointee</p> | <p>Georgia Halakos was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She received her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Delaware and has worked in real estate since that time. She is a Principal in Tsionas Properties, a real estate investment group with numerous commercial and residential holdings throughout the Delaware Valley region. She currently serves on the Parent Leadership Council at the University of Delaware and as the President of the Federation of Greek American Societies of Philadelphia and the Greater Delaware Valley. Previously, she served as Co-Chair of the Greek Festival in Wilmington. Together with her husband, Dimitris, she is proudly engaged with numerous local and national philanthropic endeavors.</p>                              |
|  <p><b>Ken Pryzwara</b><br/>AHEPA appointee</p>   | <p>Ken is currently the Director of Infrastructure for a media intelligence company, managing IT resources in 250 locations in over 85 countries. Since earning a BA in Communications from the University of Delaware he spent the last 30 years in IT in both large international Fortune 100 companies and fast paced internet start-ups. He lives with his wife of 30 years in North Wilmington, and his two daughters are getting ready to leave the nest. Their youngest daughter Krista, was the first student to sign up for Odyssey Charter in 2006. He has been the AHEPA Chapter Secretary for the last 10 years. He joined to help the organization that founded and supported his daughter's school. He volunteers with and supports a number of local charities, including PAWS for People.</p> |

Please feel free to contact [any of us](#) directly with your suggestions and questions.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020**

June 19, known as “Juneteenth” or “Freedom Day,” recognizes June 19, 1865, the date Major General Gordon Granger and his Union soldiers landed in Galveston, TX – two years, six months and 18 days after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation - with news that slavery had ended in those states controlled by the Union.

Juneteenth is the oldest celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States, specifically in the former Confederate states.

So, as we honor this day and the freedom it is supposed to represent, we should be mindful that all Americans should take action and work to ensure equality and justice for people of color. Odyssey was founded by members of the Wilmington, DE, chapter of the American Hellenic



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Nurturing a Lifelong Love of Learning

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Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA). AHEPA was founded in 1922 to fight for civil rights and against discrimination, bigotry, and hatred felt at the hands of the Ku Klux Klan.

As leaders, parents, and educators, we play an important role for our community and our children and we have a duty to speak out against injustices whenever and wherever they may occur. Odyssey is committed to building an inclusive and diverse community. Every student, faculty, and staff member —whatever their race, gender, age, ethnicity, cultural heritage or nationality; religious or political beliefs; sexual orientation or gender identity; or socioeconomic, veteran or ability status—has the right to inclusion, respect, agency and voice in the Odyssey community. Further, all members of the Odyssey community have a responsibility to uphold and promote these values and actively foster full participation in academic and community life.

See the scheduled Diversity and Inclusion kickoff meeting notice. We also encourage you to attend virtually or safely in-person Juneteenth commemoration events and to take time with your children to learn the history surrounding this day. A place to start is <http://www.juneteenth.com/history.htm>.