

# Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School   Laura Shain, Principal   Pacifica, California   January 25, 2010

Quote of the week: *“A child who plays and works thoroughly, with perseverance, until physical fatigue forbids will surely be a thorough, determined person, capable of self-sacrifice.”* (Friedrich Froebel, 1782 - 1852)

## Important Dates

- January 25            - Talent Show Practice 3 PM
- January 27            - PTO General Meeting 7 PM
- January 28            - School Site Council Meeting 3:30 PM
- Ocean Shore 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program Presentation 7 PM (Library)
- February 1            - District Budget Meeting 7 PM (all welcome) Vallemar MPR
- Joint Parent Council PTO/PTA Meeting 7:30 PM
- February 2            - Band Parent Meeting 7 PM

## News and Information

We welcome our new kindergarten families to our Ocean Shore School community after the lottery drawing last Friday afternoon in Vallemar School’s multi-purpose room. Leaders from our district spoke briefly before the drawing about the future of the district’s class sizes. Due to budget concerns, our school may reconsider the 20:1 ratio in the primary grades at all the schools. For Ocean Shore this would mean increasing our student population by 8 students per grade in our kindergarten through third grade classes, as the district would only go to 24:1 per class. Until a decision is made by the district leaders and teachers about class size in Pacifica, we won’t know exactly how many spaces we have for incoming students. I would like to send out an exuberant thank you to Richard Faust and Teri Voorhes for their assistance on the tours!

Friedrich Froebel, quoted above, originated the first kindergarten program in the late 1830s as a place for student play and activities. The name kindergarten signifies both a garden for children and a garden of children. Froebel developed a program that included awareness of the natural world and opportunity for creative games and play to encourage children’s growth and development. While our kindergarten programs include concept development for reading and math skills, we still embrace the ideals of Friedrich Froebel and the early developers of kindergarten programs.

We are excited to present our sixth through eighth grade program to current fifth grade families and prospective transfer students from other schools in the district. Please attend this Thursday evening to hear about the upper grades at Ocean Shore. Our teachers, Student Council representatives, parents, and alumni will be joining us for this presentation. Students are welcome to attend with their parents. We will also be conducting a classroom tour for parents on Friday, February 5 at 10:30. Please meet in the library. Our students will have the opportunity to visit our upper grade classrooms on February 11 to meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum and program.

**Rainy day supervision** – Please do not drop students off before 8:10 on rainy days as we are not able to supervise them before that time in the Multi-Purpose Room.

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**PPP** - The next PPP is scheduled for February 7. There's lots to participate in, from helping build the butterfly garden, finishing the stage, laying the last flagstones, weeding, planting during the rainy season (the best time!), and as always, a bit of trash pick up. Come help earn hours - children are welcome!

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We are able to offer our **Homework Center** as an after school enrichment opportunity. Please see the email message from Heidi regarding signing up for this program. Students are welcome to drop in for the Homework Center on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at \$6/hour from 2:45 – 3:45. Regular enrollment at \$5/hour is available through the office.

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**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 8<sup>th</sup> grade *Memory Squares* for \$20 each for graduating students.

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Thank you for your generous donations for our contribution to the **relief efforts in Haiti**. Once again our community went above and beyond and Michelle and Teri were able to send off a significant collection. The planned bake sale has been cancelled as it needed to be changed to a daytime sale and we aren't able to sell sweets onsite during the school day.

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The Pacifica School District still has immediate openings in the **Mid-Year Kindergarten Program** held at Linda Mar Educational Center. This morning program is a perfect introduction to kindergarten for children who have reached 5 years of age. For more information, contact Student Services at 650-738-6606.

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The San Mateo County Health System is now offering free **H1N1 flu vaccination** walk-in clinics throughout the County. These clinics are open to everyone older than six months of age. To accommodate vaccinating as many residents as possible, there are multiple locations covering all four regions of the County.

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**Parents Supporting Parents** is brought to the community by Pacifica PB&R and the Partnership for a Safe and Healthy Pacifica. 2010 is the fourth year Jenna Gilman, MFT, has facilitated a monthly free discussion group for parents and caregivers of children attending middle and high schools in Pacifica. Jenna prepares for a specific topic each month and allows for the needs of parents to emerge naturally — she honors and addresses each one. The goal of these discussions is to help parents foster healthy, on-going two-way communication which helps to build a positive relationship. Parents are able to make connections and form support networks they previously may not have had when they learn others are having similar experiences. No parent in Pacifica has to go it alone raising their teen(s). For more information, contact Jenna Gilman, MFT, 650-557-0304; or Nancy Eagan, the Partnership, 650-550-7943.

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**The Mandatory January General Meeting is quickly approaching!** The date is **January 27** from 7 - 9 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. This is a mandatory meeting and at least one representative from each Ocean Shore family must attend. Limited childcare will be available. Please check the parent hall bulletin board for sign-ups starting this week (limit 30 spots, first come first served, no infants – please do not add names beyond the 30 spots on the list). Please send an email to [kshiokari@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kshiokari@sbcglobal.net) if you cannot attend.

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Mark Friday, April 30 for **OSS Giants Night!** The Giants will be playing the Colorado Rockies at 7:15. We have 50 tickets reserved in our favorite Section 317. Tickets are \$13.00 each, and guarantees a beautiful view of AT&T Park and the bay, as well as the company of fun fans. If you would like to reserve seats, make out a check to OSSPTO and walk up to D-66 or leave in Connie Tse's faculty mailbox in the office. Go Giants!

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The **Rob Schneider Music Foundation Night of 1/2 Dozen Stars** has been postponed until the fall due to a contractual obligation for Rob Schneider as his latest movie prepares for release. Tickets can be returned for reimbursement or saved until the new date. Contact the Rob Schneider Music Foundation for more information.

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