

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California October 12, 2009

Quote of the Week: “True courage is cool and calm. The bravest of men [and women] have the least of a brutal, bullying insolence, and in the very time of danger are found the most serene and free.” (Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1801 - 1885)

Important Dates

- October 12 - Staff Development Day – no school for students
- October 13 - Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 6:30 OSS
- K-6 Math Training for all Parents 7:00 IBL
- October 15 - 7-8 Math Training for all Parents 7:00 IBL
- October 18 - Great Day Fundraiser (Our major fundraiser for the year!)
- October 20 - EAT Meeting 6:30 OSS
- October 21 - Picture Day
- November 13 - Elna Flynn Dinner

News and Information

Now that our students are settling into the routines of school and becoming comfortable with their groups of friends, we are finding that there are incidents occurring where students are taking advantage of a perceived power differential and saying things to isolate and intimidate others with classic bullying behavior. At school we have definite steps that we take to prevent bullying. It is very important that we are aware of situations before they develop into ongoing patterns and frustrated reactions. Please let the school know when there is an issue related to bullying and allow us to handle the situation. While this is a close community, it is best that you not approach students directly yourself to handle ongoing situations. Once we become aware of issues, we will work directly and effectively to address the students with a combination of discussion, education, and progressive consequential discipline. We share the commitment to provide a physically and emotionally safe school for all our students.

Prevention strategies include building an inclusive community and speaking honestly and directly to students about this type of behavior. By clearly describing what bullying looks like, the effects it has on students and a community, and by having consistent responses and progressively serious discipline when it is seen or reported, our students will have a critical understanding of the destructive nature of this type of harassment. When they know that we are aware, and when they know that we are determined to follow-through to end this type of behavior, we should see a marked improvement in the way our students relate to others outside

of their immediate friendship groups. Please talk to your children about treating everyone with respect and refraining from making individuals feel badly about themselves and their membership in our school community. I will report back throughout the year on some of our strategies to confront bullying behavior.

Ocean Shore's **Diversity Leadership Group** (DLG) holds first meeting, Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30. Come help plan the events for the upcoming year. Everyone welcome. Contact diversityleadershipgroup@yahoo.com for more information.

The next **EAT Meeting** is on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room. We'll be reviewing some curve garden stage designs, and hopefully planning the butterfly garden build as well, so come and join us if you are interested!

The October PPP went really well. Thanks so much to all of you who came and volunteered your time. The butterfly garden area is just about ready. The design of the curve garden stage began, and some students helped by providing their input. The greenhouse is tidy, all the trash was picked up, and lots of weeding and pruning happened, so we look great for Great Day!

EAT needs a volunteer to pick up toner and printer cartridges from the parent room at least 3-4 times a year, for recycling. The volunteer would need to drop off the cartridges at a recycling facility near the Embarcadero in San Francisco, so if you work downtown, this is a great way to earn hours outside of school.

Contact christinarimmer@yahoo.com with questions.

Invitations are now available to attend the **2009 Elna Flynn Recognition Dinner** on Friday, November 13 at Nick's Restaurant. Outstanding volunteers from across the district will be honored that evening. We are pleased to honor Joel Fontaine and Suzy Gurton for their dedicated and enthusiastic efforts in our program over the years. They exemplify the work of so very many of the parents who work at our school in a variety of capacities. The invitation is available on the school website. You can also contact Joanne Simonson, Parent Council Rep, for more information. Checks are due by October 23. Please respond early as there are a limited number of spaces available.

FROM THE OFFICE: Regarding **Independent Study** - Students who accompany parents on trips and will miss five consecutive days of school or more may participate in an independent study contract. Parents need to notify the school office AND the teachers at least three days before departure to obtain an independent contract and class work and turn in the completed work after the student's return to school (see contract for deadlines).

A request has been made that **school-wide, classroom, or committee emails** have a subject line that identifies the purpose of the email. We are a busy place, and anything to help streamline communication will be appreciated.