

Ocean Grove Charter School

Fall Newsletter 2008



Ocean Grove Charter School Office

16900 Highway 9

Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Mailing address: P.O. Box 1824

Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Phone: 831-338-7298

OGCS Directors

Becky Cote: Educational Services

Janet Marsh: Education Specialist Support

Letter from the Directors

Here we are with another year behind us and the beginning of a new year on the horizon. It hardly seems possible that we are in our fourth year. We are working with our sponsoring district beginning the process of charter renewal for another 5 year period. We will let you know our renewal status as soon as a decision has been made by our sponsoring district!

The school has full WASC Accreditation through the spring of 2010! We are now beginning our next step in the accreditation process which will begin this Fall and continue until the Spring of 2010, when we anticipate our next scheduled WASC visit. We will be

identifying parents, students, and staff in the upcoming months to be a part of WASC study teams to help prepare for the 2010 Spring WASC visit.

All of Ocean Grove's current a-g UC system course list will be approved for this year with the exception of the history courses which must be resubmitted as new courses. We will notify our ESs as soon as we are notified which a-g courses will be approved for this school year. Let your ES know if you are interested in this information as soon as they are notified.

We are happy to announce that last year's STAR and CAHSEE (Exit Exam) attendance were very encouraging. We continue to have a good number of our students pass the CAHSEE. Those students that are in the eleventh and twelfth grade who have not yet passed the Exit Exam are eligible for extra help in the form of tutoring and curriculum to help them prepare to pass the Exit Exam successfully. Our teachers are also working hard with their families discovering individual educational plans for their students in order for them to be successful lifelong learners.

Our school wide writing program has had a successful 2 year run! We are excited this year to announce that the writing focus for 2009 is Response to Literature. Many resources are available for you to use this year at our writing assignment weblink at

http://www.ieminc.org/handbook/curriculum/writing/2009/wr_re_index.dwt. We feel it is so important for all of our students to learn to write effectively and critically for their future endeavors in any field our students will embrace. We encourage you to work hard with your ES on this year's writing project and take advantage of the help and skills they are offering. This assignment will also prepare your fourth and seventh grade students for their writing assessment portion of the STAR exam in the spring. In addition, they will also need to be able to write effectively in order to pass the CAHSEE and graduate with a diploma.

Regardless of what that career may be down the road, it is our hope that your student will be working to their full potential in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history, government, science, technology and the arts. We wish you a very successful school year and hope that you will reach high for them to meet their potential in collaboration with your ES!

Thank you for letting us be a part of your child's learning experience! --Janet Marsh & Becky Cote

A Note From the Secretary

Welcome to a new school year! I hope you are all off to an inspiring start! It's great to see many of you at the Resource Center and to hear from those who are now enrolled, who I have spoken with from the beginning. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a brief overview of the services available to you at the beginning of the school year, and year around.

SCHOOL ID CARDS: Are available upon request. Simply mail a 1x1" color photocopy of your student (labeled with name) to: P.O. Box 1824, Boulder Creek, CA 95006. ID cards are sometimes needed to verify enrollment to other agencies, as well as OGCS vendors.

PARENT LISTSERVE: Are you on the Listserve??? The Listserve is a Yahoo group that posts the latest announcements and offerings from your school. It is recommended to check out the listserve announcements at least weekly, for newsworthy items. *How do I get on the listserve?* Simply contact your ES, or email me directly at: ogsecretary@ieminc.org.

RESOURCE CENTER: The Resource Center in Boulder Creek is a place to find curriculum treasures! We have a lot of popular curriculum in all subjects as well as textbooks, manipulatives, games, parent resources, and alternative curriculum materials. Resource Center hours are: Mondays and Tuesdays 2:30-4:30, Wednesdays and Thursdays 9:00-1:00, Fridays 2:30-4:30. Make a field trip out of visiting us—our campus site has picnic and playground facilities.

I am available for questions/concerns at: 831-338-7298. (Kim Beaumont)
Have a wonderful year!

CHILD FIND

BY MICHAEL AND JILL BROGAN
Directors, Special Education

As a public school within California, state law requires our charter school to identify and assist students with academic, physical, or social/emotional issues that may impede their school performance. This process is called "Child Find" (Education Code 52040, 56300), and occurs routinely at the start of each school year.



If your child has previously received special education and/or been served under a 504 Accommodation Plan, and you *have not been contacted* by this office to discuss continued services, please call us at (619) 303-9902. Our office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 AM through 4:00 PM.

To assist our staff in better identifying and meeting the needs of underachieving students, our school utilizes a process called Student Study Teams (SST). Periodically throughout the school year, Student Study Teams meet to identify resources and supports for students experiencing difficulty in our charter school. The SST enables parents and their educational specialist to better meet the needs of struggling students by generating instructional strategies and ideas for them to use with the student. A written plan is generated for each student referred to SST to monitor his or her progress in future months.

