

# ODYSSEY CHARTER NEWS



**April 2014**

**Headmaster Dr. Nick Manolakos  
Assistant Headmaster Ms. Jackie Pastis  
Assistant Headmaster Mrs. Denise Parks**

## [ Important Dates ]

### Ellis Island Simulation 2013



4/2 Delaware History Museum: 5th grade

4/11 6th grade dance 7-9:30

4/16 Ellis Island Simulation

4/16 Adventure Aquarium: 1st grade

4/18-4/27 Spring Break

4/28 6th grade Drug and Alcohol Prevention Week

## [ Inside this issue: ]

<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Art/Music/P.E. class</b>	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Counselors' Corner/Nurse</b>	<b>2-3</b>	<b>Greek Class</b>	<b>12-14</b>
<b>Classroom Highlights</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>Art Club</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Odyssey of the Mind/</b>	<b>8-9</b>	<b>PTO</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Middle School Highlights</b>		<b>Enrichment Programs</b>	<b>17</b>

## Counselor's Corner

Ms. Nannas and Mrs. Berrick will be attending the Annual PBS (Positive Behavior Support) Celebration which will address bully prevention and intervention.

Third grade guidance lesson topic is cooperation, fourth grade is discussing peer pressure, and fifth grade is finishing up a series of three lessons on stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.

The week of April 28 will be Drug and Alcohol Prevention Week and will focus on activities for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students.



## DCAS End of the Year Celebration

In planning for the annual DCAS Celebration, we would like to thank E&Z Party Rentals for their support of this event. We have rented a Moon Bounce and a Dunk Tank from them, and hope to work with them for years to come.

If you would like to patronize for your rental needs, E&Z Party Rentals is located at 2700 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE and can be reached at (302)287-5995.



# Family Fun with Safe Kids Day

Sponsored by Safe Kids Delaware

**Saturday, April 12, 2014**

**10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Bellevue State Park in the Figure 8 Barn  
Free Family Event**

Safe Kids Day includes:

- Bike Rodeo with free helmet giveaway\* (10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
- Child Car Seat Safety Check (10:00 a.m. – Noon)
- Safety and Injury Prevention Information
- Emergency Vehicles
- Water Safety
- Poison Prevention
- Fire Prevention
- Door prizes
- Foods

And over 30 exhibits and displays

Safety information and giveaways will be handed out and door prizes will be awarded throughout the day. At the bike rodeo, kids will learn the “rules of the road” and see the importance of wearing their helmet correctly. Parents can have their child passenger safety seats checked for proper installation. The check takes approximately 30 minutes and you would need to bring your car, your child, and their car seat.

Safe Kids is a partnership of community organizations, including Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, helping to reduce traumas, prevent injuries, and promote healthy living. **Last year, over 500 people attended Safe Kids Day. More than twenty parents had their car seats checked and over 100 helmets were given away.** “Injuries are the number one killer of kids. So, events such as **Safe Kids Day go a long way in helping to prevent them,**” says Jennifer McCue, Chair of Safe

Safe Kids Day will be held rain or shine. Bellevue State Park is located at I-95 and Carr Road, Wilmington, DE, 19809. For more information, visit [www.nemours.org/safekids](http://www.nemours.org/safekids).

**\*Limited helmet availability; first come, first served.**

## Classroom Highlights

### Kindergarten



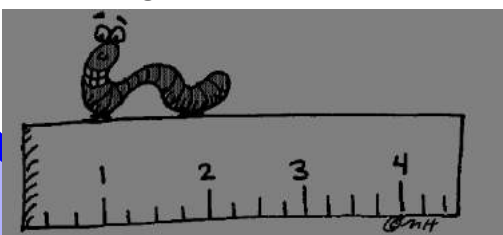
In Kindergarten we've been keeping a close eye on this March weather. Looks like March came in like a LION, lets just hope it goes out like a lamb! As we compare seasons we are watching for the changes that spring will bring. However, it seems like winter just won't let go. Those pesky little Leprechauns even played a trick on us on March 17<sup>th</sup> causing us to celebrate another SNOW DAY!

