

Oxford School News

March 25, 2010 ~ Special THANK YOU Addition

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Last week we had our validation visit for the *Distinguished Schools* award program. We will receive official word on April 16th, but the reviewers are recommending us for the award. Needless to say, they were very impressed with our community. They commented that they found it very unusual how we refer to the classes. Rather than referring to them in the standard way by teacher name ("Mrs. X's class"), we refer to them by the grade level ("the 2nd grade"). I was glad to get this feedback because we try to see the students as a group and encourage you not to limit your child's play dates to the students in their class in a given year. Another observation they made that I think is worth sharing came from their interviews with students. They marveled at how the students spoke about their strengths and challenges as learners, and about strategies they could use to improve. Again, many thanks to all of you who helped to make the visitation day a success and for all you do each day to support the learning of every student at Oxford.

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

3/29-4/2	Spring Recess (no school)
4/11	Craft Sale and Farmer's Market 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Oxford
4/13	April PTA meeting, 6:00-8:00 PM
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
6/18	Last day of school

PTA News

WOW! What a night in the woods!

This year's **Auction Raffle Dance** was a blast!
Good food, good music, fun prizes.

But none of it would have happened without the hard work of SO MANY people!

First off we would like to thank the committee heads, **Kristen Takakuwa** (auction), **Oswaldo and Paula Leon** and **Oenone Youngblood** (raffle), **Marilee Lovell** (dinner) and **Kaye Anderson** (the dance).

Thanks to **Anna Rainer** for spearheading the "Night Of" Grand Prize Raffle.

Thanks to **Rachel Williams** for being our spirited EmCee and to **DJ Dave and Richard Dawkins** for the great entertainment!

A big thanks to **Ceci Bowman** for her fabulous flyer design.

Thank you to **James Paxson** for his invaluable raffle guidance and hard work behind the scenes.

Thanks also to **Lee Kempf** for her guidance every step of the way!

Delicious food was provided by **Gregoire Restaurant** and **Sandy & Richard Harris** donated the pizza!

Thanks also to all our *countless bakers* who provided the home made treats that flowed all night long! *You know who you are!*

And don't forget about our next PTA meeting featuring the *third* in our three part series on **making Oxford a welcoming community for all families!**

*Tuesday, April 13th,
Dinner and Child Care Provided!*

—Chrissy Meuris, PTA Co-President

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

From Kristen Takakuwa:
Thank you one and all for your support of the 2010 Auction!

Data entry team: **Kellie, Tana, Lyra, Niema**

Envelope stuffers: **Paula, Chrissy, Lee, Carl, Yeshim, Colleen, Kathleen, Kathryn, Keri, Jin**

Prize tracking, entry & bundling: **Kathleen, Lee, Cheryl, Debbie, Lyra, Tana, Keri**

Certificates and Prize envelopes: **Lynn and Kathryn**

Night of set-up, staffing, clean-up: **Monika, Laurie, Chrissy, Paula, Oswaldo, James, Cheryl, Greg, Rachel, Brie, Stephanie, Heather, Elena, Melanie, Lee, Tana, and Aaron Grayson and his staff!**

Also, a special thank you to Oxford's teachers, staff, parents and families who donated amazing gifts to the auction catalog.

From Kaye Anderson:

MANY THANKS to:

DJ Dave (dad of Davori in 5th grade) for the fabulous music.

Rachel for her MC-ing and general amazing presence.

Richard Dawkin for teaching the kids Traditional English dance.

Oenone for the artwork and banner.

Jennie Knight for helping with artistic vision, decorations and the disco ball.

Lyra and Rick for decorating, hanging lights and the aforementioned disco ball.

Ceci Bowman for procuring branches and decorating help.

Keri Troutman for helping the 1st graders make the wonderful hanging owls.

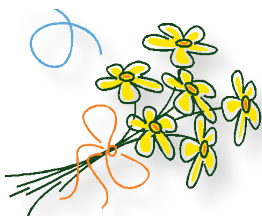
Aaron and the OASIS staff for helping kids make decorations.

All the kids in OASIS who were so helpful decorating, moving things, and entertaining us while we worked.

Everyone who stayed to help take down decorations, clean up, sweep, and put the school back together.

From Paula Leon:

Running the raffle this year has been great! Thanks to all the kids and parents who bought and sold tickets. Special thanks to Cheryl Beckerman, Colleen Urgiris, Yeshim Erim, Lee Kempf and Oenone Youngblood for counting all the raffle tickets for four weeks. Thanks Yeshim for your Barnes and Noble donation, it was a hit! Thanks Lee for all your help and knowledge of the school. Oenone thanks for being the creative one in this project. The tickets, envelopes and



posters looked great! **Oswaldo Leon** thanks for volunteering me for this great event.

From Marilee Lovell:

Thanks to **Heidi Ross** for shopping for fruit and **Sandy Harris** for bringing pizza and water. Thanks to **Sally Mclaughlin** for the compostable forks, plates and napkins. Thank you **Ceci Bowman, Nan Mervin, Heidi and the really helpful after-school kids** who helped prepare 7 tubs of fruit salad.

I can't say a big enough "*Thank You*" to **Roderick Ridgway, Miguel Osorio, Carl Kempf, Mike Pond and Nan for all your hard work!!!!** Everyone of you jumped in and knew what needed to happen to *serve 375 dinners in a little over an hour.*

Thanks to the **cashiers** who kept the line moving---I didn't even see who was out there because the evening went by in a blur.

Extra thanks to Dylan, Roderick and Mike for staying in the kitchen and cleaning up until the end.

And, so many people came by and offered to lend a hand or just pitched in without being assigned a duty. *Thanks to all of you for your time and generosity.*

Craft Sale and Farmer's Market

The *First Annual Craft Sale and Farmer's Market* is coming to Oxford School! Save the date of *Sunday, April 11th (10AM-3PM)*! This exciting new event will feature an abundance of *arts and crafts materials and supplies, homemade goodies, and handmade, artsy, and vintage items.* We'll also have our very own *Farmer's Market, with fruits, veggies, flowers, herbs, baskets, vases, and all things blooming..* Also at the Market ~ *beverages, baked goods, fun and music!* **WE NEED:** donated, usable craft materials--*buttons, ribbons, art papers, jewelry, etc., and produce from your gardens!* *Please spread the word...invite friends and neighbors!*

For questions or more information, contact **Nan.**

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.*