

Oxford School News

November 12, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

During parent-teacher conferences I learned about some of the hardships facing our families. I am impressed with the resiliency of these students given the struggles they face every day. And sometimes it all gets to be too much and there are behavioral outbursts. And sometimes there are behavioral outbursts at school from children who do not face hardships in their lives. They are just young and struggling with their emotional development. I encourage all of you to help us support all students. When you are working in the classroom, reach out to students that may not be a friend of your child's. Try inviting new children over for a play date. Don't limit your child's friends to their classmates. The power of the community to help each young child develop and grow can be very powerful. I appreciate how much you care about and take care of the children at Oxford. It really makes a difference.

—Janet Levenson

School Calendar

- 11/13 Berkeley Symphony Orchestra concert, Oxford School, 8:30 AM
- 11/19 *Anticipated* H1N1 vaccine clinic
- 11/20 Spell-a-thon
- 11/25-11/27 **Thanksgiving Holidays**
- 12/17 Winter Fair, evening at school
- 12/21 **Winter break begins**
- 1/4/2010 **School resumes**
- 1/18/2010 **Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday**

H1N1 Vaccination Clinic at Oxford School

An H1N1 flu vaccination clinic for students is scheduled for **November 19th, 8:30-10:00 AM**, at Oxford School. Students can receive the nasal mist vaccine if you have filled out a consent form. Some students may receive the shot instead based on their health situation (*e.g. asthma, compromised immune system, diabetes*). The parental consent form will be sent home in a packet with your student. **We must receive the consent form back in order to have your student participate in the clinic.** The distribution of the H1N1 flu vaccine to our area has been delayed and uneven. I received emails from the health center at UC Berkeley and from Kaiser Permanente Richmond regarding the shortage of vaccines. This clinic is an excellent opportunity to have your children vaccinated in the familiar atmosphere of their own school. The Health Department nurses will be doing all the actual administration of the vaccine. **Kathryn Levenson** and **Amy Garlin** are coordinating the volunteers for the clinic. We need parents to help collect forms, move the children through the process quickly, and give them a sticker at the end. We could still use at least two more parent volunteers. Please let us know if you are available to help.

—Kathryn Levenson

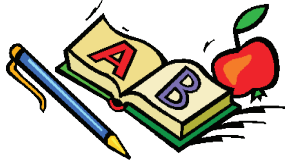
PTA News

We had our initial meeting about the **Spring Raffle/Auction/Dance** last week. Save the date for the big night that will be happening on **Friday, March 19th** at Oxford. The meeting was a great success with a lot of energy and ideas being expressed. We need your help making sure this year's **Spring Raffle/Dance/Auction** is a success. Anyone who wants to be part of it should let us know by contacting **Chrissy Meuris** or **Melanie Green**. It's going to be a fun time for all!

Also thanks to Janet Levenson for presenting her Oxford by the Numbers talk at this week's PTA meeting.

—Chrissy Meuris & Melanie Green, PTA Co-Presidents

Spell-a-Thon



Just *two weeks* until the **Spell-a-Thon (November 20th)**!

Please keep signing up those sponsors! Anyone can sponsor you per correctly spelled word or for a set overall amount. **Study those words!** The **Spell-a-Thon** will be on **November 20th at 8:30AM** in your classroom! If you need a pledge sheet or lists of words, you can find additional copies on the office, or contact **Rebecca Kormos or Brook Vinnedge**.

After the **Spell-a-Thon**, you can collect those pledges. You'll need to return all money by **Friday, December 11th**.

Grandparents of Oxford School Students!

Please join us for the *first gathering of Oxford grandparents* at **10:00AM on Friday, November 20th** to help us score the **Spell-a-Thon** tests. Red pens, coffee, snacks, and correct spelling lists will be provided! We estimate that it will take about one hour to grade the spelling tests. *Thank you!*

Traffic Safety

We need people in the mornings to help direct traffic on Oxford St. Can you spend a few minutes in front of the school reminding people to drop off students safely? Please let Janet or Lety know if you can help.



Halloween Photos on Website

Our fabulous webmaster, Lynn Garnica, has posted many great photos from Halloween.

Check them out at:

<http://oxfordelementary.org/page15/page15.html>

Reminder: Berkeley Symphony Orchestra

Please join us on *Friday morning, November 13th at 8:30AM* for a performance by the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra.



RIF-Reading Is Fundamental

Upcoming is our **first RIF distribution of the year**. It will be on Monday, November 16th from 8:00AM -12:00 PM in the Oxford School Library. RIF is a program that gives a book to each child in the school four times a year. It is entirely volunteer run and PTA funded. *The kids come down to the library and get to pick a book to keep!* Participating in RIF distributions is a fun and easy way to get to know the kids and other parents. There is no long-term commitment; you can show up Monday morning and help out for as little or as long as you can. Even if you can't come for the distribution, there are more jobs that need doing ahead of time. On Friday afternoon, we set up the library so it is ready to go on Monday morning. All children get a bookplate in their book with their name on it, so if you are handy with a computer, you can do that. We also need to order books before each distribution. **RIF** is one of the first programs I got involved in when Meli was in kindergarten and I really felt it helped me plug into the whole school community, not just her classroom. I urge you to participate in any way you can! Thanks for reading.

—*Sue Guevara*

School Tours

We are currently gearing up for school tours for incoming kindergarten families. The tours are from 9:30-11:00AM Tuesday and Thursday mornings from **November 17th through February 4th**. If you are interested in helping us lead any of these tours to perspective kindergarten families, please contact Melanie. Thanks so much.

—*Melanie Green (PTA Co-President)*

Annual BUSD Kindergarten Faire

Representatives from each elementary school in the district gather to talk to prospective kindergarten parents about their school at the **Annual BUSD Kindergarten Faire**. This year the faire is at **Le Conte School on December 5th from 10:00AM - 1:00PM**. If you can come and talk about our school at this event for even an hour that would be great! Please let me know if you can stop by and help.

—*Chrissy Meuris (PTA Co-President)*

Free Family Bicycling Workshop

Sunday, November 15th, 10:00AM-noon at Rosa Parks Elementary School (920 Allston St.)

Excited to ride bikes with your child but concerned about riding safely? Come to a **Family Bicycling Workshop**, sponsored by the *East Bay Bicycle Coalition and Safe Routes to Schools*. Join other parents and kids for a morning of fun, drills, games and a neighborhood ride. Participants will learn all about using hand signals, braking, riding safely in traffic, starting bike trains and much more. Free blinky lights will be provided for every kid. Register today at: <http://www.ebbc.org/safety>

Bike Racks Coming Soon

Many thanks to **Jed Waldman** for writing a grant for us to get bike racks at school for students and adults who want to ride to school. We are hoping to install one rack on the lower yard and one in the front of the school.

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.