We are up to our knees in measurement. It helps that we can relate to the depth of the snow we have received this winter. Those rulers, yardsticks and other non standard measurements come in handy as we make comparisons with height and size. It's interesting to notice the growth that is taking place. Those discussions will help lead into the conversations about plants and their growth cycle. How far can you jump? How long is that table? Who is taller? Who is the tallest? Who is the shortest? What is the distance your ball can roll? Typical questions being asked of our kindergarteners.

Thinking of science, we are just completing a unit titled PUSH/PULL/GO. We're sure that your child has mentioned words such as *force*, *gravity*, *motion* and described how they partnered together to build structures such as ramps, swings and spinners. Our next unit is WOOD.

Dr. Seuss has entertained us with an array of favorite stories. We are engaging daily in conversations about authors and their purpose for writing. Your child is expressing an opinion through writing samples and drawings. Their written work demonstrates a preference or connection to the story. We just finished learning about the author Mo Willems. He is definitely one of their favorite authors. His character, the pigeon, delights the imaginations of our young readers. It is exciting to watch them join in as the story is being read and it provides a perfect opportunity for them to act out a script. Mo Willems' style appeals to all readers, and it is easy to relate to. They are thrilled to illustrate a favorite character as they identify "text to self" connections. Mo Willems introduces punctuation in a kid-friendly manner. Blame it on pigeon if you see his claw print on all the illustrations around your house. We will begin to study Eric Carle for the month of April. It seems that teeth are coming out daily: another sign that we're growing! We're ending this month of March, with a celebration of Greek Independence.

The Kindergarten Team



## First Grade

In April, First Grade will begin their final science unit on Organisms. To incorporate this unit with a unique experience, our first graders will be going to the Adventure Aquarium to see aquatic organisms that include hippos, alligators, sharks, manta rays, penguins and more! Additionally, for the first time, our first graders will also attend a 4-D movie themed around Great White Sharks! It is sure to be an exciting month as we enjoy learning about organisms, their habitats, and their life cycles. We will observe Earth Day on April 17th since we will be on Spring Break April 22nd. More unique and exciting experiences with organisms are to come!!!



## Second Grade

In the second grade, we are busy readers and writers! We are learning to identify problem/solution and cause/effect structures in the books we read. Our students are also using context clues and learning how to write with singular and plural possessives. We are comparing and contrasting elements of fiction and nonfiction texts about animals. Many of our students completed "report in a can" projects about an animal of their choice. Students did a great job with this project! In math, we will be learning about different systems of measurement. Thank you so much to the chaperones who joined us at the DuPont Theater for our field trip to see "Henry and Mudge."

## Fourth Grade



Fourth grade is gearing up to ACE our end-of-year standardized assessments and enjoy our final few months together as we learn! Please pay attention to the letter from your child's homeroom teacher that lists the dates your child will be testing. We begin our assessments by taking DCAS Reading. Miss Poulos' and Miss Berrick's classes will test on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Avayou's and Miss Cimini's classes will test on Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. To ensure your child's success, it is imperative you speak with them regularly about test taking strategies, the importance of the assessment, what his/her goal is, and/or even help review challenging concepts prior to the assessment. As always, the fourth grade teachers are here to support parents and guardians as well as our students. If you are unsure what your child needs or how to best assist your child, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher and ask for feedback.

