

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

May 31, 2011

Quote of the week: *“True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost.”* Arthur Ashe (1943 – 1993)

Important Dates

- May 31 - School Site Council meeting 3:30 pm
- June 1 - PTO ballots counted in school office 9 am (all welcome)
- PTO General Meeting 7 pm
- June 2 - Band parent meeting 7 pm
- June 6 - Diversity Leadership Group Dinner 6:30 pm Staff Room
- June 7 - All-District RSMF Band Concert 7 pm SSF High School
- June 8 - PSD Super Sports Day
- Peer Mediation Celebration during lunch
- PTO Executive Board Meeting 7 pm
- June 11 - PEF sponsored Family Run and Fun Day
- June 14 - 8th grade graduation
- June 14 – 17 - Minimum Days for last week of school
- June 17 - Frontierland Park Picnic

News and Information

We hope the long Memorial Day weekend was enjoyed by everyone. We should remember that the extra day on Friday was due to work furlough days for our entire staff. This was our fifth day of no pay due to the state budget crisis. The days of no school impact our students, and our staff. The academic requirements do not change because of the shortened year; nor do personal expenses decline. A number of families in our community have been struggling due to the current state of the economy. Our PTO and the fundraising support from our community have allowed us the opportunity to offer help to some families having financial emergencies. We join with you in the hopes that the economy will soon improve so that financial situations can stabilize for everyone. At this time, we do not anticipate furlough days next year, but we are still awaiting state budget news during June.

As we look to next year, we have been making plans and compiling classes. Class assignments and school information for 2011-2012 will be mailed out at the end of June. At this time, we plan on 24 students in our K – 3rd grade classrooms, as we had this year. We expect a continuation of 32 students in our 4th – 8th grade classrooms. Claire Straka-Ellis is retiring at the end of the year, but will be returning one day a week to job-share with 1st grade teacher Helen Kokas. We will be hiring a new full-time 1st grade teacher. Sandy Mills will job-share one day a week with 2nd grade teacher, Fran Quartini. Virginia Szczepaniak will join Jonathan Harris and Patty McNally as a 4th/5th grade teacher – a position she had a year ago. We will have a 6th grade class and a 6th/7th grade. Katy Stearns will teach one of these, but we probably won't determine which one until we hire a teacher

for the other class. All the other grades and classrooms will continue with the current configuration and teachers. Thank you for resisting the urge to request teachers for your students. A lot of thought and collaboration goes into dividing the students into classes and assigning teachers and we believe that we are able to create effective groupings and align students with the best teachers to meet their needs. We don't anticipate any changes to our special education staff or our support staff at this time.

Our final report cards will be placed in sealed envelopes and sent home with students on June 16. Report cards for the 7th and 8th grade students will be mailed.

We look forward to bidding fond farewells to our graduating families at the PTO General Meeting on Wednesday night. We will also be thanking our outgoing PTO leadership for, in many cases, years of dedication and effort to support our school.

*Laura Shain
Principal*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION for current 6th and 7th grade students: Students will not be allowed to attend school in the fall without this new immunization form given to the school office by the first day of school! 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 and www.getimmunizedca.org.

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. For more information visit www.thinkbridgecamp.org or call 650-355-9432.

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.

Each year we ask for volunteers to serve on the **School Site Council** for our school. This group meets periodically throughout the year to help determine how site funds will be spent on to develop a site plan so that all our students have access to programs that will help them achieve and succeed. If you are interested in serving on this council, please let me know through email, a note, or a phone call within the next two weeks. Send email to: lshain@pacificasd.org.

Super Sports Day - Wednesday, June 8. The Ocean Shore 4th and 5th graders will be hosting Super Sports Day for over 90 athletes from our Special Day Classes throughout Pacifica School District. We are looking for parent volunteers to help out with small group supervision, activity supervision or lunch prep, serving and clean up. If you can help out in any of these areas please contact Teri Voorhes 650-738-6997 teriryan13@yahoo.com.

