

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

November 1, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"Language not only expresses ideas and concepts, but it actually shapes thought..."* (Benjamin Whorf, 1897 – 1941)

Important Dates

- November 4 - Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 7 pm.
- November 7 - Daylight Savings Time ends (move clocks back an hour)
- November 9 - PTO Executive Board meeting 7 pm
- Band parent meeting 7 pm
- November 11 - Veteran's Day holiday (no school)
- November 15 – 19 Minimum days for conferences (Wednesday early out schedule)

News and Information

Our eleventh annual Ability Awareness Day session at Ocean Shore School was a great success once again! Shelley Denny developed a program that utilized the expertise of many volunteers and the enthusiasm of all. We can't thank Shelley enough, and appreciate the work and help from the many people who stepped forward to lead sessions, provide snacks, support classrooms, and helped with the musical assembly at the end of the event. Our students, staff, and families are role models in the district for developing a school community that values inclusion of all. Ability Awareness Day is a day where our pride is visible and truly deserved.

We have many mechanisms in place at Ocean Shore for communicating and sharing information within classrooms and as an entire community. Parents take on leadership roles so our complex program can proceed smoothly and we can organize the help that we need. A situation occurred with a classroom Yahoo group that I want to address.

I want to caution against using online communication in place of face-to-face interaction when discussing concerns. Email often does not convey the intended tone, and can be taken differently than intended. It can be especially problematic to use an online discussion group format to share concerns. Online groups are great for sharing dates and organizing information, but can harm a community, and fracture relationships, when the discussion includes issues and debate.

We value exchanging ideas and having dialog about curriculum practices and other issues at the school. When you have questions or concerns it is always best to go directly to the teacher first. Teachers can explain the reasoning behind curricular decisions, share our philosophical approaches, and suggest resources for better understanding. I am also always available to hear your concerns and

provide explanations. Our decisions are always based on best educational practices and support our school's mission and principles.

Let's honor the close relationships that our staff and parent partnerships form at Ocean Shore by using online groups only for sharing factual information, and speak directly to each other when we have concerns. Groups should have a moderator that maintain the calendar function and not post comments. Using classroom mass email lists are the best way to share information rather than the open forum of online groups.

*Laura Shain
Principal*

The sign up sheets are here! We are looking for help with our **Scholastic Book Fair**. The book fair is held twice a year and is the only fundraiser for the Library and Computer Lab. We will need help with the set up, tear down and cashier shifts from November 9 through November 19. The shifts are posted in the Parent Hallway or you can contact Jillian Robinson, Scholastic Book Fair Coordinator, at shycookie9@yahoo.com.

Equal Exchange Fundraiser: We're hoping you are enjoying our fall fund-raiser! It's an exciting one & we love the fact that Equal Exchange is Fair Trade. Fair Trade principles also encourage sustainable farming practices so that farmers are able to remain on their land and enjoy productive harvests. Equal Exchange fundraising materials are printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper. Thanks for continuing to make those sales! Every sale benefits our school and other good things going on in the world. Questions can be directed to parent Stephanie Hamilton at hamiltonpac@yahoo.com. Orders are due by November 12 to your child's teacher. Thanks!

Please join the **Pacifica Education Foundation** at our annual **Casino Night Fundraiser!** Test your skills at Black Jack, Roulette and Craps! Enjoy tasty food and then dance the night away!

The event is on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at the Pedro Point Firehouse from 7:00 – 11:00 pm. Reserve your tickets now for the event of the year! Space is limited and tickets will sell out! Tickets are \$50.00 per person, which includes \$100 in gambling chips, drink ticket and savory finger foods.

For tickets, please contact Dawn Wineinger at dwineinger@pacificafoundation.org or Carol Morales-Burnham at cburnham@pacificafoundation.org or your own OSS/PEF Liaisons, Ana Santos Restivo at asantos@pacificafoundation.org and Darlene Mann at dkmann@pacificafoundation.org.

Consider joining the **Portola Discovery Site Hike** sponsored by the Pacifica Historical Society, GGNRA, and the Pacifica Parks, Beaches, and Recreation Department on November 6 at 9:30 am. There will be a strenuous 3-mile round trip hike starting at the Pacifica Community Center on Crespi Drive after a short film and then a carpool to the Sweeney Ridge trailhead on Fassler Ave at 11 am. Please call 738-7381 for more information.

Kindergarten siblings of students currently attending Ocean Shore School (who will be returning for the following school year) will have priority at our school until Friday, January 14, 2011. Please notify the office if you have a sibling who will be attending Kindergarten next year.

FROM THE OFFICE. If you want to put money on your child's **lunch account** or check their balance you can do that at the office or on line by using www.ezschooldpay.com. Money is available within 10 minutes of the credit for a \$3 flat rate per upload. Or you can use www.sodexoeducation.com where payments will take 2 business days to reflect and the fee is 5% per upload. You will need your child's student ID number which you can get from the office.

The **Diversity Leadership Group** meets monthly. The next meeting to be held on Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 pm in the staff room. Everyone is welcome.

Library happenings at the **Pacifica Sharp Park Library**, 104 Hilton Way, 650-355-5195: **Ballet Folklorico/Day of the Dead** on Tuesday, November 2 at 3:45 PM. Help us Celebrate! The Daly City Parks and Rec Ballet Folklorico dance troop is made up of students from 3 to 16 years in age and they perform Mexican Folk Dances from different areas. They have multiple costume changes and light refreshments will be served. **Uncle Jer's Bees** on Monday, November 15 at 3 PM. Come see and learn about live bees!

International Walk/Bike/Carpool to School Day on October 6, 2010 was a big success. Thanks so much to all the students, parents and teachers who participated in this event. We even had one family bicycle all the way from Park Pacifica to Ocean Shore School – what commitment! The goal of the event was to raise awareness of our how we get to school, the impact that has on the environment, and try to find ways to reduce that impact. To ensure we remain aware of the environmental impact of our commute decisions, the Pacifica School District will be having monthly 'Reduce your Carbon Footprint' days on the first Thursday of each month. Put it on your calendar, so you can participate!