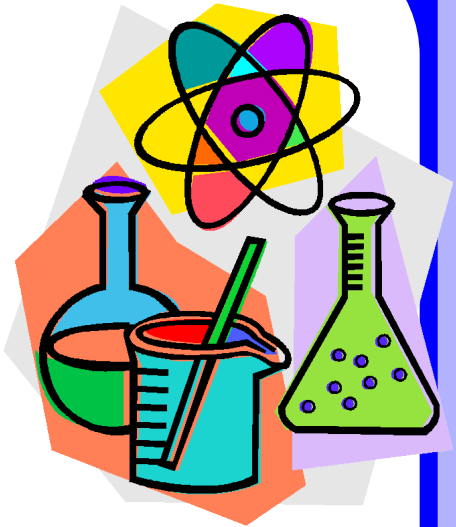
Our students have been working diligently in our academic subjects. In reading, we've been enjoying some different forms of literature: poetry, prose, and plays. We've also been expanding our knowledge of nonfiction text by identifying text structures and evaluating author's claims. In writing, we're working on personal narrative pieces. The teachers have really enjoyed hearing about these special moments in our students' lives! Additionally, we are very impressed with their ability to integrate research into these personal narrative pieces. In math, we recently completed a unit on geometry and are working on measurement: length, mass, and weight. We will be also reviewing the concepts of area and perimeter as well as line plots moving forward in math. In social studies, we are still working through our unit on the American Revolution.

We are very excited about our upcoming Ellis Island Simulation. Parent(s) and Guardian(s) should be on the lookout for information on parts 2 and 3 of the assignment, coming home soon. Thank you, in advance, to the many parents and guardians who have already offered to volunteer their time for the simulation. It is going to be such a valuable learning experience for our students! Also, please look out for the field trip form for our June 4<sup>th</sup> trip to Philadelphia that will also be coming home soon.

Last, a few reminders for you. Students should be reading each night for 20 minutes. We encourage our students to visit the library here at school to choose books that fit their Accelerated Reader levels. Why not read A.R. books and earn points for the end-of-year party and prize raffles? Also, we notice more and more that students are experiencing a great amount of difficulty with multiplication facts. As we've said throughout the year, an automatic knowledge of these facts is imperative for your child's success! We're looking forward to a great last few months together and would like to congratulate our students already for their hard work!

## Third Grade

In Language Arts, third grade completed our first author study! Tomie DePaola is one of our favorite authors, and we read the *Mysterious Giant of Barletta* and several of his *Strega Nona* stories (*Strega Nona Meets Her Match*, *Strega Nona's Magic Lessons* and *Strega Nona's Harvest*.) Students worked in three separate groups, reading one of the three different *Strega Nona* stories to compare and contrast characters, setting, plot and themes of their story to that of the story of the *Mysterious Giant of Barletta*. We then completed our Venn diagrams and story summaries and presented them to the class.



Third graders finished their geometry unit by learning about quadrilaterals, identifying their attributes, and then sorting them into groups. Did you know that a square is a rectangle but a rectangle is not a square? Our current unit is on measurement and data. Students are learning the metric as well as the U.S. customary units of capacity, mass and length. We are also reviewing material for the upcoming spring state testing.

Question: Do you prefer to make up the snow days on Saturdays or would you prefer to end school in July? Don't worry....that's our writing prompt as students will try to persuade us as to their own opinion!

Third graders are springing forward to new learning!

## Fifth Grade

The fifth grade will be going on a field trip to the Delaware History Museum on April 2nd to learn about the Underground Railroad and the Civil War. They are attending a program called *Brother Against Brother: The Civil War in Delaware*. This program challenges our students to understand how soldiers and civilians made tough decisions to change or preserve their country and state during the Civil War. Another program we will be attending is *Delaware and the Underground Railroad*. In this program the students will learn about freedom seekers and the brave men and women, both enslaved and free, who made this region one of the most successful routes to freedom in the years before the Civil War.

## **Odyssey of the Mind**

On March 1, 2014, Odyssey Charter School sent four teams to compete at the Regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition. The Odyssey of the Mind is an international competition for students in grades kindergarten through college. Teams compete to find the most creative solutions in designated areas.

We sent two Division one teams (third-fifth) and two Division two teams (5-8). The teams did very well and were outstanding Odyssey Owls!



