



Odyssey Academy Newsletter

November 21, 2008

Tri I Project Demonstrations Night with the Annual Soup and Chili Cook- off!

Odyssey's first Project Night of the school year will be next **Monday, November 24, from 6:00 – 7:30!** This is an exciting evening for all the students and teachers. The classes have been working very hard to be ready to show parents and community members that attend the event all the academic gains they have made in the past three months.

This event also includes our Annual Soup and Chili Cook-off! Teachers have sent home notices with students to inform families what needs to be brought for the meal. To insure enough food for all families and guests each family needs to bring one pot of soup or chili. It does not need to be homemade unless you would like to enter it in the cook-off for a chance to win the prize. Each grade has also been assigned one food item per student to be donated. If you do not know what your student's class assigned food item is, please contact the school and we will let you

know. Food will be served from 6:00 – 7:00.

New this year is the "Warm the Sole Sock Drive". We are collecting new socks, of all sizes, to be donated to the homeless. Please bring at least one pair of new socks per student for the Sock Drive.

Poinsettia orders will be delivered on November 24, too. The orders will be available for pick up after school from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m., and also at the evening event from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Please be sure to make arrangements to get your plants on that date. Poinsettias are fragile and don't stay well if they are left to sit in the school.

Choice Foods Fund Raiser:

Our last all-school fundraiser sale will be with Choice Foods. Catalogs and order forms will be sent home with students on Tuesday, November 25. Orders are due back to the school by Tuesday, December 2. **Delivery of the product will be on Thursday, December 18, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. It is very important that orders are picked up on that day.** Odyssey does not have a storage facility for the frozen goods, and winter break begins the next day.

Profit from this fund raiser will benefit our arts programs. These classes are in great need of funds. All Odyssey students receive class time in the arts programs, so any additional monies for them will benefit everyone.

There may be up to two additional fundraisers per class, if more funds are needed for student's individual adventure trip accounts. These fundraisers will not take place until after winter break, and will only take place if they are needed.

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, ect...) 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 front office for a copy of the letter.

Thank you in advance for your support.

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

Winter Music Program

With the busy winter season past
approaching, don't forget to mark your
calendars for the Winter Music Program
on Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m.
Watch the newsletter for more
information.

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 261 hours in
volunteer hours in the month of October!
We have accomplished a lot in one
month that could not have gotten done

without the extra help from Odyssey parents and community members.

Helping clean up the media center, helping students in literacy classes, partnering with Odyssey staff members with on-going research and projects, assisting with fundraisers, and many other jobs got done in the month of October.

Thanks for the help!

Fund Raisers Results

Mickman Brothers – wreathes and evergreen products - \$2600 in sales.
Malmborgs – poinsettias - \$1850 in sales.

The profit from each fund raiser was 50%, resulting in \$2225 for individual student's adventure trip accounts.

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.

So, You Want A New Playground?

We will still be collecting lids from specially marked Stonyfield Farms yogurts until winter break. We need to collect as many lids as possible, for the chance to win a **\$50,000 grant for an outdoor play space**. The organization that sends in the most Stonyfield yogurt lids by December 31st wins! Odyssey students deserve fun, safe playground equipment. Please help us get it for them.

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body Recipe of the Month

Healthy Caramel Corn

This recipe is a great family or parent/child activity. Children can help measure and add the ingredients to the pot. However, the recipe does require stirring the sugar mixture over high heat, which will be the adult's job.
Ingredients (organic substitution is an option):

pop 8 quarts of yellow popcorn
1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
3 tbs. black strap molasses
1/2 c. agave syrup (can be found at most grocery stores)
1 tsp. baking soda (aluminum-free preferred)
1 tsp. sea salt

Preheat oven to 200 degrees
A 16 quart heavy duty stainless steel stock pot works best for even heat distribution, so the caramel does not burn. Over med/high heat, combine butter, sugar, molasses and agave syrup. Boil for 5 minutes, stirring well. Remove from heat; stir in baking soda. **STIR WELL.** Pour in the 8 quarts of popcorn and stir to coat well. Bake in a large roaster pan for 45minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.

Staff Email Addresses Have Changed!

All staff email address have been changed to end with odysseyacademy.org. Mr. Reeds new email address, for example, is jreed@odysseyacademy.org. Please contact the school office with any questions.

Lost and Found

While you are here at school for project night, please take a moment to look through the lost and found near the gym. Any items unclaimed by December 19 will be taken to ARC during winter break.

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:

November 25, Tuesday - Choice Foods Fundraiser kick-off.

November 25, Tuesday - Student Early Release Day. Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

November 26, 27 and 28 - No School, Thanksgiving Break.

December 2, Tuesday - Choice Foods Fund Raiser Orders Due.

December 5, Friday - Middle School Lock-In, 3:00 - 10:00 p.m.

December 8, Monday - CAC meeting, 3:30 p.m., Media Center.

December 11, Thursday - K-5 Winter Music and Art Program, 7:00 P.M

December 17, Wednesday - Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., media center.

December 18, Thursday - Choice Foods orders delivered, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

December 19, Friday - Last day before winter break.

December 22 - January 2 - Winter Break.