

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School Laura Shain, Principal Pacifica, California February 22, 2010

Quote of the week: “*Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.*” Frederick Douglass (circa 1818 - 1895)

Important Dates

- February 23
 - EAT Meeting 6:30 PM OSS Conference Room
 - PSV Presentation: *Help Your Child Succeed in School* IBL Library 7 PM
- February 24
 - *Jump 4 Heart* Kick-off Assembly
- February 25
 - PEF Donation Day
- February 26
 - Post-holiday lice check
 - OSS Readathon Kick-off Assembly
- March 1
 - OSS Readathon begins
- March 2
 - *Read Across Ocean Shore* events begin at 10 AM
 - Parent Council at OSS 7:30 PM
- March 4
 - Math Fair 5:30 – 8 PM
- March 5
 - Talent Show 7 PM
- March 8
 - Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 7 PM (all welcome)

News and Information

Welcome back to school after a week off. I hope everyone was able to rejuvenate and relax a bit. Our next two months are rich with activities, action, and forward momentum. We have concerts, plays, and the talent show; fundraisers and political activism as the budget projections continues to be unveiled; and we continue to develop school programs that will further our goals and host events that deepen our commitment to our school mission.

Please help us make our first Readathon the success that it needs to be. We are excited that this fundraiser promotes the joy of reading while creating the opportunity to support our school through our students. We will launch the fundraiser this week along with the Read Across Ocean Shore celebration. Students may get pledges for minutes read or donations in response to a reading plan. We'll encourage our students through in-class reading sessions that count towards 30 minutes a week and provide class and school incentives. Please see the Readathon flyer that will be distributed later this week for details. We need your support if we are going to be able to continue many of the programs and projects that enrich our students' school experiences at Ocean Shore.

Across the state on March 4, education organizations and labor unions are launching massive protests against further education budget cuts and to change the debate about the need for additional revenues. Organizations, unions, parents, and community members are forming a broad coalition to fight for California's future. Please be aware that our local high school students and involved community members may be engaging in community activism along the roadways and at local commercial areas throughout this day of action.

Our families raised over \$200 for the Kids4Change Foundation's support of research and education efforts for the heart condition, **Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy**. Thank you for supporting this effort!

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 Room A25.

Help Your Child Succeed in School - Many parents want to support their children with school but are not always clear about how. **Pacifica School Volunteers is offering a free workshop**, Tuesday, February 23, from 7 – 9 PM in the IBL Library. Dr. Gardiner, School Psychologist, and Janet Nelles, Resource Teacher, will provide an overview of child development, followed by interactive activities with guidance and tips for academic expectations and parent roles and supports for different age (K-8) groups.

Reservations are required: Call Pacifica School Volunteers at 355-9432 today to reserve your space. Light refreshments will be provided.

Pacifica Education Foundation's District Donation Day is set for this Thursday, February 25. You should have received an official announcement from Superintendent Susan Vickery last week with information about the Pacifica Education Foundation and a donation envelope. The goal is to raise \$7500 district-wide so that we can hit our overall membership goal of \$50,000, enabling us to launch our 21st Century Learning Skills Program in the Fall of 2010. **\$5.00 per child** can get us there! For more information about PEF, go to <http://www.pacificaef.org/>.

Volunteers will be collecting donations at drop-off and pick-up locations on Thursday, February 25. Please help support PEF - meeting our goals will enable us to seek outside donations from corporations and philanthropic organizations. If you have any questions, or are available to help with the collection at pickup and drop-off times, please contact Julie Phillips: julie.phillips@stanfordalumni.org.

The Child Nutrition Department of the Pacifica School District, headed by Karis Gulizia, is conducting a "**Kids Cooking Contest**" for 5th grade students. Teachers will hand out recipe forms which are due to the kitchen by March 5. The recipes will be judged on nutrition, creativity, simple kid-friendly preparation, and fun kid foods. A winning recipe will be selected from each school and announced on March 15. Winners receive a certificate and a Chef's hat. The finalists will prepare their recipes for a cook-off on Wednesday, March 24 at Vallemar.

Our annual **Celebrate Diversity Day** is Wednesday, March 31, from 10:30-12:15. **We need about 20 parent facilitators to sign up now!** Our community focuses on topics celebrating the variety, strengths, similarities and differences of our families at Ocean Shore. Parent facilitators coordinate with the teachers on curriculum and run the sessions. Curriculum used in the past is available or you may develop new ideas with the group. Facilitating sessions can be a very rewarding experience and will make a difference in our students' perspectives and our community bonding. Please email diversityleadershipgroup@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out.

Matt Hayden is in need of a gently used **couch and a sewing machine** for his classroom. Please contact Matt at mhayden@pacificasd.org if you are able to help with either of these donations.

Psychomotor -- Need hours? We are looking for help/back-up substitutes on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 - 11:30 AM. This is a fun, easy way to earn hours and work with the K-3 classes. If you have one morning a month, one morning only, several days available, come join our team. Contact Georgia Sjaardema-Evenhouse, Psychomotor Coordinator at 738-9712 for more information.

EAT Meeting - Please note this month's EAT meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 PM in the small conference room. There's lots of planning for Earth Day/Earth Week, and the Butterfly Garden, so come join us! Contact christinarimmer@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

PPP - The March PPP is Sunday, March 7 from 10 AM - 2 PM. It's still a great time of year to plant, weed, and we also have more work to do on the Butterfly Garden. Bring the kids, and come join us for some outdoor fun that earns hours! Contact christinarimmer@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Laura is looking for volunteers to help with the new **Peer Mediation Program**. Volunteers will help with training and program implementation. Hours earned are direct through work with students. Please send an email or call the school if you are interested.

Please support our **Student Council's SOCK DRIVE** efforts! We are seeking at least one pair of new, white, men's athletic socks from each of our students and staff (a total of 400) to donate to a homeless relief program. Socks can be given to classroom teachers or brought to the office Conference Room throughout February. Show our Student Council that we can effect change in small and large ways by education, compassion, and giving.

Friday, April 30 is **OSS Giants Night**. The Giants will be playing the Colorado Rockies at 7:15. I have 15 tickets left in our favorite Section 317. Tickets are \$13.00 each. If you would like to reserve seats, make out a check to OSS PTO and give to Connie Tse.

New **QOTW** (Question of the Week) from the Student Council: *Do you have an idea for a new invention? Describe your idea and how it will be helpful.* Student responses can be turned in to teachers, the office, or emailed to OSS.QOTW@hotmail.com by Friday, March 5.

Friday, February 26 at 7 PM is **Teen Movie and Game Night at Pacifica Sanchez Library**, showing "Spirited Away." Kids in grades 5 - 8 come for a night of games (Wii, RockBand, board games, etc.) and movie. Free popcorn!

Please return your **Fundraising Surveys** if you have not yet. Please place them in the Hamilton family folder in the parent hallway.