



Oxford School News

October 29, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Next week are parent-teacher conferences. Many thanks to Chrissy Meuris for the great synopsis she wrote in

last week's newsletter of the discussion about conferences that took place at the PTA meeting. I don't want to repeat all that was said, but I do want to reiterate that the conference agenda is in large part yours to set. The teachers can go over the report card, share student work, and show test scores. If you have pressing concerns or questions, let the teacher know that you would rather discuss those things during the brief conference time. Come prepared with questions so you make the best use of your time. If your child is behind grade level, find out what you should be working on at home to help them catch up. If your child is above grade level, find out what you can do to help supplement their learning at school. While we only schedule one parent-teacher conference per year for all students, you may request a conference at any time. Find out how the teacher prefers to communicate with you during the rest of the year about your child's progress. Don't forget to share the good news with your child after the conference. And remember that children need to hear at least 4 positive comments for every 1 negative one, so please remember to temper your comments if you are disappointed in what you hear from the teacher.

—Janet Levenson

Reporting Absences

If your student is absent, please call the school office or send an email to Lety, letting her know why they won't be (or weren't) at school. Emails to the principal or teachers require extra steps in reporting attendance to Lety so please follow this procedure.

SHORTENED DAY SCHEDULE

There is no school on *Friday, Nov. 6th due to parent-teacher conferences.*

There will be minimum days on Monday-Thursday of next week (Nov. 2-5) according to the following schedule:

	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THURS.
KINDERGARTEN	12:20	12:20	12:20	12:20
1ST-3RD GRADE	12:55	12:55	12:55	12:55
4TH-5TH GRADE	1:00	1:00	1:00	1:00

Please note that the Wednesday release times are no different than the other days.

There is no school on Wednesday, Nov. 11th in observance of **Veteran's Day.**

School Calendar

- 10/30 Halloween Parade
- 11/2-11/5 Shortened days for parent/teacher conferences
- 11/6 **No school (conferences)**
- 11/10 November PTA meeting 6:30PM
- 11/11 **Veterans' Day Holiday**
- 11/13 Berkeley Symphony Orchestra concert, Oxford School, 8:30AM
- 11/20 Spell-a-thon
- 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Holidays



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

PTA News

First off the PTA would like to thank everyone who volunteered and helped make the **Harvest Faire** such a successful community event this year! *We'd especially like to thank Ceci and Jennie!*

The next event we are gearing up for is **Oxford's first ever SPELL-A-THON!** This event is a terrific opportunity to combine academic activity and fund-raising. The spell-a-thon packets went out to all Oxford students in last week's Thursday folder. Each student has a list of words to study; spelling tests will be taken in class on **November 20**. Each student is to get family and friends to pledge either a flat rate or a per word rate. After the test, the student will find out how many words they got correct and will be collecting money over the **Thanksgiving Holidays**. We are hoping that each child can raise a minimum of \$120.

Money will be due on December 11.

PTA meeting reminder:

Our next meeting will be held *Tuesday, November 10* from 6:30-8:00PM. Dinner and childcare will be provided.

--Melanie Green, PTA Co-President

Update on P.E.

The School Governance Committee voted to start P.E. for the 4th and 5th graders and then add the younger classes as we raise the funds. So far we are nearly half way to our goal of raising \$34,000 for P.E. this year.

BUSD Zone Changes

The District has not reviewed the three K-5 zone boundaries (the Southeast, the Central and Northwest Zones) for 15 years. The population in the Northwest Zone currently exceeds its capacity. In the future the Central Zone population will exceed its capacity. The Southeast Zone has more capacity than population.

The Board asked staff to investigate the issue and propose solutions. Staff presented reports to the Board on August 12th and September 23rd and then conducted three public forums. Staff will make a recommendation to the Board on October 28th and the Board will make a decision on November 18th. This will allow new parents to make choices about schools for their kindergartners for next school year.

Staff is recommending that the zones remain as drawn and that beginning in September 2010, Malcolm X be shared between the Southeast and Central Zones and BAM be shared between the Central and Northwest Zone. Staff is also recommending that the allocation of resources such as formulas for flex spaces and administrative support be studied in the next year.

Capacity needs to be increased in time to start the 2011-2012 school year. Staff is recommending that the old kitchen space at Jefferson be remodeled to house two new classrooms. Staff is also studying whether Berkeley High School can fit on its own campus next year, freeing up existing portables at Washington for elementary school use.

In the future, we need to consider adding capacity to the Northwest Zone. Several ideas exist to increase the amount of space at Jefferson. These ideas need more detailed planning and will require new facilities funds to implement. The desire to minimize the impact on the playground will be one of the goals.

Friends of BUSD Libraries Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 7:00PM, Willard Library.

Always open to new members!

Becca Todd, District Library Coordinator

Berkeley Unified School District

510.644.4895 (office)

<http://berkeley.net/library-services>

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 we primarily distribute electronically, through the District website and etrees. We encourage 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. This will allow us to send you a PDF document as well as the website

East Bay LGBTQ Welcoming & Inclusive School Forum

Bringing Together Parents, Teachers & Administrators to talk about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Families and Family Diversity in Bay Area Schools:

Thurs., Nov. 5, 5:30–8:30PM @ Malcolm X Elem.

Invited districts include: Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Oakland, Piedmont, San Leandro, and Independent schools.

Dinner will be served at 5:30PM.

Program starts promptly at 5:50PM.

Sponsored by Our Family Coalition.

Contact Judy Appel for more information.

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.