

News Release

Contact: Cathy Newell
(work) 464-3907 (cell) 859-2093
E-mail: cnewell@gw.neric.org
Mindy Iannotti
(work) 464-3987 (cell) 260-8701
E-mail: miannott@gw.neric.org



Board of Cooperative Educational Services
1031 Watervliet-Shaker Road
Albany, NY 12205

For Release: February 28, 2008

GREAT PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Odyssey of the Mind Competition THIS Saturday, March 1 gives students opportunity to explore creativity and beyond

More than 500 students from Albany, Schoharie, Schenectady and Saratoga counties will compete in Capital Region BOCES Region 7 Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on Saturday, March 1, on the Mohonasen Central School District campus, Curry Road in Rotterdam. The day-long competition challenges kids to come up with the most creative, original and imaginative solutions to open-ended problems.

The Mohonasen High School/Middle School Campus will be “teaming” with creative kids who are hoping to win this first step in many to represent Region 7 at the Odyssey of the Mind 2008 World Finals. These students hail from 15 local school districts: Academy of the Holy Names, Bethlehem, Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake, Cobleskill-Richmondville, Cohoes, Duanesburg, Middleburgh, Mohonasen, Schalmont, Schenectady, Schoharie, Scotia-Glenville, Sharon Springs, Voorheesville and Watervliet.

These students have dedicated months to devising solutions to one of five problems posed by Odyssey of the Mind. Not only do they have to solve the problem, but they also have to be the most creative, take risks in their solutions, and work as a team. They will also incorporate their own skills and interests into the solutions. This could mean singing, playing instruments, skating, or gymnastics – anything that they want as long as it aids in solving one of these five problems:

- **Odyssey Road Rally:** Teams had to design and build life-sized vehicles that can play various sports and score points.

-more-

Odyssey of the Mind

February 28, 2008

Page two of two

- **DinoStories:** In a humorous performance, teams will present their original theory of what caused the dinosaurs to become extinct.
- **The Wonderful Muses:** Teams create and perform an original performance that includes one of the nine Greek muses.
- **Tee Structure:** Teams will design and build a balsa wood structure that will support weights that are balanced on golf balls without touching anything else.
- **The Eccentrics!:** Teams create and present a humorous performance about three Eccentric Characters that demonstrate odd behavior, peculiar mannerisms and unconventional dress. NASA is a sponsor of this problem.

Not only do they have to excel in their problem, but teams must also perform well in a "spontaneous problem," where they solve a similar problem on the spot.

The tournament starts at 8:30 a.m. and continues throughout the day. The Awards Ceremony begins at approximately 4:30 p.m. These winners will go on to the next level of competition, and possibly to World Finals to be held at Michigan State University.

Capital Region BOCES welcomes spectators to attend the competition and join the rest of the supporters of Odyssey of the Mind: parents, coaches, judges, teachers, and students. They all work together with the common goal of giving kids a chance to express their creativity, support the arts, and to learn new things in a fun environment.

For more information visit www.odysseyofthemind.com or <http://arts.capregboces.org/odyssey.htm>

Editor's Note: The on-site coordinators at the competition are Mindy Iannotti and Catherine Newell. Their cell phones are listed above if you would like to contact them upon arrival.