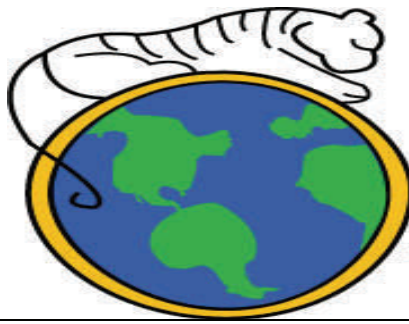


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December 18, 2009



**ODYSSEY**  
Today's School For Tomorrow's World

### **Barnes and Noble Fundraiser**

Thanks to everyone who participated and/or volunteered during the Barnes and Noble Library fundraiser. Your efforts generated \$6,410 in sales for Barnes and Noble, of which Odyssey received \$1282 toward the purchase of new books for our library. There is the possibility of additional money for the school, depending upon sales from outside of the Newnan store.

A special thanks to Maria Hickman for spearheading this effort.

### **Parental Involvement Article**

The following is an excerpt from an article that appeared in Education Weekly recently about parental involvement as students move toward high school:

*For the new book, Families, Schools, and the Adolescent, which was published in August by Teachers College Press, Ms. Hill and her co-editor, Ruth K. Chao of the University of California, Riverside, recruited scholars from a variety of disciplines to share some newer findings on family-school partnerships at the secondary school level.*

*After systematically analyzing 50 studies on parent involvement, Ms. Hill found that some previous reviews of research on family-school partnerships, while pointing to overall academic benefits for students, had lumped together studies of elementary schools with those of middle and high schools.*

*When disentangled, the studies geared to middle schools showed that, while parent involvement was still important to students' learning, the kind of activity mattered. Helping with homework, for instance, did not have much of an impact at all in secondary school. Visiting the school, volunteering, and attending school events seemed to be just moderately related to student achievement.*

*Twice as effective as the things parents did at school were the efforts they made at home, apart from helping with homework, to support schooling. Those included communicating their expectations for their children's achievement; discussing learning strategies; fostering career aspirations; linking what children were learning in school, or were interested in learning, to outside activities; and making plans for the future. Ms. Hill puts those activities under the category of "academic socialization."*

### **Jobs over the Break**

Break time is a great time to get some repairs and projects completed around the school. Mr. Geeter will be at school on Monday and Tuesday, December 21-22 and 28-29 from approximately 9-4 if you would like to pick up volunteer hours. If you can't come on one of those days, but would still like to pick up some volunteer hours over the break, please contact him directly via email at [ageeter@odysseycharterschool.net](mailto:ageeter@odysseycharterschool.net) or by phone at 770-251-6111.

Below is a list of some of the jobs that we will be trying to complete over the break. Outside tasks do not require entrance to the school to complete. If you complete one of these jobs, please let me know so I may mark it off the list and give you credit for volunteer hours.

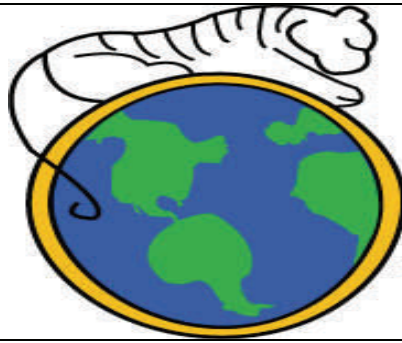
#### **Inside work**

Paint walls  
Move materials to trailer  
Repair wall holes  
Put up ceiling materials as a sound buffer  
Run cable

#### **Outside work**

Fill in parking lot holes  
Tighten loose nuts and bolts on playground equipment  
Clean up grounds  
Blow off parking lot

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Continued



**DYSSEY**  
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### 2010-2011 Enrollment

If you have a sibling who you would like to enroll at Odyssey for the 2010-2011 school year, please remember that admission applications must be completed and submitted to Mrs. Lynda no later than February 1 for the lottery. This is particularly important for families that have entering Kindergarten students. If we do not receive sibling applications by the date of the lottery, they will be placed in the regular lottery pool instead of the sibling lottery pool. This can greatly diminish their chance of admission.

Applications are available on the Odyssey School web site.

#### New Roof

The bidding process is almost complete and the hope is for crews to begin replacing the roof on our building over the break.

#### School Starts Again January 5

Odyssey reopens after break on Tuesday, January 5, 2010. Please note that this is before the county school system.

#### Odyssey Merchandise is Here

Show your Odyssey pride with an Odyssey logo water bottle, t-shirt, car magnet, or insulated bag. An order form will be coming home right after the break. If you would like to see samples, they are available in the office.

T-shirts	\$12.00 (new logo)
Insulated Bags	\$10.00 (old logo)
Car Magnets	\$5.00 (new logo)
Water Bottles	\$3.00 (new logo)

If you want to purchase any of these items as gifts for Christmas, please contact Monique Haskins at [haskinsmom@bellsouth.net](mailto:haskinsmom@bellsouth.net).

#### Odyssey School Music Department Concert

The Odyssey School music department put on a great show Thursday evening, December 17<sup>th</sup> with performances by the band, chorus and strings trio. Thanks to the performers, Ms. Tara and Mr. Pacetti and everyone who came out to the show.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

