Odyssey of the Mind

COACHES – this the letter I sent to parents the week before competition – relating our times and other details about competition.

Dear Parents and Family Members,

This is a long message - but all necessary information!  Map Attached!

Our teams have some wonderful and creative ideas for our performance coming up on March 3rd!    Please check your calendars and be sure to keep times listed (competition and awards) clear.  The Odyssey of the Mind competition can be busy, so I am trying to share as much as I can today to clarify a few things.   The competition runs all day and there is an awards ceremony in the evening.

**LOCATION and TRANSPORTATION** –  The competition will be held at Viera High School (6103 Stadium Pkwy, Melbourne, FL 32940).  Team members will need meet me at Viera HS.  Due to having two teams and carrying supplies, I unfortunately cannot transport students.  If you need help with transportation, please contact another parent on the team.

**HELP!**  For both teams, I will need help transporting large items; if you have a minivan, truck,  or larger SUV, please contact me if you can help us.  It would be helpful for those parents to meet us after our only practice next week to pick up items.

**WHERE AND WHEN WE MEET - (Please see map) -** It is my plan to set up a camp.   On the map, I have marked it with the word **BASE**.   You will have to walk through the front buildings to get to this area.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Team - Meet at BASE at \_\_\_\_ - Set up props and practice skit**

**Parents - please do not have a team member leave the team at any time unless they have permission from the coach.  We have an agenda of things to do, so even if the schedule looks free, we may have practice or preparations to do.**

**COMPETITION TIMES** - Our competition times and locations are listed below.  This is what we have been working toward, so the teams are depending on all team members being there.   There is an audience for the long term problem, so this is the one for which you might want to invite family to watch – and your child will likely want you there too!  Spontaneous is held in a closed room with the team and judges only – the coach accompanies them to the holding room before they compete.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Times - LONG TERM - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Building \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) SPONTANEOUS - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Problem \_\_\_, Division \_\_\_   - (problem name)**

**OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE** – On competition day, parents may help carry items throughout the campus.  If any repairs need to be made to props or costumes, students must do this themselves.  If students are going to wear any kind of make-up – or do their hair (as part of a costume), they need to apply it or do it themselves – or have another team member help them.  If a team is witnessed having outside assistance, they may lose points.

**LONG TERM PERFORMANCE** – Our team and parents can stay together until we reach the check in area - it is helpful to have extra hands.  This is a good time for family members to go into the performance room to find seats.  You also may get a glimpse of another team’s performance.  I will stay with the team until they reach the staging area – from where they will begin their performance.  They carry all items out to the performance area themselves and begin performing.  When the performance is over, the team remains in the performance area while the judges ask questions.  Once they are done, the coach and parents can help the team remove items from the performance area.  These items do need to be treated with care, as they could be needed again if the teams advance.  At this time, the items can be brought to the cars.

**SPONTANEOUS** - There is no audience for this part of the competition.  Students check in and then proceed to a waiting room, where judges come to get them.  They perform the spontaneous in front of judges only and the problem is to be kept secret while in public and on campus that day - so that no other team use the information to their advantage.  (They can tell you in the car.)

**SPORTSMANSHIP** – OotM stresses sportsmanship; therefore, teams can be penalized if someone in the group (including adults) is overheard criticizing another group or individual.  It can be tempting to comment or compare – especially if we have a chance to see other teams perform.  In general, I tell the team members to only say what they like about other teams…

**PARENT SUPERVISOR** –Since I have two teams competing this year; this means that I will need to be sure that there is at least one parent from each team who can stay with the team members at all times and make sure that they are supervised during the day at our “Base”.  This is usually not a problem, as many parents usually do stay, but it would be helpful to have someone in charge of the team when I am not with them.  If you are willing, please let me know.  If you (parent) are not able to stay all day, we will arrange a time for pick up after the spontaneous and Long term are complete – once I receive the times; we will also need to have your cell phone number.

**WORKER TIMES**– We have received our worker assignments, which are below.  A letter is being sent to our wonderful parent volunteers.  If you need help with supervision of your team member child during this time, please let me know.  They ask that check in at the Worker Registration Table (across from inside hallway gym entrance & near the sales area) with a picture ID before going to your assignment.

**School Name** – Worker Name -  Time – Assignement  (Check in 15 minutes early) -.

**LUNCH & LEAVING CAMPUS**–  We will not plan to have lunch as a group.  If someone could volunteer to bring a cooler with water/drinks that would be very helpful.    Snacks would be helpful too. Please e-mail the group to let us know!

Lunch should be offered on the Viera campus at the concession stands if anyone is interested.

**Insert time team members may leave campus**

**BEHAVIOR** – I have never had an issue with team behavior, but I do like to be sure that we have consistent expectations at competition to ensure student safety and respect for the facility.  Of particular importance, children (and - just in case it wasn’t clear - adults) should refrain from climbing and running on the campus.  They also need to talk in quiet voices as they walk through the halls, as there are at least 20 different long term competition rooms and spontaneous rooms throughout the campus.  There is a large courtyard area where they are able to relax while we wait.

**WHAT TO BRING** -  Team members need to bring their costumes and props!  It would be helpful if parents could bring coolers with drinks and snacks.  Also, for comfort, please bring folding chairs for adults and blankets for team members to sit on.

**OMER FEST**- There will be a dance fest and games outside on campus from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

**AWARDS CEREMONY** – The awards ceremony will be in the evening and is a time for students to dress creatively.  Really fun hats and outfits are commonly worn and it has a festive party atmosphere.   It is great to have the whole team together there -  I would like to have the teams from both schools together.  Each team is completing a different long term problem and spontaneous, so it would be great if they could meet each other and cheer each other on! Awards are announced in two groups. First they announce teams that placed, but are not advancing. THEN they announce teams that are advancing. Each problem will be different as to whether only first place advances or if multiple places advance. Following this, if a team has earned a Ranatra Fusca Award they will be announced – and Ranatra winners also advance to state.

There is a period of time between the last team competition time and the awards ceremony.  Many families and teams choose to go to have dinner at this time.  There are several restaurants – and a Publix – nearby, so if you choose to have dinner nearby, there are options.  Awards start at 6:30PM – Doors open at 6:15.  Let’s plan to meet in the area on the right as you enter, farthest from the door

After awards, the teams and families may wish to have ice cream at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

**REMIND** – I will be using this text app to keep you updates on competition day.

**MY NUMBER** – My cell phone number is (321) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Please add it to your phone book.  Also, please text me with your child’s name and I will add your number to my phone book (if I do not already have it).

Please go over the items about sportsmanship, outside assistance, and behavior with your child, just in case I do not have a chance to cover everything with them at the meeting.

Thank you so much for helping to make this possible!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ COACH