



Odyssey Academy Newsletter

October 31, 2008

Odyssey C.A.R.E.S.

The C.A.R.E.S. program is a component of "Responsive Classroom" teacher training and a large part of Odyssey's school climate and character-development for all the students, kindergarten through eighth grade. The letters stand for Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy and Self-control. Every other month each classroom has a discussion about what one of the words means and how we show that characteristic through our behavior. Then the students share who in the class has shown the characteristic, or has worked hard at and improved at the characteristic.

In September the focus was on "Cooperation". The students offered many good examples of cooperation. They mentioned following teacher and adult directions in the classrooms, listening to classmates when working in small groups, helping out others even when it's not your "job", and many other great ideas.

The following students were mentioned (by classmates and/or staff) to have shown COOPERATION in their classrooms:

Mrs. Pouliot – Amelia Schmidt, Ibrahim Tounkara, Sophia Yassin

Miss Bovy – Imaan Adam, Michael Moore-McElrath, Timmy Vang

Mrs. Montray – Raheem Akindele, Cody Burge, B.J. Grigor

Miss Pam – Sumaiya Azeez, Mykala Erickson, Princess Gataud, Frida Hernandez, Ahmad Hudspeth, Nagilee Livingstone, Ronaldo Rosas, Malee Vang, Ruweada Yassin, Johnny Young

Miss Driscoll – Trista Deng, Joel Horstmann, Mackenzie Johnson, Clara Schmidt, Dillion Stai, Jade Xiong, Salma Yassin, Jared Zolik

Miss D. – Akpan Santrian, Doreen Morisset, Becca Thorstad, Adrain VanDerSchaegen

Mrs. DeGreef – Constance Duopu, Billy Schmidt, Jadell Yalartai

Mrs. Grabe – Devohn Cruz, Cassidy Deng, Breanna Minter-Moan, Chyanne Nickens, Monte Xiong

Miss Kalmes – Trenyqua Edwards, Carmen Eggleston, Charo Nickens, James, Qualah, Amirah Watkins, Ashley Watros

Mrs. Rosengren – Jazmine Allen, Alisha Carter, Anastazia Hayes, Desmond Johnson, Demetria McGrone, Andrew Pitleck, Sitara Roden

Mr. Skramstad – Edwina Massaly, Tynice Robinson, Eric Stai, Nujerry Vang

Mrs. Swanson – Bubbles Auld, Berenisse Portillo, Joe Sando, Asya Watkins

Mr. Nordmann – Kaleb Arradondo, Jhamar Douglas-Coleman, Sam Folley, Bailey Larson

Mrs. Busch – Kirk Anderson, Johvontea Blackman, Alina Moua, Hakim Watkins, Haley Wincek, ThaTee Yang

Mrs. Hardenbrook – Denzel Day, TajJenay Edwards, Kau Guannu, Phoenix Holmes, Nick Mitchell, U-Jay Smith, Simon Thomas

Odyssey Academy's Third Annual "I Love To Read!" Day

Due to fantastic support from many Odyssey partners and great involvement of Odyssey students, our third-annual "I Love to Read!" day was a success.

The day started with buddy-reading between all the grades. Then we moved on to visits from some of our dogs that come in on a weekly basis to be read to by the students. The owners explained what the dogs do for the community, how the dogs are trained, and then gave the students time to "meet and greet" the dogs. There were also "guest readers" for all the grades. We had members from the community, staff, and many parents go into the classrooms and read aloud to the students.

Teachers planned lessons to incorporate the message of the day, "love reading", into all areas of the

curriculum. For example, in some math classes the students focused on math vocabulary, in third grade there was a measuring assignment in math to make their own journals and in middle school, the science class read the famous "science mysteries" for the day.

We would like to offer a huge "Thanks!" to the many participants within the Odyssey community that helped to make "I Love to Read!" day educational and enjoyable for the whole school. Make sure to check out the front display case to see the great photos of the event.

NEEDED: Odyssey Partners!

