



Volume 3, Issue 10

WED, 23 NOV 2011

# Parent Connection

Osan Middle School

# Osan Middle School Thunderbirds

Providing a Setting of  
High Expectations That  
Engage and Motivate all  
Students in a Successful  
Learning Environment

## Thanksgiving Wishes to All

We have much to be thankful for as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year. Let your loved ones and those who serve you—your minister, your child's teachers, your doctor, the man who fixes your car, babysitter, your secretary, grocery bagger—and anyone else who has blessed your life in big ways or little ways, once or many times, how grateful you are. Keep an attitude of gratitude for Thanksgiving and for always. Surely our glasses are not half empty but half full!



## Successful Swim Team Meet

OMS hosted a swim meet on November 19, Saturday. It was a huge success. We had six schools in attendance and 104 swimmers. Mrs. Lunsford and Coach Nick are very proud of our swimmers. A huge "Thank You" to all parents and volunteers, because without you it would not have been possible.

## School Advisory Committee

If you have any questions or concerns which affect our school, please come to our next meeting. Our next meeting is open to all OMS parents and staff and will be held in the OMS Information Center (Library) at 1630 hours, DEC 5.

## PTSO Meeting

PTSO meeting DEC 6 at 1730 hours. Come help us plan ways to support our school, our students and staff and make this school year a great one!

Help your child by regularly visiting  
our website:

[www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu/](http://www.osan-ms.pac.dodea.edu/)



## Calendar of Events

- 24 NOV Thanksgiving Day, no school
- 25 NOV Thanksgiving Break, no school
- 30 NOV Picture Retake
- 05 DEC SAC meeting at 1630 hours in library
- 06 DEC PTSO meeting at 1730 hours in library



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## Chess Club Wins 1st Place Team Trophy

The Chess Club participated in the first ever Korean American Interscholastic Activities Conference (KAIAC) middle school chess tournament at Korea International School (KIS) on NOV 19, along with three other middle schools: Dulwich-Seoul, KIS, and Gyeonggi-Suwon International School. To prepare for this tournament, two volunteers, MSgt Timothy Finney and Mr. Paul Schwartz, were recruited. Both volunteers had played in tournaments, tutored the students, and had to make adjustments in their work schedule so they could prepare the students for competition. Mr. Schwartz is an expert level chess player who has participated in numerous United States Chess Federation (USCF) tournaments. He also volunteered to be the tournament director in order to ensure fair matches. His two sons, Christopher and Allen, assisted him. Due to his hard work, the OMS students were the only ones who knew how to use score sheets and the touch-pass rule. The Osan MS Chess Club earned first place team trophy after five rounds. Joy Kim (7<sup>th</sup> grader) earned 4<sup>th</sup> place individual medal and Young Park (7<sup>th</sup> grader) earned 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual medal as well as earning the medal for most matches won for our school. Thank you so much, Mr. Schwartz! And great job team!



**Back row:** Jacob Lipski, Gavin Kim, Jonas Knudsen, Gerardo Rosado, Leah Park, and Melissa Ross.

**Front row:** Ms. Dunham, Joy Kim, Justin Kinman, Mr. Schwartz, Teddy Thomas, and Young Park.

**Not shown:** MSgt Finney and Daniel Nazario.



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## Odyssey of the Mind

Osan Middle School will be starting an Odyssey of the Mind team during 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter grading period. This is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They bring their solutions to competition on the local, state, and world level. Thousands of teams from about 25 other countries participate in the program. Odyssey of the Mind is a competitive program, but it's nothing like your typical sporting event. The competitive element encourages kids to be the best that they can be, but it's a friendly competition. Kids learn from and even cheer on their competitors. Odyssey of the Mind is not a college bowl or a competition about knowledge. It's all about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students. Kids are rewarded for how they apply their knowledge, skills and talents, and not for coming up with the right answer. In fact, in Odyssey of the Mind problems, there isn't one right answer.

If your child is interested in being a member of an Odyssey of the Mind team here at OMS, please contact Ms. Bader or Ms. Laird at DSN 784-7256 or [gerry.bader@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:gerry.bader@pac.dodea.edu) or [stephanie.laird@pac.dodea.edu](mailto:stephanie.laird@pac.dodea.edu). More information may be found on their web site at: <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/whatis.php>

## School Picture Make-up Day



School picture make-up day will be Wednesday, NOV 30<sup>th</sup>. This is for students who were absent on the original picture day or who are new to Osan Middle School. Order forms are in the main office.

Students may return the form with payment in exact change or a check payable to *Campus Photography International* on NOV 30<sup>th</sup> or they may purchase photos through the *CPI* website at <http://www.cpiphoto.net/> for up to five days following NOV 30<sup>th</sup> at no additional fee.