

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

September 13, 2010

Quote of the Week: *“When we define what matters in education only by what we can measure, we are in serious trouble. When that happens, we tend to forget that schools are responsible for shaping character, developing sound minds in healthy bodies, and forming citizens for our democracy, not just for teaching basic skills.”* (Diane Ravitch, 1938 – present)

Important Dates

- September 13 - Vision tests for 1st, 3rd, 6th, SDC, all new students, and referrals
- September 14 - GATE tests for 4th, students new to district, and referrals
PTO Executive Board Meeting 7 pm in Staff Room (CORRECTION)
- September 15 - Vision tests for 1st, 3rd, 6th, SDC, all new students, and referrals
- September 16 - Field Trip meeting 6 pm in Library
- Back-to-School Night (K at 6:00; 1, 2, 3 at 6:30; 7, and 8 at 7:00 pm)
- September 18 - PEF Art and Food Community Benefit 2 – 5 pm
- California Coastal Clean-Up 9 am – 1:30 pm
- September 21 - Vision re-tests
- September 22 - PTO General Meeting 7 pm
- September 25, 26 - Fog Fest
- September 26 - 8th graders to Yosemite

News and Information

California, along with at least 30 other states, has adopted the series of national standards known as *Common Core State Standards*. It is believed that the new standards, replacing the previous standards adopted about 13 years ago, will give California students a stronger, more succinct approach to learning math and English. They are designed to reflect the real world and help students with their future success in education and work. The new standards should be in place by the 2013-2014 school year. The aim of the new standards is to increase academic expectations nationwide, share successful teaching, curriculum, and standardized testing strategies, and to make student movement from state-to-state more efficient.

Our district standards-based report cards will be redesigned to reflect the new adoption. At Ocean Shore this year, we will be adding an additional assessment period to our report card schedule. Students will receive an end-of-year report card after the final day of school. In previous years, students received a final report card during the spring conferences in early May. Our report cards indicate with a score of 1, 2, or 3 whether a student has mastered a standard. We do not indicate exceeds standards on the report card with a score of 4 because we find this information better shared

through conferences or narrative assessments. Families at Ocean Shore have many opportunities to observe the academic accomplishments and struggles of their children, and to have both informal and formal conferences with teachers. In November, teachers will conference with all their students' families. In February, conferences will be held for students who are selected based on performance below proficient on last year's standardized tests. We will hold additional conferences in April for students on an as-needed basis. Parents may always request a conference with teachers either at conference time or throughout the year.

We use many assessments in our school and district to plan our instruction, evaluate student's competencies, and to make informed comparisons regarding our instruction between classroom and schools. Some of these assessments are informal observations; others are summative and formative exams that are an integral component of our adopted curriculum.

Teachers often begin the year with basic skills assessments in reading and math. Beginning of the year writing prompts are given to mark growth over the year, and we continue scheduled writing assessments through our Writers Workshop program. We complete portfolios of student writing each year and pass the information on to the next grade level teachers. We complete Developmental Reading Assessments (DRAs) to evaluate reading comprehension and fluency in the primary grades with a target score for each grade level. We also complete performance based assessments (PBAs) to evaluate problem solving and computation in math each year. Within each classroom, there are ongoing assessments that include end of unit exams and periodic tests for all curricular areas. Across the district we complete scheduled benchmark exams in all subjects to help with pacing and reteaching as needed. These exams use onsite computerized grading and reporting. Each spring we complete the standardized tests (STAR) during a two-week period for 2nd through 8th grade students. These results are used to determine our school's API (academic performance index), shared with teachers and administrators, and mailed home. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year about your child's learning and academic progress.

Laura Shain
Principal

Fog Fest and Bake Sale Volunteers Needed: It is time for our annual *Corn on the Cob booth* at the Fog Fest and volunteers are needed. The Fog Fest is on Saturday, September 25 and Sunday, September 26. Please sign up for the *Corn Booth* in the parent hall.

Ocean Shore will also have a bake sale at the Fog Fest. We will need bakers and volunteers to work the bake sale. Please sign up to donate baked goods or for the Bake Sale in the parent hall.

The Pacifica School Volunteers and the Pacifica School District are working together to provide math workshops with a K - 5th grade focus on October 5; and a 6th – 8th grade focus on October 12. A literacy workshop will be offered with a K – 5th grade focus on October 12. Workshops will be held at the Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School library from 7 – 9 pm. Please RSVP to the Pacifica School Volunteers at 650-355-9432. Flyers with detailed information are in the OSS main hallway.

Recycling & Organics 101: What do I put into the Blue and Green Bins? *Recology of the Coast* is holding an information session at the Sharp Park Library, in the Community Room, on Tuesday, September 21 at 7 pm. Light Refreshments will be served. Please call the library for more information (650-355-5196).

Pacifica School District has scheduled two **Candidate Forum Nights** for those running for Board of Trustees, Pacifica School District. The first session is on September 20, 2010 at Sunset Ridge Elementary School from 7 – 9 pm. The second session is on September 30, 2010 at Cabrillo School from 7 – 9 pm. Check out the posting on *Riptide* at <http://pacificariptide.com>

While there are many ways to pack a waste free lunch, one way is with **Laptop Lunches**. Please see the web site <http://secure.laptoplunches.com/AMAZING/index.asp> for more information. The Environmental Action Team will be taking orders until September 10 for any family interested in purchasing a Laptop Lunch. Ocean Shore does receive a portion of each order, which goes towards our environmental programs.

If you are interested in placing an order, please complete the order form that was sent out to all families. Email or call Christina Rimmer at christinarimmer@yahoo.com or 650-738-0950.

A remarkable opportunity is available for our eighth grade algebra students through the local **We Teach Science Foundation**. Participating students will work after school with professional mentors from the science, technology, engineering, and math fields through remote tutoring via the school library's computers for one hour per week. Eighth grade students brought home information from school after a presentation about the program. Dina Moskowitz, Program Manager, will spoke with the students and will be available at the eighth grade Back-to-School Night event.

PEF Second Annual Art and Food Community Benefit! The Pacifica Education Foundation is throwing its second annual Art and Food Community Benefit Garden Party on Saturday, September 18 from 2 - 5 pm. Enjoy an afternoon of live jazz, beautiful works of fine art, jewelry, and sculptures created by Bay Area artists who are generously donating 30% of their proceeds to the Foundation. Savor haute cuisine and libations while taking in a spectacular ocean view at the lovely home of Leslie and Mike Josepher at 1323 Crespi Drive. Tickets are \$20 per adult at the door. FREE entry for teachers! For more information, please visit www.pacificaef.org, the Pacifica Education Foundation page on Facebook or contact Lauri Vreeland at 650-784-9470 or laurivreeland@comcast.net.

New Girl Scout Troop for 5th and 6th Graders at Ocean Shore Frances Dickson will be starting a new Girl Scout troop for 5th and 6th graders with a focus on community service. Meetings will be every other Friday from 3:00-4:30 in room A25 beginning the first of October. The troop will be limited to a maximum of 10 girls, so please contact Frances as soon as possible if your daughter is interested in joining. Frances can be reached at mfrancesdickson@gmail.com or at 415-810-8384.