



Odyssey News



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Odyssey Welcomes The Dogs!

Odyssey Learning Center has added a new therapy for the students. *Canine Companions* brings 4 to 5 teams of therapy dogs and handlers on campus the second Friday of each month. A team visits each classroom for 20-30 minutes depending on how the students react.



The first visit was a great success! All of the students were very receptive and many got to take a picture with a therapy dog. The handlers made sure to introduce the therapy dogs to the students, let them pet the dog and finally see the dog do some tricks. We can't wait for their next visit!



Swim Season Approaches

Summer is right around the corner and that means that it is almost time to open the pool. Each classroom will have opportunities to utilize the pool as an addition to their gross motor program.

The swimming program includes learning and following pool rules/safety, identifying body parts and applying sunscreen, participating in warm-up exercises, utilizing pool equipment and engaging in a variety of swimming activities.

Please send the following items for your son or daughter's participation in the swim program: swimsuit, towel, flip-flops and sunscreen. Feel free to send additional items that can go into the pool area, such as goggles, pool toys, hats and glasses. Your child's teacher will notify you when to send swim items and the date swim season will start.

Views From Vista



Zack works on a fine motor task with Gio, an occupational therapist from Vista Child Therapy.

We provide Occupational Therapy to students both on a one to one basis as well as weekly in-group sessions. Occupational Therapy addresses the following:

1. **Organizational Behavior** - the ability to attain and maintain an optimal level of arousal/alertness in order to sit, attend and follow directions

2. **Self-Care** - fastening, using both hands together, developing independent living skills
3. **Fine and Gross Motor Skills**
4. **Bilateral Coordination** - using two hands together and developing a consistent hand preference
5. **Postural Control and Motor Planning** - ability to carry out non-habitual motor tasks

We use a Sensory Integration model that utilizes suspended equipment, a variety of textures and manipulatives in order to address the student's concerns.

Don't Forget To Let Us Know!

In order to keep emergency information up to date, please let us know about changes in address, work, home and cell phone numbers as early as possible. Please forward all address and phone number changes to Patti Madsen at extension 229.

Also remember that if your child needs to receive medication during the school day, an Odyssey Medication Release form needs to be completed and signed by the prescribing physician prior to your child receiving the medication.

If your child is already receiving medication and there is a change in the dosage/time, please complete an Odyssey Notification Of Change In Medication Administration form accompanied by a copy of the written change from the physician.

Please ask your child's teacher if you would like a copy of either of these forms.

Odyssey Updates



Jacob, Cetarra and Jahanzeb enjoy music therapy with Ava.

Classroom 1

The little ones are VERY happy to be able to go outdoors again! We will be taking advantage of the weather and incorporating water play into our sensory program and nature walks to our gross motor activities. Our themes for the spring months are plants, ocean life and the life cycle of the butterfly. Activities include planting seeds and observing their growth, creating a mosaic fish and watching butterflies mature then releasing them. This is a time rich with science and math; including observations, creating charts based on our observations, relationships in nature, cause and effect and sequencing.

Stacey Sheeketski

Classroom 2



Shadee bounces on a ball in OT.

I would like to welcome the following staff that have joined classroom 2: Cassandra, Darcey, Monique and Raquel. We are happy to have them! We are looking forward to the warm

weather and the increase in outdoor activities. We are all ready for the swim season and will soon be taking longer hikes.

Michelle Brusseau



Ava leads music therapy outside. Joe keeps the beat and Geoffrey moves to the music.

Classroom 3

I would like to welcome two staff to the classroom, Tyler and Erica. They have both been a wonderful addition and I appreciate all of their hard work.

All of us are welcoming spring with open arms; the students can't wait to get outside. Lisa, a classroom aide, is helping plan new outdoor activities that incorporate water play, team games and more fun!

The students recently completed their mosaic spring poster art project. Each student created a bright and original-outdoor scene using feathers, Popsicle sticks, glitter, foam etc. This project has definitely gotten us ready for spring.

We have started recycling newspapers. Every Friday, the students gather the newspapers, carry them to the vans and drop them off in the recycling bin near the school. In addition, we are working in cooperation with classroom

4 to expand our community-based opportunities for the students.

Liz Gomes



Micah works the drums.

Classroom 4

Greetings from classroom 4! Spring is in the air and we can't wait to smell the roses. We are seeing the fruits of our labor blossom and we'll be gardening again soon.

April was a busy month for us as we all adjusted to daylight savings time and prepared for our spring break. The class enjoyed making cultural masks with papier-mâché; it was also a wonderful sensory activity. We hope to have them displayed in the office for all to see after the students put the finishing touches on them.

Our recycling crew made enough money to enjoy a pizza party and we will be working towards a bowling party for our next field trip. Lets go classroom 4, watch the barometer rise as we keep a visual eye on our earnings!

