



Josiah Haynes School

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Mrs. Susan Carlson
Principal

ODYSSEY 08

The Sudbury School Committee approved the 4th Grade Odyssey overnight field trip at their meeting on October 17. A description of the program is attached.

A meeting to Introduce Odyssey to interested parents of 4th graders will be held on November 15. Specific information about this meeting will be forthcoming.

4th Grade students were informed of the details of their trip Thursday, October 18 by their classroom teachers. Each student was provided with a brochure about the trip.

A special thank you goes to all those staff and parents who worked so hard to help make Odyssey 08 an exciting learning opportunity for our students. We all believe that it carries on the traditions of Odyssey, while introducing activities and experiences that will be unique to participants going forward. We hope everyone will remain open and encouraging to our students as they prepare for this adventure.

SUDBURY ODYSSEY 2008

The tradition of the Sudbury Odyssey continues in 2007-08 with a learning experience that promises to be an exciting and adventurous trip into the nature and wonder of science. Sudbury fourth grade students will become scientists, investigators and colleagues during the three-day, two-night trip that will be housed at Camp Bauercrest in Amesbury, Massachusetts and the Joppa Flats Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary on Plum Island.

Review and Development Process.

The review and development of Odyssey 2008 has been a lengthy process starting in the 2006-07 school year. In addition to an internal staff assessment, parents and students provided insights into the aspects of Odyssey that were valuable and memorable and those that created concerns. Over the summer, the Odyssey Planning Team (see attached list of members) began its work. This team of staff members representing each elementary school, each 4th grade team, administration, special education, nurses, science curriculum specialist, and middle school science teachers spent countless hours developing a program for students that they believed would be educationally sound, meet the goals of Odyssey, and provide students with a memorable, fun experience. In September, a Parent Advisory Committee convened to review the program and provide valuable input and insights into the design and goals of the program and recommendations on communicating the program to students and the parent community. Odyssey 2008 brings excitement from members of the Planning Team and support and optimism from the Parent Advisory Committee.

The goals of Odyssey 2008 are to be an educational experience that is:

- a safe experience for all; safe in location and safe for student health and well-being,
- a learning experience that is inclusive and accessible to all students; accommodations will be made so that all students will be able to experience this memorable aspect of the elementary school experience,
- a physical and environment science based discovery-learning experience; students will “become scientists,” and learn and live the scientific process,
- an opportunity for the traditions of team building, leadership and problem solving to be incorporated as an integral part of the experience; this is an extension of what already occurs in the classroom/schools, but could not be left to chance as a part of this experience,
- a trip where the cost to students remains reasonable and proximate to that of previous trips, and
- a fun experience that cannot be provided in the classroom and where students take responsibility for their experience and living environment.

Camp Location: Camp Bauercrest, Amesbury, MA. (approximately 1 hour from Sudbury.)

- Includes 6 meals and snacks, 10 staff (including 3 Project Adventure trained staff), a chef, dining and cleaning staff, and an inter-session cleaning of all cabins,
- Cabins with bunk beds and toilet facilities in each; the camp also provides a large mess hall, shower facilities, an arts and crafts center, a health center, “Rec Hall”, and two large fields,
- Safety and security is primary and access to the camp is limited,
- 24-hour nursing staff will be available, with a local hospital within 15 minutes of the camp; a large 4-5 bed infirmary is located on the premises,
- Cell phone communication is strong at the campsite and at the offsite location.

Offsite Location: Joppa Flats Education and Wildlife Center, Newburyport, MA (approximately 20 minutes from Camp Bauercrest)

Duration: 3 days/2 nights

Dates: (Outside the MCAS window)

Haynes and Loring on June 4, 5, and 6 (Wed-Fri)

Nixon and Noyes on June 11, 12, and 13 (Wed-Fri)

Cost: Still to be determined

- Approximately equivalent to 2007 cost for students, which was deemed reasonable by the majority of parents,
- There will be one cost for all students (regardless if he/she stays overnight or participates in day program only)

Staff: Staffing levels will remain similar to prior year's trips. The 4th grade teachers will be present and involved in each day's program. They will prepare students for the activities; oversee the activities, and work closely and support the students in the learning experiences. While not all 4th grade teachers will sleep overnight at the camp, at least one teacher from the school, who is familiar with the students, will stay at the camp. In addition, a Lead Administrator will be present on-site for the complete trip.

Program Description:

Day 1:

School A—Leaves Sudbury and travels, by coach bus, directly to Joppa Flats for a day of environmental and nature discovery. Students will bring a bag lunch. At the conclusion of the program, the students will be bussed to Camp Bauercrest for check-in, orientation and preparation for dinner and evening activities.

- At Joppa Flats, each student will experience two of the refuge's learning modules, focusing on the salt marsh, sandy beach, tide pools or maritime forest habitats.
- Because of the environmental sensitivity of the area and the capacity of the site, parent chaperones will not travel to Joppa Flats but rather go directly to the Camp.

School B—Leaves Sudbury and travels by coach bus, directly to Camp Bauercrest for check-in and camp orientation. Students will bring a bag lunch. Students will then participate in Project Adventure-designed problem solving and challenge activities with trained counselors. Following these activities, students will participate in dinner and evening activities.

- Project Adventure is a program requiring all students to work as a team to complete challenges. With minimal requirements for physical development, each student will contribute his/her talents to helping the team solve the challenge it faces. Team building, leadership, and collaboration are outcomes of this fun learning opportunity.

