



Odyssey Academy Newsletter

December 19, 2008

Kindergarten Enrollment for 2009-2010

We are now accepting kindergarten enrollments for next school year. We have three kindergarten classrooms, but spots are filling fast, so if you intend to enroll any of your children in kindergarten for next year now is the time! Please contact Denise in the office if you would like enrollment materials for next year.

Winter Carnival / Silent Auction

Remember to check out the end-of-the-year sales that will be coming up at many stores for items to donate to the Silent Auction and Winter Carnival (February 6). Items that can be added to baskets for the Silent Auction (such as arts and crafts items, cooking/kitchen items, health and body care items, etc...) are needed. We also need small prizes for the many games during the carnival, and "dollar store" merchandise for the Bargain Boutique.

We also have available a "donations request" letter, with the school's tax ID information, for area businesses. As

you go about your weekly errands, please think of businesses or stores that you frequent that you could approach with the letter. The success of the Silent Auction depends on the amount of donations we receive from businesses through Odyssey staff and families. Please contact Denise in the school office for a copy of the letter.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Donation Needed for Breakfast Program

As most of you already know, our breakfast selections are very slim compared to previous years. This is a result of not serving our children high fructose corn syrup, artificial color, modified fats, and chemical preservatives. We have recently added Stony Field Farms Organic Yogurt and we are saving the lids in hopes to win a contest for a new outdoor play space. Please encourage your child to choose this yogurt when provided. If you would like more information on this product

and it's benefits visit
<http://www.stonyfieldfarm.com/>.

We would also like to add an additional organic option. We work on such a small budget to provide the children of our community with healthy and natural foods to help insure their academic success and raise awareness of the important roll that HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY BODY has in this success. In order to provide our newest item (organic instant oatmeal in a variety of flavors) we are asking members of the

Odyssey community to pull together to establish a fund for the purchase of hot water dispensing equipment. We want you to know that we are trying to do our very best at providing healthy yet appealing choices for our children and this time we need help from the entire community! Keep in mind that we can also use this equipment at other family and fundraising events that will further benefit our children.

If each of our 300 community members (staff & students) donates \$1.00 we could purchase the necessary equipment needed. As an individual it is a small amount, as a whole cooperative we can raise \$300. It shows just how far even the smallest effort can go! Please send your contribution with your child(ren) to school or stop in the office to contribute to your family's educational community.

Middle School Lock-in

On December 5th the middle school gathered for a night of movies, video games and gym activities. The event was to celebrate the end of the trimester and also as a fundraiser for Wolf Ridge. The students were well behaved and everyone had a great time. They also raised a little over \$400 for their adventure trips! The students did a great

job planning and cleaning up after the event. Great job middle schoolers!

Kids' Club

Kids' Club currently has openings for students in grades k-5. Kids' Club is a convenient child care option – especially during non-school days and early release days. If you would like more information, please contact Kari Mitchell at 763-971-8200.

C.A.R.E.S.

The latest letter in C.A.R.E.S. that we talked about at Odyssey was "A" – for assertion. We talked about how to respectfully stand up for yourself. The students discussed how using a calm voice to let others know how you are feeling about a situation is the best "first step" in classroom relationships. It was also mentioned that sometimes walking away or ignoring pestering is another way to assert yourself. If those steps don't work, then sometimes getting extra help, like from a teacher, might be a "next step". Check in with your students and see if they can describe how we use Assertion at Odyssey. Even the youngest students have heard this word and are encouraged to show assertion! The following students were mentioned, by peers and/or staff members, that they either show strong assertion skills, or having been working on assertion and showing improvement.

Mrs. Pouliot's class - Yeajee Ahn,
Monae Macon and Zac Napla.

Miss Bovy's class - Andy Chisnell,
Hannah Reifke, Omarion Richmond and
Jacob Stegman.

Mrs. Montray's class - Kathleen Mason
and Mason Wagonmaker.

Miss Pam's class - Ahmad Hudspeth,
Phebe Nihart-Arango and Malee Vang.

Miss Driscoll's class - Joel Horstmann,
Grace Karr and Kyla Roy.

Miss D's class - Destiny Baggett,
Lakisha Massaly, Lashayla Moore,
Becca Thorstad and Adrian
VanDerShaegan .

Mrs. DeGreeff's class - Kyle Burge,
Anthony Williams, Oliva Williams and
Jedell Yalartai.

Mrs. Grabe's class - Malbah Kamara,
Andrew Lerwick, Joey Lewis, Anthony
Price and David Segelstrom.

Miss Kalmes' class – Julia Lexvold,
Amirah Watkins and Ashley Watros.

Mrs. Rosengren's class - Alisha Carter,
Meagan Chalfen, Ana Hayes, Julianna
Horstmann, Sitara Roden, Aliyah
Watkins and Alana Wells.