With spring comes the sun and with the sun comes fun. Look out, we can't wait to get in the pool and start hiking again. We will be going over our summer safety rules and looking forward to a fun-filled summer program.

Thank you to our parents who donated this year, we appreciate each and every one of you. Working together is so much fun! It's never too late to donate if you missed out on our fall wish list. We are still in need of headphones for our computers, and walkmans for our workstations. Thank you again from all of us to all of you!

Kelly Monteiro



A trip to the Sacramento Zoo.

Classroom 5

My classroom enjoyed learning about animals on their spring field trip to the Sacramento Zoo. I would like to say a special thank you to Martha Norberg for her participation and help with the trip.

We are excited to start our new weekly cooking program. The students will be practicing cooking skills by preparing special snacks for the classroom, such as smoothies, salads and treats.

Also, after the long season of rain, our class is eagerly awaiting swim season and the chance to enjoy the sun during picnic outings.

Shelley Henz



Meghan, Marcus and Mekala have fun on the playground.

Mekala found an egg!

Classroom 6

My classroom has been busy with spring crafts and activities. We have made leprechaun mobiles and shamrock hats. We have also done rabbit and flower arts & crafts. The students had an egg hunt before spring break on the playground. Everyone had fun finding eggs filled with jellybeans and stickers.

This month we will go on a field trip to Garbeau's Acorn & Oak Children's Theater to see the musical Sleeping Beauty. This will be an introduction to imaginary play activities to promote social interaction among peers.

Tara Delgado



Heather and Samantha.



Renee and Marni.

Residential Facilities

I am happy to report that everything is going well at both houses. I have really great staff that work really well with all of the kids. Also, Medina and Heather are doing a great job settling into their new positions as the House Leads. They are both a huge asset to

each house and a tremendous help to me as well as their staff.

Just recently the two houses went on a joint outing to the roller rink. I think the staff had just as much fun as the kids did. All the kids gave it a try, but some definitely enjoyed it more than others. The ones that didn't enjoy the actual skating enjoyed the fun music and lights.

As the summer months are approaching we will probably be doing more and more outings together. Both houses are very excited that we are starting to see the nicer weather (as well as everyone else I am sure). We have finally been able to start doing those outdoor activities and outings that we have been looking forward to: hikes, going to the park, playing outdoor sports, etc. I hope everyone else is enjoying the nicer weather as much as we are!

Kristie Rikalo

House Supervisor

Executive Director's Update



KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED!

It has been a seemingly long, wet winter with too many hours spent indoors. Students, Aides and Teachers are to be commended for their

patience with the weather and wet conditions. With every little break from the rain and hint of sun, you could see kids and staff outside on the playground. Soon enough we will be talking about the heat.

As soon as the weather and our contractor's schedule permits, we are to begin construction on the school expansion project. The construction process is expected to take approximately 3 to 4 months. If all goes well, we hope to occupy the new buildings by the 1st of October. We are all eagerly looking forward to the new classrooms. In addition to the new buildings, site work to be done on our property will include a new driveway, parking spaces and a large grass play area for the students. Your patience with our project and the cooperation of all will be and is greatly appreciated.

Cheryl Daly
Executive Director

Extension 226

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Notes From Cindee's Desk

Happy Spring, here comes the sun! The 2006-2007 school calendar is completed and has been distributed. If you haven't received your copy please contact the office.

We are excited and full of enthusiasm around here, as we get ready to break ground for our new classrooms this fall. As we know, with new classrooms come new teachers, new students and additional programs for our awesome school!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK is May 8th-12th. Please help me celebrate and show your child's teachers how much you appreciate their hard work with all of our kids.

Thank you for your continued support!

Cindee Shapton
Principal/Educational Administrator
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Notes From Doug's Desk

As spring is upon us, the residential programs will begin to do some "Spring Cleaning." We will be starting to go through all of the kid's clothes. In this process we will be bagging up clothes that don't fit, are torn or winter related. The clothes that are in no condition to donate will be thrown out. If you would like to do something else with your child's clothes, please call me.

Also, this is a good time to purchase items that your child might enjoy in the pool, or outside in general. Kites are cool for the kids this time of year too.

As you all know, Kristie will be going on a vacation to Europe and we want to wish her a safe yet exciting trip. If you have any questions or concerns during her absence, they can be directed to Heather Odell at Rhodora Court, Medina Akers at Old Orchard, or to me. We will be happy to assist you.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our wonderful staff to you once again. They face new challenges everyday, and continually rise to meet them. We receive calls on a State and Nation

wide level from people who have heard about our facility and want to know if we have availability, all because of the efforts of our staff. Great job everyone!

Doug L. Nordby
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