

# Oxford School News

January 28, 2010

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



We are coming up on assessment season again. In February your child will take the 2nd trimester math assessment, the BEAR spelling inventory, the DRA or QRI reading assessment, and a writing assessment. It is a very busy and stressful time for teachers but they try to minimize the impact on their students and on their teaching. As we approach the end of the second reporting period we will be contacting the families of students who are below grade level and/or at risk of retention. I will be stepping up my efforts to ensure that all students arrive on time daily.

—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 <i>at school</i>          |
| 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.

## PTA News

*More Gratitude!* A big "Thank You" to the parents who came out to represent our wonderful parent community at Oxford's Kindergarten Night. Thank you to **Daniele Svingos, Jackson's mom, Kirsten Williams, Shawndaniel's mom, and Heather O'Brien, Torin and Cayden's mom.**



Thanks also to all of you who have been willing and able to lead the Kindergarten Tours: **Lee Kempf, Marilee Lovell, Sally McLaughlin, Heather O'Brien, Elena Gardella and Heidi Ross!**

Our dedicated RIF committee, **MaryJane Pauley, Heidi Ross, Sue Guevara, Susan Storch, Tracy Tingle, and Kathryn Levenson** *deserve a big round of applause* for their work ordering the books, publicizing the event, creating a very mysterious theme and organizing the actual RIF days!

Last but not least, thank you to **Jean Fichtenkort, Wendy Hefner, Laurie Peterson and Andrea Lampros** for all their work on the **Holiday Meal Basket Project**. Our community came together to raise a lot of money in a tough year. Thanks also to all, —adult and kid, —who shopped, put together meal baskets, and delivered them to **Jean and Wendy's** house. And **'Hats Off!'** to the hard working elves that made sure the baskets got to where they needed to go! Thanks Everybody!!!

—*Chrissy Meuris and Melanie Green,*

## Traffic Safety

Please remember to follow these simple rules to make drop-off and pick-up safe for everyone:



- Drop students off on the school side of the street. Do not have them cross Oxford St.
- Pull up all the way when there is an open space in front.

- Do not turn around in the middle of the block.
- Do not use the driveway to turn around.
- Make a safe u-turn at Los Angeles St.
- Do not park your car in the loading zone.
- Consider dropping your child off at Walnut St. where there is always an adult on duty.

## Reading Coach Update

The Reading Coach Program is going strong this year. We continue to have our wonderful group of community volunteers who give so generously of their hearts and their time. **The thing that is really standing out to me this year is how many parents have also stepped forward this year to coach!!! We have twelve parent coaches this year!** This is a great turn of events, because the parent community is such a great resource: a caring and committed group. Many of the parent coaches work with one student, one day a week after drop off, for the first half hour. **It's a great set up!** I am so grateful that so many of you are able to give your time in this way. *The program quite literally could not be run without you!*

—Chrissy Meuris  
Reading Coach Coordinator



## I am a Performer Concert



All Oxford students will perform with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra on **February 26 at 10:20am in the cafetorium.** The 4th and 5th graders will play their instruments, the 3rd graders will play their recorders, the 1st and 2nd graders will play rhythm instruments and the kindergartners will sing. **Don't miss this wonderful event!**

## Haitian Relief

We are collecting money in the school office to send to Haiti. Berkeley High School set a goal of **collecting \$2 from every student.** We decided to do the same. **We will be collecting money from now until February 15th.**

## OASIS Fifth Year Anniversary Gala

Don't forget to mark your calendars, the **Gala** is right around the corner...**Thursday FEB. 4th!** Come view the **OASIS gallery of enrichment classes** at 3:30 PM, stay for the **Afro-Haitian dance performance** at 4:15PM, and a **community potluck** at 5:00 PM. There might be standing room only, *so make sure you arrive on time to get a seat...* Parent volunteers are needed and greatly appreciated. Please contribute whatever you can to the potluck. You can bring all food to **Aaron's office** on the day of the **Gala.** *We would also love help with the Gala set-up.* Please call the OASIS office at 644-8883 or email Aaron if you can help. We thank you for all of your time and support. *The kids are so excited to show off all that they have been working on!*

**See you February 4th!**

**In additional OASIS news,** there will be a new **Recorder session** beginning in **February** for *first to fifth graders.* Classes will be held on Wednesdays. Contact **Aaron** if your child is interested in signing up.

## Oxford Community Circle Time Bank

The **Oxford Community Circle Time Bank** is putting out feelers to see if anyone could help **Mark Kohr** with community builder events plus *Time Banking* education and advocacy. He needs a little help. This is a way to get to know your parent and teacher community better while creating a unique forum for people caring for one another. The best way to make this work is to get together, have fun and ask one another for help with those simple everyday things in our lives that we shouldn't have to pay for. If anyone is interested in growing this unique and caring endeavor into something really special, please email **Mark Kohr** or ask **Janet Levenson** what you can do. you can do. *Thank you so much.*

## Reminder: Student Council Book Drive

The Student Council has organized a **Book Drive for the Children's Hospital of Oakland**. Please bring *a variety of books for all ages, especially picture books.* Every morning, **Student Council** representatives will come to each classroom to collect the books that you bring. This will continue for the rest of the month. *Thank you for your support!*



## Reminder: GATE Meeting (TONIGHT)

There will be a **GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Parent General Information Meeting** on **Thursday January 28th**, from **6:00-7:30 PM** 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**.

## Reminder: 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](mailto: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.*