

Odyssey Charter School

2009-2010

Dates to Remember



Wednesday, October 7th

Student & Class PICTURE DAY

All students will receive ordering information for Picture day from their teacher this week. Please note that orders must be submitted to Ultimate Exposures Staff on the day of. Do not turn in anything in advance to the front office. Thank you

Save the Date

- ✓ **Tuesday, October 13th**
Restaurant Night at Mijares
- ✓ **Wednesday, November 11th**
NO SCHOOL-Veteran's Day
- ✓ **Wednesday, October 28th-Friday, October 30th**
Early Dismissal at 12:00pm

Reminder:

Please continue to check our website for further OCS information:

www.odysseycharterschool.org

For Your Information

**There has been a change in our 09-10 School Calendar:
Veteran's Day Holiday will be observed
Wednesday, November 11, 2009
Please note change and see updated OCS Calendar attached**



Odyssey Charter School

2009-2010 School Calendar

Every Monday is an Early Dismissal day. All students are dismissed at 1:30 p.m.
 On other early dismissal days, students are dismissed at 12:00p.m.
 This calendar DOES NOT include any school events and functions.

Month	Date(s)	Day	Activity
September			
	9/2/2009	Wednesday	First Day of School
	9/7/2009	Monday	Labor Day - No School
October			
	10/28/2009	Wednesday	**ILP Day - Early Dismissal
	10/29/2009	Thursday	**ILP Day - Early Dismissal
	10/30/2009	Friday	**ILP Day - Early Dismissal
November			
	11/11/2009	Wednesday	Veteran's Day - No School
	11/25/2009- 11/27/2009	Wednesday - Friday	Thanksgiving Holiday - No School
December			
	12/18/2009	Friday	Last Day of 1st Trimester
	12/21/2009- 1/8/2010	Monday - Friday	Winter Break Begins - No School
January			
	1/11/2010	Monday	Return to School - 2nd Trimester
	1/18/2010	Monday	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday - No School
February			
	2/15/2010	Monday	President's Holiday - No School
March			
	3/26/2010	Friday	Last Day of 2nd Trimester
	3/29/2010 - 4/9/2010	Monday - Friday	Spring Break Begins - No School
April			
	4/12/2010	Monday	Return to School - 3rd Trimester Begins
May			
	5/31/2010	Monday	Memorial Day - No School
June			
	6/25/2010	Friday	**Last Day of School - Early Dismissal



Odyssey Charter School

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 30, 2009

To: Odyssey Parents and Families

From: Rachele Martinez

RE: **H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu) Information for Parents**

As you may know, the new H1N1 flu has been circulating throughout the state of California, and it is likely that when children go back to school, we will see an increase in flu cases spreading from child to child. There is new federal guidance for schools that provides a range of response options for school administrators and local health officials. This guidance, along with other information about flu preparedness and prevention is available on the California Department of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/fluinfo.asp>.

We are all hoping that the fall flu season will be mild, but it is important to be prepared for all possible scenarios, including a widespread pandemic. If flu begins spreading to large numbers of people, state and local health officers will need to balance the risk of flu cases in the community against the disruption that school dismissals can cause in both the educational field and in the community.

At this time, state and local public health officials have advised that students can-- and should - continue to come to school, as long as they are not sick and do not have flu symptoms. Flu-like symptoms include: fever (over 100 degrees F), feverishness, cough, sore throat, runny nose, or stuffy nose. Additional symptoms may be experienced with swine flu, including body aches, feeling very tired, and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommend that **all individuals with an influenza-like illness or symptoms should remain home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (like acetaminophen or ibuprofen), and should avoid contact with others.**

It is also important to teach your children how to reduce their risk of getting the flu and how to protect others from becoming infected. If we all practice good hygiene,

health officials believe we can limit the spread of swine flu in our schools and child care centers.

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Stay home when sick** and maintain distance from other people to prevent the spread of illness.
- **Wash hands often**, with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds (that is about as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice). Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective in reducing the spread of the flu.
- **Cover coughs and sneezes** with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Wash hands after blowing nose or coughing into a tissue, and dispose of tissues after use.
- **Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth** to prevent the spread of germs.

Public health officials stress that it is very important to get separate vaccinations for seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu this year. The seasonal flu vaccines were already in production when the new H1N1 flu broke out, and it may be available as early as August or September. It is recommended that you and your family get this vaccination as soon as it is available from your health care provider or local clinic. The H1N1 vaccine is currently being tested, and may be available sometime between October and January. The H1N1 vaccine may require two shots given several weeks apart to provide adequate protection. Initially there may be limited supplies, and high-risk groups may be vaccinated first.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our schools healthy. If you have questions about the information or recommendations in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact **Rachelle Martinez, Director of Operations** or the **Pasadena Public Health Department**.

