



Anglo-Chinese School (Junior)



A Methodist Institution
(Founded 1886)

19 September 2011

Dear Parents/Guardian,

Odyssey of the Mind (OM) and **Destination Imagination** (DI) are international educational programs based in the USA that provide creative problem-solving opportunities for our boys. The programs create avenues for our boys to apply their creativity to solve Problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then present their solutions at the Nationals (April 2012), and if their team emerges as the National Champions, they then have the opportunity to represent Singapore at the World Finals. OM World Finals 2012 will be held at Iowa State University, USA and DI Global Finals 2012 will be held at Tennessee, USA. Both World finals will be held in May 2012 simultaneously. Hundreds of teams from throughout U.S.A. and from about 30 other countries participate in these programs annually.

OM & DI are competitive programs; the competitive element encourages our boys to be the best that they can be. It teaches our boys 21st century skills. They will work in teams so they learn cooperation and respect for the ideas of others. They evaluate ideas and make decisions on their own, gaining greater self-confidence and increased self-esteem along the way. They work within a budget, so they learn to manage their money. They see that there is often more than one way to solve a problem, and that very often the process is more important than the end result. The learning outcomes from these two programs are in line with our school's Vision of nurturing every ACSian to be a young gentleman of character ready for the future.

The following are the Synopses of the 2012 "Odyssey of the Mind" problems:

Problem 1: Ooh-Motional Vehicle (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

The problem requires teams to design, build, and drive a vehicle that will travel a course where it will encounter three different situations. The vehicle will display a different human emotion for each encounter and one will cause it to travel in reverse. The team will create a theme for the presentation that incorporates the vehicle and the different emotions. The emphases will be on the technical risk-taking and creativity of the vehicle's engineering for travel and change of emotional appearance.

Problem 2: Weird Science (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

The team will create and present a performance about a team of scientists on an expedition to uncover the cause of mysterious events. The team will select the location of the expedition from NASA Earth Observatory Photographs. The scientists will collect two samples and will report on their findings. The performance will also include a technical representation of the mysterious events, a moving backdrop that helps portray travelling, and a team-created device that the scientists use on the expedition.

Problem 3: To Be or Not To Be (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

In this Classics problem, teams will put a musical theatre spin on one of William Shakespeare's most famous lines: "To Be or Not to Be." Hamlet, the title character, ponders this question and realizes that the easy way out is not always the correct choice. An original "Hamlet" character will face a team-created dilemma. Unlike Shakespeare's Hamlet, the team's character will take the easy way out only to discover that it was the wrong choice. Teams will also incorporate a character that portrays Hamlet's conscience, a creative scene change, a creative costume change, and use of a "trap door." A portion of the performance will include musical theatre elements.

Problem 4: You Make the Call (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

For this problem, teams will design and build a structure made of only balsa wood and glue that will balance and support as much weight as possible. The structure may have a maximum weight of 9 grams and will receive 2 times the weight held, or 12 grams and receive 1 ½ times the weight held, or 15 grams and receive the actual weight held. The testing of the structure will be presented in a performance that includes mathematics in its theme.

Problem 5: Odyssey Angels (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

The team will create and present a performance where a group of students travel throughout one or more team-created places where they encounter negative situations. These “Odyssey Angels” change what they find and turn them into positive situations. On their journey, they help two individuals with different problems and help save an entire community from a bad situation. One Odyssey Angel cannot speak, and another has a special team-created power.

Primary: Money Maker (For P1 to P2 – 2012)

The team is to create a device that uncovers three surprise objects by lifting a team-decorated container off of each of them from 5, 8 and 10 feet away. The containers may be raised at any time, in any order, and may be raised simultaneously. The demonstration of the solution will be presented during a performance that integrates raising the containers and the surprise objects in its theme. There will be a narrator character and a setting. The following are the Synopses of the 2012 “**Destination Imagination**” challenges:

Challenge A: Technical: Assembly Required (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

- Design and build Equipment that retrieves Parts and delivers Products.
- Assemble Products from team-provided Parts to fill Orders, and use the Products in your team's Presentation.
- Earn extra points by deciding how best to fill Orders with no Parts or Products left over in the Assembly Area.
- Present a team-created story about something that happens just in time.

Challenge B: Scientific: The Solar Stage (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

- Create and present a theatrical performance that tells a Story about the use of solar energy.
- Integrate research about past and/or current uses of solar energy.
- Design and create a Solar Energy Prototype that demonstrates a new way to collect, capture and use solar energy.
- Design and provide Theatrical Lighting to illuminate the Presentation and to create special theatrical effects.

Challenge C: Fine Arts : Coming Attraction (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

- Present a Movie Trailer involving characters from at least two Nations.
- Design a Cinematic Special Effect and feature it in the Movie Trailer.
- Create an Original Soundtrack that complements the Movie Trailer.

Challenge D: Improvisational: News to Me (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

- The Team needs to learn about different types of News Stories.
- Learn about Cause-and-Effect relationships.
- Use Cooperative Human Scenery and Props to enhance your Skit.
- Create a 5-minute Improvisational Skit about the Cause-and-Effect relationship between two unrelated News Stories.
- Have all your plans suddenly become totally discombobulated by a One-Minute Glitch (OMG)!

Challenge E: Structural: Hold it! (For P3 to P6 – 2012)

- Design, build and test a Structure made entirely out of wood and glue to hold weight and contain Tournament-provided golf balls.
- Design and build a Delivery Device that will deposit the golf balls, one at a time, into the Structure.

- Create and present an original Story about a “Captivator.” Integrate the Weight Placement and Golf Ball Delivery into the Story.

Odyssey of the Mind has been one of ACS(J)’s strengths since 2003. With the help of our many parent coaches, especially in 2011, we have been able to give many more of our boys a chance to be a part of this program. For OM, we had 9 teams representing ACSJ in 6 different categories in 2011 Nationals. Our Boys came in as National Champions in all 6 categories. 7 Teams then moved on to represent Singapore at the World Finals in Maryland, USA. One Team clinched the World Champion Title, 3 teams clinched 3rd placing and three other teams came in 4th, 5th and 19th in their respective categories.

We are now in the process of recruiting Parent Coaches for our 2011-2012 OM and DI Programs. If you would like to find out more or volunteer your services as a coach for these programs, please come to our OM/DI sharing session on 23rd September at 2pm at ACS (Junior). If you would like to attend, please rsvp with our OM/DI Head Coach, Mr. K Sathis Kumar (Subject Head of Innovation) at kanapa_sathis_kumar@moe.edu.sg. We certainly will welcome you on board and look forward to having you at the training sessions.

Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about Odyssey of the Mind, please visit <http://www.odysseyofthemind.com/> and for Destination Imagination, please visit <http://www.idodi.org/index.php/2011-12-season/2011-12-challenge-previews>

Best Regards

Mrs Kathryn Koh
Principal