Day 2:

Both schools will participate in a day of science discovery and investigation. This study of physical science will be a hands-on, team based, experience where students will have to use the scientific process to construct projects and demonstrate the principles of science. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided at the camp. Evening and campfire activities will be part of the day's experience.

With the leadership and support of *KnowAtom*, a company with experience in providing fun, interactive science discovery for students around the state, the students

will be engaged in a day of physical science programs that support our science curriculum and the Massachusetts State Frameworks for Science and Technology/Engineering. Through coached group learning, coupled with independent construction and testing, the students will “dig” into physics concepts, share ideas with one another, and develop their knowledge and skills. Actual programs and projects have not been finalized, but may include such topics as hydraulics, the principles of a hovercraft or the design of a solar car. The students will take their work with them as a basis for continued discussion at school and home.

Day 3:

School A will rise and participate in the Project Adventure activities described above before leaving for Sudbury in the afternoon. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided.

School B will rise and leave for Joppa Flats in the morning, then leave for Sudbury in the afternoon. Parents from School B will not be traveling to Joppa Flats so will be able to return to Sudbury in the morning. Breakfast and a bag lunch will be provided.

Students will take responsibility for their living environment; this may include basic clean up of cabins and dining room, serving and clearing breakfast, lunch and dinner, and helping to minimize waste.

There will not be a parent visitation day as in prior years.

Inclusive Program:

- Great effort has gone into making this memorable experience fully accessible to all students. Accessible means physically, academically, developmentally and socially.
- There will not be an alternative program for non-participants.
- We believe that the variety of components of Odyssey make it a valuable experience; thus, we want all students to have the full experience. The overnight aspect is part of that experience. There are valuable things to learn and share after dinner and we hope all students will enjoy and grow from this. However, if the parent or circumstances do not allow the child to stay overnight, we do expect the student to attend the day program and fully participate in the curriculum. It is similar to any other field trip that is part of the curriculum. There will be no option or alternative experience for those not attending. In those rare cases where serious medical or other limitations make attending the trip dangerous or harmful to a student, staff will work cooperatively with the parents to consider appropriate accommodations.
- We will provide transportation for those not staying overnight. Students will be bussed to the camp on the morning of Day 2 and 3, and back to Sudbury just before dinner on Days 1 and 2.
- Students/Parents must choose if they will participate in the full experience or leave each day; no split decisions are accepted.
 - Note—LS Graduation is June 5. Accommodations will be made for students who need to return for this event to participate in the full program.
- The cost to each participant is the same regardless of full participation or day-only. The cost of the interim transportation for day-trippers will be included

into the total cost of Odyssey. The type of transportation for the interim trips will be determined once the actual number of riders is known.

- As in the past, scholarships for the fees and basic supplies will be available. Parents are directed to contact the school principal for a confidential assessment of support available.

Sweatshirts: Sudbury Odyssey sweatshirts will be the same as in previous years.

Chaperones: We prefer a commitment for the entire session. Chaperones must attend all training sessions in order to participate. Training will be provided in basic first aid, and in supervising and directing students of this age group. We will develop clear expectations of duties and responsibilities that chaperones must agree to provide.

Program Information and Timeline:

- School Committee Presentation – October 17
- Teachers will inform their 4TH grade students--October 18
- Parents of 4th Grade Students will receive a copy of this document-- October 18
- 1st Informational Parent meeting (basic outline of the trip) – November 15
- 2nd Informational Parent meeting (similar in detail to previous years)– February 7
- Information to all parents, community, via web site and school news—week of October 22
- Chaperone Forms due March 7; decision March 20; training sessions: TBD
- All student forms and down payment due March 7; final payment due May 9

Assessment: Parent, student and staff surveys will be completed at the conclusion of the trip. This will inform our decision making for Odyssey 2009.

Thanks to the following staff members who gave their time to help develop a meaningful learning experience for all Sudbury students

Odyssey Planning Team

Beverly Barber	4 th Grade Teacher, Nixon
Michelle Barrie	Special Educator, Loring
Rita Clark-Bissonnette	Lead Administrator
John Brackett	Superintendent
Carol Bradford	School Nurse, Noyes
Catherine Carpenter	4 th Grade Teacher, Noyes
Luan Dean	Special Educator, Haynes
Annette Doyle	Principal, Noyes
Betsy Grams	Wellness Coordinator
David Jeong	Teacher, Loring
Matthew Lafond	Science Teacher, Curtis
Clifton LaPorte	Principal, Loring
J.P. Mann	Science Teacher, Curtis
Karen McCarthy	Science Curriculum Specialist
Bob Milley	Assistant Superintendent
Melissa Morabito	4 th Grade Teacher, Nixon
Jean Marie Skahan	4 th Grade Teacher, Haynes
Kim Swain	Teacher, Haynes
David Williams	4 th Grade Teacher, Loring

Special thanks to the following members of the:

Odyssey Parent Advisory Committee

Haynes – Mary Brauer
Lisa Bruni
Elena Wohl

Loring - Ian Feldberg
Christina Granahan
Cindy Sia

Nixon - Maria Behrakis
Dennis Bowler
Sandra McCarthy

Noyes - Ann Bischoff
Robert Giorgio
Lisa Kenney