



# Odyssey Academy Newsletter

February 26, 2010

## **Winter Carnival 2010: Success!**

A huge "thank you!" to all Odyssey partners that helped to make the annual Winter Carnival a success! For the first time ever, every partner position at the carnival was filled prior to the event, and every partner showed up on time.

Thank you to all the parent and family members, staff, and community members that were willing to help out!

Thank you to all Odyssey families and community members that came out to connect with other families, and to support our school. Our community thrives when we all work (and play) together!

The proceeds from the event go directly to the classrooms. The total proceeds from the event, including the silent auction, the raffle, and the carnival activities were \$3749! The teachers will be able to use their portions to purchase much-needed classroom supplies and curriculum enhancements.

## **Trimester II Project Demonstrations: Science Fair!**

Tuesday, March 2 is our annual Science Fair. The students will be presenting their science experiments to families and community members from 6:00 – 7:30. Please mark the date on your calendars and make every effort to get your student(s) here for this important academic event.

This year we will also be offering concessions available for purchase. The proceeds will go to help defray adventure trips costs.

## **Odyssey's Annual Food Drive.**

Tuesday, March 2 is the starting date for this year's Odyssey's food drive for C.E.A.P. When you come to school on March 2 for the Science Fair Project Demonstration Night, be sure to bring non-perishable food items with you! We will be collecting food items from March 2 through March 17. This year's goal is 750 food items. That is only 5 food items per student. Help us help our community!

### **Help Wanted:**

These positions are not new, but are still very important. Please keep these opportunities in mind when you are planning your schedule.

**Literacy time** in all the grades need extra people to either work one-on-one students as they read, or help with small groups. Improving literacy skills helps the students in all the classes and studies and helps to show improvements in the testing scores throughout the school.

We also need extra hands during **lunch periods** for kindergarten through fifth grades. 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 [mskbould@yahoo.com](mailto:mskbould@yahoo.com) or (763)971-8200, to get more information or schedule a time to come in and help.

### **Thank you, Odyssey Partners!**

In the month of January Odyssey parents and community members logged 408 hours, and in the month of February we will have more than 248 hours!

The staff of Odyssey Academy are grateful for all the time and effort of all our partners to make this the best school for our students!

### **Running Club Coming Soon**

Running Club will begin the week after spring break. It will be held on Thursdays, from 2:45 – 3:45, beginning on April 8. The dates will be April 8, 15, 29, May 6, 20, and 27. There is no charge for Running Club, and a snack

will be provided, but parents **MUST** provide transportation and **prompt pick up at 3:45 is required**. Look for a sign up form in the March newsletter.

### **Get In Gear.**

Are you ready to get your body in gear for spring? This year's Get in Gear runs are on Saturday, April 25 at Minnehaha Park. Each year there is a 2k run/walk, a 5k run/walk and a 10k run.

Schools that participate in the event as a team have the opportunity to earn gift certificates for physical education equipment.

If you are interested in having your family participate and support Odyssey at this event, please contact Shel Auld at (763)971-8200 or [mikauld@aol.com](mailto:mikauld@aol.com).

### **Donations**

Thanks so much to the parents who have donated supplies to the office. We still have a few ongoing needs which you will find posted on the office window. The biggest needs are 3 oz. Dixie cups, tissues, children's Tylenol or Motrin (generic brands are fine). Remember donations are tax deductible.

### **Attendance**

Remember to call the school if child is going to be late or absent. It is considered unexcused unless we hear from a parent. You can leave a message at 763-549-2388 or call the main line 763-971-8200 if you need to speak with someone in person. If your student is diagnosed with anything contagious please inform us promptly so we can watch for symptoms within the classroom.

## **Classroom Updates**

### **Middle School**

#### **Facebook/Texting – Are they Damaging Your Student's Education?**

By Jodie Hardenbrook

Technology is a wonderful thing. It is fun, exciting and can be a great help in education. As a parent of teens and as a middle school teacher I also can see the down side of technology.

As a teacher, I send home missing assignment reports and the next day no assignments are turned in but I do hear about facebook conversations that took place the night before. Kids are sending hundreds of text messages in "text language" but cannot write an essay for Language Arts.

As a parent I deal with the same problems at my home. I put parental controls on our computer so computer time is limited. If you do not have parental controls and your student is failing a class or missing assignments, I would suggest you take the power cord from your computer and only plug in the computer when you are able to supervise. Are there times you can take your student's phone until homework is complete?

Parents have told me about the time spent on facebook instead of projects which are required at Odyssey. Many already are taking away the privilege of the internet. It gets even trickier when a parent works evenings and has a hard time monitoring their student.

The positive thing about the technology is that it can be an earned privilege. If students are not bringing home planners, or are not writing down missing assignments you have a

consequence when you take away the computer and phone privileges.

Remember, middle school parents have access to student's classes on line at any time. If students come home without assignments to work on when they know they are missing, I would deny their computer privileges until they learn to take responsibility for their work.

I think many of us do not realize the hours students are spending on computers and phones and the negative educational habits it is causing. My suggestion is to keep watch and keep the computers and phones as a privilege that is earned after succeeding in the classroom.

### **Ongoing Fundraisers Opportunities**

Remember to continue to save any "Box Tops for Education" symbols on participating products. Bring them into the school and deposit them in the "school bus" on the front entry table.

