

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

November 29, 2010

Quote of the Week: *"The manner of giving is worth more than the gift."* (Pierre Corneille, 1606 – 1684)

Important Dates

November 24 – 26	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	- Book Processing and Maintenance Training 8:30 am OSS Library
	- Diversity Leadership Group Meeting 7 pm
December 7	- PTO Board Meeting 7 pm
December 9	- Winter Bazaar
December 16	- Winter Band Concert and 2 nd /3 rd grade Choral Music Performance 7 pm
December 17	- Minimum Day
December 20	- Winter Break begins
January 3	- School resumes

News and Information

We celebrated our two Elna Flynn award honorees at Nick's Restaurant Friday night before the Thanksgiving break. Elna Flynn was a beloved volunteer in the Pacifica Schools when our district still included Portola School. We were proud to welcome Catherine Kaiser to the podium at Nick's to receive an award from Ocean Shore School. An excerpt from my appreciation follows.

We are honored tonight to be able to personally thank our parent volunteer Catherine Kaiser for creating and maintaining our weekly art class program for our students. Each week, students in all grade levels go to the art room for a lesson taught by parent volunteers. Catherine has trained the volunteers to teach the art curriculum and she has coordinated the program through the years as her daughters have grown.

Being an artist myself, I have a discerning eye when looking at art. Some student art is heavy on the process rather than the product. However, the art displayed at Ocean Shore is truly astounding. It's unusual, expressive, finely executed, and unique. It's also beautiful.

Catherine is one of those stealth volunteers we hear about but don't always see. She's always hard at work behind the scenes. Our students told me that Catherine inspires them and encourages them to be creative. They said she is a strict art teacher – but they said it with awe. They quickly assured me that she is never mean but she gets them to finish their pieces and actually use the knowledge she's taught them. Her own 8th grade daughter told me that she loves having her mother teach art at Ocean Shore because she's proud that everyone gets to know her mom. When a 13 year old is proud to have their mother at school, something special is going on. Luckily, Catherine also has a 7th grade daughter at Ocean Shore so we won't lose her just yet.

On behalf of all of Ocean Shore School, I want thank Catherine for bringing quality art experiences to our students and for creating a program that can be sustained.

Kathy Kellerman wasn't able to attend the ceremony, but we honored her briefly as well. Read on for an excerpt from my remarks.

Kathy Kellerman is not with us tonight but I want to share with you that Kathy is one of those volunteers who works so hard, is consistent, has follow-through and is always passionate. I heard about her before I met her; eventually I started asking, "Who is this Kathy Kellerman?" I finally found her in the school garden wearing her trademark 'straw' hat. When Ocean Shore was remodeled, Kathy was instrumental in developing and planting the native landscaping at Ocean Shore. She has maintained our gardens ever since. She also helped with annual planning for our magnificent Oceans Week program, and this year co-wrote a successful grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. Kathy's legacy will live on throughout the gardens and during our future Oceans Weeks at Ocean Shore.

We begin to learn about winter holidays around the world as we enter the first of three weeks before our December break. It's important to offer our students a foundation for studying a variety of cultures through the celebrations and rituals that represent beliefs and tradition. A common theme for many winter holidays is noted in the beauty of lights. The Winter Solstice is the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere and therefore there are many festivals of light.

Since ancient times, cultures all over the world have celebrated the coming of the light with Winter Solstice festivals. Students may learn about many holidays that celebrate through lights, including: **Diwali**, the East Indian Celebration of Light named for the row of clay lamps left outside homes during the fall months, was originally a harvest festival. Lights of all kinds are now used in the celebration. **Loy Krathong**, Thailand's Festival of Lights, occurs on the full moon of the twelfth month. **Hanukkah** is also known as the Feast of Lights or Festival of the Lights. The lighting of the menorah commemorates the miracle of the oil that lasted eight days. There are many **Christmas** traditions and historical meanings regarding candles and tree lights, symbolizing a welcoming home and a joyous season. **Kwanzaa** is the African American holiday created in the late 1960s to celebrate family, community, and culture. The kinara candle holder with red, green, and black candles signifies the roots of the continental African people.

Commonalities are important to notice during this season of goodwill, while learning about the differences enrich us. As we head into the holiday season, I wish you all joyousness and peace as we appreciate each other and the beauty around us.

*Laura Shain
Principal*

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.

Our two remaining **lice checks** will be held Friday, January 7; and Friday, April 29. If anyone does not have experience performing lice checks and would like to help, training can be arranged. Please contact Jill at jillybean201@hotmail.com or 355-3707. Thank you.

Everyone is invited to hear our 2nd and 3rd grade students perform with **Choral Music** teacher, Marilyn Wells, on Thursday evening, December 16. Students should arrive at 6:45 pm for the 7 pm performance. Students should dress nicely in dark pants or skirts and solid color collared shirts. A \$2 donation is requested from adult audience members to support our Choral Music Program.

Amazon Wish List Coordinator needed for the **Ocean Shore Library**. I would like to start a wish list on Amazon for books that the library would love to purchase. This can be done 100% from home and at any hour. If you are interested in taking on this job, please contact Hanne Andersen at veninde@gmail.com.

Do you have any **children's bikes** that you would love to give to a family in need? I would love to receive them! The children's ages are 10, 8, 6 and 5. If you can help, please see Alice in D60. Thank you.

The next monthly **Diversity Leadership Group** meeting will be held this Thursday, December 2 at 7:00 pm in the staff room. Part of the meeting will be used to discuss plans for our Celebrate Diversity Day event in March. Everyone is welcome.

Please do not park in or near the red zone in the turnaround when dropping off or picking up your children. Leaving cars in this area blocks traffic and creates an unsafe situation for our students and community.

The **Winter Bazaar** is an Ocean Shore PTO fundraiser, and long standing tradition, in which our community comes together to raise monies which benefit a variety of charities both in and out of our program. Children, parents, staff, and teachers collaborate to create seasonal items to sell and baskets for auction. Proceeds from the sale and auction will be distributed as follows: There will be an initial contribution of \$3,000 to the Pacifica Tribune Holiday Fund that supports local charities. A contribution will then be made to the PTO Family Emergency Fund with a maximum of \$2,000 in this budget; then a contribution of \$1,500 will be made to the PTO Field Trip Scholarship Fund. The remaining balance would be additionally allocated to the Pacifica Tribune Holiday Fund. Thank you for supporting our efforts to help those in need in and around our community.

The **OSS Library** needs your help. Our wonderful library fairy Diane Bullwinkle's son has moved on to high school, and books have been piling up fast. If you have already received the book maintenance training we could really use your help right now. If you would like to help but have not been trained or need a refresher on previous training, please do come to the Book Processing and Maintenance Class on December 2 at 8:30 am in the library. For questions please contact Hanne Andersen, library inventory coordinator, at veninde@gmail.com. Thanks.

The **After-School Enrichment Program** Winter Session will begin the second week of January. Information will be available by Friday, December 3rd. Sign-ups will begin on Monday, December 6th. If you are planning to be out of town, have a friend drop off the form and payment for you. Don't miss out!

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, December 2. 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.

Thank you from Alice's class to the OSS community for supporting the **food drive**. We gathered up boxes many boxes of non-perishable foods to deliver to the Pacifica Resource Center. We needed a truck and a van to transport it all. The kids helped to collect and sort it so it could go immediately onto the shelves ready to give away. Their shelves were pretty empty before we got there. Working together, we made a difference in many people's lives.