

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

September 20, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words. When I was young, we were taught to be discreet and respectful of elders, but the present youth are exceedingly disrespectful and impatient of restraint."* (Hesiod, Greek Poet, alive around 700 BC)

Important Dates

- September 20 - PSD School Board Candidate Night at Sunset Ridge 7 pm
- September 21 - Vision re-tests
- YSB counselor intern begins at OSS
- Student Council applications due
- September 22 - Parent Ed Training OSS Library 6 pm
- PTO General Meeting 7 pm
- September 25, 26 - Fog Fest
- September 26 - 8th graders to Yosemite

News and Information

Generation gaps have apparently existed for quite some time, if one considers that the quote above is from over two thousand years ago. At Ocean Shore, our students are settling in, becoming comfortable, and some are seemingly testing us. The schools across our district handle discipline in similar ways. Most classroom management and school-wide discipline strategies are preventative. Students behave best when expectations are practiced and clear; and when they are engaged in lessons that are challenging but manageable with opportunities for creativity, innovation, and critical thinking. Each day needs to have variety with opportunities for both social learning and independent work. Consequences need to be logical and fair. Rules need to be consistently enforced.

We use progressive discipline in the Pacifica School District where consequences increase in severity as situations repeat or escalate. At Ocean Shore, students begin the process with a written (or drawn and dictated) reflection of what occurred. This gives children a chance to cool down and think, and helps us to begin a dialogue with the child. Often the conversation we have at this point is sufficient to guide the students to change behaviors. At times there will be a minor consequence, such as a detention or an apology letter, and others involved will join for mediation. In some instances of repeated issues and classroom disruptions, a student will be placed on a contract for a week or two with clearly stated expectations and feedback offered daily.

If a student does something that is harmful or puts others at risk, we may suspend the student. Harassment and bullying will lead to suspension if the behavior continues despite less serious consequences. Some incidents are severe enough that a suspension occurs after one incidence. Expulsions are used when suspensions have not been effective or when a situation warrants the removal of a child from the school district. We follow the guidelines of the State of California Education Code when using suspension and expulsion at our schools. These are accessible on the web.

Please help us by reminding your children, in an age-appropriate way, that all physical violence (including shoving), sexual language and swearing, destruction of school property and bulletin boards (including writing on desks and walls), and disregarding teacher and adult supervisor directions are not acceptable behaviors. Students should not bother other students by making jokes about them or putting them down in any way. Racist and sexist comments are not tolerated. Include talk about respect, kindness, safety, and good judgment.

Fortunately, our students are able to learn and grow in their academics and behavior with our guidance. We offer a supportive environment for all of our students. We have a Youth Service Bureau counseling intern joining us for two half days a week, and we will be able to share a counselor with the other K-8 schools shortly.

The relationships that we build with the children in our lives are crucial in determining their behavior. At Ocean Shore we build a strong sense of community where the students sense that they are known as individuals and respected. Treating each other with dignity is important in all situations, including when students need guidance or reprimand.

Parents will always be informed when a discipline problem has come to me as principal. In some circumstances it takes a day or two to fully investigate and hear all sides of an issue. I appreciate the support parents have provided as we work together with our students. Students will often ask, with a furrowed brow, "Are you going to call my parents?" That's how I know you are partners with us at school.

*Laura Shain
Principal*

Bakers still needed for the **Fog Fest Bake Sale**. Please sign up in the parent hallway. Donations of bottled water and juice boxes would also be appreciated. Please have all baked goods packaged and ready to sell. **Drop off all baked goods and donations to the new parent room by 3:30 pm on Friday, September 24.** Thank you!

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.

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.

Virginia is in need of a minimum of two parents, or as many as four if they share, to **facilitate the Art Connections program** for her 5th/6th grade class. Her class has art scheduled on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00, with set-up and clean-up in addition to that. Parents can contact Virginia at school or by email at vszczepaniak@pacificasd.org.

FALL CLUSTERS. Fall clusters are just round the corner. They will take place Friday, October 29, 2010. I will need many MANY hands to make this event a success!!! I would especially like clusters that will lend themselves to cross age/grade participation. This is an excellent opportunity to fulfill your special projects requirement and have fun with kids at the same time. We will have two rotations, and they will take place between recess and lunch. More information to come at the general meeting. Contact Joanne Simonson at joanne.simonson@gmail.com.

The **Diversity Leadership Group (DLG)** will hold its 1st meeting of the year, with a Tea & Cookies Meet-n-Greet, on Thursday, October 7 from 6:30 - 8:00 in the staff room. Everyone is invited and

welcome! We'll be brainstorming ideas for the upcoming school year. In the past, the Diversity Leadership Group sponsored a Martin Luther King, Jr. event in January and a Celebrate Diversity Day event in March. Our mission is "to encourage activities that build character and foster awareness and appreciation of diversity by involving and coordinating students, parents and staff in both on-going and project-oriented instruction." The group will continue its monthly meetings on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm. New and returning families are encouraged to attend!

Homework Center opening this week! The Homework Center with Dottie Borba is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays in the OSS library beginning on September 20. The center is open from 2:45 – 3:45. (On Thursdays, the room is shared with the We Teach Science remote mentoring computer program so the homework center attendees will need to respect the quiet atmosphere.)

Please see the posted flyers for more information, including costs and payment instructions. The center will not be open on any minimum days throughout the year.

Truck needed. Connie and Katy have furniture (desks, etc.) to donate to the San Bruno Goodwill to aide the San Bruno fire victim families. If you are available to pick up and deliver these items, while earning some hours, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Reminder: The mandatory **PTO General Meeting** is this Wednesday, September 22, at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. An adult representative from each family must attend. Families with names ending in A-H are asked to bring a snack or beverage to share. Also note: Before the General Meeting, there will be a one hour parent training seminar starting at 6:00 in the OSS Library open to all new and continuing families interested in tips from the teachers on how to work successfully in the classroom. See you there! Kathy Shiokari, OSS PTO President.

From the Office: **Absence from school:** If your child is absent from school you must call the office even if the teacher is aware of the absence. Please include the following information: Date of phone call, student's name, teacher's name, date of absence, and reason for the absence.

Please attend out **Parent Ed Training** the hour before the PTO general meeting on Wednesday, September 22 at 6 pm in the OSS Library. Learn from OSS teachers about aiding in the classrooms and volunteering at the school. Hear tips on student management, confidentiality, and teaching strategies.