

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California December 14, 2009

Quote of the week: *“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.”* (Plato 428 BC – 348 BC)

Important Dates

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| December 15 | - Superintendent Search Forum at Ocean Shore Library 7 PM |
| December 16 | - Superintendent Search Forum at District Office 2 PM
- Cookie Exchange 12:45 MPR |
| December 17 | - Winter Band Concert 7 PM |
| January 5 | - Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 7 PM |
| January 16 | - eWaste for OSS/Vallemar at Vallemar School |
| January 28 | - Ocean Shore 6 th – 8 th Grade Program Presentation 7 PM |

News and Information

Please join us for our annual Winter Band Concert Thursday evening in the Ocean Shore MPR at 7 PM. Jerry Downs will direct our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade band students to showcase the music they have learned and practiced this year. All our sixth grade students learn beginning instrumental music and many of our seventh and eighth grade students continue on to our advanced band through the Rob Schneider Music Foundation supported daily band program at Ocean Shore School. Students learn to read music, follow the conductor, play as a member of a group, and master the fundamentals of a particular instrument. They are exposed to a selection of classical and popular musical pieces. These skills will enrich their lives in countless ways.

Research shows that across the nation, band students score higher on standardized and reading proficiency tests; and show increased ability in mathematical thinking involving fractions, proportional reasoning, and pattern recognition. College-aged musicians are shown to be more emotionally healthy and more prone to make healthy lifestyle choices. Countries that rank high academically place a high value on music education. We are lucky in Pacifica to be able to offer music to our students, especially during these difficult economic times. Our younger students experience choral music each week with Marilyn Wells thanks to the support of the Ocean Shore parents. We also have talented, musically inclined teachers who bring music and singing to our students each week.

The challenge to produce great music from a group of beginning and second-year middle school students is daunting. I have been astounded each time I have ventured into the band room in the morning. The students are always very focused and serious; and the music they create together is beautiful. Please join me on Thursday evening for the Winter Band Concert. I guarantee you will be impressed with the quality of the performance and the students' musical accomplishments.

Yearbooks are now on sale! Hard cover books are \$39. and soft cover books are \$33. until January 31st . Reserve your copy today. Please send Tanya Guido photographs that she can use for the 2009 – 2010 yearbook. Also, please consider purchasing 8th grade *Memory Squares* for \$20 each for graduating students.

Like to Sing? **The Ragazzi Boys Chorus**, a nationally-recognized performing arts organization based on the Peninsula, invites boys age 7-11 to join them for a free singing and music workshop and optional auditions on Saturday, January 9, 2010 in Redwood City. For more information or to reserve a spot, please contact Ragazzi at (650) 342-8785, info@ragazzi.org or www.ragazzi.org/audition.htm

All are welcome to participate in the Ocean Shore School **Cookie Exchange** on Wednesday, December 16 at 12:45 in the MPR. Bring 2 dozen cookies or candies with a copy of the recipe (bring extras for the staff room). Extra plates and foil will be provided. Door prizes too!

Our **Homework Center** has room for more students and is available on a drop-in basis. We are open on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the OSS Library from 3 to 4 PM.

Every other month, Michelle Lacourciere travels to Haiti for work on a **humanitarian project**. She takes the allotted 100 pounds of luggage filled with children's clothing, shoes, and medicine. She needs more luggage (used duffle bags, suitcases) that can hold 50 lbs. for the January 20, 2010 trip. Please drop off baggage donations to the Parent Room by the end of this week. More will be needed in the future also. Contact Michelle with questions at (650) 359-8150.

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.

Our **Annual Talent Show** will occur on March 5, 2010 at 10:30 AM and 7 PM this year. The first meeting to plan for the event will be on January 4, 2010. We encourage students to start working on their performance routines over the break. The first practice will be on January 11 at 3 PM. Please contact the school office for more information.

Superintendent Search Update: There will be three opportunities to give input pertaining to the PSD Superintendent search. RJ Gatti Associates, the firm hired to conduct the search, will hold public forums on the following dates: **December 15 at 7:00 PM at the Ocean Shore Library and Cabrillo MPR; and December 16 at 2:00 PM at the District Office.** This is your chance to discuss your vision for our school district and its leadership for the coming years. Please make every effort to attend and participate in one of these forums.