



Odyssey Academy Newsletter

December 18, 2009

Winter Carnival / Silent Auction

Remember to check out the end-of-the-year sales for items to donate to the Silent Auction and Winter Carnival (February 5). All of the classes have picked a basket theme for the silent auction. Following is a list of all of the themes, in case you come across good items for any of them: bbq, art, toys, winter, Valentine's Day, games, dress-up, anything goes, movie, coffee/tea, sports, books, relaxation and family fun. Please check with your child's teacher if you do not know the theme for your child's class. We also need small prizes for the many games during the carnival and "dollar store" merchandise for the Bargain Boutique.

We 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 Shel Auld at mskbauld@yahoo.com or (763)971-8200 for a copy of the letter.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Winter Music and Art Program

I want to thank all who helped with the music performance last week! I really appreciate your help in serving refreshments, bringing treats and beverages, cleaning up, etc. Thank you, thank you!

Also, great work, students! You worked hard and it paid off! You should be very pleased with your performance. I am proud of you! Way to go!

New Year Schedule Change?

Are you going to have a schedule change with the New Year? As you look at your schedule for the winter months do you see any areas of available time? Use that time to help others and have fun for yourself – come in and help at Odyssey!

We need partners during **literacy time** in all the grades, to either work one-on-one students as they read, or help with small groups. Improving literacy skills increases the students' success in all the classes and helps improve the test scores throughout the school.

We also need extra hands during **lunch periods** for kindergarten through fifth grades. Helping students with containers, dispensing condiments and helping staff with dismissal times will be the main tasks.

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

Odyssey C.A.R.E.S.

The next C.A.R.E.S. assembly will be on Friday, December 18, at 8:00. The students that are nominated for "Assertion" will be recognized, and other family groups will introduce "R" for "Responsibility". All parents are welcome to attend the C.A.R.E.S. assemblies.

Be sure to check out the C.A.R.E.S. display case in the center hallway to see the photos of the students that were nominated for representing

"cooperation". Congratulate those students if you see them!

Warm Pancakes + Cool Sledding = Fun Winter Day!

Saturday, the 16th of January will be our Annual Pancake Breakfast from 9:00 – 11:00 A.M. This year we are continuing the "Healthy Mind, Healthy Body" Health Fair! Families will be able to visit stations with their students and "ask the experts" questions to complete a scavenger hunt-type sheet. Some stations that will be represented at the event are a dental representative, Trader Joe's Stores, family fitness experts, even Memorial Blood Center for those that are able to donate blood!

The Pancake Breakfast will be offered at a very low cost to our families. It will include Sturdiwheat pancakes, Anderson's Maple Syrup, Wellshire's sausages, Caribou coffee, and more.

This year we are adding an exciting community service activity to the event. We will be hosting a **Sled-A-Thon** after the Wellness Fair and Pancake Breakfast from 11:00 – noon. Students will be able to gather pledges and they will work together on the hill with the sledding, counting the slides, hauling the sleds up the hill, ect... All proceeds will be donated to C.E.A.P. of Brooklyn Park.

Look for more information after the first of the year.

Also coming up in January...

In January will be the second set of conferences. They will take place Wednesday, January 20 – Friday, January 22. Teachers will be sending home conference time reminders in January. If you do not have a conference time yet, please contact your student's teacher.

On Tuesday, January 12 Odyssey will be hosting a Kindergarten Open House at 6:30. Families will have the opportunity to tour the school, check out the kindergarten classrooms and visit with the teachers. If you know of any families that have children that will be 5 years of age by September of 2010, please pass along this information.

The next adventure trip fundraiser will begin on January 15. It is selling chocolates, coffees, teas, and more through Equal Exchange. Remember, all students will have the opportunity to

participate in a spring adventure trip. If you need more information about the trips please contact your child's trip. If you need information regarding your child's fundraiser account please contact Shel Auld at (763)971-8200, or mskbauld@yahoo.com.

Ongoing Fundraisers – a NEW one!

