



# LEADERBOARD Newsletter

April 2013

## Multi-Age Classrooms

*Focus on what makes us unique Page 6*



## Our Adopted Oak Tree

*Students visit tree at Old Meadows Park Page 4*

Open Classroom Leadership Magnet @ Conejo Elementary School



280 Conejo School Road  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
(805) 495-7058  
[www.oclm.net](http://www.oclm.net)



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Open Classroom really shined bright last Friday at our “Meet the Tree” event at Old Meadows Park. Our students experienced well-planned, meaningful and relevant activities to help connect them further to our Conejo Valley. The representative from the City of Thousand Oaks even commented on the terrific efforts of our parents and teachers and how dedicated we are to our students and their growth. She was hoping that this would spark other schools to do the same kind of philanthropy for our Oak Trees.

It is true each tour season as I meet new and prospective parents when I tell them that we are a nurturing and inspiring learning community that promotes the development of our students intellectually, socially, emotionally, academically and ethically. Thank you for all the efforts each person puts forth for our students.

Dena Sellers, Ed.D.  
Principal  
Conejo Elementary School  
Open Classroom Leadership Magnet  
(805) 495-7058

Do you or someone you know want to learn more about the Open Classroom Leadership Magnet (OCLM)?

OCLM is a K-5 CVUSD Magnet school focusing on whole child (intellectual, academic, emotional, social and ethical) learning. Learn more about our program online at [oclm.net](http://oclm.net) and by visiting our campus—call our office to schedule your tour.

Every once in a while you find a school  
**THAT FEELS LIKE HOME**

**CALL NOW**  
TO BOOK YOUR TOUR  

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The Leaderboard Newsletter is a publication of Open Classroom Leadership Magnet at Conejo Elementary School.

Please send your comments, corrections, or ideas to Kelly Gutierrez ([kelly.gutierrez@yahoo.com](mailto:kelly.gutierrez@yahoo.com)) or Suzanne Luce ([rsluce@yahoo.com](mailto:rsluce@yahoo.com)).

### *OCLM Mission Statement*

*The Open Classroom Leadership Magnet equips young people with the personal leadership and life skills necessary for success in the 21st century by developing the whole child—intellectually, academically, emotionally, socially, and ethically—in a nurturing and inspiring learning community.*

# Rooted in the Past, Innovation for the Future

## Field trip to adopted oak tree bridges Fall Festival to Stepping Up

Inspired by Fall Festival's Roots theme, OCLM students helped raise \$500 to adopt a tree through the City of Thousand Oaks' Adopt an Oak program, which supports tree conservation and open space efforts. On Friday, April 26, the students took a field trip to OCLM's adopted tree, which stands near the playground at Old Meadows Park. Parents played a big role as drivers and leading center activities.

At the park, the kids learned about the 300-year old tree from Matt Kouba, park superintendent, Conejo Recreation and Parks District, and local arborist, Dave Mortimer. They showed the kids a cross section of a 300-year old valley oak that came down recently at Conejo Creek Park, and will be delivering it to our memorial garden soon as a gift.

The students discussed the life cycle of a tree and how it starts as a seed and grows into its future as a tree or plant and then chose a seed to plant in a biodegradable ice cream cone and

exchange with another student. At other centers, the students created oak-inspired paintings and voted on wording for the permanent sign at City Hall for the adoption. They then synergized (Habit #6) with their little, middle and big buddies to lift hula hoops with just one finger and build a tree model using limited resources, which required sharing ideas and planning.

The visit to our adopted oak rounds out our roots experiences at OCLM and warms us up for Stepping Up's Innovation Fun Fridays, which begin Friday, May 3. 🌳



# HelloHarvest

*real food, to you*

## HelloHarvest Delivers Organic Produce to Conejo Elementary

HelloHarvest is now making deliveries to Conejo Elementary. Organic produce boxes will be available for pick up on Thursdays from 1:30-2:30pm and Conejo Elementary will receive a \$1 donation for every box delivered.

A small box contains 3-5 types of vegetables and 2-4 types of fruit and costs \$39 when delivered at Conejo. Larger boxes are also available.