There are many ways parents, family members and community members can help at Odyssey every month. Coming up in the next month there are three specific tasks that need time and attention:

- Reading and Literacy support. In 1st and 2nd grades from 10:00-11:00 each day and in 3rd – 5th grades from 1:00 – 2:00 each day we need people to help students with reading, either one – on – one, and/or in small group centers. If you would be able to assist with this, please contact Shel Auld (763)971-8200. Middle school also needs help in this area – you can contact Shel for more information on times for those classes.
- We are also looking for a "librarian". This position would take approximately two hours per week. It would include checking in returned books (quick and easy training on the system available) and shelving them. Ideally, if it could be a scheduled, consistent time, then the teachers could plan for times to bring

groups into the library and students could check out books.

- “Weekend Warrior Workers”
Some parents have requested that we schedule time on a weekend for people come in and clean or do “maintenance” work. In the month of November the school will be open on **Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** The focus of this day will be the media center. Several areas need to be cleaned, organized and rearranged, and there are books that need to be reshelfed. We will have two other jobs to work on, as well. If you are able to come in and help, please contact Shel Auld at (763)971-8200 or mikauld@aol.com to let us know what time you can come!

School Counselor

Our school counselor, Christine Wohlwend, will be here four days a week this year. Christine, from the counseling department at Catholic Charities, has been contracted to provide counseling services for all Odyssey Academy students during the school year. If you would like to speak with Christine about a concern for your child, please contact her through the school office. If you do not want your child to meet with Christine, please contact Jeffrey Reed, the dean of students.

Holiday Resources

Basket of Hope provides food baskets for families in need for both Thanksgiving and the Holidays. Register online at www.emergencyfoodshelf.org
Registration is first-come, first-served until the program is full so please sign up immediately if you are interested.

CEAP has a Toys for Tots program for families in Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park. Call CEAP at 763-450-3674 to register. The program [runs in November](#), so please call [immediately](#). Please call Christine, Odyssey counselor, with questions or additional resources.

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.

Fundraiser Numbers

Blue Sky Guide: \$860.00 profit.
HOWEVER, there are still 68 Blue Sky Guide books that have not been returned or paid for. This is cutting into our profit substantially. When those books are paid for we will have an additional \$680.00! If your family has not paid for the Blue Sky Guide that was sent home as a sample book the first week of school, please send your payment of \$20.00 to Odyssey as soon as possible. If you are not purchasing or selling the book, please return it to the school. We will still be able to sell it and gain the profit. Remember, the profits from this fundraiser will go toward purchasing much-needed science equipment for all the students

Read-A-Thon: Odyssey students did a fantastic job reading many, many minutes (and hours) during our 10-day read-a-thon! The top readers in each class received a \$5.00 gift certificate to the Scholastic Book Fair:
Mrs. Hardenbrook's class: Yobani Raicho-Gomaz
Mrs. Busch's class: Jordan Young
Mr. Nordmann's class: Bobbie Nutter
Mrs. Swanson's class: Bubbles Auld
Mr. Skramstad's class: Destiny Nutter

Mrs. Rosengren's class: Julianna Horstmann
Miss Kalmes's class: Carman Eggleston
Mrs. Grabe's class: Joey Lewis
Mrs. DeGreef's class: Kyle Burge
Miss D's class: Becca Thorstad
Miss Driscoll's class: Mackenzie Johnson
Miss Pam's class: Johnathon Young
Mrs. Montray's class: Cody Burge
Miss Bovy's class: Jacob Stegman
Mrs. Pouliot's class: Amelia Schmidt

The students and families also did a fantastic job getting pledges for their read-a-thon minutes and as a result \$866.00 was raised. Unfortunately, due to a break in at the school, a large portion of the money was stolen. The school is working with insurance to recover it. The money will go towards media center supplies.

Scholastic Book Fair:

During conferences many families took advantage of the great book deals at the Scholastic Book Fair. Due to the sales (and profits from last year's book fair), each teacher was able to pick out \$35 of books for their classrooms! Thanks, Odyssey families, for the great support!

Looking Ahead:

Plans are already in the making for Winter Carnival, which will be on February 6th this year. We are looking for many, many donations to help make the event another success. We will need prizes for the games, door prizes and, most especially, contributions for the silent auction. Please contact area businesses that you frequent to see what type of service or product they would be willing to donate for the event. The school has a donations request letter that explains the event and includes tax deduction information. Please contact Shel Auld at (763)971-8200 or mikauld@aol.com to request a

copy of the letter. We count on the Odyssey community to help get the word out to area businesses that would be willing to sponsor the school to help raise the much-needed funds for our students' classrooms.

