

# Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Laura Shain, Principal

Pacifica, California

September 28, 2009

Quote of the Week: *“Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.”* (John Muir 1838 – 1914)

## Important Dates

- September 27 – October 2 - Yosemite Trip for 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- September 28 - After-School Enrichment classes begin
- October 4 - PPP 10 AM – 2 PM
- October 5 - Outdoor Ed for 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Character Initiative Meeting 3:30 DO
- October 6 - Hearing Tests administered
- October 18 - Great Day Fundraiser
- November 13 - Elna Flynn Dinner (date change)

## News and Information

Our eighth grade students have departed for Yosemite National Park with their teacher, Seva. I visited the classroom on Friday to bid them a farewell, and the students who spoke up said they are looking forward to seeing deer and bears, and are excited about the cabins they are staying in. The weather should be pleasant, in the 70s with just a little rain forecast for Tuesday with sunny skies for the rest of the week. Yosemite National Park is 95% wilderness and has 1,169 square miles of land. The park is appreciated for its granite cliffs, waterfalls, streams, sequoia groves, and biological diversity. Two rivers begin in Yosemite and flow west into the Central Valley. Yosemite has a fascinating cultural history. Seven present-day native tribes descended from the people who first inhabited the area. There are also remnants from the mining era in the valley.

There are several new grassroots campaigns involved in connecting our children to the natural world, also known as the “Leave No Child Inside” movement. The [childrenandnature.org](http://childrenandnature.org) website lists many cognitive, creative, and healthy living results from access to the natural environment for children. Environmentalists often cite their own childhood experiences in nature as a catalyst for their adult environmental activism. Here at Ocean Shore our students have a play yard that is unique in our district. They have access to trees, a grassy hillside, planted areas and a garden. Our many day field trips and overnight trips take the children out into the natural world and introduce them to naturalists and provide outside experiences in our magnificently diverse Northern California habitat.

It was wonderful to see so many families together at our first PTO General Meeting last week. I continue to be astounded at the efforts and cohesion of this school community.

We have had difficulty with the Ocean Shore website and are working to get it up-to-date and available soon. Thank you for your patience.

**Homework Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the OSS Library.** Students, please join Dottie, our RSP aide, and Jeffrey, Oceana student, in the library after school 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.

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**The After-School Enrichment Program will begin on Monday, September 28.** Thank you for your interest in many of our class offerings. For questions or suggestions, email Heidi Lucey (Barton) at leopictures@hotmail.com. Please include *After-School Enrichment* in the subject line.

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**FROM THE OFFICE:** Skateboards, scooters, roller blades, and bicycles are not allowed on campus between the hours of 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. Bicycles can be locked at the bike rack located near the parking lot entrance to the playground. Helmets are required.

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**"First Friday" Aluminum Can and Plastic Bottle Drive on Friday, October 2.** Please bring your empty aluminum cans and plastic beverage bottles to the turnaround before or after school on Friday, Oct. 2nd. This recycling program is run by the 7th grade class and supported by the Environmental Action Team (EAT). Save your cans and bottles for future drives to be held the first Friday of the month.

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**Our monthly PPP workday will be held light rain or shine from 10 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, October 4.** Earn hours and make the school grounds sparkle for GREAT Day! Bring the kids, sun block, work clothes, picnic lunch and your own weeding tools, if you have them. Contact Christina Rimmer <christinarimmer@yahoo.com> with questions.

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**Reminder:** Students are not allowed to check the parent folders in the hallway. Parents are expected to check their folders themselves at least once a week.

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