

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

October 4, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea."*
(Antoine de Saint-Exupery, 1900 - 1944)

Important Dates

- October 5 - PSV Math Workshop for K- 5th at IBL 7 pm
- October 6 - Walk, Bike, or Carpool to School Day
- October 7 - DLG Meeting with Cookies and Tea 6:30 pm
- October 8 - Outdoor Movie Night 7 pm
- October 11 - Professional Development Day (no school for students)
- October 12 - Life Touch Picture Day (CHANGED from 10/5/10)
- PTO Board Meeting (photo shoot planned) 7 pm
- PSV Math Workshop for 6th – 8th at IBL 7 pm
- October 14 - Hearing Tests

News and Information

Parent volunteers have a crucial role in delivering the individualized, small-group, project-based instruction that is a hallmark of Ocean Shore School. We rely on our teachers, mentor parents, and the parent education component of our PTO to education and train our classroom and school-wide volunteers so that we have a consistent academic approach and all our students benefit from positive role models.

Our Parent Education group provides a training session each year to help volunteers work within the school environment. Teacher representatives from various grade levels present information about expectations, student learning, and discipline. We will be offering future training sessions before each PTO General Meeting on relevant topics, and create a parent discussion and support forum.

We have developed a training and evaluation guide to assist our Alternative Service aides and classroom volunteers. Teachers will review the information with the aides and use the guide as a tool when working with parents in the classroom. The relationship between the teacher and the volunteer is paramount in creating a successful collaboration. Please go directly to the teacher whenever you have questions or concerns about your role as a volunteer.

We advise volunteers to work with us to prevent discipline issues in the small group setting by explicitly stating expectations with descriptions of what it will look like when the students follow these

expectations. Keeping the students engaged and on-task will help with the management. Please refer students to the teacher if they are not cooperating. Report instances of sexual or other harassment to the teacher. Using an evaluation chart for the students can help with management as it communicates back to the teacher about the students' effort, progress, and behavior and provides accountability.

As a role model, it is important to use appropriate language, references, and expect mutual respect. Please model non-biased attitudes about gender, diversity, age, and ability. Eliminate references to things such as "girl drama" or chauvinistic expectations. Help us teach students to not view others, and themselves, in stereotypical, limiting ways.

Be aware that many of our students have learning difficulties that may or may not include participation in our special education programs. Help students to grow while maintaining their privacy and pride. Prompt students when reading aloud and understand that some students have difficulty following along and reading aloud. Reading short segments with adult modeling is often best. Summarizing what has been read helps students when their learning differences make comprehension difficult.

It is important to keep student information, including behavior and progress, confidential. This information can only be shared with the classroom teacher. Please refer questions to the teacher and only share positive anecdotes when other parents inquire.

Teachers plan lessons and activities specifically designed to be supported by volunteers. If you are not able to come in, this creates a hardship for the teacher as they must quickly rearrange their lesson plans. Please provide as much advance notice as you can when you are not able to come in. We do understand that your children sometimes wake up sick, and our volunteers need to take time off when ill. Speak with the classroom teacher to determine the best way to contact them in the morning if you need to get a message to them. The school answering machine is usually listened to after the morning rush and class has begun and is not recommended for urgent messages. It is also important to be punctual and stay through the shift.

Thank you for joining with us in the endeavor to educate our students with exciting learning experiences. The impact we all have on our students today, and the people they become, is truly astounding.

*Laura Shain
Principal*

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.

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 that will take place between recess and lunch. 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!

The **We Teach Science Foundation** is working with Ocean Shore to offer free math and science mentoring to 8th grade students through an online program. The students connect through an online program to their mentor who is at his or her office. The program happens from 3-4 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Ocean Shore Computer Lab. There will be about 5-10 students in the computer lab at a time. We are looking for a few parent volunteers who are reasonably computer savvy to help us run the program. The job requires organizing materials consisting of tablets and headsets, helping students switch to another computer if something goes wrong, and signing the kids in and out. We are not able to run the program without the help of volunteers.

