

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California January 4, 2010

Quote of the week: *“Youth involvement is the missing element in education reform.”* (Eric Braxton, (Small Schools Project Coordinator and founder of the Philadelphia Student Union)

Important Dates

- January 5 - Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 7 PM
- January 8 - Ice Skating at Belmont Iceland 5:30 – 9 PM
- January 12 - Band Parent Meeting 7 PM
- OSS PTO Executive Board Meeting 7 PM
- January 16 - eWaste for OSS/Vallemar at Vallemar School
- January 28 - Ocean Shore 6th – 8th Grade Program Presentation 7 PM

News and Information

Happy New Year! The new year can be a time to embrace change, improvement, and to renew a spirit of betterment both within and around. Let’s take this opportunity to fortify our strengths and educational mission at Ocean Shore School. The hard work that is needed to sustain our wonderful school and the daily drive for quality benefit from continual reflection and new sources of energy and enthusiasm. We find that spirit in our ever-changing student body, as our students grow and mature, and as we are joined by new kindergarten classes and new students throughout the grades. We also have new parents and community members each year; new teachers and staff; and perhaps most importantly, new approaches and attitudes as new coalitions, partnerships, and friendships are formed as each day and event can bring fresh ideas and connections from those who have been with us over the years.

Tony Wagner, educator and author of the Global Achievement Gap, suggests that the skills that matter most today for our students start with inquisitiveness, critical thinking, and imagination. As lifelong learners and role models for vitality, we can all embrace the competencies he outlines that students today must have to compete globally: critical thinking and problem solving; collaboration across networks and leading by influence; agility and adaptability; initiative and entrepreneurialism; effective oral and written communication; accessing and analyzing information; and curiosity and imagination. Each of these skills applies uniquely to the different subjects taught in school but all ultimately put the learner at the forefront of learning. Ocean Shore has long recognized this approach and our students retain a joy in learning and engagement as part of the school community. We only need to build upon our successes.

Let’s continue what we do best with renewed vigor. Let’s find more opportunities to apply the theories and practices we believe in. In 2010, let’s also hear from our students. Let’s take the leadership and voice that the students express within their classrooms and provide opportunities for school-wide involvement and communication.

Funding for our **Homework Center** has unexpectedly ended. A grant was not received to support the staffing of the center. We are sorry to announce there will no longer be a homework center in the OSS library in 2010. Much appreciation goes out to our Dottie Borba and her assistant, high school tutor Jeffrey Witter for staffing our center this fall.

Please join OSS families for a night of **ice skating at Belmont Iceland** on Friday, January 8 from 5:30 – 9 PM. Belmont Iceland is located at 815 Old County Road in Belmont.

Thank you for your donations to **UNICEF!** This year our Ocean Shore community collected \$487.85 for this very worthwhile organization. The money raised through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF goes to provide medicine, water, food, education, and other services for children around the world.

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

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.
