

November, 2010

Dear Odyssey Community:

Thanks to the tremendous support of Odyssey's friends, families and staff, we completed a very successful year of stunning academics, outdoor exploration and global adventure. All the fun and excitement of 2009-2010 can be enjoyed in our Annual Report that you'll find on our homepage www.odysseymms.org.

As you will see, tuition accounts for about 87% of revenue. That covers the great majority of our operating costs. It provides the funding that lets us hire inspiring teachers, meet the occupancy expenses associated with our special campus and underwrite our signature experiential programs. Even though Odyssey's tuition remains significantly below that of other Bay Area independent schools, we continue to provide some of the most exciting and long-term beneficial experiences of any school in our peer group. These include the Camp and Ashland trip at the start of the year, as well as the Japan trip for our third-year students.

But tuition alone doesn't cover everything.

One of the most important ways we extend Odyssey's educational role is through our Annual Fund. Thanks to active, engaged and generous community support, Odyssey keeps expanding its ability to help every student achieve his or her full potential. In past years, money raised by the Annual Fund has helped Odyssey move into its current building, create a science laboratory, develop an exciting theater and creative arts program, and provide amenities that range from van transport to high-speed Internet at the school. We also rely on the Annual Fund to help ensure that we have the most up-to-date classroom supplies and the right opportunities for our teachers to add to their professional development.

This year, keystone donations will have a big, immediate and positive effect on what Odyssey can do. We wish to update Science lab equipment and renew textbooks for our newly minted Math program. We are developing our grounds, including the Garden Project Passions class this year. We seek support for specific segments of the Japan trip including rail passes and lodging in key cities. Particular support also is requested for the spring outdoor education program that can take students to Catalina, Santa Barbara or the Sierras.

As part of our Annual Fundraising this year, we will be transforming the traditional Benefit and Auction by instead holding a magnificent Shakespeare Festival to celebrate the bard's birthday on April 16, 2011. This novel event, based on a long-standing Odyssey fascination in Shakespearean culture, will bring together the whole Odyssey community in a fun-packed day of games, food, artisan stalls, competitions and performances. We encourage you to mark the day and to start thinking about friends, neighbors and colleagues who might want to join us. It will be complemented by an online silent Auction.

That also means that Odyssey will be approaching you only *one time* this year to make a donation—and that time is now.

Gifts to the Annual Fund can be made at any level. In years past, many families have given \$500 to \$1,000. A few have topped \$3,000, and practically everyone has been able to contribute something.

\$500 can take Odyssey enriching Field Trips to the Academy of Sciences, the Exploratorium or SFMOMA.

\$1000 can enable us to invest for the whole school in a complete series of the latest Math textbooks replete with digital media for at-home study.

\$3000 can help our Garden Project flourish, cover rail transport in Japan or provide a golden opportunity for staff to attend cutting-edge teaching workshops at national venues.

Participation at any level is our most important goal. Achieving 100% participation as a community demonstrates a solidarity that is as important as dollar amounts. You can make your gift online by simply clicking on the Annual Report button on our homepage www.odysseys.org. You can also send a check donation to the school address. Thank you in advance for your constant kindness and generosity and for joining us in supporting our amazing adventure in middle school education, our Odyssey community.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Popplewell, Ph.D.
Head of School