

PRESS RELEASE

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Local Students Advance to Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

***Two teams will represent Miami-Dade County at
World Finals competition in Maryland in May***

Miami, Fla.- Nine teams from three schools represented Miami-Dade County Tropical Region at the Odyssey of the Mind state competition in Orlando, Fla. on Saturday. Two of those teams will be advancing to the World Finals competition that will take place in May at the University of Maryland.

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem solving competition that sees teams of students work for months on developing solutions with technical, artistic, humorous, and classical themes. The program welcome public, private and charter schools as well as community organizations and gives students the opportunity to transform their imaginations into something concrete.

On Saturday teams from Palmetto Elementary School, David Lawrence, Jr. K-8 Center and Phyllis Ruth Miller Elementary represented the Tropical Region, which encompasses Miami-Dade County, at the State Finals competition at the University of Central Florida in Orlando.

The team from David Lawrence, Jr. K-8 Center won first place in the middle school division of the "Full Circle" problem that required teams to create and/or present something that changed three times before returning to its original appearance. Each of the three changes was required to be distinctly different from the previous change.

A team from Palmetto Elementary School advanced to World Finals in the elementary school division of "Extreme Mousemobiles" after receiving a Ranatra Fusca Creativity Award. This award embodies the true spirit of Odyssey of the Mind by recognizing exceptional creativity and risk-taking. Students are rewarded more for original ideas than for the outcome. The problem required teams to design, build and run vehicles that use mousetraps as their only source of energy.

"It is so exciting to have two teams from the Tropical Region representing Miami-Dade County on the world stage," said Tropical Region Director Erik Veiga. "Congratulations to the teams from David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center and Palmetto Elementary School on showing exemplary creativity. The Tropical Region wishes them the best of luck at the 2011 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals that will take place from May 27-30 at the University of Maryland with students from all over the world."

For more information about the Odyssey of the Mind program, how to start a team at local school or community organization, and on how to support the teams of local students who will represent Miami-Dade at the World Finals, please contact Erik Veiga by email at emveiga@tropicalodyssey.org or visit our website at <http://tropicalodyssey.org>.

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