

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California November 9, 2009

Quote of the Week: *“Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”* (Albert Einstein, 1879 – 1955)

Important Dates

- November 9
 - Library closes for Book Fair
 - Pasta Pomodoro fundraiser through November 12 (20% to OSS)
 - Last two days (9th and 10th) for Alice’s Food Drive
- November 10
 - OSS PTO Executive Board Meeting 7 PM
 - Band Parent Meeting 7 PM
- November 11**
 - **Veteran’s Day Holiday (No School)**
- November 12
 - Book Fair opens
- November 13
 - Elna Flynn Dinner at Nick’s (6 PM no-host bar; 7 PM dinner)
- November 16 - 20
 - Conferences / Minimum Days
- November 18
 - Life Touch Picture Make-Up Day
- November 19
 - Book Fair ends
- November 23 - 27
 - No School (teacher work furlough / holiday)

News and Information

I had the pleasure of attending the Association of School Administrators (ACSA) annual conference in Sacramento at the end of last week. While these conferences often have sessions focused on improving test scores and closing the achievement gap through more standardization, this year there were several opportunities to be inspired by the quest for infusing creativity into the school curriculum.

One presenter, Yong Zhao, from the University of Michigan, author of Catching Up or Leading the Way, spoke about what he feels is the false belief that America’s schools are falling behind. He suggests that the way to stay competitive is to do what America does well and that is to innovate. He stressed the need to encourage a diversity of talents, creativity, entrepreneurship, and passion in our students. He promotes valuing individual talents, inspiring passion and responsibility, tolerating deviation, cultivating entrepreneurship while respecting individual differences, having faith in every child, and giving second, third, and fourth chances. In his book and presentation, he questions the path educational reform is headed in the United States. He speaks of what he sees as right with American education and the power of globalization and technology to transform our economic and social landscape.

When questioned by a member of the audience how to comply with No Child Left Behind mandates, Dr. Zhao replied, “Do you want to be an educational dreamer or a bureaucrat?” He suggests that it’s time to project a different vision. Once again, Ocean Shore School is on a

unique path. It is always affirming to hear a distinguished intellectual touting educational practices that we are already embracing.

The PTO is looking for someone to take on the role of **Computer Tech Coordinator**. The coordinator is responsible for making sure the computers and network are functional. The position gives 3 administrative hours a month (21 hours for the remainder of the year). Please contact Kathy Shiokari if you are interested at kshiokari@sbcglobal.net.

Just a reminder that the deadline is fast approaching for families wishing to purchase a brick to add to the **school brick garden**. For a minimum donation of \$50 you can have your own little piece of ground, and leave your family's legacy at our wonderful school for generations to come. Profits from the sale of bricks help our 8th grade students with their graduation costs. Please put your form and check in the Vardigans' family folder. Extra forms (red-brick colored) are on the table in the parent hallway. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Vardigans at 650-359-7440, or sjvardigans@aol.com.

We are in need of a **PC laptop** to run a new piece of science technology. This new equipment would benefit children throughout the school at all grade levels. If anyone has one to donate, please contact Sheila at sgambled@pacificasd.org.

FROM THE OFFICE: **Kindergarten sibling enrollment** is underway! If you have a child who will be 5 years of age on or before December 2, 2010, your child is eligible to attend school in the fall 2010. Applications are available in the office. The deadline for returning them to the office is January 8, 2010.

Bottles and socks and lampshades, oh my! Jennifer is looking for donations for a few different art projects in her classroom: **black or brown adult-size socks, white or cream colored lampshades, and empty plastic bottles with tops** (travel size is perfect). If you have any of these things, please drop them off in her classroom: A-23. Thank you!

We would like to remind you that the OSS Kitchen serves **hot lunches** on minimum days (bag lunches only on Wednesdays).

FROM THE OFFICE. Parents please do not drop your children off at school before 8:15 AM. There is no **supervision** before that time.

Pasta Pomodoro in San Bruno, 811 Cherry Avenue in the Bayhill Shopping Center, is hosting an OSS fundraiser from November 9 through November 12 from 11 AM to 10 PM. 20% of food purchased will be donated to our school. Please see flyer sent through email – present flyer with purchase (only one flyer needed per table).