

# Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

April 11, 2011

Quote of the week: *“Children are born with a sense of wonder and an affinity for nature. Properly cultivated, these values can mature into ecological literacy, and eventually into sustainable patterns of living.”* Zenobia Barlow (19??-present)

## Important Dates

- April 11 - Point Reyes trips begin (4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> classes and 3<sup>rd</sup> on varying days)
- April 12 - PTO Executive Board Meeting 7 pm
- Fireworks Booth meeting at Nicks (free dinner) 6 pm (contact Jerry)
- April 15 - Minimum Day
- Alice’s 2<sup>nd</sup> grade play “Three Billy Goats Gruff...” 9:30 am
- April 16 - Pacifica Beach Coalition sponsored Earth Day beach clean up 9 am
- April 18 – 25 - Spring Break (6 days)
- TV Turnoff Week/Digital Detox Week/Screen Free Week
- April 28 - Spring Band Concert 7 pm OSS (band students arrive at 6:30 pm)
- April 30 - Band trip to Great America for *Music in the Parks Festival* 8 am
- May 2 - CST STAR Testing begins at OSS
- May 7 - PSV sponsored Children’s Book Sale 9 – 3 (see below)
- May 9 – 13 - Minimum Days for select conferences
- May 27 - Furlough Day (no pay for teachers and staff)
- ? - Band rehearsal (check with Jerry)
- June 7 - All-District RSMF Band Concert 7 pm SSF High School
- June 14 – 17 - Minimum Days for last week of school

## News and Information

Many of our students have the opportunity this week to visit Point Reyes National Seashore and the Clem Miller Educational Center with their teachers. Our students should have decent weather (maybe a little rain on Wednesday) for their outdoor activities. Students will learn about the human and natural history of the park at the Bear Valley Visitors Center; they will hike on different trails where they’ll learn about native animal and plant species; they will learn about stars in the evening; and they will square dance with their classmates. Our teachers have many activities planned to teach students about the natural world, including scavenger hunts, watercolor painting, basket making, games, journal writing, mosaics, storytelling and leaf printing. Students will contribute to a mural as they reflect on their outdoor lessons. While the students are busy with their daytime activities, our crew of parent cooks will be busy. The accommodations may be rough, but the food will certainly be divine with our special parent chefs in the kitchen!

Students will learn about the cultural history of Point Reyes, going back over the 5,000 years when the Coast Miwok Indians inhabited about 120 sites within what is now known as Marin and

southern Sonoma County. In 1579, historians believe Sir Francis Drake was the first European explorer to land on the coast where lighthouses were eventually built in the 1800s and early 1900s by the United States government to guide ships through the treacherous coastal waters and the point of land. In the 1800s, ranchos were established from Mexican land grants, followed by the beginning of American agriculture, including cattle raising and dairy ranches, which continues today.

Point Reyes is a protected area with rich biological diversity. Over 45% of American bird species and 18% of California's plant species are found within the park. Within the seashore, 38% of threatened and endangered species exist. The animals range in size from the northern elephant seal to the Myrtle's silverspot butterfly. Over 80 species of mammals live at Point Reyes.

A wonderful article highlighting Zenobia Barlow, director of the Center for Eco-Literacy in Berkeley, eloquently explains the benefit of outdoor education for our students. The interview can be read at [www.derrickjensen.org/barlow.html](http://www.derrickjensen.org/barlow.html). Barlow is working to help young children realize the wonder in the natural world as a way of increasing compassion, empathy, and the development of a sustainable ecology. She sees the disconnection humans feel as a cause for violence and believes that a relationship with the natural world can inspire "the capacity for reverence and awe."

*Laura Shain  
Principal*

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A **new school immunization law** requires all California students entering 7th - 12th grades in the 2011 - 2012 school year to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) booster shot called Tdap. The new requirement affects all students -- current, new, and transfers -- in public and private schools. The law has two phases: For the 2011 - 2012 school year, all students entering 7 - 12 grades will need proof of a Tdap vaccine before starting school. For the 2012 - 2013 and future school years, all students entering into 7th grade will need proof of the Tdap vaccine. Information is available at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org) and [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org).

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An exciting new summer camp in Pacifica!