Fundraising / School Incentives Opportunities:

DIRECTV4SchoolsTM - Contributing to a Brighter Future

The DIRECTV4Schools program is an easy way for U.S. schools to earn the funds they need for the special programs, equipment and events that enrich student learning. Through the program, schools can earn \$100 for every new customer and \$50 for every existing DIRECTV customer who calls 888-388-4724, commits to one year of DIRECTV® service and mentions the school's unique School Code. There are no orders to take, no products to deliver, and schools receive the funds they've earned twice a year. Go to directv4schools.com for more information, or contact the school with any questions.

Stonyfield Farms

Win a \$50,000 grant for a new playspace for our school!

<http://www.stonyfield.com/>

Every kid deserves a great place to play. Kids who play are healthier and less likely to be obese. They do better in school. And they learn social skills that help them become happy, well-adjusted adults. But our kids aren't getting enough unstructured play. They spend more time than ever in front of computers and televisions. Schools are cutting back on recess time. And safe and accessible playspaces are disappearing.

That's why KaBOOM! is teaming up with Stonyfield Farms to offer two \$50,000 grants for new playspaces!

For a chance to win a \$50,000 grant for a community-built playground, and the chance to help choose another group to receive the same prize, have your school or youth group collect specially-marked yogurt lids from Stonyfield Farm 6oz. and 32oz. yogurts between now and December 31, 2008. The group that sends the most lids to Stonyfield wins.

Stonyfield Farm, celebrating its 25th year, is the world's leading organic yogurt company. Its all natural and certified organic yogurt, smoothies, milk, cultured soy, frozen yogurt and ice cream are distributed nationally. The company advocates that healthy food can only come from a healthy planet. Stonyfield donates 10 percent of its profits to efforts that help protect and restore the Earth. For more information about Stonyfield Farm, its products and initiatives, visit www.stonyfield.com.

Third Grade Update

In the Third Grade, we are beginning a unit on Geography. This unit will end with our country project. We will be studying maps, the continents, the oceans, and longitude and latitude. To go along with this unit we have made travel journals that we will be sending out to family and friends that live in other states or countries. When they get our journal they will fill out a section on their state or country. Then they will send us a postcard and send the journal on to someone else. We will be making a scrap book of all our postcards. We are excited to learn more about different states and countries!

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body Recipe of the Month

Peanut Butter Balls of Energy

! cup unsweetened smooth or chunky peanut butter

1 small banana

1/2 cup honey

1 cup toasted wheat germ

Coating: mini chocolate chips, shredded coconut, sunflower seeds

1. In medium bowl mash banana, peanut butter and honey together
2. Stir in wheat germ until well mixed
3. Roll mixture into individual tablespoon sized balls, then roll the balls in one, or a mix, of your favorite coatings listed above.
4. Chill until firm, and enjoy!

Staff Email Addresses Have Changed!

All staff email addresses 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.

Mrs. Hardenbrook Receives Science Grant

Congratulations to middle school science teacher Jodie Hardenbrook for receiving a Science and Math Improvement grant from Toshiba. Please see the attached press release for more information about what Mrs. Hardenbrook will do with the grant money.

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.

DATES TO REMEMBER THIS MONTH:

November 4, Tuesday - Election Day. Remember to vote.

November 5, Wednesday – Picture Retake Day

November 7, Friday – American Indian / Alaskan Native Heritage Day

November 10, Monday – CAC meeting, 3:30, media center

November 13, Thursday – Cook-off ticket sales begin

November 14, Friday – Mickman Brother's Wreaths and Evergreens delivered

(pick up at the end of the school day.)

November 14, Friday - Zoomobile visits kindergarten classes.

November 19, Wednesday – School Board Meeting, 6:00 P.M.

November 21, Friday – Cook-off ticket sales end.

November 24, Monday – Trimester 1 Project Demonstration Night AND Soup and Chili Cook-off, 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.

Poinsettias delivered at the evening event.

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

November 25, Tuesday – Student Early Release Day at 11:30 A.M.

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