

Oxford School News

March 4, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I love Oxford's students!!! Last week I received a petition signed by 100 of them requesting that I extend the time on the school-wide math challenge. They asked me to give them 5 minutes to complete the math problems instead of 3 minutes. I have decided to honor their request, but with a compromise. **I will extend the time to 4 minutes.** It is critically important that the children practice their facts with quick recall. If they have too much time to ponder, they will not commit the facts to memory for rapid recall. **We need their math skills to match their advocacy and political organizing skills!**

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

3/12	Schoolwide math challenge
3/8	RIF Day
3/17	All school photo
3/18	Annual Raffle, Silent Auction, and Spring Dance at Oxford Oxford in evening
3/29-4/2	Spring Recess (no school)
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



Correction to previous newsletter:

Open House *has been changed to May 27.* The first annual Make It and Creativity Fair will be on May 13.

PTA News

Please join us at our **March PTA** meeting on *Tuesday, March 9* from 6:30-8:00 PM. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

We will be meeting to discuss the upcoming **auction/raffle/dance** held at Oxford on **March 18.**

Come find out how you can make this years **auction/raffle/dance** "*Into the Woods*" the best one yet!

And don't forget to also join us at our **April meeting**, when we will have the final part of our series "*Making Oxford Welcoming to All Families*".

—Chrissy Meuris and Melanie Green,
PTA Co-Presidents

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

Awesome Oxford Staff Does It Again

The **Spring Auction** fundraiser is pretty special this year. Oxford staff and teachers have come up with some great experiences for you to bid on. Bidding is going on now at www.biddingforgood.com. Visit the online auction for more details about these and other fabulous items. Some prizes involve more than one student, *so pool your resources for the winning bid!* Final bidding will be at the **Dance** on **March 18th. Good Luck!!**

- **Bowling for 4** with *Ms. Levenson*
- **A Mr. Della Penna Personalized Magic Show**
- **Ms. Owen's Oxford-Themed Quilt** made with help from her class
- **Ice Skating for 2 students** with *Aaron Grayson* + a surprise OASIS Staff Member
- **Mock "Sleepover" for 6 pairs of 2 kids** with *Ms. Vines-Aquino, Ms. Henderson & Ms. Harris* on Friday, April 16th from 6:00 to 10:00 PM
- **A New Back Pack stuffed with Grade Appropriate School Supplies** from *Ms. Snell*

- Ice Cream Sundae Party for 4 children at Fenton's with *Ms. McGilvrey and Ms. Levenson*
- Cal Logo Hooded Sweatshirts for 5 from *Ms. Arvanigian*
- 3 Sets of Tickets for 2 to see Giants vs. A's in *Ms. Sheng's Season View Box Seats*
- Rare CD of Original 1967 Acoustic Music from *Ms. Archuletta*

WOW!

Only 2 Weeks Left to Sell Raffle Tickets!

We're at the halfway point in our raffle ticket sales. The drawing is **March 18th** at the Dance. If you haven't already checked out the beautiful ticket sales chart please be sure and come in to the hallway and admire this work of art. Find your room's animal and see how far your room has climbed the tree! *All classes that make it to the top* will win a Popsicle Party for their room.



Mark Your Calendar for a Magical Evening

Thursday, March 18th is Oxford's Spring "Into the Woods" Dinner Dance, Raffle Drawing and Silent Auction. It's not to be missed!!!



GATE testing

All 3rd grade students were given a test today to determine eligibility for Gifted and Talented Education. This year BUSD has adopted a new assessment called the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt). CogAt is comprised of three parts: verbal, non-verbal and quantitative. There is no GATE program in BUSD so the test is used to identify students for the purposes of differentiated instruction in the classroom.

Panoramic All School Photo

The photographers rescheduled due to rain last week. The picture is now scheduled for **March 17th** at 12:30 PM. *You may still send in money to order one.*

BUSD A+ News Update Available Electronically by Subscription

The BUSD A+ News Update reports on the many accomplishments of our students, teachers and staff, and gives highlights of our community partnerships, and Board and administrative actions. This is the second season of the newsletter, which is primarily distributed electronically, through the District website and Etrees. BUSD encourages you to subscribe to receive it directly, electronically every month. To do so, *send an email to:*

subscribeA+@berkeley.k12.ca.us and write **Subscribe** in the subject line.

Photos and Lots More on Our Oxford Website

Don't forget to check out the wonderful and very up-to-date *Oxford Elementary School website* that our fabulous webmaster, Linnie Garnica, maintains.

Have a look! <http://oxfordelementary.org>

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.

Easy things to do to help Oxford:

Amazon SchoolRewards Program

Through **SchoolRewards**, we receive up to 10% of every Amazon purchase as long as shoppers use our *SchoolRewards link* to access Amazon.

Our link is:

<http://www.amazon.com?%5Fencoding=UTF8&tag=oxfoelemscho-20>. This link can also be found in the "links" section of our school website:

<http://www.oxfordelementary.org>.

This link takes you directly to **Amazon.com**, where you can shop just as you normally would. Please pass it on to your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else who might like to help us raise funds by shopping at Amazon.

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?* If you don't have the **Oxford ID number (70006124)** with you, just ask the cashier to look it up.

Box Tops for Education

Have you collected any **boxtops** recently? Please drop them in an envelope or baggie to send them to school. Each of these little box tops **is worth a dime to Oxford!**

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.*