



October, 2011

For the past five years, Independence Charter School has been involved with an exciting program called *Odyssey of the Mind*. For more information on *Odyssey of the Mind* visit www.odysseyofthemind.com. ICS students, in grades three to eight, have had fun and achieved great success at competitions, with both teams last year placing in the state level and one placing seventh in the world!

The following are the abbreviated descriptions of this year's long-term problems:

Ooh-Motional Vehicle: design, build, and drive a vehicle that uses two different types of propulsion systems to travel and also changes to show emotion.

Weird Science: create and present an original performance that includes a team of scientists on an expedition to uncover mysterious events.

To Be or Not To Be: create and present a humorous performance that includes a dilemma that poses the question, "To ___ or not to ___." The performance will include a "Hamlet" character and a character that portrays its conscience. It will also include a scene change, a costume change, and the use of a trapdoor.

You Make the Call: design, build, and test a structure that balances and supports as much weight as possible. Teams will choose the weight limit for their structure. The testing of the structure will take place in a performance that has mathematics in its theme, and includes a team-created device that performs a mathematical function.

Odyssey Angels: present an original performance that includes Odyssey Angels who travel through one or more team-created places, where they help two characters with different problems and also help save an entire community from a bad situation.

Teams will decide which problem will be solved and the number of teams will be determined by the number of available coaches.

Parents are the coaches, team coordinators and competition judges for each seven member team. Each team member's parent will be expected to participate in fulfilling the needs of the team including providing transportation, snacks and organizational time. A \$20 fee will be collected at the beginning of the season and further monetary donations may be needed as the season continues.

Some dates to keep in mind:

Coaches' Training	Saturday, Nov. 5th 2011, Allentown, PA (Mandatory for Coaches)
Judges Training	Saturday, Jan. 28th, 2012, Center Valley, PA (Mandatory for Judges)
Regionals	Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 2012, Center Valley, PA
State Finals	Saturday, Apr. 14th, 2012, Swiftwater, PA
World Finals	Wed.-Sat., May 23rd-26th, 2012, Ames, IA

Above all, *Odyssey of the Mind* is a fun and rewarding experience for all who participate. While it is a large time commitment for team members and parents, *Odyssey of the Mind* teaches teamwork and problem solving strategies in a fun and creative way. *If you would like your student to participate this year (only 3rd-8th grade), please fill out the form below, detach and return to school.*

I would love to have my child considered as part of the Odyssey of the Mind team at ICS!

Student' Name _____ Email _____

Grade/Teacher/Rm# _____ Phone # _____

Parent Name _____ Email (if different) _____

I can donate my time to be a (circle one) **coach, judge, team parent.**

Teachers: Please return forms to Tr. Jenny's mailbox. Thank you!