If sufficient growth is not noted following a student's referral to Student Study Team then the youngster may need to be evaluated for possible special education support. Should this be the case, my office becomes involved in helping parents and their student throughout the assessment and identification processes. Once the evaluations are complete, if the student meets the criteria for special education support, those services and materials are provided to the youngster at no cost to your family.

If you would like to discuss your student's academic progress at an upcoming Student Study Team, please contact your Educational Specialist for more details. He or she has access to the forms that you will both complete in order to generate a referral to our SST.

In the meanwhile, should you wish to discuss any aspects of our school's special education programs referrals, identification, evaluations, or services, please do not hesitate to contact our office. It is every eligible student be identified and served in a timely and supportive manner. Here's to another great school year...



including our intent that

PARENTS + STUDENTS + EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS = SUCCESS

Upcoming Ocean Grove Group Educational Activities

October 16th: San Jose Museum of Art

- Students that attend the San Jose Museum of Art will be able to take part in the 2 Part Art Program – they will explore the current exhibitions and then create a piece of art they get to take home. The cost for this activity is \$8.00 per student, but is free for parent chaperones. The sign up deadline for this GEA is September 25th. Visit www.sjmusart.org/ for more information and directions

October 18th: Gilroy Gardens

- Students will get to explore the beautiful gardens, ponds, and trees of the Gilroy Gardens. They will get to see circus trees, a giant Monarch garden, visit the Tree Top sprayground where students might get a little wet, and more! Visit Sign up deadline for this event is October 1st. To learn more about Gilroy Gardens, please visit <http://www.gilroygardens.org/>. Student cost is \$25.00 and parent chaperones are also \$25.00.

October 28th – Gizdich Ranch

- Students will get a tour of the farm, see the juicing/canning process, and get to pick out a pumpkin to take home. Cost is \$4.00 per students, free for parent chaperones. The sign up deadline for this event is October 7th. Visit <http://www.gizdich-ranch.com/> for more information and directions.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Money for extra projects is always hard to find. Last May, due to our fundraising efforts through eScrip, Ocean Grove Charter School was able to host a reception after last year's graduation ceremony. This year, we want to do the same and provide snacks for our students during standardized testing. Ocean Grove has two great and simple ways for our families to help raise money for the school.

The first is the eScrip electronic fundraising program. By registering your Safeway Card, debit cards, and/or credit cards at the eScrip website, families will help raise funds for the school by simply using the cards. Log on to www.escrip.com, go to "sign up" and follow the easy directions. Designate Ocean Grove Charter School to receive contributions. Our Group ID is # 500007038. Register your grocery club cards from a participating merchant -- and your debit, ATM and credit cards if you wish. After registration, each time you use these cards, the store will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to Ocean Grove Charter School. If you registered last year, please go to the website and re-register your cards to confirm your ongoing support for Ocean Grove Charter School.

The second fundraising program is through Office Depot. With every purchase you make at Office Depot, 5% of the purchase price will be donated to Ocean Grove Charter School. Just mention our school code, 70211535, at check-out and the donation is automatic. What could be easier?

We are constantly on the look-out for more ways to raise money so we can enhance our school's services to our families. If you hear of fundraising ideas that you think would fit our school community, please contact Mary Ann Shapiro at mshapiro@ieminc.org. Thanks for all of your help and support in the past, and we look forward to your continued support.

Graduation

~ A Message from School Liaison

Mary Ann Shapiro

I know it may seem early, but now is a good time to plan for graduation. The date for Ocean Grove Charter School's fourth annual graduation ceremony Saturday, May 16th at the Resource Center Amphitheater, located at 16900 Highway 9, Boulder Creek, CA, 95006. There will be two ceremonies; one for the eighth grade graduates and one for the high school graduates. The eighth grade ceremony will take

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place at 3pm and the high school will be at 4:00pm. A light reception will take place after each ceremony for the graduates and their guests. Please plan ahead, placing the date on your calendars. There will be updates throughout the school year regarding graduation requirements, caps and gowns for high school graduates, and how you can help make this event special. Inform family and friends now so plans can be made well in advance to participate in this celebration.

Study Skills for Graduation and Beyond

A Great Way to Study a Novel: Tips from Shelley Ross

Reading a novel is a great way to incorporate many subject areas. I recommend that families study one novel (paperback) over an eight week period, each year if possible. In this article, I will be referring to the novel, *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*.

Before you read: Give each student a notebook. They are to put all written assignments into this notebook. Read about the author, Mary Mapes Dodge. Write ½ page about her life and put this page in your notebook.

The family should identify the location of the story. In, *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*, the story takes place in Holland (Netherlands). Discuss map-making protocol: make a map of Europe, a geographical country map, and a political country map showing its cities. Put these maps in your notebook.

