

Oxford School News

December 10, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am keenly aware of how difficult it is to be at school by 8:00 AM. Yet, it is very important that your child arrive at school on time daily. Many mornings I see teachers walk as few as 5 students into class to start the day. The rest of the class trickles in for the next 30 minutes. Please teach your child the importance of arriving to school on time. As I said at Community Meeting last week, you don't arrive at a movie 30 minutes past its start time and the school start time should receive at least that much respect.

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

12/11	Spell-a-Thon money due
12/17	Winter Fair, evening at school
12/21	Winter break begins
1/4/2010	School resumes
1/12/2010	PTA meeting, 6:30-8:00 PM
1/18/2010	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
1/28/10	GATE meeting, 6:00 PM at B-Tech
2/1/2010	Staff Development Day (<i>no school</i>)

Reminder:

Please don't forget to collect and return all Spell-a-Thon money by tomorrow Friday, December 11th. Thank you!

PTA News

Next week we will have our **annual Winter Fair** on *Thursday evening, December 17th*. Winter Fair was started about 25-30 years ago by a group of Oxford teachers who wanted to create an event during the holiday season where families could share their holiday traditions devoid of the frenzied commercialism that permeates this season. Children and adults work side by side on crafts projects, playing games, sampling food, making gifts, and so on. The goal of the night is to have fun and learn about each other's winter traditions. **Please contact your room parents to find out how you can participate this year.**



—Chrissy Meuris & Melanie Green, PTA Co-Presidents

It's Holiday Meal Basket time again!



For those of you who are new to the school, each winter Oxford families generously donate their time and money in order to provide delicious meals for families at our school who might otherwise not be eating so well over the break. The decorated donation box is in the office, near Lety's desk. **Please visit!** And if any of you are interested in shopping for a meal this year, let me know. Given the economy, we may need up to 20 shoppers, which is a few up from last year. The drop-off day (*right near the school*) is the first Saturday morning of break again, which falls on **December 19th** this year. This event doesn't require much: a bit of cash (*whatever you can part with, really*) and an hour or two at the market. In return you get that terrific feeling of having done something really good, as well as the gratitude of the entire Oxford community. For more information, please contact: **Jean Fichtenkort** or **Laurie Peterson**.

Turn Off The TV

Please feel free to send in ideas for future newsletter issues. **What does your family like to do together instead of watching TV?** Here is this week's suggestion:

Play "Buzz". Pick a numeral between 1-10. Then starting with 1, take turns saying the next sequential number. When someone gets to a number that has the chosen numeral in it, she/he says "buzz" instead of that number. (*Ex: If the numeral is 4, you would "buzz" on 4, 14, 24, 34*). If anyone forgets to "buzz", that person sits out until there is only one person remaining. See how fast you can go. Variation for older students: *Also "buzz" on numbers that can be divided evenly by that number (4, 8, 12, etc).*

Lost and Found

There are many jackets and sweaters and sweatshirts in the **Lost and Found** box in the rotunda area near the cafeteria. We will be giving away any unclaimed items **before the winter holiday**. Please write your children's names in theirs jackets so that we can return them to you should they leave them lying around the school.

Gifted and Talented Education (GATE)

Berkeley Unified gives a test to all 3rd graders to identify those students who qualify for GATE. The test is a non-verbal reasoning test called the Raven's Progressive Matrices Test. It is state law that all children must be tested but Berkeley does not have a GATE program. Berkeley Unified requires all teachers to challenge all students in all subject areas through differentiation of instruction. One example of differentiation is literature circles where students are in book groups with other students at their reading level.

Helpers Needed

Yes, believe it or not, work has begun on our biggest fundraising effort of the year, **Oxford's annual Spring Auction Raffle and Dance**. There are many finite tasks that need to be done behind the scenes to get this event off the ground. Jobs range from stuffing envelopes to data entry to in-person soliciting for prizes. If you have an hour or maybe a few to give, contact ***Kristen Takakuwa or Paula Leon-Bravo*** for more details. Give us a hand and feel good about getting involved in your child's school.

Room 7 Needs Food Jars and Plastic Animals

For **Oxford's Winter Fair** on **December 17th**, *Room 7's activity will be making terrariums*. So that everyone can participate who wants to, we would like to collect 150 food jars -- from baby food size to spaghetti size -- along with their tops. Instead of throwing your jars in the recycling, give them to us! Please bring cleaned jars (ideally stripped of labels), and any little plastic animals you would like to part with, to Room 7 by **Monday, December 14th**. ***Thanks!!***

Suzanne Delbanco (*Jorah's mom*)

Oxford E-Tree

If you want to receive important information electronically, you should subscribe to **Oxford's e-tree**. Only subscribers may post and have moved to a moderated format to ensure that only school-related topics are posted. To subscribe to the list, send a blank email to:

everyone-subscribe@oxfordelementary.org

Instructions for subscribing and unsubscribing will also appear automatically at the bottom of all emails.

Easy things to do to help Oxford:

Box Tops for Education

If you don't already collect **Box Tops for Education**, you've probably seen them on some of the products you buy. The Box Tops for Education label is bright pink and yellow. Here are just some of the brands that carry the label:

Ziploc, Nature Valley,

Green Giant, Chex Cereal,
Yoplait Kids, Betty Crocker

Rolls, Kotex, Huggies, Hefty

Total Cereal, Wanchai Ferry, Curves

Each one is *usually worth 10 cents to Oxford*, so please look out for them on grocery packaging and turn them in to the Box Tops for Education box in the front office. **Thanks!**



Office Depot 5% Rebate:

Did you know that if you give Oxford's number when you purchase at **Office Depot** we get *5% back on all of your purchases*? Just give the cashier our number each time you make a purchase (Oxford ID: 70006124) or just ask the cashier to look it up.

Sign up for eScrip!



Just go to eScrip.com and register your credit/store cards or pick up a mail-in form in the office. Then, *earn money for Oxford every time you shop!* eScrip ID: Oxford School # 137106327

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.