OPPG Newsletter

Odyssey Parent Participation Group- Helping make Odyssey a great charter school.

Upcoming Events

Mijares Restaurant Night
October 13, 3pm-9pm

Fix-It Needs

◆ A couple of painters to do touch up work in the community hall. Contact MaryLinda at imarylinda@aol.com

◆ Ideas to beautify the benches in the front of school. Contact Darby at darbyrowe@sbcglobal.net

Help Wanted

◆ You can sign up for any OPPG/OCS event by emailing Cari at carid@mac.com or signing up in the binder in the front office. We need parents for all events.

◆ We are looking for a parent to join the OPPG Board as Member at Large. Check your Thursday packet for the flyer.

◆ We are accepting ideas for the Parent Education topics for our 4 remaining OPPG Meetings. Please submit your ideas to Cari at carid@mac.com

September 2009

Upcoming Meeting Dates

OPPG - Leadership Meeting
Oct. 20, 6pm

OCS -Board Meeting
Oct 27, 6pm

OPPG -Leadership Meeting
Nov 10, 6pm

**OPPG -Parent Meeting
Nov 17, 8:30am**

Wish List

Coming Soon

OPPG Meeting Notes

Highlights from the September 15th OPPG Parent Meeting

- We heard reports from our Board Reps (Jexy and Rhonda) who described their position on the OCS Board.
 - Food & Garden Committee Chair, Susan Ruffins, talked about their blog (the Beanstalk) and the new after-school program they are offering. The committee uses the talents and resources of its members to bring enrichment into Odyssey.
 - Paula Solano spoke about how the Arts Committee is supporting and enriching the arts in the classroom.
 - Ilse spoke about our Ebay fundraiser. We are always looking for entertainment related items to auction. If you have connections please speak to Ilse.
- Continued on back

OPPG Board Members

- Chair— Cari Dawson
carid@mac.com
cell 323-273-6131
- Vice Chair— MaryLinda Moss
imarylinda@aol.com
cell 323-369-2923
- Secretary— Sam-Ann Fenwick
samana.fenwick@gmail.com
- Treasurer— Amy Cienfuegos
amy100fires@aol.com
cell 626-379-4874
- Parent Rep K-4th— Jexy Wadle
jexywadle@gmail.com
cell 323-633-4690
- Parent Rep 5th-8th— Rhonda Graham
kimikog@msn.com
cell 626-664-1812

OPPG Meeting Notes– Continued

- Marisela, is our Passive Fundraisers point person. Please make sure you are registered for eScrip, Ralphs, Target and Wamoola. And don't forget to bring your "boxtops for education" in to the front office
- Darby spoke on behalf of the Fix-it Committee who is looking for volunteers to finish the Community Hall painting. A wish list and a fix-it list are both being created.
- Room Parents– We still need room parents for Ms Corona and Mr. Bergmann. Please contact Lisa at Llansing@pacificclinics.org if you are interested.
- Parents are encouraged to ask and share. This can be done through email, person to person or by leaving a comment in the box in the front office.
- Our Parent Education Topic tonight was given by Lauren O'Neil, our Executive Director. Lauren spoke about Odyssey's conflict resolution philosophy.
- The question was raised about Swin Flu, and Lauren assured us that the school is following and taking all the precautions as given by LACOE (Los Angeles County Office of Education). If parents have any questions or concerns they should see Rachelle Martinez.
- Lauren also explained homework at OCS. Homework is a responsibility. Parents are responsible to READ! READ! READ! All homework is connected to the classroom learning. Read alouds are done kinder thru 8th grade. READ! READ! READ! Math will also be given as homework. In the upper grades homework is turned in the next day, it is expected! Teachers will discuss this in more detail at Back to School Night.
- We appreciated Lauren taking time to come and talk with us and help us improve in our understanding of the OCS way. Only in this way can we improve our partnership and better the education of our children.

Reminders

- VOTE in the American Favorite School Contest and we could win \$20K!
Go to www.care2.com/schoolcontest/611945
- Sign up for our Annual Campaign! Let's get 100% parent participation.
- Have your registered your credit cards for escript yet?

Thank You

A huge thank you to all the parents who were able to give their time on the August Parent Work Days!!! A special thanks to parents Tom, Josh and MaryLinda who painted the inside of the Community Hall!

Thank you to all the parents who came to our Sept OPPG Meeting. It was so great to see so many faces— both new and returning.

Our book drive was a huge success. Thank you once again to all parents who donated books. The drive saved the school almost \$10K.