### **Division I Problem One: Laura Thompson (coach)**

Ethan Briddell  
 Kanmani Anbu Duraikkannan  
 Walter Thompson  
 Teddy Tsakumis  
 Neha Veeragandham  
 Abigail Zitzelberger

### **Division II Problem One: Alexis Vebeliunas (Coach)**

Jacob Brietzke  
 James Hay  
 Alex Parsons  
 Leopold Pulella  
 Charlie Seipel  
 Tomas Vebeliunas

### **Division I Problem Two: Anne Annone & Anne Carroll (coach)**

Henry Annone  
 Noah Brietzke  
 Ben Carroll  
 Robert Cutrona  
 Aiden McCulloch  
 Maya Seipel  
 Ava Vebeliunas

### **Division II Problem Two: Malini Das (coach)**

Ethan Bodine  
 Manasi Das  
 Paige Harrison  
 Shrujan Patel  
 Leila McDonnaugh  
 Nandika Murugavel

OCS would also like to thank all the parents and staff for their support/assistance with this competition.

Special thanks to our volunteer judges:

**Frank Fetizanan**  
**Molly Glasschroeder**  
**Susan Huelsenbeck**  
**Michele Poppiti**  
**Loria Teel**  
**John Washofsky**



## Middle School Highlights

### Social Studies

OCS sixth-graders had a blast taking part in Junior Achievement's "BizTown" program during the month of March 2014. JA's BizTown is an experiential-based program that encompasses important elements of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. The program augments students' core curriculum in social studies (citizenship, government, economics), reading, writing and mathematics. Students in the sixth grade learned about these important social studies concepts in the classroom, then went on a field trip to JA on March 26. Students took what they learned in class and put it to use in a real-life simulation at Junior Achievement's BizTown facility in downtown Wilmington. The students had an awesome time acting as "citizens" in a day-in-the-life of a thriving business community. OCS sixth-graders learned a lot about what it takes to be successful in the "business world" and had fun while doing so. Special thanks to all our OCS parent volunteers, the sixth-grade staff and the wonderful staff at Junior Achievement. A great time was had by all!



## Art Class

<http://odysseyartroom.blogspot.com/>

### Lower School Art

Kindergarten continues their study of art of ancient cultures with a focus on the ancient Aztecs of Mexico. We learned the history of the Aztecs and created Aztec sun stones. We are currently working on copper foil etchings of ancient Aztec designs and symbols.

First grade is finishing up their unit on Matisse. We did window drawings as though we were looking out of a window onto an outside scene. We learned the Greek myth of Icarus during a study on Matisse's collage entitled "Icarus." We made our own Icarus collages by placing the same pieces Matisse used in a different and new way. We are currently making colorful "scissor wizard" collages Matisse would be proud of!

Second graders are taking their time adding urban details to their Basquiat inspired cityscapes. Our study of urban communities has inspired many creative ideas which I have been very impressed with!



### Upper School Art

3rd and 4th graders studied the art of African American artist Faith Ringgold and created their own story quilts. I really enjoyed seeing their stories come to life and what important life event they wanted to illustrate. 5th graders are creating illustrations of their favorite books to go with their art museum field trip in May. I was able to get to know the students and see what they enjoy reading. This is the last week for my 6th graders and have 2 new 6th grade classes coming up this quarter. They just completed their perspective paintings and needed to include either 1 point perspective or atmospheric perspective. They also learned some new watercolor techniques.



## Lower School Music Class

**Kindergarten:** Bzzz!! We are celebrating spring in music class by learning songs about bees. We have been using our bee songs to help practice concepts like keeping a steady beat. Kindergarten also had fun listening to "Spring" from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*. We moved and danced with colorful scarves to show the different sections of the song.



**First Grade:** First grade is listening to songs from *Carnival of the Animals*, by the French composer, Camille Saint-Saens. Each week we get to listen to one of the animal songs and use the composer's clues to figure out what the animal is. So far, we got to hear the xylophone in "Fossils," practice mirror movement with "Aquarium," and move to the beat in "The Lion."

