

Oxford School News

October 22, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Halloween is an exciting time for the children and we will have a big celebration at school on October 30. We encourage families to join us on our parade and for our parties and ask that you respect the school district policy of no candy at school. Students bring their costumes to school and change before the parade. We need lots of parent helpers to make sure everyone is ready in time and that all of the pieces of their costumes make it back home after the parade. Please do not send weapons or other potentially dangerous objects with your child. We will be giving Trick-or-Treat for Unicef boxes to the students as well. This fundraising drive is organized by Cal students and details will be coming out next week.

—Janet Levenson

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

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

PTA News

We had a great PTA meeting last week. Cathy Carr, our school counselor, along with teachers Renee Harris (K) and Julie Blackburn (4th) discussed how to get the most out of your upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences. I thought I would give you the highlights.

Cathy Carr opened with the importance of the Parent Teacher relationship to our kids' success at school. It is crucial that parents and teachers work as a team. Concerns or critiques we may have of a teacher should not be shared with our kids.

Cathy also talked about how anxious kids can be about conferences and how talking with our kids before the conference can help them to feel good about it. Ask your kids what they would like us to tell their teachers. What should we ask them?

If the conference has made you anxious make sure you filter this for your kids. Keep your report general and positive. There is plenty of time to address issues constructively when you have had time to think. The teachers emphasized that conferences are only 20 minutes long so it is important to come prepared with questions and to talk about your most pressing concerns first. For ideas of questions look at the "Its Conference Time!" handout on the PTA table outside the office and on our website.

Report Cards have a new format this year. The report cards will come home with a parent guide to help you interpret it but your teacher will also spend time going over this new format.

Discussing your child's social and emotional well-being at school is a perfectly legitimate use of conference time so if you prefer to go through the report card in detail later at home let the teacher know. With all grades, but especially in the upper grades, it is important to talk

School Calendar

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| 10/17 | Harvest Fair/Book Fair,
11:00 AM-3:00 PM |
| 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, 8:30 AM |
| 11/20 | Spell-a-thon |
| 11/25-11/27 | Thanksgiving Holidays |



about the home/school connection. It is important to ask about what kinds of things we parents can do at home to reinforce or facilitate the learning that happens in the classroom.

In addition, if you feel that your child needs more work or more challenging work at school it is also important to let your teacher know.

Last but not least, ask your child's teacher how best to communicate with them in the future. This is the only scheduled conference but your teachers always want to hear from you!

Thanks! *Chrissy Meuris, PTA Co-President*

Student Recognition Awards

This week the following students were recognized for going above and beyond:

K-2: *Aidan Metcalfe & Eloni Bickham*

3-5: *Hiba Muhammad & Thomas Wright*

Halloween Day Schedule

Time	Activity
8:00-10:20	K-2 Instruction
8:00-10:50	3-5 Instruction
10:20-10:50	K-2 Lunch Recess
10:50-11:20	3-5 Lunch Recess
10:50-11:20	K-2 Lunch
11:20-11:40	3-5 Lunch
11:20-12:00	K-2 Get ready for parade
11:40-12:10	3-5 Get ready for parade
12:00	K-2 Parade around lower yard making a large circle
12:10	3-5 Parade around lower yard joining the large circle
12:20	Kindergarten classes go back to class to party
12:20	1-5 Parade to Shattuck and Vine
1:20	All classes go back to class to party

Halloween Costume Swap

The Halloween Costume Swap has been set up in the middle entryway at school, next to the Lost and Found box. So clean out those closets and bring any clean, gently used costumes (or pieces--gloves, scarves, boots, belts, etc.) for another student to use. You and your child can look through the box; you may find the perfect costume for this year, *absolutely free!*



Thanks, **Heidi Ross**
(Aliyah, 4th, and Jessicah, 2nd)

Lost and Found

There are a ton of items in the Lost and Found box and we are nearing the end of the month when they will all be bagged up and given away. Please claim your items before they are gone!



And *please, please, please* write your child's name in their jackets so we can return them when they end up in the Lost and Found box.

Easy things to do to help Oxford:

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 in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. It's easy. Just visit target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. And a big thanks to those who are already participating in this program! Don't forget to tell grandparents, friends, etc. that they can participate, too!

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.