Beginning in January we will be collecting drink pouches (please see flier attached to the newsletter). There will collection containers in the lunchroom and in the front entry. Be sure to save any drink pouches from Capri Sun, Honest Kids, and many more. Bring them into the school and deposit them in the containers. If your student brings drink pouches in their lunches please remind them to deposit

them in the collection container in the lunch room, and not throw them away.

We are still collecting box tops for Box Tops for Education and milk lids from Kemps and Land-O-Lakes. hose collection containers are also on the table in the front entry. Another on-going fundraiser we are still participating in are the goodsearch.com and goodshop.com internet sites. If you have questions about how to set up those search engines on your computer please contact Shel Auld at mskbauld@yahoo.com.

Remember, every little helps in these collections. We get paid a few cents for each item and all those pennies add up to good-sized checks for Odyssey. Thanks for your continued support in all these fundraisers!

Odyssey Partnership Hours

In the months of October and November we logged **513 partner hours!** This equals approximately \$6,735 saved for the school in just two months. Please remember we ask for four hours of partnership hours per family. If you have not been able to get your hours in yet this school year please contact Shel Auld at (763)971-8200 or mskbauld@yahoo.com and get connected to support positions you can fill. Even if you do not have four hours to offer in the next month, there are things to do that only take an hour. Every little bit from every partner makes a huge difference in the Odyssey community. Thank you Odyssey Partners!

Odyssey Board Committees Updates

Community Action: The Community Action Committee met on December 14. The committee is busy putting together two big winter events. Many helpers are needed for the planning and implementing of the Health and Wellness Fair with Pancake Breakfast January and for the Winter Carnival in February. The next meeting is January 11, at 3:00.

Finance: This committee meets the 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:00. We are looking for parents to join this committee.

Marketing: The Marketing Committee held its first meeting on December 3. They brainstormed ideas for getting the Odyssey name out in the community in the most positive ways possible. More members are needed for this committee. You do not need to have marketing experience, just be willing to offer opinions. The next meeting is Thursday, January 14, at 3:15.

School Improvement: The School Improvement Committee brainstormed areas where we would like to see change or improvement. We talked about programs for the gifted/talented students (those who are excelling), curriculum review cycles, ways parents can help out with getting teachers materials, and accreditation. We will choose our chair at our next meeting on January 12 at 4:00. Parents are welcome to join our group.

Technology: The Technology Committee met in December for the first time and discussed the procedure for updating the Technology Plan and the changes needed. The committee would welcome more members for it's next

meeting on Wednesday, January 13, at 4:00.

Wellness: The Wellness Committee held its first meeting on December 8. The committee is looking at the current wellness policy to determine any changes that may be needed and the direction for wellness at Odyssey. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 14 at 4:00.

Child care is available for CAC, Marketing, School Improvement and Wellness. Please contact Shel Auld at mskbauld@yahoo.com if you have any questions about any of the committees. All parents are welcome to attend any of the committee meetings.

Winter Break Ideas:

This fun lunch is ideal for kids to help make since they can roll up the meat and cut ingredients with a table knife. Serve these with mustard, mayonnaise or ranch dressing on the side for dipping and be sure to break any sharp ends off of the skewers when serving these kabobs to small kiddos.

Ingredients

4 thick slices whole grain bread, toasted and cut into (1-inch) cubes
4 slices deli ham
4 slices deli turkey
16 cherry tomatoes
4 leaves butter or romaine lettuce
1/4 pound cheddar, cut into cubes
1/4 pound provolone or mozzarella, cut into cubes
2 kosher dill or sweet pickles, thickly sliced

Method

Alternating ingredients, thread bread, ham, turkey, tomatoes, lettuce, cheese and pickles onto skewers and serve.

FREE Family Flick at Theatres at Mall of America Saturday, December 26 at 10:00 AM. The movie will be Polar Express.

Kwanzaa Celebration at Midtown Global Market on Saturday, December 26.

Free guided tours of the State Capitol are offered on the hour Monday through Fridays from 9:00 – 4:00, Saturdays from 10:00 – 3:00 and Sundays from 1:00 – 4:00.

Find more family friendly activity ideas at www.gocitykids.com.