

Odyssey Day School Newsletter

April 2009



Happy
April Fools
Day

From the desk of Lori Conway

Dear Parents,

Every April Fools' Day the ritual is the same. Outrageously false stories — issued by a variety of sources such as corporations, non-profit organizations, journalists, and politicians — appear in the media. The challenge for all of us is to sort out the April Foolery from the weird stuff that's actually true. And every year this gets harder as reality itself becomes more surreal, blurring the line between foolery and fact.

Listed below are a few stories about Odyssey Day School. Some are jokes, some are true. Can you tell which is which? Email me if you want to check your facts!

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- 1) One night Pat Egan was correcting papers when the phone rang. In the few minutes she spent on the phone, her new puppy had shredded all of the kids' papers, "eating their homework." The next day Pat had to come to school without the papers and tell all the children that her dog had eaten their homework!
- 2) A few years ago, Stephanie Wilkins worked in the summer program with the Upper Elementary group. They created a model of a castle and set it in a small wading pool in the classroom, filling it with water and adding three gold fish to the "moat." Little did they know the pool had a slow leak, and the next day most of the water had flooded into the classroom, leaving two out of three of the fish dead. The third fish, Popcorn, survived and was put in a bowl to become a classroom fish. He lived for months until winter vacation. When school re-opened in January, Popcorn was missing from his bowl! And, there was a terrible smell in the room. Popcorn was later discovered dead...under the rug in front of Stephanie's desk!! The mystery of how he got there was never solved.
- 3) Two years ago Kimm Sovie's class raised meal worms and watched them turn into beetles as a science project. Because the beetles were non-native, the class was supposed to destroy them at the end so that they could not potentially enter the environment and become invasive. Rather than do that, they decided to use the beetles as part of the 5/6 classroom's science curriculum...by feeding them to that classroom's iguana!



Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 9: OPA meeting 7:00 pm
- ◆ April 4: Auction at 7:30 at West Side Social Club
- ◆ April 20: Patriots' Day, School Closed
- ◆ April 21-24: Limited Child Care Week

Kid News



- 4) The ODS Life Skills classes have recently participated in a successful community service event involving the recycling of old denim jeans. 47,000 pairs were collected and donated to the “Cotton, from Blue to Green” program. This denim drive recycles jeans into Ultra Touch insulation, which is used to help build houses in places that have been damaged by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. The community service theme will be continued next month with another fantastic, hands-on project conceived by our very own Lori Conway. It will give students a chance to “give back” to one of the most heavily utilized spaces in the building—the Multi-Purpose Room. Now that the whale has been commemorated in the beautiful photo soon to hang in the school lobby, it is time to paint...and painting is exactly what the kids will be doing, from floor to ceiling, including all of the arched trusses in the Gym. This will be a really fun project for all of the students!

So what do you think?

With all good wishes, *Lori*

*“The seeds
of
knowledge
may be
planted in
solitude,
but must
be
cultivated
in public.”*

*~ Samuel
Johnson*



Preschool News

The staff is gearing up for another fun-filled summer at Odyssey Day School! The Little Explorers Summer Program brochure has gone out to parents in preschool through grade 2. We have nature-oriented themes to explore with the children such as Mountainsides, The Tropics, Forest and Woodlands, and Fresh and Salt Water Habitats. Through these exciting themes children will participate in arts and crafts, sports and games, nature activities, swimming, and various field trips and in-house events. Groups are forming now, so get your application in soon so you don't miss out on all the fun!!

Elementary School News

On Thursday, March 12 children in grades K-8 all participated in the World's Largest Concert. This "concert" (a huge sing-along) is a large-scale national event put together by the National Association for Music Education in celebration of Music in Our Schools Month. Millions of school children across the country all learned the songs on the concert program and participated by joining together to sing at 1:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

Look for us to sing a few of our favorites for you at the annual Arts Weeks Concert on Thursday, May 21!

Community News

Faculty & Staff News

Congratulations to Brian Carpenter on his impending fatherhood! There will be a new Odyssey Day School faculty baby joining the Infant/Toddler room next year, and this will be the first baby of a FATHER! 😊



For Parents

- ✚ PLEASE COME TO THE AUCTION ON SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 4TH, AT 7:30 AT THE WEST SIDE SOCIAL CLUB. THE SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, AND IT WILL BE A GREAT TIME!!!
- ✚ Applications for Indexed Tuition (formerly called tuition assistance) are now due. If you have indicated financial need and not gotten your applications in to both Odyssey and SSS, please do so asap. Thank you.
- ✚ If you are in need of Indexed Tuition but have not contacted the school yet, it is not too late, but time is of the essence, so please be in touch with Margaret right away.
- ✚ Over the weekend it came to my attention that some very thoughtful Odyssey parents have written positive reviews of the school and posted them on the internet via various independent school websites that allow parent reviews, such as www.greatschools.com. Obviously, no school can expect that all parent reviews will be positive, nor do we at Odyssey expect that! However, the open forum of parent discussion does help with marketing the school, and so I'm taking this opportunity to ask parents, if you are so inclined, to post reviews of the school. I will not specifically tell you what to write or that it must be positive! 😊
- ✚ Now that the new admissions catalog project is complete, we are moving on to the next key project—website redesign. A huge thank you goes out to parent Heather Russell who will be redesigning our website so that it looks professional, beautiful, and reflects our school well! During the process I would love to have parent input into design, navigation, content, and what, specifically, parents might like to have behind a password-protected parent section of the website, such as downloadable forms. Not everything everyone wants will be possible, so bearing that in mind, if you would like to participate in this project over the next six months or so, please let me know.
- ✚ On Monday, April 13th, we will be having our final visit for our 10-year AISNE accreditation. This marks the end of Year Three, and if the committee accepts our report and all goes well, Odyssey will be in the clear for the next seven years! Many thanks to Margaret, Kimm, Kerry, and the faculty who worked so hard on this project before I arrived, and have supported me with the conclusion of the accreditation.

“We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

~Native American Proverb



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*“Parents and
teachers as
partners”*

We're on the Web!
www.odysseydayschool.org

From O.P.A.

From Annie Barr...

The next OPA meeting will be on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 pm at the Dockside restaurant. The End-of-Year Continental Breakfast for faculty will be planned. There will also be another Dockside FUN-raiser on Thursday, May 14, from 6:00-9:00 pm, so mark your calendars.

Many thanks to the parent organizers for three OPA events...to Donna Frank for Giggles Comedy Night, to Tom Maloney for the Family Swim Event, and to Doug Mildram for Family Movie Night!

From the Board of Directors

The Odyssey day School Board of Directors is hard at work on establishing committee roles and responsibilities. The Governance Committee is working on Board self-evaluation and the recruitment of new Board members. The Head Evaluation and Support Committee is working on Lori's upcoming annual evaluation as well as supporting the achievement of annual goals set forth at the beginning of the school year. We hope to grow the Board by 3-6 members, and to have more people available to serve on other needed (but currently not staffed, or understaffed, committees). --Lori



Earth laughs in flowers.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson