



The Principal's Corner

*Instruction does much, but
encouragement everything.*
- Goethe

May 2017



May Events

May 1-4 – Teacher
Appreciation Week

Sat. May 6 – Mother & Son
Movie Night

Mon. May 8 – Box Tops Due –
last collection for class
prize!

Thur. May 11 – Thirsty
Thursday **Jamba Juice**

Thur. May 25 – May, June, &
July **birthday** celebrations;
Argonaut Adventure day;
TOPA T-shirt day

Thur. June 1 – Field Day; Last
Day of School

Do you want to make an impact on the future? TOPA is hiring teachers!

<https://theodysseyacademy.tedk12.com/hire/index.aspx>



The Odyssey Preparatory Academy
Sienna Hills

What an Amazing Year!

As the 2016-2017 school year winds down, we would like to take a moment to let you know how thankful we are to be part of your child's educational journey. We know TOPA Sienna Hills is a choice for your family and we value the choice you have made. Every day we put our best efforts into upholding the TOPA vision and making sure your child receives the best we have to offer.

This year has been a very exciting year for us! We want to extend our sincere gratitude to our Sienna Hills scholars, staff, volunteers, and parents for all that has been done to make our school a GREAT place to learn and grow.



Lorraine Roer
Principal

Hugh Thompson
Assistant Principal



Ideas for Summer Reading Fun

By Reading Rockets

(for active links see the URL below)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/get-ready-summer-ideas-teachers-share-families#reading>

Make sure kids have something to read during the summer — put books into children's hands. Register with First Book and gain access to award-winning new books for free and to deeply discounted new books and educational materials or find other national and local programs and organizations that can help.

Get your local public library to sign kids up for summer reading before school is out. Invite or ask your school librarian to coordinate a visit from the children's librarian at the public library near the end of the school year. Ask them to talk about summer activities, educational videos, and audio books at the library and to distribute summer reading program materials.

Get to know your community public library better. Find out if your public library is part of the Collaborative Summer Library Program, a grassroots effort to provide high-quality summer reading programs for kids. Our local public library branch:

Buckeye Public Library - Coyote Branch
21699 W Yuma Rd #116
(623) 349-6300
Opens at 11:00 AM

Free summer reading incentive programs. At Pizza Hut's BOOK IT! program, find out how to Ignite a Summer of Reading. The Scholastic Be a Reading Superhero Summer Reading Challenge encourages kids to log the minutes they spend reading and map

their accomplishments. Kids can participate in weekly challenges, earn digital rewards, and enter to win prizes. With the Barnes & Noble Imagination's Destination challenge, your child can earn a free book after reading eight books (and parents receive a summer reading kit full of activities).

Help kids build math and science skills over the summer. Share our Literacy in the Sciences series with families. Each one-page tip sheet (in English and Spanish) suggests easy hands-on activities as well as fiction and nonfiction books to extend the learning. In this section you'll also find links to great science websites for kids, blogs about children's science books, and links to PBS KIDS science programs and activities.

Encourage parents to start a neighborhood book club with other families this summer. It's a great way to keep the summer learning social and low-key. Warmer weather can inspire some not-so-run-of-the-mill meeting places, too: a tent or picnic blanket in the backyard. If the book club catches on, it's something to continue throughout the school year. PBS Parents has a wonderful collection of tips on how to start a club and encourage great discussions. Our special education blogger, June Behrmann, shares ideas (and title selections) for starting your own mother-daughter "accessible" book club using print alternatives.

Continued on Page 4



What is *Peaceful Playground?*

Dr. Melinda Bossenmeyer was a school principal in California, who noticed that many of her discipline problems centered on recess. To solve these, she developed a program to address the five main areas of playground issues:

1. Conflict Resolution
2. Rules
3. Equipment
4. Expectations
5. Design.

Through implementing our *Peaceful Playground* program, scholars learn ways to play with each other, given equipment to use together, and taught strategies for solving conflicts (such as the famous 'Walk, Talk, Rock'). *Peaceful Playground* has been a core part of the TOPA program since its inception.

PeacefulPlaygrounds.com

Sienna Hills' Ambassadors Provide Our Peaceful Playground

The members of the Sienna Hills Ambassadors Club have proven to be masterful fundraisers this year; raising money for some of the nice things that don't always get funded in a school's first year. This has included the flags on the auditorium stage, Chromebooks for the 5th grade computer cart, and a visit from an inflatable dome planetarium. Last week, this list expanded to include professional striping for our Peaceful Playground.



*Thank You, Ambassadors!
And thanks to the Sienna Hills community
for supporting the fundraisers!*



Having Fun at the

Fun Run!

One of TOPA's biggest events of the year has traditionally been spring's Fun Run. This year was the first Sienna Hills, and our scholars stepped up!



Summer Reading

Continued from Page 2

Suggest to parents that they set up a summer listening program which encourages their children to [listen to written language](#). Research shows that some children with learning disabilities profit from reading the text and listening to it at the same time.

Promote simple, fun items that support the reading habit. Reading Rockets has created a "Warning! Reading Rocket in Orbit" [door hanger](#) in English and Spanish.

Recommend some great summer reads that match your students' interests. Books about [summer stuff](#) are fun summertime reads. Download the Reading Rockets [summer reading booklists](#) — lots of good suggestions for kids up to 9 years old. Or ask your school or public librarian for an age appropriate reading list.

Some students enjoy doing worksheets while others get very excited about puzzle books and word scrambles, so you might send home a few of these types of activities as an option. Teacher Planet offers loads of links to summer-themed printable [activity sheets](#). And HarperCollins Children's Books has [literature quizzes, games, and printables](#) in their Games & Contests section.



After signing up pledges, scholars ran up to 36 laps (2 miles). Some scholars ran even more! The room with the most pledges on the last day, Ms. Harrell's 1st Grade class, won a "Paint the Principals" party, where they covered Ms. Roer and Dr. Thompson in colored shaving cream!



Overall, almost \$24,000 was pledged, with Mrs. Faccio's 3rd grade class bringing in more than \$3,800. A fun fact - in our initial year, Sienna Hills had the same participation rate (66%) and amount pledged per student (\$72) as TOPA - Goodyear.

Fun Run Coordinators Big Dog, Mighty Mouse, and Captain Awesome said they really enjoyed working with the Sienna Hills Team.

Well done!





April's IB Profile Scholar Recognition

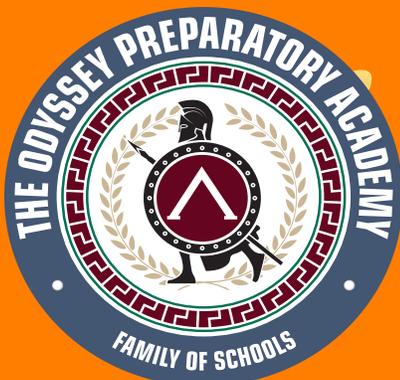
L to R

- Emma Williamson (5th) **Inquirer**
- Ian Ruff (4th) **Principled**
- Jace Collins (2nd) **Risk-Taker**
- Landon Salgado (2nd) **Knowledgeable**
- Sidney Sweeney (2nd) **Caring**

The Principal's Corner - Sienna Hills

May 2017

The Odyssey Preparatory Academy - Sienna Hills Campus



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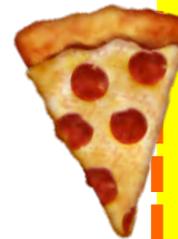
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Ensure your scholar can eat the hot lunch:

Purchase In Advance!

The caterers might only have PB & J for walk-ins.