To learn more about HelloHarvest or to sign up for deliveries visit [www.helloharvest.com](http://www.helloharvest.com). Sign up for the weekly box or every other week, which ever you prefer. You can securely pay online, and edit your exclusions there as well. Just be sure that you put a note in the delivery instructions to be delivered to "Conejo Elem."

\*\*\* Enter coupon code TRYIT & receive 50% off your first delivery. And, enter coupon code CONEJO to receive 11% off subsequent deliveries.



This month, Ms. Joelle's K/1 class shared their stories and read books at our monthly OCLM Read Aloud Nights. Thanks to everyone who purchased books for our teachers at our OCLM Barnes & Noble Book Fair!

## Upcoming Read Aloud Nights

Join us at 6pm at the  
Westlake Village Barnes & Noble Store  
located in the Westlake Village Promenade at  
160 S. Westlake Blvd. Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Friday, May 10, 2013 — Ms. Wendy's 2/3 Class

Look forward to seeing you there!



## FUNDRAISER FOR OCLM

EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF CHOCOLATE WITH SHAWN ORR, CHIEF CHOCOLATIER FOR TIFA. FULL TASTING INCLUDING 12-15 PREMIER ARTISAN CHOCOLATES, 2 EXOTIC FLAVORED CHOCOLATES, ASSORTED FILLED CHOCOLATES AND EUROPEAN DRINKING CHOCOLATE - COUPLED WITH WINES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

WHEN: FRIDAY MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> AT 7PM

COST: \$25 PERSON/\$40 COUPLE

LOCATION: CLIPPINGER RESIDENCE

(ADDRESS TO BE EMAILED ONCE RSVP PAYMENT RECEIVED)

RSVP BY MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> TO CHRISTA AT [CCLIPP@ONEBOX.COM](mailto:CCLIPP@ONEBOX.COM)

# Spotlight on Multi-Age Classrooms

## *Why are Multi-age classrooms so important?*

### **Multi-age classrooms:**

- ~ encourage collaboration
- ~ foster mentoring between students
- ~ enable teachers to differentiate based on individual needs

In multi-age classrooms and whole-school activities, OCLM students collaborate with same-age and mixed-age peers to accomplish tasks and engage in learning experiences together.

### **Mentoring and Teamwork**

Through mentoring, upper grade students gain confidence, skills and responsibility as they work with younger children. They learn to practice patience and understanding through cooperative, structured activities. Younger students develop relationships with older students, who serve as role models and challenge younger students to try something that might initially seem difficult without help. Teachers develop activities and experiences to incorporate this type of mentoring into their daily plans.

### **Fun Fridays and Annual Events**

In the six weeks leading up to Fall Festival in the fall and to Stepping Up in the spring, all OCLM students participate in multi-age groups each week on Fun Fridays. Together with peers and mentors, they prepare for these two whole-school events with activities that

### The 4 Pillars of Open Classroom:

-  Personal leadership
-  Multi-age classrooms
-  Small learning environments
-  Parent and family involvement

relate to its theme. These Fun Fridays are a highlight of the OCLM experience for the students and give them opportunities for mentoring and teamwork.

### **Individualized Learning**

With multi-age classes, teachers can differentiate in the classroom so that each child is progressing and being challenged individually. The students are grouped by level within the two grades represented in the classroom -- K/1, 2/3 or 4/5. Our parent volunteers are on hand to help make these smaller groups possible. The groups can be rotated throughout the day so that students at each level spend time with the teacher on activities designed for their readiness. This is a unique opportunity for our students and helps the teachers successfully meet each child's needs.



# OCLM Happenings



## Peers and Buddies

With a wider range of ages and abilities in the classroom, students may meet their need for peers with a classmate that they associate with academically and another they associate with socially. In buddy time, younger students are paired with older mentors from other OCLM classes. With their buddies, the students learn to interact and become friends with kids of all ages, and develop relationships that may not occur otherwise. These connections also help them feel more comfortable handling situations within the learning environment. 



## K/1 classes begin learning Spanish



Inspired from the 'Joyful Volunteering Parent Participation' Workshop with Gail Small in March, our OCLM K/1 classes are now learning Spanish from parent volunteers. Spanish speaking parents come to center time and run one of the centers in Spanish. The students have learned numbers, focusing on 1-10,

through reading and a counting project. Another week they learned colors using new stories and rainbow projects. This week, they are focusing on the colors red and black using a ladybug project. It's a win-win for all!