Email Dina, the program manager, at dina@weteachscience.org, if you're interested.

We are looking forward to the **Ocean Shore School Beach Clean-Up** every month! We will meet at the levy at Sharp Park Beach at 9 am on the second Saturday of each month. **PARENTS:** Bring your children! You will receive hours for keeping our beach clean! Contact Kelly Hopkins at kcoppsean@aim.com if you have questions.

The **UnWaste Fundraising Event** is coming to Ocean Shore School on Saturday, October 16 and Sunday, October 17. Keep all your old electronics out of our landfills while safely recycling them. Many other items will be accepted, please see fliers for details. We will need volunteers to help with this event, please sign up in the parent hallway. If you have questions, contact Jill Grochowski at jillybean201@hotmail.com or 355-3707.

The Pacifica School District's Green Team and the Environmental Action Team present **Walk, Bike or Carpool to School Day**. Wednesday, October 6, 2010 is International Walk to School Day. You can join the fun and reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking or carpooling to school on this important day! Bus riders, please check the SamTrans website for schedule and fare information <http://www.samtrans.com/schedules.html>. We will be giving out fresh fruit and a sticker to each person who participates in the event.

If you can volunteer to hand out fruit and stickers from 8:00 – 8:45 on October 6 at Ocean Shore School, please contact christinarimmer@yahoo.com

Aluminum Can and Plastic Bottle Drive This Friday. Please bring your empty aluminum cans and plastic beverage bottles to the turnaround before school this Friday, October. 8. This recycling program is run by the 8th grade class and supported by the Environmental Action Team (EAT). Please save your cans and bottles for future drives to be held the first Friday of the month.

There is still a chance to join the wonderful group of **Library Volunteers**. We are looking for help on Tuesdays for lunch coverage from 12:00 - 1:00 pm; and Thursdays for Sheila's visit from 10:30 - 11:30 am. Please contact oslibrary0910@gmail.com or call Teri Voorhes 650-738-6997 for information and training. Thank you.

Clothes needed in Medical Room: Girls leggings and sweats for boys for 1st – 4th grade. If you have water shoes IN GOOD CONDITION any size for K - 8th grade please bring to the office. Last, we need socks. Tube socks are best because they fit many sizes but any socks are appreciated. Thank you.

The **Library and Computer Lab** will be open during recess and lunch beginning the week of October 4. During lunch we will have the Library side open for board games and silent reading. Students will be able to check books out at this time. The Computer Lab will be open for use within the guidelines of our Computer Lab rules. This was a very successful program last year and we are happy to see it continue. Thank you to all the parents who are volunteering to make this happen.

The 11th **Ability Awareness Day** will be here on Wednesday, October 27. Please join us for this very special school-wide event which educates and celebrates with students about the many different learning styles. We are looking for volunteers to help in the following areas: accompany small groups, help with an activity or provide snacks for the speakers and volunteers. Plan on working 8:25 - 11:30 am. If you can help out please contact Teri Voorhes, teriryan13@yahoo.com / 650-738-6997.

FREE! **Play and Discover Day**, Saturday October 23 from 10:00 - 1:00 pm at Linda Mar Education Center. This event is brought to you by Special Olympics and the Pacifica School District - Special Education Parent Advisory Committee. We are looking for young athletes between the ages of 2 to 7, of all abilities. Bring the family for a fun afternoon of sports activities supervised by middle school buddies. If you would like to sign up your young athlete or if you are in 5th - 8th grade and would like to help for the day please RSVP to Teri Voorhes at teriryan13@yahoo.com / 650-738-6997.

Please help us keep our **kindergarten break-out room** at the end of A Wing clean and tidy for student groups. Do not drop donated items off in there or allow children to roam unsupervised in this room. If you are supervising an art project in the room, please avoid the over-use of glitter and clean up when the project is finished. Thank you!
