

Monday Blue Newsletter



Ocean Shore School

Pacifica, California

June 6, 2011

Quote of the week: “A commercial society whose members are essentially ascetic and indifferent in social ritual has to be provided with blueprints and specifications for evoking the right tone for every occasion.” Marshall McLuhan (1911 – 1980)

Important Dates

- 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

In September, as the year was beginning, I wrote about the shift to the Common Core standards.

California, along with at least 30 other states, has adopted the series of national standards known as Common Core State Standards. It is believed that the new standards, replacing the previous standards adopted about 13 years ago, will give California students a stronger, more succinct approach to learning math and English. They are designed to reflect the real world and help students with their future success in education and work. The new standards should be in place by the 2013-2014 school year. The aim of the new standards is to increase academic expectations nationwide, share successful teaching, curriculum, and standardized testing strategies, and to make student movement from state-to-state more efficient.

Information is available at the website: <http://www.corestandards.org>.

Our district has been working during our professional development days to prepare for the new standards. At our last working sessions, teachers were presented with more information about the shift in focus. We then worked in grade level groups to look at how our math curriculum can best be aligned to the new standards.

During the years of transition, there will not always be a smooth match between our adopted curriculum, our assessment and report cards, and the new common core standards. By the 2013-2014 year, we should have an alignment that will show consistency and focus. Expect to see changes as we work toward this articulation. Ultimately, the standardized testing system will be

dramatically overhauled to reflect the new performance based type of assessment that the common core promotes.

We expect our sixth – eighth grade classes to have an online grade book available to students and parents next year through ‘Genesis,’ our student information system. Our teachers will receive upgraded computers to handle the demands of this program, and we will investigate how to incorporate our sixth grade style of assessment reporting into a computer spreadsheet. Currently, our seventh and eighth grade classes use letter grades while our sixth uses a symbolic system that shows effort, success, and areas of difficulty. **This year, report cards will be given to our K – 6th grade students on the last Thursday of school; and will be mailed home to our 7th and 8th grade students.**

With just two weeks of school left, we are all very busy preparing for the rituals and traditions that our community shares as we end the year, transition to high school, and enjoy summer breaks. Our last day of school picnic at Frontierland Park will again have delicious food and treats for sale to support our students’ trip to Yosemite next fall. Fun water play toys will be available “for rent,” and our peer mediators will share scoop catching game equipment with our students. (We can’t have water balloons this year as we will be fined for leaving the remnants in the grass.) We look forward to seeing you all at the park!

*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.

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.



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 jwdowns@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.

Family Run and Fun Day

Please plan to join in the fun this Saturday, June 11 for the 1st Annual Family Run and Fun Day, hosted by the Pacifica Education Foundation at San Pedro Valley County Park. 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. After the races, pick up your free t-shirt and stay for lunch and an afternoon of family fun and activities. You can also sponsor a friend who's running, if you have other plans that day. 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. Thank you for supporting PEF and all our district students!

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!

Please check the Ocean Shore **LOST and FOUND**. It is overflowing with coats, hats, lunch boxes, glasses, etc. Please claim your child's items before we donate items to Goodwill on June 20!

This is the last week for the **Homework Center!**

"Cool the Earth" is happening at Ocean Shore! Trading cards and prizes were distributed last week for the coupons that have been turned in so far. As of the 2nd week, we have collected 370 coupons, which means we have cancelled 20 cars, and reduced the carbon emissions by nearly 200,000 pounds! That is so awesome!

We have also nearly made it our halfway point goal of 400 in two weeks. This goal was determined by counting 2 coupons per 400 students. This seems like a relatively painless process, but it would be great if there were more families that were participating so we can "cast a wider net" -- there are some students who are turning in nearly all of the coupons in their books, so we are not reaching as many families as we'd like.

If your student needs another coupon book, see Patricia in the office. Thanks for your support in "Cooling the Earth!" -- Science Sandy

P.S. For more info, check out: www.cooltheearth.org.

Come join the fun at **Frontierland Park** on June 17 to say goodbye to this school year, and hello to summer! The seventh graders will sell delicious items for breakfast and lunch to support their Yosemite trip in September. They are also holding the traditional raffle, with great prizes such as tickets to Great America and boxes of See's Candy. New for this year, you can rent water blasters for the day. Also new for this year, you can bid on fabulous silent auction items beginning next Monday, June 13. Some of the incredible prizes include a weeklong stay at a home near Kona Village on the big island of Hawaii, and tickets for Sea World. As a reminder: please do not bring water balloons to the park as they are not permitted and we will be fined if we leave broken balloons on the ground. Hope to see you at the park on June 17!



www.oceanshoreschool.com