

MARCH 2010

OPPG Newsletter

Odyssey Parent Participation Group – Helping make Odyssey a great charter school

Upcoming Events

- Run for Fun – April 30th, 2010
- Dance Away – April 30th, 2010
- Rummage Sale / Barefoot Book Fair / Pancake Breakfast – May 15th, 2010
- Book Club & Dinner – May 27th, 2010

Fix-It Needs

- Looking for more “handy” parents to have on our list. This just gives us a list of people to call when there is a fix-it need.

Let us know if you can help. Just contact Darby Bartlett 213-215-3763 or DarbyRowe@yahoo.com

Wanted

- Looking for volunteers for:
 - Run-4-Fun (April 30)
 - Rummage Sale / Pancake Breakfast (May 15)
 - Spring Fundraiser (Casino Night) – Meeting 3/18 6:00pm
 - Book Drive for Classroom Libraries

Contact Cari (CariD@mac.com)

- We need more items to sell on ebay. All profits go to Odyssey! Contact Ellen at eglasston@earthlink.net or (213) 300-3404.
- Nominating Committee (3 people) to find our new OPPG Leadership for next year. Our terms are up in June, and we need some great candidates for next year. Can you help find those people? Contact Cari if you can be a part of the Nominating team.

Upcoming Meetings

- Spring Fundraiser Organizational Meeting – March 18 at 6:00pm.
- OCS Board Meeting – March 23 at 6:00pm.
- OPPG Leadership Meeting – April 13, 2010 at 6:30pm
- **OPPG Parent Meeting – May 18th, 2010 at 6:00pm – If you have suggestions for a Parent Ed topic – contact Cari.**

OPPG Leadership Meeting Notes

Highlights from the March 9th OPPG Leadership Meeting and the March 16th Parent Meeting:

- We are happy to welcome Emily DeCrescenzi as OPPG's new Fundraising Chair. If you have any ideas for fundraisers for this year or next, they can be addressed to Emily at fundraisingatodyssey@gmail.com.
- We had 18 parents attend our March OPPG Parent meeting. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us.
- Jexy gave a Board report. They should be voting on the budget in May. The next OCS Board meeting is next Tuesday (3/23) at 6:00pm. Also, the idea of an Independent study program for families that need to leave town for more than a couple days is being brought to the Board on Tuesday.
- The Arts Committee reported huge success in their programs. We have music, arts, and theatre in classrooms thanks to the dedication of so many parents and the willingness of our teachers to work it into their schedules. Thank you ALL for your hard work and commitment to our kids.
- Lisa announced that Room parents are beginning discussions on providing a healthy breakfast and/or snacks during testing. They are also gearing up for Staff Appreciation week. Watch for communication from your Room Parents in May for how you can help!
- If you are interested in attending the Alfie Kohn talk at Occidental College on April 15th at 7:00pm, please don't forget to reserve your seat. They are FREE, but must be reserved. <http://alfiekohnatoxy.eventbrite.com/>
- Our parent ed topic this month was Emergency Preparedness, which seemed especially appropriate the morning after the little 4am shaker in our area. Our guest speaker was Cari Butler from Emergency Café, and for the benefit of those of you that couldn't attend, I am going to share some of the tips that she gave us.

- **Safety Tips (from Emergency Café) – only a few of the ones she shared with us:**
 - The most important thing to remember in the event of an earthquake or other emergency situation is to remain calm.
 - The three basic actions recommended by the American Red Cross when you begin to feel an earthquake are to drop to the floor, take cover and hold on.
 - Always keep at least 1/2 a tank of gas in your car.
 - Your emergency kit should include food, water, first aid, search and rescue equipment, lighting, comfort, and sanitation products to sustain each person for at least 3 days.
 - Keep your emergency kit in a place that is easily accessible such as in a coat closet or under your bed.
 - Always keep a pair of tennis shoes and water in your car.
 - Keep all your important documents in one place for easy access.
 - Keep cash on hand in small bills.
 - Have an out of state contact person.
 - Make an evacuation plan with your family. Discuss it and practice it once every 6 months to a year.
 - Anchor heavy furniture and TV's to the wall.
 - Change the batteries in your flashlight once a year. OR purchase a battery less flashlight which never needs batteries.
 - It is recommended that you have enough supplies on hand for 2-3 weeks including food and water.
 - Have an emergency kit in your car.
 - Use museum putty under precious collectibles to secure them.
 - If you feel an earthquake starting and you are in your house, get over in the corner of the room away from windows, large mirrors and shelves.
 - The recommended amount of water you should keep on hand is one gallon, per person, per day.
 - Know how to turn the gas and water off at your home. Keep a gas shut off tool next to your gas line.
 - Always check expiration dates on food. Even emergency food and water have dates – usually 5 years.
 - Rotate food that you are storing every 6 – 8 months.
 - The most dangerous hazard after an earthquake is fire.
 - If you are driving while an earthquake hits, pull to the side of the road and avoid buildings and trees.
 - If an earthquake hits while you are in bed, DO NOT get out of bed until the ground stops shaking.
 - Know the evacuation plan at your child's school. You can find these in our Parent Student Handbook.
 - Never light candles after an earthquake.
 - Make sure your water heater is strapped in place securely.
 - If you are taking medication you should have an extra month on hand at all times.
 - Call your local fire department and ask them where the closest emergency shelter is.
 - Have a battery-operated or solar powered radio or television on hand for the latest emergency information.
 - Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
 - If you wear glasses, you should have an extra pair on hand at all times.
- Do you need any Emergency Supplies for your home? Cari Butler has offered us a deal on any of the Emergency Supplies that she sells. If we get more than 5 families purchasing supplies, she will waive the shipping fee and deliver the items to OCS for us to pick up. She also is going to give a % back to Odyssey of any sales she makes to our families. I don't mean to make our newsletter an ad, but since she did come speak with us I wanted to put this offer to the rest of the community that didn't attend. You can see her supplies at <http://emergencycafe.com/menu.html>. You can download an order form on our website <http://www.odysseycharterschool.org/parents/Documents-and-Forms.cfm> and turn it in to the front office with a check by next Friday, March 26th. If we get enough orders, anything ordered before March 26th will qualify for the free shipping. You can pick up your orders at school after Spring Break.

Thank You

- Thank you to Karen, MaryLinda, Ellen, and ALL the parents who helped make our Firefly Bistro and Art 50/50 Fundraiser (\$720), Dance Away (\$100), and the Ebay Fundraiser (\$721) a success!