

Oxford School News

May 20, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Many of you have asked who will be teaching which grades next year. I cannot say for certain at this time since we will have an opening. Our beloved **Alison Owens** is going to retire in June. She has been a very strong teacher and advocate for all children for many years. We will miss her but we expect to see her in whatever way we can coax her back in the future. **Ms. Nielson** and **Ms. Omania** are both hoping to work full time next year which would fill that opening. In the meantime, the proposed teams will be:

- **Kindergarten:** Christa Henderson, Renee Harris
- **1st grade:** Jaime Vines-Aquino, Shay McGilvrey, Donna Snell
- **2nd grade:** Mike DellaPenna, Cheryl Sheppard (working 3 days/week with a TBD teacher 2 days/week, hopefully Sandra Wara da Baca)
- **3rd grade:** Susan Archuletta, Omania/Nielson, TBD
- **4th grade:** Virginia Muller
- **4/5 Combo:** Julie Blackburn (This is one of the reasons she received an **Above and Beyond** award from Ms. Muller at last week's community meeting.)
- **5th grade:** Alison Merz, Carla Inniss

There are many details to work out with the 4/5 combination class. I am very proud of the four teachers at that grade level for their hard work and creative ideas for finding successful solutions to a potentially awkward situation. They are using this as an opportunity for collaboration, grouping students across classrooms, and so on. I am confident it will be a successful year for everyone.

Classroom placements are finalized in August and posted the week before school begins. Thanks for your patience and support of our process in creating balanced classes.

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

5/20	Walk/Roll to School Day
5/27	Open House, evening at Oxford
5/31	Memorial Day Holiday (no school)
6/11	Heritage Potluck Potluck and Family Square Dance, 6-8:00 PM
6/17	5th Grade Promotion, 9 am
6/18	Last day of school
9/1	First day of 2010-2011 school year

NOTE: The BUSD calendar for 2010-2011 school year is available online at the BUSD website:

<http://www.berkeley.net/school-calendar/>

PTA News

This year's PTA meeting schedule ended with a bang at our **final meeting of the year last Tuesday!** Thanks to all of you who have come to meetings throughout the year to hear about our thrilling budget process and our amazing minutes, to learn about issues at our school and to find out how to help the PTA.

Speaking of events, we had two wonderful ones this month. A huge "thank you!" to **Sophia Murillo** and **Genessee Lewis** for taking time out of their very busy schedules to run the talent show this year. It was a great night!

Thanks also to **Sally McLaughlin** and her crew for the "Make Stuff Creativity Fair" conceived as a way for kids to show off their talents and interests, not on the stage. Thanks to **Jennie Knight**, **Jean Fichtenkort**, **Monika Mayer**, and **Sue Guevara** for running activities that evening.



UPCOMING: we have our annual **Heritage Potluck on June 11th from 6-8:00PM.** At this event, we bring food to share, from our various cultures, and gather together on the upper yard for a year-end twilight meal. At this event we honor those on staff who will be leaving

us. **THIS YEAR WE HAVE ADDED SOMETHING NEW!!!** We will have a barn dance!!!

Come for the food and stay for the do-si-do!!!
"Thanks for the memories!"

—Chrissy and Melanie, PTA Co-presidents

Creativity Fair Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who made our first "Make Stuff!" Creativity Fair a success, especially Jennifer Knight, Heidi Ross, Jean Fichtenkort, Heather O'Brien, Elena Gardella, Monika Mayer, Sue Guevara, and all the students who brought such wonderful creations!

It was a fun, inspiring night, and we look forward to continuing the tradition next year.



Family Square Dance & Heritage Potluck



An Oxford family has generously donated a barn dance to all of us. Come to the Heritage Potluck on June 11th for an evening of food, dancing and saying goodbye to any Oxford staff members who are leaving us next year.

Oxford Statewide Ranking for 2009

Oxford's test scores from last year continue to bring us good news. The 2009 Base Academic Performance Index (API) Report, which includes state and similar school rankings, is now available at the following Internet address: <http://api.cde.ca.gov/AcntRpt2010/2009BaseSch.aspx?allcds=01611436090302>

Oxford received a "9" statewide ranking and a "10" similar school rank.

Yeah for our teachers and students and families!!!

Oxford Challenge Grant Update

Thanks to so many of you for sending in money for our challenge grant. We have raised nearly \$3500 so far and our goal is \$7500 before school is out. If we receive \$25/family, we will certainly meet our goal.

Reminder: Lost & Found

The Lost & Found bin is full of very nice stuff. Be sure to take a look before the end of the year.

Don't miss out!

Oxford E-Tree

Sign up for the e-tree to get important updates during the summer. To subscribe you just have to send an email to this address: everyone-subscribe@oxfordelementary.org

Easy things to do to help Oxford:

Bring us Your Ink Cartridges:

We recycle ink cartridges to raise money for the classrooms. We get \$1.00 for each laser ink cartridge and \$0.50 for each ink jet cartridge. Please bring yours to the box outside the office.

Target's "Take Charge of Education®" Program:

If you use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card, Oxford school can receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase as a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school.

Update your eScrip account!

Have you changed credit cards recently? If so, please log onto your account at eScrip.com and register or update your credit/debit/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

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.

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.*