

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California February 1, 2010

Quote of the week: *"I wanted students to leave my classes not just better informed, but more prepared to relinquish the safety of silence, more prepared to speak up, to act against injustice wherever they saw it."* (Howard Zinn, 1922 - 2010)

Important Dates

- February 1 - District Budget Meeting 7 PM (all welcome) Vallemar MPR
- February 2 - Joint Parent Council PTO/PTA Meeting 7:30 PM
- February 5 - Band Parent Meeting 7 PM
- February 5 - 6th – 8th Grade Program Tour 10:30 AM
- February 5, 6, and 7 - Extreme Pizza fundraising days (OSS receives funds for money spent)
- February 10 - 6th – 8th Grade Program Tour 10:30 AM
- February 11, 12 - Minimum Days for select conferences

News and Information

As our students have increasing access to technological tools, it is important to educate them regarding the ethical and legal ramifications possible if they knowingly or inadvertently become involved in cyberbullying. Parents need to be aware of student computer use from a safety aspect as well as to have knowledge of downloads and potential age-inappropriate websites. At school, we have a legal obligation to protect our students from cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is harassment that is carried out through the Internet, cell phones, or other interactive technologies. Students need to act responsibly and not forward or respond to messages that are hurtful to others. Our students should stand up and not allow the bullying of others to become acceptable.

With cell phones becoming increasingly prevalent among our students, we must educate our school community about proper use of the cameras, text messaging aspects of the devices, and downloaded images and videos. Students should not take photographs at school without the express permission of teachers or staff. Cell phones should not be used during the school day for any purpose, and should be set to silent or turned off. Text messages should not include hurtful comments. Inappropriate images and videos should not be shared.

Social networking sites are considered a 'Pandora's Box' for young people. Students don't always understand the speed at which images and comments can travel and the impossibility of controlling anything once it goes online. Young people can become distraught when they regret sharing compromising images of themselves or statements that were not intended for a larger audience. While student off-campus online activities raise difficult First Amendment issues for schools, off-campus behavior that disrupts school is punishable by school authorities.

Through incredible technological progress we have given our young people a tool that requires knowledge and maturity to safely manage. I encourage parents to have discussions with their students and to monitor online use by keeping computer use visible and limited. We will include current safety and appropriate use education in our computer lab lessons. I am pleased to report we have had very few issues with cell phones and computer use at school. I am impressed by our staff's approach that diffuses confrontation and does not create a 'cat and mouse' atmosphere for our students. Our students generally act responsibly with technology. The few instances we have had were handled quickly and effectively to prevent harm, exposure, or distress to others. For more information, please review www.stopcyberbullying.org, wiredsafety.org, and other relevant websites.

Our students will each make one **Valentine Card** as they learn about the heart condition, **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy** that has afflicted local Pacificans as well as young sports players. Please come by on February 12 at dismissal to gather your students' cards, learn more about this condition, and consider a donation to support research and the education efforts. Student-made cards are not for sale – they are to take home regardless of whether a donation is made. Please contact parent Amy Mayo for more information.

From the Office: If you buy school or office supplies at **Office Depot** remember to **tell them to credit your order to Ocean Shore School**. We receive gift cards from Office Depot which we use to purchase classroom supplies like pencils, crayons, tape, scissors, etc.

Our PE instructor, James Ramsay, is starting a **Rugby Club** for seventh and eighth grade girls and boys in our district on Mondays from 3:30 – 4:30 PM at Cabrillo School. Information and paperwork requirements will be shared on Monday, February 1 at Cabrillo School. Training will start Monday, February 22. Please contact James at jramsay@pacificasd.org for more information.

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!

Please continue to bring items in for our **Haitian Relief** efforts. Clothing, shoes, medical supplies, and plastic containers are still needed. Bring your donations to E3 (portable classroom next to the Band Room and Matt Hayden's classroom – ask Patricia for the key on your way in.)

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.

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.

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!