## 4/5 class visits Ventura Courthouse



On Tuesday, April 16, our 4/5 class visited the Ventura Courthouse. After watching a bit of a real trial, the class went into a ceremonial courtroom and here, they had the chance to take on some court roles.



## OCLM participates in Earth Day Festival

Thanks to the Volunteers who talked with families in our community about our school!



# Stepping Up 2013 - INNOVATION

This year's Stepping Up is June 12 at 5pm.  
Mark your calendars so that you don't miss  
this year-end event!

Stepping Up is the culmination of the school year for OCLM. It is a parent and teacher-run event with a festival atmosphere. The concept is similar to Fall Festival with activity booths centered around a specific educational theme, but this is an event designed for the whole family to enjoy.

The evening begins with booths for the families to explore together, with OCLM students as their guides, followed by a potluck feast. During the ceremony, each student is recognized individually as they cross the stage, symbolizing their "stepping up" to the next grade level. Upper-grade students going on to middle school each give a brief speech describing their experiences at OCLM. We also hear from our principal and teachers.

## Innovation is the theme for 2013

To connect with Fall Festival's theme of Roots, the theme chosen for this year's Stepping Up is Innovation. As the students prepare for Stepping Up, they will dig deeper into aspects of the Roots theme, such as how things grow and flower, into the idea of Innovation and looking to the future in any aspect of life.

## Fun Fridays begin May 3

Each Friday in the six weeks leading up to the event, the students will rotate with their multi-age group to a different center, led by one of our OCLM teachers. The centers will be based on aspects of this year's Innovation theme:

**Ms. Joelle** - How technology has changed (phones, TVs, computers). Design your own for the future.

**Ms. Megan** - Robotics. Make your own robots.

**Ms. Jennifer** - Innovation in Music.

**Ms. Wendy** - Personal time-line. Projecting into the future.

**Ms. Heather** - How can we plan for a better future as global citizens? Kids start a foundation and kick it off at Stepping Up.

## How can you help?

There are many ways to contribute as we plan and prepare for this event. Decorations, food, music, set up and clean up all need volunteers, so please think of how you would like to help. More information on volunteer opportunities will be coming soon so that everyone can get in on the fun of Stepping Up! 



A look back at  
Stepping Up 2012:  
Taking Flight



## Upcoming Happenings

Monday, April 29 - Friday, May 10	STAR Testing for 2nd—5th graders
Monday, May 6-Friday, May 10	Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week
Tues, May 7 & Wed, May 8	“Conejo’s Got Talent” Show Auditions
Tuesday, May 7	PFA Meeting 3pm in Room 26
Friday, May 10	OCLM Read Aloud Night 6pm at Barnes & Noble
Monday, May 13	SCOPE Meeting 1pm in Room 26
Wednesday, May 15	Habit 6 & 7 Parent Training 8:30am in the MPR
Friday, May 17	TIFA Chocolate Tasting Fundraiser 7pm
Monday, May 20-Friday, May 24	Library Book Fair
Thursday, May 23	OPEN HOUSE
Friday, May 24	K for a Day
Wednesday, June 12	STEPPING UP
Thursday, June 13	Last Day of School

## No School

Monday, May, 27	Memorial Day Holiday
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## Ongoing Events

Mondays	Weekly Welcome 8:15am Upper Quad
Tuesdays	Coffee with Dr. Sellers 8:20am in Room 26
Thursdays	HelloHarvest Fresh Organic Produce Delivery 1:30-2:30
Fridays	Stepping Up Fun Fridays—beginning May 3
	PFA \$1 Popcorn Fridays Afterschool
Afterschool	Spring Wednesday Clubs through June 12
	Spring Band and Chorus Programs: <i>Band (M/W)</i> through May 29, <i>Sr. Chorus (3rd-5th, T)</i> through May 21, <i>Jr. Chorus (K-2, Th)</i> through May 23
	Spring Afterschool Enrichment Classes through May 23: <i>Young Rembrandts (M)</i> , <i>Imagine-It Kid (M)</i> , <i>Afterschool Hoops (T)</i> , <i>Sky High Dance (W)</i> , <i>Yoga (F)</i>

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