

Oxford School News

January 21, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Many of you have contributed generously to the Enrichment Fund and I appreciate your support. I know that having P.E. classes was a priority so I wanted to give you an update on that goal. In October the School Governance Committee approved site funds to be combined with Enrichment Fund donations to hire a PE teacher. Since that time we have been waiting on BUSD to hire **Jarrett Sanders** back. There have been many delays and I hope that they will be able to hire a teacher for us very soon. I suspect we will now have enough money to cover his salary given the late date. Now we can start funding other priorities!

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

1/28	GATE meeting, 6:00 PM at B-Tech
2/1	Staff Development Day (<i>no school</i>)
2/4	OASIS Gala, 3:30PM at school
2/12	Lincoln's Birthday (<i>no school</i>)
2/15	President's Day Holiday (<i>no school</i>)
3/29-4/2	Spring Recess (<i>no school</i>)

PLEASE NOTE this correction to the BUSD calendar:

There is **no school on February 1st.**
January 25th is a *school day*.

PTA News

Thanks, thanks and more thanks from the PTA:

As many of you know, the **Spell-a-Thon** exceeded expectation as a fundraising event and we are thrilled! We raised over **\$17,000 dollars!!!**

Many, many thanks go to **Rebecca Kormos and Brook Vinnedge** for their work on this event. They rolled up their sleeves and got right to work, on an event Oxford had never done before! Also, thanks to the many grandparents who came and scored the spelling tests and to **Bob Pauley** for creating flyers featuring the "*Spelling Bee*."

While we are on the subject of thank you's, there are many more folks to mention. First we'd would like to thank **Satchu Constantine** and the **Fixit Club members Carl Kempf, Elena Gardella, Heidi Ross, Kevin Boone, CJ Higley, Susan Constantine (Jorah's grandmother) and Jean Ficktenkort and family**. For their latest school improvement, they have painted all the class bulletin boards in the hallways.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to **Heidi Ross** for all she has been doing, especially the beautiful poster in the hallway encouraging us all to contribute to the Oxford Enrichment fund. And that's not all! Stay tuned to the Oxford School News for the next installment of Thanks You's.

PTA Meeting: We had a great turnout at our PTA meeting last week. We were so happy so many of you came out for the first of our **three part series on addressing diversity issues at Oxford** and helping to make Oxford a place where all families feel welcome and experience equality. Thank you to our facilitators from *UpStream Consulting*, **Kimberly Bradley, Psy.D** and **Jill Miller, Psy.D** for helping us begin this dialogue. Thank you to **Daniele Svingos, Judy Appel, and Paulette Butler** for organizing the program.

Here is a great resource list of books you may want to check out for more information about how to discuss issues of race and oppression at home and in your families:

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? by Beverly Daniel Tatum

What if All the Kids are White? Anti-Bias Multicultural Education with Young Children and Families by Louise Derman-Sparks

Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves by Louise Derman-Sparks

40 Ways to Raise a Non Racist Child by Barbara Matthias and Mary Ann French

The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism by Debra Van Ausdale and Joe R. Feagin

Overcoming Our Racism: The Journey to Liberation by Derald Wing Sue

Message from the Student Council

Hello Oxford School children and parents, The Student Council has organized a **Book Drive for the Children's Hospital of Oakland**. Please bring a variety of books for all ages, with a greater need for picture books. Remember, the books that you bring should be in good condition for the children to enjoy! We will place a marble in a jar for each book we collect. Each marble will represent a book donated to Children's Hospital. Every morning, Student Council representatives will come to each classroom to collect the books that you bring. This exciting event began on Tuesday and will continue for the rest of the month. **Thank you for your support!**



Sincerely, *Student Council*

OASIS Fifth Year Anniversary Gala

This year marks the fifth year of the OASIS program at Oxford School, which has brought five years of exploration, community, fun, enrichment, and learning. These past five years have been marked by growth of our program offerings, of our enrollment, and of the undeni-

able interconnectedness of OASIS to the rest of the school community. The foundation that was laid five years ago provided the framework for continuous expansion and we are so proud. To commemorate this auspicious occasion, OASIS would like to invite the entire Oxford community to a **Gala Celebration on February 4th at 3:30 PM**. Come and see what the kids have been doing and learn more about OASIS Enrichment. Each class will have a booth to highlight what it's all about and the **Afro-Haitian dance program** will perform at 4:15 PM. **Stay and continue the celebration with a community potluck!** Parent involvement will be needed and much appreciated. If you can help with the potluck set-up and coordination, please email Aaron. Thank you for all of your support these last five years. Can't wait to see you all at the **Gala!**

Accidents Happen

...and so the office likes to keep a stock of clothing for kids who don't make it to the bathroom or otherwise get wet or especially dirty at school. **But currently stores are low!** If you have old or extra clothes you could donate, including underwear, fitting boys and girls from Kindergarten age up, please bring them to Lety. They'll be put to good use to help an uncomfortable kid.

GATE Meeting

There will be a **GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Parent General Information Meeting on Thursday January 28th, from 6:00-7:30PM** at BTech Auditorium. This meeting is for parents of **GATE** students who have not been to General Information Meetings previously, and for other interested parents. It will be a repeat of the **GATE Meeting** that took place on October 29th.

Kindergarten Enrollment

The Admissions Office is now accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year; the deadline is February 5th. If you

have incoming younger siblings you need to submit enrollment information for these students to BUSD, and specifically request sibling preference on the parent preference form. They very much want to keep siblings together and it is much easier for everyone involved to do this during the first round of admissions. Thank you for your help on this matter.

Middle School Registration

Fifth grade parents should check the BUSD website for information about how to register your student for middle school for the **fall of 2010**.

<http://www.berkeley.net/index.php?page=middle-school>

Lost and Found

Please, please write your children's names in their jackets so we can return them when they end up in the Lost and Found box.

Reporting Absences

If your student is absent, please call the school office or send an email to Lety Marquez letting her know why they won't be (or weren't) at school. Emails to the principal or teachers require extra steps in reporting attendance to Lety so **please follow this procedure**.

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.*