All are welcome to the last meeting of the **Diversity Leadership Group** (DLG) on June 6 from 6:30 – 8. Participants from this year will be sharing dinner with guests at this celebratory meeting. If you are interested or curious about attending the DLG meetings next year, this would be a wonderful time to drop in and see what we are all about!



Band News: Our district concert is June 7 at South San Francisco High School. We will need some stage help and chaperones. Please let me know if you can help out. If you have any questions e-mail Jerry at jwdownloads@prodigy.net or call 650-455-6542. Volunteers will meet at Vallemar on June 6 at 6:30 pm.

On the evening of June 7, Beginning Band should arrive at 6 pm. Concert Band (7th graders) should arrive at 6:15 pm. Symphonic Band (8th graders) should arrive at 6:30 pm.

Beginning Band will report to the cafeteria, take out their instruments and music and report to the stage area. Concert Band will drop off their instruments in the designated areas of the cafeteria. Symphonic band will drop off their instruments in the designated areas of the cafeteria.

Back to School **Planting Pickup and Picnic Sunday**, August 21st, 2011 10 am - 2 pm. Come help beautify the school before class starts, and earn hours! This is a great way to get involved in the school garden, and we need help throughout the year. Come meet the team, learn about the garden, and how you can earn hours throughout the year. Contact christinarimmer@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

Two For One: Make money for our school district while staying in shape with your family and friends! Register today for the **1st Annual Family Run and Fun Day, hosted by the Pacifica Education Foundation**. Enter the 7K Hazelnut Challenge Run, the 5K Weiler Ranch Race, or the 2 mile Family Fun Walk, for \$25 per person, or just \$20 if you enter as a team member. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 11 at San Pedro Valley County Park and get your team together today. After the races, pick up your free t-shirt and stay for an afternoon of family fun and activities. Bonus: Help Ocean Shore win the Top Participation Award by registering by this Friday. To register and find more information, visit www.runandfun.pacificaef.org. Questions? Contact Catherine at wachtler.c@gmail.com / 650-201-3360 or Ana at anarestivo@yahoo.com, your PEF liaisons.

New phone option when calling the Ocean Shore School office to report an absence! Please call us each morning your student is absent. You are now able to dial #1, and leave a message about the absence rather than wait for the phone to be answered. Please follow the prompt on the message when reporting an absence. We need to know your child's name, reason for absence, and date of the absence. Thank you!

Ocean Shore is participating in the innovative climate change program, **Cool the Earth**, at our school. After our first week of collecting coupons, we have already collected 248 coupons! This means we have cancelled 13 cars, and saved over 150,000 pounds of carbon from being added to the atmosphere. Keep up the good work!

Those students returning coupons will be receiving their trading cards during the week we return from the Memorial Day Holiday.

This is a great start, and I hope to see many more families participating through the end of school. The collection box is near the Parent Folders. If you should need a replacement coupon book, please have Patricia get one from Sandy Mills' teacher mailbox. Visit www.cooltheearth.org for more information.

There is a very special screening of **BAG IT**, an award winning documentary about plastic bags and their impact on the oceans, waterways and our health on June 3 at the Mildred Owen Concert Hall, 1220 Linda Mar Blvd. in Pacifica, CA, plus a live musical performance by "The Humpbacks," Ian Butler's new band. Doors will open at 7 pm and show time will be 7:30 pm. A suggested donation of \$10 will be requested at the door.

They'll be showing the full length theatrical version, which is about 20 minutes longer than the version shown recently on PBS. For more information, go to www.bagitmovie.com.

Like all documentaries, BAG IT has an important message but it doesn't get too heavy handed. An entertaining movie about plastic bags? It's hard to believe, but in this case, absolutely!

PTO ballots will be tallied at 9 am Wednesday morning, June 1. Counting will be done in the office and anyone is welcome to observe.

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, June 3. This recycling program is run by the 8th grade class and supported by the Environmental Action Team (EAT). Please save your cans and bottles over the summer for next year's drives to be held the first Friday of each month.



www.oceanshoreschool.com