We are also still collecting milk lids from Land-O-Lakes and Kemps, and drink pouches. Each of these items bring a few cents per item, but when we turn in hundreds at the end of the school year the school gets paid in dollars. Help us raise more dollars.

Odyssey also participates through goodsearch.com and goodshop.com. Do your on-line searching and shopping through these two sites, and Odyssey will get a few cents per search or shop!

### **Adventure Trips Are Right Around the Corner!**

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 fund raising account please contact Shel at [mikauld@aol.com](mailto:mikauld@aol.com) or (763)971-8200.

The current Palermo's Pizzas fundraiser is an excellent way for you to help your child raise money for his or her adventure trip. Please remember to return the Palermo's order form and all money to the school on Thursday, March 4.

There is one more opportunity coming up this spring to help your child raise funds for his or her adventure trip. March 25 through April 6 we will be selling flower. All flower orders AND money will be due Tuesday, April 6.

### **No School Reminder**

There is no school March 5 and March 8 and the week of March 29. Kids Club will be open March 5, 8 and 29 - April 1. If you need child care for those days fill out the form on the next page and turn in to the office no later than March 2. If you are not already registered you will need to fill out registration form. If you have any questions you may call Dorene at 763-971-8200.

### **PLEASE NOTE: Date Changes!**

As the end of the school year approaches, we have had to make some adjustments to the school calendar. We apologize for any inconveniences these changes may incur.

The performance scheduled for March 19 has been cancelled. Instead, there will be a **Patriotic Performance** featuring our third through fifth grade music classes and the middle school choir program, on **Friday, May 21, at 7:00**.

The Rollerskating Parties previously scheduled for April 29 and 30 have also changed, due to the delivery of the roller skates. There will now be an **After School Party**, for the third through eighth grades, on **Friday, April 30**, from 3:00 – 7:00.

### **Trimester III Dates to Remember:**

March 2, Tuesday – Science Fair Demonstrations, 6:00 – 7:30.

Concessions available for purchase at the event. Proceeds to benefit adventure trips.

March 4, Thursday – Palermo's fundraiser orders and money due.

End of Tri II.

March 5, Friday – No School.

March 8, Monday – No School.

March 9, Tuesday – Wellness and School Improvement Committees, 4:00.

March 10, Wednesday – Spring Pictures Day.

– Technology Committee, 4:00

March 11, Thursday

– CAC meeting, 3:00.

– Marketing Committee, 3:15

March 18, Thursday – Palermo's orders delivered. Pick up 2:30 – 4:00.

March 24, Wednesday – Finance Committee, 5:00.

– Board Meeting, 6:00.

March 25, Thursday – Spring Flowers fundraiser begins. Profit to adventure trips.

March 26, Friday – CARES assembly, 8:00 AM

March 29-April 2 – No school, spring break.

April 6, Tuesday – Spring Flowers orders AND money due.

April 12, Monday – CAC meeting, 3:00.  
April 13, Tuesday – School Improvement and Wellness Committees, 4:00  
April 14, Wednesday – Technology Committee, 4:00  
April 15, Thursday – Marketing Committee, 3:15.  
April 13-14 – MCA testing, reading. Grades 3-8.  
April 20-21 – MCA testing, math. Grades 3-8.  
April 22, Thursday – Earth Day events.  
April 21-23 – Scholastic Book Fair. Media center.  
April 21, 22 – Tri III Conferences, evening. “Families Feed the Teachers”  
April 22, Thursday – Early Release, 11:30.  
April 23, Friday – No School. Tri III Conferences, daytime.  
April 24, Saturday – Get in Gear 2k, 5k and 10k runs. Minnehaha Park.  
April 27-28 – MCA testing, science. Grades 5 and 8.  
April 29, Wednesday – Finance Committee, 5:00.  
– Board meeting, 6:00.  
April 30, Friday – CARES assembly, 8:00 AM  
– After School Party, grades 3-8, 3:00 – 7:00  
May 3, Monday – Asian/So. Pacific Heritage Day.  
May 5, Wednesday – Spring Flowers delivered  
May 6, Thursday – Teacher Appreciation Day.  
May 7, Friday – Festival of Nations Variety Show, 7:00  
May 10, Monday – CAC meeting, 3:00.  
May 11, Tuesday – Wellness and School Improvement Committees, 4:00.  
May 12, Wednesday – Technology Committee, 4:00.  
May 13, Thursday – Marketing Committee, 3:15.

May 12-14 – Grades 3-5 Adventure trip to Audobon.  
May 13,14 – Grades 1-2 Adventure trip to Audobon.  
May 21, Friday – Patriotic Performance: 3-5 grades music & choir program, 7:00  
May 26, Wednesday – Finance Committee, 5:00  
– Board Meeting, 6:00  
May 28, Friday – Track and Field Day.  
May 31, Monday – No School.  
June 1-4 – Grades 6-8 Adventure trip to Wolf’s Ridge.  
June 7, Monday – Tri III Project Demonstrations and Spring Picnic, 6:00 – 7:30.  
June 4, Thursday – Kindergarten year-end program  
8<sup>th</sup> grade recognition and year-end slide show  
Last Day of School, early release.