

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

September 21, 2009

Quote of the Week: "The best thing for being sad... is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails... Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn. (T.H. White 1906 – 1964)

Important Dates

- September 21 - Computer Lab and Library Open
- September 23 - PTO General Meeting 7 PM
- September 24 - School Site Council Meeting 3:30 Conference Room
- September 27 - 8th graders to Yosemite for the week
- September 28 - After-School Enrichment begins
- October 5 - 5th graders to Outdoor Ed for the week
- November 13 - Elna Flynn Dinner (date change)

News and Information

It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance during our teachers' Back-to-School Night presentations. It was fun showing the school off to Karen Ervin, School Board President, and Josie Peterson, Chief Business Official. They noticed the positive, friendly environment and the engaging displays in the classrooms and hallways.

Our fourth grade students, and students new to our district, were assessed for the Gifted and Talented (GATE) designation last week. GATE programming funds weren't continued by the state this year, but teachers are able to differentiate within the classroom to teach students at a variety of levels. Many subjects, like Language Arts, are naturally differentiated and classroom projects and discussion provides enriched opportunities for all students across the curriculum.

A reminder that during lunch students are to remain seated unless they have specific permission to get out of their seats. Quiet indoor voices make for a more pleasant atmosphere for all. Students must clean up after themselves and recycle what they can in the proper containers. Food and trash should never be left on the tables or floors. Once outside, students must stay within the boundaries until both Rosemary and Gemma are outside. Rocks are plentiful as they line the drainage area, but they must not be picked up and thrown by the students. Students may not climb up into the trees. Students should find games and activities that are not rough or disruptive to others while outside. Classrooms should not be entered during the lunch recess break. While exiting through the hallways, students should be respectful of the displays and then must remain outside. Whenever there is a problem, students should bring it to the attention of Rosemary and Gemma. We are looking to develop a peer mediation process again to help with disagreements.

FROM THE OFFICE: Regarding medications at school. No medications should be in the personal possession of students. Prescription medication must be kept in the office on file with the proper approval from the student's physician. If your child is using over-the-counter medication, this also needs to be kept in the office with a note from the parent. This note should include student's name, reason for medication, parent signature, and exact directions for administering the medication. Thank you for your cooperation.

Green Hour Website for Getting Kids Outdoors

To give parents and caregivers the information, tools and inspiration to get their kids outside, the National Wildlife Federation has created www.greenhour.org, a website rich in family-friendly content and a supportive virtual community where families can learn, explore and share their outdoor experiences and backyard adventures. The site's blog also has a section for educators and a locator for local, state and national parks.

Homework Center returns on Monday, September 21. Students, please join Dottie, our RSP aide, and Jeffrey, Oceana student, in the library after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays for drop-in homework support from 2:45 – 3:45. This wonderful program is available to us again this year with funds from the county.

Environmental Action Team (EAT) Meeting on Tuesday, September 22 from 6:30 – 8:00. Parents, students and staff interested in keeping Ocean Shore green are encouraged to attend the first EAT meeting of the year. This year's plans include helping the kids grow produce for the Pacifica Resource Center, and upgrading the weedy "Curve Garden" to an attractive part of the playground. If you value sustainable practices in your school, join us! Childcare provided during the meeting. Contact Kathy Kellerman, EAT member, for more information.

Reminder: The mandatory **PTO General Meeting is this Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 PM** in the Multi-Purpose Room. An adult representative from each family must attend. Families with names ending in A-H are asked to bring a snack or beverage to share. Also note: **Before the General Meeting, there will be a ½ hour parent training seminar at 6:30 in the OSS Library open to all new and continuing families interested in tips from the teachers on how to work successfully in the classroom.** See you there! Kathy Shiokari, OSS PTO President.

Childcare sign-ups for the September 23 mandatory PTO General Meeting are now posted in the parent hallway. First come first served - 30 children maximum. No infants please. The OSS PTO thanks TTT for generously donating this childcare.

The After-School Enrichment Program will begin on Monday, September 28. Look for information in the coming weeks. For questions or suggestions, email Heidi Lucey (Barton) at leopictures@hotmail.com. Please include *After-School Enrichment* in the subject line.