



Odyssey Academy Newsletter

September 25, 2009

Thank You For All the Great Help at Odyssey's Spruce Up and Family Fun Night!

Thank you to the numerous families that helped out at both the Spruce Up Odyssey and Family Fun Night event! What a fantastic start to building the Odyssey community spirit for the school year.

This year we were able to form six working teams at Spruce Up Odyssey. The front yard got trimmed, weeded and picked up. The staff supply room was organized again (an annual event). The media center looks brighter and more inviting with some added color and decorations. The back playground and yard area got weeded and trashed picked up. Also, the back stage area got picked up and organized.

Thanks to Odyssey families that helped at the event and that donated to the bake sale and the Bingo prizes. Without your generosity and volunteering spirit we could not have made the event work.

Odyssey staff is very grateful to all the families and community members that put so much time and effort to help make the first event of the '09-'10 school year a success!

Conferences Are Coming! And More...

On October 7, 8, and 9 Odyssey will hold the first trimester conferences. If you attended Open House, at the beginning of the school year, you were asked to sign up for a conference time with your child(ren)'s teacher(s). The teachers will send home notes to remind you of your scheduled time. If you were not able to attend the Open House and do not have a time reserved for your family, please contact the teacher(s) and schedule a conference time.

At Odyssey, conferences are considered a very important part of the education process for all the students. It is important for students, parents and teachers to communicate together for an

optimal learning environment. To that end, please be advised that family members attend conferences together. If circumstances allow that all children in your family do not attend a student's conference, please help us by informing other Odyssey staff members. It is a safety issue when children are unattended in the school hallways, or outside, while the parent(s) is/are in a classroom conference.

During conference times there will be two other happenings going on in the school. In the media center, there will be a **Scholastic Book Fair**. Stop in and pick up some new books to interest your student(s)! Also, the teachers put in very long days during conference week. On the conference days, many teachers are not even able to break away for dinner. We ask that the families help them out by bringing in **food for the teachers** to snack on and for their dinner. Fresh fruit and vegetables, cheese and crackers, water bottles, crock pot meals, deli items are all possibilities. If you signed up at the Open House to help with the first trimester meals for the teachers, please contact Shel Auld at mikauld@aol.com or (763)971-8200. Thank you in advance for showing support to Odyssey's fantastic teachers.

Club's Choice Fundraiser

The Club's Choice fundraiser ended on the 14th of September. The total sales for the school were \$3683. The profit earned amount has not been given to us, but is almost 50% of sales. The total sales were just less than last years total of \$4127. The profits will go to support Odyssey's "specials" classes of gym, art, music or Spanish. **Club Choice product delivery will be Monday, October 12 from 2:30 – 4:00.** Please be aware that Odyssey cannot be responsible for orders not picked up at

delivery. Some items come frozen and the school does not have a freezer. If you are not able to pick up your order at delivery please send someone else. If you have any questions please contact Shel Auld at mskbould@yahoo.com or (763)971-8200.

Blue Sky Guide

Odyssey is offering an opportunity to families to purchase the Blue Sky Guide coupon book. This money-saving book has coupons for many twin city businesses that cater to families and "green" practices. It costs \$20 and the school will earn \$10 for every book purchased. Please use the attached order envelope to place your order. If you have family, friends or co-workers that would like to order a Blue Sky Guide you may order theirs through Odyssey, too! **Please return the order envelope and ALL money to the school by Monday, October 26.** Books will be delivered to the school on Thursday, October 29. If you would like to see a Blue Sky Guide stop in at the school office and ask to see the sample book. Please note this is not a scheduled fund raiser. Odyssey is providing this as a service to our families.

News from classrooms:

Greetings from Music! We have been singing new songs, studying note names, learning about rhythm, etc. In the 4th/5th grade classes we are studying a unit called "Music Around the World." I would like to have a few parents or adult family members to come in and share something about their native country with the class. It could be a song, a dance, or simply what the culture is like in that particular country. If you would be willing to come in one day (for even part of the music period), please give me a call or drop me an e-

mail and we can discuss scheduling. Your child does not even have to be in the 4th/5th grade classes for you to come. We will be working on this unit through the beginning of October. I think it would be a great learning opportunity for the students to hear from people who have lived in various countries!

Odyssey's Annual Read-A-Thon

Packets were sent home on "I Love to Read!" day for Odyssey's Read-A-Thon. This is an important school activity and we ask for participation from all Odyssey students and families. The emphasis is on reading. All students are asked to read 25 minutes each day. The teachers will keep track of the minutes read in class that can be used for the Read-A-Thon, but the majority of the reading is to be done at home. Parents or older siblings can read out loud to younger students that cannot read.

Students may also collect sponsors for the Read-A-Thon. The money raised will be used to purchase library materials. All packets and money are due to the school by Thursday, October 8.

There will be prizes for the top fundraiser in each team and for the students with the most minutes read in each team. Teams will be kindergarten, first and second grades, third through fifth grades, and sixth through eighth grades. If you have any questions please contact Shel Auld at mskbauld@yahoo.com or (763)971-8200. Happy reading!

Date Change

The Board Committees Organizational Meeting previously scheduled for September 24 has been moved to **Tuesday, November 10, at 6:00 PM.**

The committees that will be meeting for this school year are Finance, Technology, Wellness, Community Action, and School Improvement. Please plan to join us in the media center on November 10 to get more information about the committees that help to make decisions about your student's education.

October Dates to Know

Friday, 2 – Custodian Appreciation day
Friday, 2 – Board candidate nominations due
Tuesday, 6 – Meet the Board candidates, 3:00
Wednesday – Friday, 7-9 – Conferences and Book Fair
Thursday, 8 – Odyssey Read-A-Thon ends
Friday, 9 – No School
Monday, 12 – CAC meeting, 3:00
Monday, 12 – Club's Choice delivery
Wednesday, 14 – Evergreens and Poinsettias Sales begin
Thursday – Friday, 15-16 – No School
Monday, 19 – School Picture day
Monday, 19 – Board election ballots mailed home (due November 4)
Monday, 26 – Administration Appreciation day
Wednesday, 28 – Evergreens and Poinsettias Sales end
Wednesday, 28 – Board meeting, 6:00

School Event Dates at a Glance

Conferences and Book Fair – October 7-9
American Indian/Native Alaskan Heritage day – November 5
Board Committees Organizational Meeting – November 10, 6:00
Parent's Night Out (grades 1-5) – November 13, 3:00-8:00
Tri I Project Night + Cook-off, 6:00-7:30
Middle School Lock-in – December 4, 3:00-9:00
Winter Music Program – December 10, 7:00
Kindergarten Open House – January 12, 6:30

Health and Wellness Fair + Pancake
Breakfast – January 16, 9:00-11:00
Conferences – January 20-22
Winter Carnival – February 5, 6:00-8:00
Black History day – February 17
Tri II Project Night / Science Fair – March 2,
6:00-7:30
Play Performance – March 19, 7:00
Earth day – April 22
Conferences + Book Fair – April 21-23
Roller skating party, grades 1-5 – April 29,
3:00-7:00
Roller skating party, grades 6-8 – April 30,
3:00-7:00
Asian / So. Pac. Heritage day – May 3
Festival of Nations Variety Show – May 7,
7:00
Audobon Trip, grades 1-5 – May 12, 13, 14
Track and Field day – May 28
Wolf Ridge Trip, grades 6-8 – June 1-4
Tri III Project Night + Spring Picnic – June
7, 6:00-7:30
End of the Year Program, Last day of
school – June 10