Read about the country's history and its government. Read about, watch videos, look at, touch objects, and taste the things unique to this country: its people and their values, entertainment, celebrations, food, windmills, canals, dikes, wooden clogs, Delft porcelain, Gouda cheese, architecture, art.

Discuss and define setting, main characters, alliteration, and simile.

As you read the book (first two chapters typically): Assign each main character their own identifying colored pencil, another colored pencil for "setting", another colored pencil for vocabulary words/alliterations/similes. As each main character in the story is encountered, underline the phrase or sentence in the book that shows something about that person's character with their colored pencil. Have one page in your notebook for each of the main characters. Copy those underlined phrases or sentences onto that main character's notebook page. Follow it by writing the character trait that the phrase or sentence exemplifies about them: loving, patient, thoughtful, cautious, etc.

Anytime you encounter a word, phrase, or sentence that shows the setting of the story, underline it with your "setting" colored pencil. Have one page in your notebook for "setting". Copy those words, phrases, sentences onto that "setting" page.

Anytime an alliteration or simile is encountered, underline it with that colored pencil and write in the margin of the book whether it was an alliteration or simile. Have a page for each of these in your notebook and copy them to their page.

As you read, for each page, underline 2 vocabulary words you did not know. Have a page in your notebook for vocabulary words. Write the word on that page, look up its definition and write it next to the word.

It's important to know, that if the student has first "lived" the location and unique aspects of a culture, they are already emotionally involved in the book and read the novel with anticipation and excitement. The story itself becomes much richer and fulfilling. Underlining the main characters and identifying their character traits is powerful. It helps them see how an author's words "paint" the character in the reader's mind, and it gives them an opportunity to reflect on their own lives. Students enjoy finding alliterations and similes. It becomes a game for them to find them as they read and they love to share which ones they found. For *Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates*, in particular, you only want to do underlining and copying for the first two chapters because they are so rich and students have grasped the concepts by then. After that, students can drop back to just reading the story and doing their vocabulary words.

Believe it or not, students derive a lot of pleasure studying a novel in this way. I highly recommend it!

Student Submission Page:

We begin with a beautiful poem submitted by Ocean Grove Student, Annette Woerner. She wrote this poem as an assignment for her writing class with ES Debbie Notari.



My Night at the Beach
By Annette Woerner

*It was a warm and dark night.
The sound of crashing waves,
My feet on the soft sand,
The taste of nature,
The smell of salt filled my nose.
I looked up.
It was a colorful sky, a treat to my eyes.
"Annette," my dad called.*

*I ran.
I looked back from the car window, but it was not the same.*

Next, we are proud to present the art of Katy Hughes:



Contest Winner!

Katy Hughes, an Ocean Grove Charter School high school junior, won the bookmark and reading poster contest at the Campbell Library in San Jose, California. Her bookmark and poster designs were one of several student designs chosen to promote the 2008 Summer Reading Program at the library. Ocean Grove Charter School is very proud of Katy. Congratulations Katy! Keep up the good work!

CAHSEE NEWS!

The California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) is a requirement for graduation and for receiving a high school diploma. Your student has three years to attempt to pass the CAHSEE, starting in their 10th grade year. A score of 350 is required to pass each area (Math and Language Arts) of the CAHSEE.

All 10th grade students MUST take this exam in the spring. Their results affect our schools report card, which could affect school funding. Also, it has been proven that the students that take the CAHSEE in 10th grade, on average, pass it more often than those who wait!

If a student cannot attend their assigned site, the family needs to inform their ES right away. The ES can then have the assessment department make adjustments as necessary to have the student test at a location more

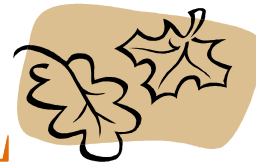
convenient for them. Check the assessment page on our school web-site for more CAHSEE information and the most current testing site information: <http://www.ieminc.org/Assessment/index.htm#CAHSEE>

Here are the CAHSEE testing dates for the 2008-2009 school year:

<i>English Language Arts</i>	<i>Math</i>	<i>Administered to:</i>
Tuesday	Wednesday	
October 7, 2008	October 8, 2008	Grades 11 & 12
February 3, 2009	February 4, 2009	Grades 10, 11 & 12 Grade 10-required
May 12, 2009	May 13, 2009	Grades 11 & 12 Grade 10-make ups

Please make sure to have your student attend the CAHSEE!

OGCS NEW VENDORS FOR FALL



Academic Aptos - All ages, all subjects, homework based tutoring, private tutoring, drop in homework help, test prep & study skills. Organizational & study skills are incorporated into every session. Located in Aptos.

Bird Rock Family Educational Software & DVD's for all ages at bargain prices.

Canada College Bookstore - Textbook & other course materials for Canada College. Located in Redwood City.

