



# ODYSSEY

A C A D E M Y

an educational journey



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This newsletter signals a new era of communications with you, our partners in educating students for the exciting and very challenging world that awaits them. This is the first issue of a semi-monthly publication, which will provide information about what is happening at Odyssey and the accomplishments of our students who are eager to meet those emerging academic and social challenges.

As the Executive Director of our school, I report to the School Board, which is made up of nine members; three each of, parents, community members, and Odyssey teachers. The School Board develops policy that sets the direction for the school. My role at Odyssey is to provide the leadership to the organization to bring that policy into practice. In that regard, I am fortunate to have a talented, dedicated staff of approximately fifty individuals who meet the needs of the children you entrust with us every school day. We take that trust very seriously.

We are serving approximately eighty more students than we did last year, a number that brings us to the capacity we have established for the building. While the increase in our enrollment has presented some challenges, we welcome our new children and their families to the Odyssey family.

We are excited that our efforts to acquire our building from the Osseo Area School District are finally coming to a successful conclusion. Odyssey has been leasing the

building from Osseo for the past decade. Several years ago, they informed us of their wish to sell the building. After much consideration, we determined that the building, being structurally very sound, could serve our needs well into the future. We are currently in the midst of securing financing. We anticipate a purchase taking place during this school year.

Once a purchase is completed, we will begin with renovation plans which have been developed over the past few years. While structurally sound, the fifty year old building is in need of substantial upgrading and face-lifting. Most of the work will take place next summer, but we have already taken some steps to increase our visibility. Note the new lighted signage on the front canopy of the building as well as our new electronic message board on 63rd Avenue. I will highlight the building renovation components in our next issue of this newsletter.

Please take some time to read the newsletter. We welcome your comments and suggestions to help us meet its purpose, which is to keep you informed about many of the exciting learning activities that are taking place at your school.

Thank you for choosing Odyssey.

  
John Sedey

# SPOTLIGHT ON: STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8

On October 8, a few selected students in grades 6-8 took part in WE DAY, a celebration of community service.

The remaining students volunteered at Feed My Starving Children. It was a great experience for the students, staff and parent volunteers. In the hour spent packaging meals the Odyssey volunteers packaged 86 boxes, which equaled 18,576 meals for the people of Zimbabwe. Enough food was packaged to feed 51 children for an entire year.



## DENAPALOOZA

### EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE HELD AT ODYSSEY ACADEMY

Odyssey Academy was chosen as one of eight locations across the United States and Canada to host Discovery Education's DENAPALOOZA 2013. A teacher development conference with a focus on the digital classroom.

Teachers from North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin got together on Saturday, October 5, 2013 to share ideas and to learn about integrating technology in the classroom. We shared new ideas on how we use technology in our classrooms. It was a fun day of learning for all. Thank you, Discovery Education!



# PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Odyssey Academy School Board, in addition to adopting new policies as deemed necessary, is required to review all existing policies on a regular basis. This year one of the policies that has been reviewed, and adopted as revised, is Policy 531—Pledge of Allegiance.

For years the pledge of allegiance has been recited in classrooms. Beginning December 30, the pledge will now be led over the intercom by a staff member or student every Monday, or the first school day of each week. Students and staff will stand and face the flag in their classroom when directed on the announcement.

As stated in the policy: Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the pledge for any personal reason may elect not to do so. Students and school personnel must respect another person's right to make that choice.

As new policies are adopted and current policies are reviewed, revised, and adopted, they will be placed on the School Board section of our website.

# ENROLLMENT

We've experienced a record increase in student enrollment this year, which has resulted in a waiting list for families interested in joining our family. If you have friends or family members interested in enrolling their students for the 2014–15 school year, we recommend stopping in our main office to ensure a spot for next year or call us at 763-971-8200.

# FUNDRAISING

## THOUSANDS RAISED WITH CLUB'S CHOICE

Thank you to all of the Odyssey students and families who took part in our fall fundraiser with Club's Choice this year. We raised nearly \$3,000 that will be used to make our programs the best they can be for our community, and to provide valuable learning experiences in our classrooms. Be on the lookout for more fundraising opportunities in a flyer that will be sent home with students in the upcoming weeks.

# WINTER UNIFORM

## BE AWARE OF COLD WEATHER REQUIREMENTS

During the winter months, students **are allowed** wear the following apparel with their uniform:

- Cardigan-style sweaters in uniform colors



- Sweatshirts without hoods in uniform colors



The following are not part of the dress code, and students **will not be permitted to wear them in the building**:

- Sweatshirts with hoods, logos, or designs
- Coats, jackets, gloves, scarves, and any other outdoor apparel



## BOARD MEETINGS

The Odyssey Academy School Board Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm.

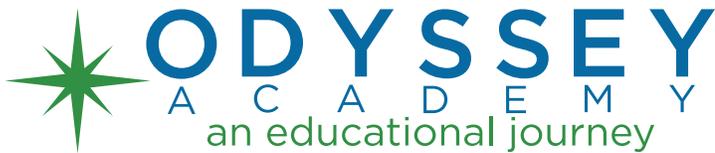
- July 17, 2013\*
- August 28, 2013\*
- September 25, 2013
- October 23, 2013
- November 19, 2013\*
- December 17, 2013\*
- January 8, 2014\*
- February 22, 2014\*
- March 26, 2014
- April 23, 2014
- May 28, 2014
- June 25, 2014

*\*Meeting does not occur on the fourth Wednesday of the month.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

12/9	Trimester I Project Night	6:00–7:30 PM
12/17	Board Meeting	6:00 PM
12/19	Grade 3 Field Trip to the Bell Museum	
12/23–1/3	Winter Break (No School)	
1/8	Board Meeting	
1/10	Read-a-Thon begins	
1/20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (No School)	
1/29-1/30	Family Conferences (after school)	
1/31	No School Family Conferences	
2/7	Winter Carnival	5:30–8:00 PM

**Check our website at [OdysseyAcademy.org](http://OdysseyAcademy.org) for more information!**



6201 Noble Ave N  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**