

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

August 31, 2009

Quote of the Week: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." (Helen Keller, 1880 – 1968)

Important Dates

- August 31 - First Day of School; Minimum Day.
- September 1 - Minimum Day.
- September 2 - Teacher/Ombud Meeting - 2 PM Staff Room; Early-out day.
- September 3 - 4/5 classes have Back-to-School night due to early Outdoor Ed date.
- September 7 - Labor Day Holiday – no school.
- September 8 - President Obama addresses nation's students on the importance of education at 10 AM PST on www.whitehouse.gov.
- September 8 - Meeting to discuss after-school care for older students with the closure of the Boys and Girls' Club - 6 PM OSS Library.
- September 8 - PTO Executive Board Meeting - 7 PM Staff Room.
- September 11 - Field Trip Training - 8:45 AM.

News and Information

Welcome to the first edition of the new Monday Blue Newsletter. I am delighted to serve as Principal of our school, look forward to meeting all of you, and welcome submissions for this newsletter. We have two new staff members to introduce this year, and expect the addition of two more aides soon. Matt Tyler is our new Resource Services Program (RSP) teacher, as Cynthia Dang is on leave for the year; and Cathy Ghione is our new Special Day Class aide. Anna Bach-y-Rita, school psychologist, and Mary Carniglia, speech teacher, will be at our site for part of each week. We are delighted to have them all join our staff.

Some dates have changed from what was published in our school handbook for this coming year. The Pacifica schools will be closed the entire week of Thanksgiving, due to budget issues. Our fall conferences will be held from November 16 through 20, with one minimum day switched to November 16 and the other to February 12. Please mark your calendars to note the minimum day changes and the loss of the two school days in November.

We need to take stringent precautions at school to prevent the spread of the H1N1 flu virus. Please do not send your child to school with a fever or other flu-like symptoms. Sick students will be sent home during the day. We will promote proper hand-washing and hygiene habits.

As we begin this new year, we would like to remind students and families of our morning school routines. Please arrange to have your students arrive to school on time each morning. Being tardy disrupts both your particular child's learning experience and the classroom as a whole. Supervision begins on the yard fifteen minutes before school starts in the morning. Students are not to enter the building and walk through the halls unless they are escorting an adult family member. Our teachers and staff are working hard to prepare for the day and the distraction and supervision need interferes with their efforts. Students going to band may enter the necessary classrooms from the outside doors of the rooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

Field trips are a fundamental part of our academic program at Ocean Shore School. We must insist that official field trip permission slips are completed and on file with the classroom teachers prior to any student participating on a field trip. We are not able to accept hand-written notes that do not include the exact full language of our district's permission slips. Please help us with this requirement so that we do not have to disappoint students and teachers.

We received notice in August that the Boys and Girls Club Program will no longer be serving our site. With an average of 10-14 students per day, Ocean Shore has had the smallest enrollment of their six sites and they aren't able to finance the continuation of the program here. They have welcomed our students to their Pacifica Club House at 955 Yosemite Drive or the South San Francisco site at 201 West Orange Avenue. A group of parents have arranged to meet on Tuesday, September 8 in the Ocean Shore Library to discuss possible alternatives for after-school care for the students who would have utilized the Boys and Girls Club Program. All are welcome to come and share ideas.

Apparently lice have been a prevalent problem in Pacifica this summer. We will conduct our lice checks as soon as possible and ask you to be vigilant about checking your children, and treating when necessary. Our district has a policy of requiring students to be nit and lice free before returning to school. Please keep us informed so that we can take the necessary steps in the classrooms to prevent the spread of this nuisance. We will be sensitive to the students' privacy. There are many online resources explaining the procedures for checking for lice.

Thank you so much to the staff and families who have been hard at work preparing for the 2009-2010 school year. Our school is sparkling and the halls and classrooms are decorated, organized, and ready with lessons. Our parents and PTO have been working on getting all the programs updated, and have been helping teachers and sprucing up our campus. I send a personal thanks to the staff and PTO leaders who have been working closely with me as I begin to understand all the complexities of our fantastic school.

*Laura Shain
Principal*