City of Cupertino Sports Center - Tennis lessons & recreational classes for K-12 in Cupertino.

City of Salinas Parks and Recreation Dept - Variety of sports activities in Salinas.

Communication Academy - Speech and Writing Classes in Cupertino.

David W. Boles - American Sign Language Online Courses With Teacher Interaction. Students learn ASL quickly via videos, images & interactive, textual, teaching. Courses are compressed, intimate & taught one-on-one.

Deborah Levoy Vocal Studio - Variety of Music Classes: voice, guitar, songwriting, performance & recording skills in San Jose.

Ellen R Waddell - Public speaking & composition classes for ages 9-11 and 12+ in San Juan Bautista.

Evelyn Pogrowski (Aromas Arts) - Art teacher for all ages specializing in drawing, painting & calligraphy (including handwriting). Located in Aromas.

Eyehighart, Inc. - Art classes: painting, drawing, mosaic, crafts in San Bruno.

FJH Music Company, Inc., The - Music books, music theory books for piano, guitar & other instruments.

Frank Longay - Longay Conservatory of Guitar - Suzuki guitar lessons & orff-shulwerk skill classes in Santa Clara.

Gala Yaroshevsky - Bumble Bee Music Studio-Flute lessons for grades K-HS in San Jose.

James R. Green - Drawing lessons taught in student homes in San Jose & surrounding areas.

Janice Perl - Vocal training for any level which includes breath control & vocal flexibility which prepares vocal chords for diverse repertoire. Repertoire includes musical theatre, jazz, folk art, pop & classical. Located in Seaside.

Jenny Rashe - Circulo-Conversational Spanish classes for ages 5-8 & 9-12 provided at Kidsart, 226-D Mt. Hermon Road, in Scott's Valley.

Jeremy Pilling - Palomar Ballroom-Variety of dance & fitness classes in Santa Cruz.

Jody Michelle Cantor - Learn Love & Grow - Tutoring in all academic subjects, K-8 in Santa Cruz county; small group instruction in all academic subjects based on the needs of participating parents & children.

Kid Advance Company - Quality Montessori learning materials in the area of geography, language, math, practical & sensorial at affordable prices.

Mary C. Whitton - Wise Music - Piano, Keyboard, Organ, & Voice lessons for grades K-12 in Salinas.

Maureen L. Martin - Martinhouse Piano School-Piano lessons for grades K-12 in San Jose.

Phyllis H. Wheeler - Motherboard Books - Learn computers from the inside out, using homeschool computer course curriculum for various ages: Computer Science Pure and Simple, grades 5-12; Logo Adventures, ages 8-12; Let's Make a Web Page, ages 8-12.

Princeton Book Company Publisher - Publisher and distributor of dance books & videos.

Rhonda Mills - Art Designs by Rhonda - Art classes K-12 using water based acrylic paints. Painting on a variety of surfaces such as wood, paper, canvas, rocks, gourds, candles, etc., students learn faux finishes/techniques as well as how to mix paints with glaze. Located in Aptos.

Richard Alan Schmidt - University Test Prep - Scholastic Aptitude Test preparation classes: Practical, in-depth seminars strategically designed to strip the SAT/ACT of their mystique. Located in Felton.

Rosetta Stone Ltd. - Source for The Rosetta Stone foreign language learning programs. Language Learning Software on CD-ROM and Online.

Stephanie Hood - Tutor for math for grades 6-12 in San Jose area.

StudyDog Learning - Scientifically-based interactive reading programs specially designed for emergent & early readers in Pre-K-1st Grade. Adventures in Reading series is used to supplement core curriculum & assist in reading interventions in over 3,000 schools nationwide. Lessons in each program were developed from the ground up to meet state early learning standards & the guidelines of the National Reading Panel. Product available in CD format only.

Sylvan Learning Center (San Bruno) - Tutoring: reading, writing, math, SAT in San Bruno.

TechRx - Computer Refresh services in Salinas.

US Sewing Machine Co. - A source for sewing machines, fabric, notions, etc., located in Grass Valley.

Vernier Software and Technology - High quality lab science equipment, software, technology & curriculum. Available from Beaverton, OR.

Video Resources Software - Video Resources Software-Video, CD-ROM & DVD Tutoring for most subjects.

Wolf Mountain Conference Association - Outdoor Education program on 640 acre site in Grass Valley. Classes include Pond Exploration, Herpetology, Nature Observation, plus several others. Wolf Mountain is on the cutting edge of introducing this exciting new field of scientific study into the grade school & middle school curriculum.

Wooden Horse, The - Science Kits & other educational materials in Los Gatos.

Worm Farm, The - Provides worms for composting. Available from Durham, CA.

Y.M.C.A East Valley Family - Various classes: swimming, exercise, fitness. Located in San Jose.

YMCA Salinas Community - Swimming lessons, Judo & Karate lessons. Located in Salinas.