**Second Grade:** Second grade is learning about Russian composer Sergei Prokofiev and listening to his famous story, *Peter and the Wolf*. Prokofiev wrote this musical story specifically to teach children the instruments of the orchestra. So far, we have been introduced to the string family for Peter, the flute for the bird, and the oboe for the duck. Second grade can't wait to find out what instrument plays the wolf!

## Upper School P.E. Class

In PE over the past month the 3rd and 5th grade classes have been playing floor hockey. The students learned the rules of the game, how to properly hold a hockey stick, dribbling, shooting, and passing skills, and some basic offensive and defensive strategies. The 4th grade has been doing fitness testing that includes tests for flexibility, muscular strength and endurance, and cardiovascular endurance. The 6th grade just finished bowling. Lanes were set up in the gym and the students were divided into teams responsible of keeping track of their score and competing against other teams.



## Greek Class

### Greek Independence Day Celebration

The Lower School Greek staff and students enthusiastically celebrated Greek Independence Day on Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>. The lower school gymnasium was covered in traditional Greek scenery depicting various Greek environments. The students transitioned between four stations where they experienced different aspects of Greek culture and tradition. At one station the children learned where each of their Greek language teachers are from and placed their pictures on the corresponding location on the giant map. At another station they made Greek *komboloi* (worry beads) and bracelets, while at another they made traditional hats and hair pieces. Finally, the students experienced making and sampling *koulourakia* (traditional Greek cookies). Everyone had a wonderful time, and we look forward to celebrating again next year. A special thanks to our parent volunteers Julie Tsakumis and Marika Samousaki.



## The Upper School Greek Faculty

### 25<sup>th</sup> March, Greek Independence Day in OCS

**The Greek Independence Day**, is both a national holiday celebrated annually in Greece on March 25, commemorating the start of the Fight of Independence in 1821. The **Greek Revolution** was a successful struggle for the liberation waged by the Greek Revolutionaries between 1821 and 1832. To mark Greek Independence Day, all of our grades celebrated the event through in-class related activities.



In **3rd Grade** classes, there was a brief power point presentation of the historical background for the March 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by a presentation of traditional Greek costumes. The students also enjoyed Greek cookies and worked on a craft about Greek costumes.

In **4th Grade** classes, the students were shown a slide show with important faces from the revolution of 1821, and a discussion followed. They also attended a presentation about the history of the Greek revolution. The students participated in an activity with the currency from those years ("drahmi") and recognized the heroes' faces depicted on the money. The students had the opportunity to look at all the money available with "drahmi" coins and paper notes. Finally students chose their favorite hero/money and created an illustration. They also watched a historical documentary about the Greek war of independence.



In **5th Grade** classes, we read informative texts about the historical events surrounding this day, followed by a group discussion. We watched a movie and a power point presentation, read poems, and ended the celebration singing the Greek National Anthem.

In **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** classes, we marked the Independence Day of Greece with a "komboloi" (Greek worry beads) workshop. The students enjoyed learning about how the komboloi is used throughout daily life and in conjunction with specific events, such as music and dance. They had a great deal of fun making their own komboloi and expressing themselves through the color choices of the beads they used to create them. Afterwards, there was much lively practicing in the fine and varied art of using the komboloi.



## THIRD GRADE GREEK LANGUAGE NEWS

One of the highlights of this past month's Greek Language Class was the presentation of the Greek custom of "ΜΑΡΤΗΣ", which means MARCH. The students were introduced to the story behind it... The first day of March, in Greece, coincides with the beginning of Spring. The weather gets much warmer, and the sun is brighter. In order to bring good luck for the new season and to protect themselves from the sun, the Greeks used to twist a red thread and a white one into a bracelet, which they wore up until the 25th of March. On the 25th, they took this bracelet off and placed it either on a tree or on a bush so the birds could use the threads when they built their nests.