This summer it is time to think, create and innovate! **ThinkBridge Summer Camp** is a new program in Pacifica that challenges young minds to explore new ideas, analyze situations and solve creative problems through innovative thinking lessons and games, computer exercises and music instruction. Our fabulous staff of experienced Pacifica School District teachers - Sydney Tyler Parker and Marilyn Wells - will lead campers through a summer of creation and innovation.

ThinkBridge is a 4-week, 1/2 day program held at Vallemar School. Pre- and post-camp onsite child care is available. Registration is now open and space is limited. Register before April 30 and save \$100!

For more information visit [www.thinkbridgecamp.org](http://www.thinkbridgecamp.org) or call 650-355-9432.

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**Gently loved children's books needed** by the Pacifica School Volunteers.

Time to start spring cleaning and clear your shelves of all those books your children have

outgrown. Donate your gently loved children's books to Pacifica School Volunteers Children's Book Sale. Board books, picture books, early readers, chapter books, novels, non-fiction - all children's books are welcome from baby books to high school level. Books can be dropped off March 9 thru May 4 at:

- Pacifica School District Office, 375 Reina Del Mar
- Starbucks, Linda Mar or Fairmont Shopping Center locations
- First National Bank, Linda Mar Shopping Center
- Pacifica Community Center, 540 Crespi at Hwy 1
- Pacifica School Volunteers Office, Linda Mar Education Center, 830 Rosita

And, this year we will be collecting books **April 16th at Earth Day! (Linda Mar Beach, South Parking Lot)**

All donated books will be sold at the Ninth Annual Children's Book Sale, Saturday, May 7 at Linda Mar Shopping Center. Proceeds from the book sale will support literacy programs in Pacifica schools and the work of Pacifica School Volunteers, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all children achieve academic success. For questions about the book donations or the sale, contact Pacifica School Volunteers, 650-355-9432 or [psv@pacificasd.org](mailto:psv@pacificasd.org).

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### **It's Raffle Time!**

Champion Pacifica's youth by supporting **Pacifica School Volunteers!** Raffle Tickets available now for our Ninth Annual Children's Book Sale and Raffle. Great prizes include:

- Nor Cal 9' Surfboard, donated and shaped by World Famous Big Wave Rider, Shawn Rhodes and Fine-tuned by Gordon Guptill of Nor Cal Surf Shop (see it at Linda Mar Starbucks).
- One week timeshare at Pine Acres Lodge in Pacific Grove, CA.
- Debris Box (14 cubic yards/for 2 days), donated by Recology of the Coastside.
- Handmade quilt.
- Pacifica Performances Package.
- Granucci's Italian Restaurant Gift Certificate.
- and much more!

Raffle tickets on sale at Starbucks (Linda Mar or Fairmont Shopping Centers), First National Bank (Linda Mar Shopping Center). Tickets for the surfboard draw are available only at Nor Cal Surf Shop (Pedro Point) or Linda Mar Starbucks.

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Earth Day is coming and the Pacifica Beach Coalition will host the **Earth Day City Wide Day of Action** again on Saturday, April 16th! Action 9-11:30 Celebration 11:30-3:30. All Pacifica School District students are signing a pledge banner that will be displayed at the festivities on Saturday. Students are watching a video about Inky the whale's disastrous ingestion of plastics and a mylar balloon.

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**FROM THE OFFICE:** Please let the school office know as soon as possible if you are not planning on **returning to OSS next year**. This is important information for our planning.

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Volunteer Garden Educators needed for the **Pacifica Gardens**. Pacifica Gardens is recruiting volunteer educators to help participate in educational tours for school children of the Pacifica Gardens. They have great stations showing kids the different stages in the lives of plants. This is a fantastic science learning opportunity. Volunteers are needed on Wednesday and Friday mornings. Contact Ann Long for more information at 650-868-0237 or [long5tioga@yahoo.com](mailto:long5tioga@yahoo.com). See the garden at [www.pacifica-gardens.org](http://www.pacifica-gardens.org)

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Please alert the school office as soon as your child is diagnosed with a **contagious illness**, such as strep throat or pink eye. We alert classrooms so that families can be aware of illnesses that their children may have been exposed to. Some children are particularly susceptible to certain illnesses and preventive care can begin with timely notification. Thank you!

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[www.oceanshoreschool.com](http://www.oceanshoreschool.com)