Mr. Skramstad's class - Gabby Barclay,
Breanna Burton, Matia Maciel, Edwina
Massaly, Destiny Nutter, Nirvana
Tlacomulco and Ramla Yassin.

Mrs. Swanson's class - Bubbles Auld,
Shahreyar Azeez, Lavelle Riser,
MacKenzie VanDerSchaegan and
Beatrice Willert.

Mr. Nordmann's class - Kaleb
Arradondo, Jhamar Douglas-Coleman,
Mikayla Holland, Patrick Kollah and
Rhoda Yassin

Mrs. Busch's class - Kirk Anderson,
Johvontea Blackman, Thomas
Brandner, Yah Guannu, David LaForce,
Hakim Watkins, Haley Wincek, Tha Tee
Yang and Jenkins Yonly

Mrs. Hardenbrook - DaVale Barner, Kua
Gaunnu, Kayla Lyles Nick Mitchell and
U-Jay Smith

NEEDED

After last month's newsletter we are able to cross a couple of our "help wanted" jobs off the list, thanks to the great parents we have at Odyssey! However, there are still a couple urgent positions that need attention.

Literacy time in all the grades need extra people to either work one-on-one with students as they read, or help with small groups. For grades 1 and 2, the time is 10:00 - 11:00, grades 3 - 5, the time is 1:00 - 2:30. Grades 6 - 8 have classes throughout the morning hours. Improving literacy skills helps the students in all their classes and helps to improvement test scores throughout the school.

We also need extra hands during **lunch periods** for grades K-5. Grades 3 - 5 eat from 11:50 - 12:15. Grades K - 2 eat from 12:15 - 12:40. Helping students with containers, assisting at the salad table, dispensing condiments and helping staff with dismissal times will be the main tasks.

Please contact your student's teacher or contact Shel Auld at mikauld@aol.com or (763)971-8200, to get more information or schedule a time you can come in and help.

Thank you, Odyssey Partners!

Odyssey partners logged 349 hours in volunteer hours in the month of November! We have accomplished a lot in one month that could not have gotten done without the extra help from Odyssey parents and community members.

This is an increase of 88 hours over the month of October. All Odyssey staff are very grateful for the numerous partners that help us help our students get the best education possible.

Thanks for the help!

Fund Raisers Results

Cook-off ticket sales raised \$1898. This money is deposited directly into participating student's individual adventure trip accounts.

We are also excited to announce that the Odyssey community donated a total of **214 pairs of socks!** These socks have been donated to be distributed to homeless individuals in Minneapolis. Thank you, Odyssey!

Club's Choice - \$1817.90. This money will be used to help with purchases for our "specials" classes (gym, music, art, Spanish).

Remember, all classes, kindergarten through middle school will participate in an adventure trip this spring. If you have questions about the adventure trip for your child's class, please contact the classroom teacher. If you have questions about your student's individual account please contact Shel at mikauld@aol.com or (763)971-8200.

Check out this website!

Looking for new choices in food products or places to eat? Interested in healthier food options, but don't know where to go? www.eatwellguide.org is an easy to use, informational guide for food, restaurants and stores. It can even be used if you are traveling to other locations and want to know what is available before you get there. Going out of town for the holidays? Check on this site for places near your destination to find healthy food sources for you and your family.

WANTED

We now have a corner of the media center cleared out specifically for Odyssey students to read to the Pals On Paws dogs that come into the school on a weekly basis. We will be making extra-large pillows to put in the area to make it more comfortable for the readers.

We are looking for donations of polyfill pillow filler and cotton blend fabric remnants. Ideally, the fabric should be about one and a half yards square. Please contact Shel at mikauld@aol.com or (763)971-8200 if you have any questions. Donations can be left at the front office.

Attendance

Remember that it is important for your student to be on time each morning. Late arrivals disrupt the education of not only your student, but the other students in the class as well. Students should be in their classroom ready to learn promptly at 8:10 a.m. Please call the school office with any questions.

Coming Up in January:

There are a couple important dates in January to be aware of before we leave for winter break.

Saturday, January 17, we will hold our Annual Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. This year we are excited to announce the addition of a “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body” Health Fair! Families will be able to visit stations with their students and “ask the expert” questions to complete an information scavenger hunt. This will greatly enhance the curriculum for students studying the human body for their second trimester project and will help all students with the “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body” initiative. Please mark your calendars now to save this date!

Also in January will be the second set of conferences. They will take place Wednesday, January 21 - Friday,

January 23. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings families will be providing dinner for the teachers again. Teachers will send home conference time reminders in January. If you do not have a conference time yet, please contact your student’s teacher.

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH:

December 19, Friday - Last day before winter break.

December 22 - January 2 - Winter Break.

January 5, Monday – School resumes

January 17, Saturday – Pancake Breakfast and Health Fair 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

January 21, Wednesday -

January 23, Friday - Conferences