In third grade we did the exact same thing...First we explained that the above is just a legend, and then all students wore these red and white bracelets for 25 days. Just recently, we cut the bracelets off and we placed them on the bushes outside of the school. If you see a bird's nest that has red and white threads, you know where they came from!

Κυρια Καίτη

Κυρια Ευα



# ART CLUB

April 2014

Last month the Art Club students worked on their clay objects. The results, as you can see, were impressive.

Additionally, the students finalized their projects inspired by the Greek painter Theophilos and worked on a new project inspired by Paul Klee.

As I had announced last month, I was to present a deserving student with a gift card to Jerry's Artarama. After consulting Ms. Ciriaco, I decided to split this gift to two students. The recipients were Nathan Thomas (6th Grade), and Krista Deibler (3rd Grade). Congratulations to both!



Some of the pottery we created after Mr. Scot Kaylor's visit.

Kyria Eva

## Paving the way campaign

The deadline for the *Paving the Way to Our Future* campaign is April 1<sup>st</sup> – **Thank You** the many families, staff and friends of OCS that have contributed. Know that ALL of the funds raised goes directly back to OCS!



*Paving the Way for a great education for our children.*

### OCS is growing...

... and so is the need of everyone's help. Please consider volunteering on any of the many opportunities within the PTO!

### \$1 Spirit wear day

The beneficiary of the \$1 Spirit Wear Day is The Governor Terry Children's Center. Our donation is over \$400,, and we thank our families for their support. To learn more about this wonderful organization you can visit the following sites:

<http://www.childinc.com/emergency-shelter.html> and [http://youtu.be/G-qR\\_1nKvio](http://youtu.be/G-qR_1nKvio)

## Changing for the better

With OCS growing every year, so has the demand of the PTO Board. For this reason, the PTO By-Laws were edited and approved this year. There will be two additional VP and Secretary positions added to the board, as well as duty changes for the President and the Treasurer. The PTO strives to support our

families, teachers, staff and board members.

The following positions are new to the board: **Recording Secretary & Correspondence Secretary** Voting for all board positions will be voted on at the May PTO meeting.

Nominations will only be

accepted with consent of the nominee and must have their full contact information before submission to the PTO. For a complete look at the by-laws please visit: [http://odysseycharterschooldel.com/pto\\_bylaws.html](http://odysseycharterschooldel.com/pto_bylaws.html)

## Volunteers Needed

The following PTO Volunteer positions are in need of Chairpersons for the 2014-2015 school year:

**Labels for Education  
Family Fun Nights  
Fundraising Chair**

**Field Day  
Pizza Friday LS**

Keep in mind that if we do not have chairpersons or volunteers, the events or fundraising opportunities will not happen.





## Enrichment Program Updates

Regular practices for Math Olympiad have ended. We had a wonderful group of students to work with this year. Along with some new faces, we hope to see them all back next fall. Thank you to Kathleen Seipel, Leslie Donohue, and Gina Campanella for volunteering their time to assist with practices. **Two teams of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders headed to New Jersey on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> for the Egg Harbor Township Tournament for Jersey Shore Mathletes.** Updates will follow!

A team of fifth and sixth graders attended the Arthur J. Turner Scholarship Foundation annual Spelling Bee on March 7<sup>th</sup>. We were well represented. All of our students were polite and considerate, and several of Odyssey students made it to the final few rounds. **Noah Etienne won Second Place overall.** Congratulations, Noah!

**The Odyssey Charter School Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 am in the upper school gym.** The contest is open to students in grades 3-6. A form was sent home to determine which students are interested in participating. When those forms are returned, study lists will be handed out.

If you have any questions or would like more information about these programs, please contact Mrs. Amber Smith at [amber.smith@odyssey.k12.de.us](mailto:amber.smith@odyssey.k12.de.us) or at extension 219.

