

# CANDEO SCHOOLS

*A c c r e s c e n s F u l g o r e*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Gina Butchin

(623) 979-6500

[gbutchin@candeoschools.com](mailto:gbutchin@candeoschools.com)

## **CANDEO TEAMS FINISH ON TOP AT ODYSSEY OF THE MIND WORLD FINALS**

Two teams from Candeo Schools, a Charter School in Peoria, AZ competed against more than 835 teams from around the globe in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) World Finals Competition, held in May at Iowa State University. Candeo's 5th Grade team took 9th place overall, and their Middle School team clinched the 11th spot.

OM has challenged students to go beyond conventional thinking and incorporate creative problem-solving in learning since 1978. This year, over 170 elementary and middle school teams from Arizona competed in the OM regional competitions in March. Candeo's 5th Grade and Middle Schools teams took 1st place in their divisions, qualifying them to compete at the State level. The Middle School team took 2nd place, and 5th Grade team won 1st place at the State competition in April. These stellar performances earned both teams a place at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals competition being held at Iowa State University May 23-26.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program whose mission is to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Through solving open-ended problems, students develop creative-thinking skills that can be applied to real-life situations. The competition requires students to write a play, design sets, and create a solution with technical components for competition. The competition also includes a spontaneous portion where students generate solutions to a problem they have not seen before. Teams from throughout the U.S. and more than 20 other countries participate in the program.

"These students have put in more than 324 hours of preparation this school year for these competitions," said Candeo 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher and Odyssey of the Mind sponsor, Sara Elmore. "They work extremely hard, but they are engaged and enjoy it so much that it does not feel like work to them at all. The intellectual growth and development they get from this type of challenge cannot be overstated."

### **More about Candeo Schools**

In a cohesive, purposeful, and joyful learning environment, Candeo Schools delivers rigor, relevance, and challenge through a core classical curriculum, which stresses the knowledge most useful for comprehension, school learning, and communication within the civic life of a society.

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Candeo Peoria \* 9965 W. Calle Lejos, Peoria, AZ 85383 \* (623) 979-6500 \* [www.candeoschools.com](http://www.candeoschools.com)