

# Oxford School News

October 1, 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have one confirmed case of an Oxford student with the H1N1 virus. We have also had many, many students out sick with various illnesses. Please remember to keep your child home if he or she is ill. If they have a fever, they should be fever-free for 24 hours (without the aid of medication) before returning to school. If your child has vomited in the morning before school, please do not send them to school that day even if they seem better. The same is true for staff--we will not return to school until we are fever-free for 24 hours. Together we can minimize the spread of germs.

—Janet Levenson

## School Calendar

- 10/8 **Walk-to-School Day**
- 10/12 **No school** (Staff Development)
- 10/13 PTA meeting, 6:30-8:00PM
- 10/17 **Harvest Fair/Book Fair**,  
11:00AM-3:00PM
- 11/2-11/5 Shortened days for parent/teacher conferences
- 11/6 **No school** (conferences)
- 11/11 **Veterans' Day Holiday**
- 11/13 Berkeley Symphony Orchestra concert, Oxford School, 8:30AM

**NOTE:** The BUSD calendar for 2009-2010 is available online at the BUSD website:

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

## PTA News

The PTA held its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, September 15. It was a great success. We had almost 50 attendees who participated in coming up with a list of excellent future PTA topics. We also listened to Cathy Carr of Bay Area Children First lead an inspiring lecture about how to help children transition and deal with stress. If you are interested in finding out more, you can find the handouts on the PTA table outside the office.

**Save the date for our next meeting, on Tuesday, October 13 from 6:30-8:00PM.** Food and childcare will be provided. We will be discussing how to best talk to teachers and how to make the most out of parent teacher conferences.

## One More Month Fundraising

Thanks to the many families who participated in the **One More Month** campaign and contributed an amount equivalent to what they were paying for a month of preschool/private school. If you haven't given yet and feel you can, please help us to a strong finish. Currently, the campaign has raised \$3600. With tight household budgets, this level of giving underscores the commitment the Oxford community has to all of our kids. There is no better investment. Thanks again,

*Carl Kempf & Melanie Green*

## Calling All Oxford Grandparents

Are you an Oxford Grandparent? Do you know a grandparent of an Oxford student? We are forming a new group---the Oxford Grandparents' Group! There are so many ways our grandparents can support our school from near and far. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about this group, please call the school office.

## Thank you to the Rotary Club of Berkeley

Thank you to the Rotary Club of Berkeley for once again giving a dictionary to every 3rd grader in Berkeley Unified. Our 3rd graders will each receive their very own dictionary tomorrow morning after Community Meeting.

## Berkeley Symphony Orchestra concert

Oxford students and their families will be treated to a private concert in our cafetorium on Friday, November 13th at 8:30AM. Please plan on staying that morning to hear the concert if you can. In the spring our students will perform with the orchestra!

## Spell-a-Thon

Instead of selling Sally Foster wrapping paper this year we will be having a **Spell-a-thon**. Look for details arriving soon about the words your student will need to memorize and about your role in helping to get sponsors. We are hoping our newly formed Grandparents' Group will help score all of the writing tests.

## It is Walk and Roll to School time! October 8<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

**Come to school the smart and fun way: walk, bike, skate, bus, carpool or pogo stick! (Anyway besides 1 car: 1 kid).** There will be treats & special guests on the yard that morning.

We are organizing walking-school-buses; these will meet starting at 7:30AM and leave for school by 7:45AM at ...

- Live Oak Park (*Playground on the East Side of Shattuck at Berryman*)
- Codornices Park (*Grass on East side of Euclid at Eunice*)
- Tunnel below Marin Circle (*south end near Hopkins*)
- Cragmont School (*School Side of Spruce, North of Marin*)



We are looking for families who can be “drivers” at these “bus stops”. Please contact Jed (*see below*).

**Sorry for the mix-up on last week's calendar**, which listed the day as **October 7<sup>th</sup>** – Berkeley Schools decided to plan it a day



later so the school principals can be part of the day. **Hey, everyone, let's walk or roll on Wednesday, too.**

**More about SR2S: (Safe Routes to School)**

<http://www.transformca.org/campaign/sr2s>

Oxford School coordinator:  
*Jed Waldman*

## Lawrence Hall of Science Fall Classes

LHS has exciting science classes for kids ages 2-grade 3 beginning **September 28**. Fun, hands-on classes build off kids' curiosity and incorporate unique materials such as live animals, gooey concoctions, and physics toys. Classes meet weekly from 4:00-5:00PM for four- or eight-week sessions. **Sign up today!**

To find out more and to register go to:

[www.lawrencehallofscience.org/classes/daytime](http://www.lawrencehallofscience.org/classes/daytime)

or call the Registration office at (510) 642-5134.

## Message from New Gardening Instructor

Hi everyone, I am forwarding a message from our new gardening instructor, Nick Rosenstock, who is volunteering his time to work with the kids this year. He's going through the background check process and hopes to get started within the next couple weeks. He needs a little help to get the garden beds ready for projects. And it sounds like he could use some parent volunteers on the days he plans to be at Oxford working with the kids.

*--Keri Hayes Troutman*

Dear Parents,

Hello, my name is **Nicholas Rosenstock**. I am going to be helping out at Oxford Elementary this year by being the gardening teacher. I am a 28 year old PhD student at UC Berkeley. I am studying forest ecology, more specifically how acid rain and global warming affect nutrient cycling in forests. I love gardening, and I enjoy teaching quite a bit. I have two young nephews and I generally do quite well with young kids. I will be working with each class, K-3rd, for one half hour every two weeks. I am doing this because I want to give some time to the community, because I like gardening, enjoy teaching, and like kids.

I could use some help. Firstly, I would like to erect some wooden barriers about 4-6" tall to shore up the soil so that the soil doesn't run out of the beds as it now does. To do this I need:

- **manpower**
- **a cordless drill**
- **a circular saw**
- **screws**
- **wood (1-2" stakes, 1' long, and boards ideally 1" by 8", as much length of them as you can get)**

Secondly, if folks want to spend some time with the kids helping out, that would be great. Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Send me an email if you would like to help out. I look forward to hearing from you.

*---Nick Rosenstock*