

Oxford School News

April 15, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The year is quickly winding down and some of you are asking about next year. While it is tempting to want to spend time visiting the classrooms to get a sense of the next grade level, we *strongly discourage* you from doing so.

The teachers and students find it quite distracting to have visitors coming into the classrooms. The teachers also do not want to meet individually with parents to talk about incoming students. I hope you can understand the extra demand this places on them. Additionally, I do not yet know who will be teaching which grades in the Fall. There will have to be some changes due to the kindergarten and 2nd grade "bubbles". The teachers and I will make up the classes for next year in June. At that time, we use a complex system of placement that takes into account an extensive list of factors. We work hard to make balanced classes overall as well as to match each individual child with the best teacher and set of classmates for his/her needs. I know it may be tough to trust our assignment process. Your cooperation with us preserves the integrity of the process of creating balanced classes that benefit every student.

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

5/7	Talent Show
5/13	Make It and Creativity Fair
5/17	Malcolm X Holiday (no school)
5/27	Open House, evening at Oxford
5/31	Memorial Day Holiday
6/11	Heritage Potluck
6/18	Last day of school

PTA News

Please make note of event date changes:

- Talent Show - *Friday, May 7*
- Creativity Fair - *Thursday, May 13*
- Heritage Potluck - *Friday, June 11*

Oxford families who would like to attend the exhibit on race at The Lawrence Hall of Science, on **Thursday, April 29**, free of charge, please contact **Melanie** or **Chrissy** to arrange car-pooling or to find out more details. Information about the exhibit is below:

RACE: Are We So Different?

The Exhibit goes from **January 30–May 2, 2010**

It's a simple truth: People are different. Throughout history, these differences have been a source of community strength and personal identity. They have also been the basis for discrimination and oppression. This exhibit provides an opportunity to understand race from a biological, cultural, and historical perspective through engaging, hands-on science experiences, real artifacts, and videos that present people's unique stories.

Science Teacher Substitute

Our 4th and 5th grade science teacher, **Ray Adams**, had surgery on his shoulder and expects to be out for the rest of this school year. Retired Oxford teacher, **Sandra Wara da Baca** is the long-term substitute. *We are happy to have her back!*

Morning Drop-off

Please do not park in the loading zone on Walnut Street or Oxford Street. If you want to park, you will need to drive further up or down the block. We need the loading zones to be free of parked cars.

NOTE: An UPDATED BUSD calendar for 2009-2010 is available online at the BUSD website: <http://www.berkeley.net/school-calendar/>

Lost and Found

Please check the Lost and Found box and *rack*.
The box is overflowing!

Submissions for the Oxford School Newsletter

Please email submissions to:

OxfordSchoolNewsletter@gmail.com

as attached MS Word documents. Submissions received by Fridays will go out in the Newsletter the following Thursday. Please send an email to the same address if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. *Thank you.*