



LEADERBOARD Newsletter

February 2013



Parent Participation

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Open Classroom Leadership Magnet @ Conejo Elementary School



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(805) 495-7058
www.oclm.net



The LeaderinMe™

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Dear OCLM Families,

It sounds simple to say that it is beneficial to volunteer in your child's classroom, but as the principal of our school I can see the direct impact it has on our students to have adults connected to them helping them learn. When you volunteer your child sees you making an "investment" in their education. This investment pays off in "dividends" both with them and for your own understanding. Volunteering in the classroom gives you the opportunity to see what happens in the classroom, get to know the teacher, and get to know the other students that your child interacts with each day. This enables you to have context for when your student comes

home and tells you a story or shares a concern. We are better empathic listeners when we better understand the context of a situation. Parent participation is also a vital component of all of the special events and programs at OCLM. Fall Festival and Stepping Up would not be possible without parents being involved, supportive and proactive. While every school has volunteers, ours is truly unique in the level of participation our parents have with their child's learning.

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

Join Principal Dr. Dena Sellers every Tuesday at 8:20am in the Parent Resource Center (room 26) for coffee and conversation.

During these informal chats, Dr. Sellers updates parents with current goings-on at school and answers questions. Participants also have the opportunity to express ideas while connecting with one another in a positive, encouraging environment.



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

The next edition will be published in April 2013.

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

OCLM READ ALOUD NIGHTS

Have you ever been to an OCLM Read Aloud Night at Barnes & Noble? It's a wonderful opportunity for our students to showcase their writing and reading talents!

The idea was born when OCLM mom, Paula Migliaccio, proposed that the Summer Jammy Nights continue into the fall, but expanded to include our older students. Rather than our OCLM teachers doing the reading, the older students would read to the younger students in a mentoring capacity.

Well, it was a success! The first year, the 4/5 grades read their favorite childhood stories and original writings to the younger grades. Soon, the K-3 teachers asked if the younger students could present their reports--with the support of their big buddies in the 4/5 class--and the Barnes & Noble Nights evolved again. What we have now is a monthly opportunity for *all* of our OCLM students to make presentations in front of an audience of their peers, mentors, teachers and parents.

This year, the nights have been organized so that one class per month is featured. The teachers help students prepare for their class' big night at Barnes & Noble. Our students are growing as they learn to speak to a group in a familiar setting, among friends, family and teachers.

Keep this unique experience going by coming to the next Read Aloud Night on March 1 at 6pm at the Westlake Village Barnes & Noble. Ms. Megan's K/1 class will be presenting. Please join us that night to cheer on our youngest students at OCLM.

If you have any questions or comments about the Read Aloud Nights, please contact Paula Migliaccio at pmluvspoooh@aol.com. 🌈

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, March 1, 2013 — Ms. Megan's K/1 Class

Friday, April 19, 2013 — Ms. Joelle's K/1 Class

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

Look forward to seeing you there!



Above: 3rd grader Ana Flores presents while parent volunteer Paula Migliaccio looks on. **At right:** Students, parents and OCLM teacher, Ms. Jennifer Jackson, listen to 2/3 students read their stories at our Read Aloud Night at Barnes & Noble in February.





Choose personalized products imprinted with your child's artwork.

 Magnets	 Ceramic Mugs	 Water Bottle	 Night Light
 Ceramic Ornament	 Apron	 Dish Towel	 Potholder
 Cutting Board	 Ceramic Tile & Easel	 Treasure Box	 Pencil Holder
 Coaster Set	 Bear with Shirt	 Eco-Cards	 Sketch Pad
 Mini Notepads	 Grocery Tote	 Book Tote	 Matted Print
 Art Plaque	 Mousepad	 Art Pin	 ID Tag
 Keytag	 iPhone Cover	 Art Flag	 Quilt Block
 Pillowcase	 T-Shirt	<small>www.silvergraphics.com</small>	

SilverGraphics is coming again to OCLM this Spring... in time for Mother's and Father's Day.

Our students have completed charming art with Ms. Ronna, inspired by the work of artist James Rizzi.

You can also submit original artwork from home.

Orders must be received by Monday, March 11.

Please contact Rebecca Jubin at rebecca@initnqws.com with questions.



OCLM is now on Conejo Deals!

When shopping online at ConejoDeals.com, be sure to select OCLM as the organization from the pull down menu.

For every deal purchased, Conejo Deals will donate \$1 to OCLM... just be sure to select OCLM from the pull-down menu!

Do you or someone you know want to learn more about 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 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**

(805) 495-7058

www.oclm.net



Spotlight on Parent Participation

One of the pillars of the Open Classroom Leadership Magnet is the involvement of our families. Without this component, the whole-child learning environment that makes us unique wouldn't be possible.

Why are our parent volunteers so important?

Parent volunteers allow for small groups, multi-age collaboration and mentoring, and hands-on activities, which require extra planning and support in the classroom. More than these essentials, our parents enrich our student's experiences by sharing their unique abilities in the classroom and through OCLM's annual events.

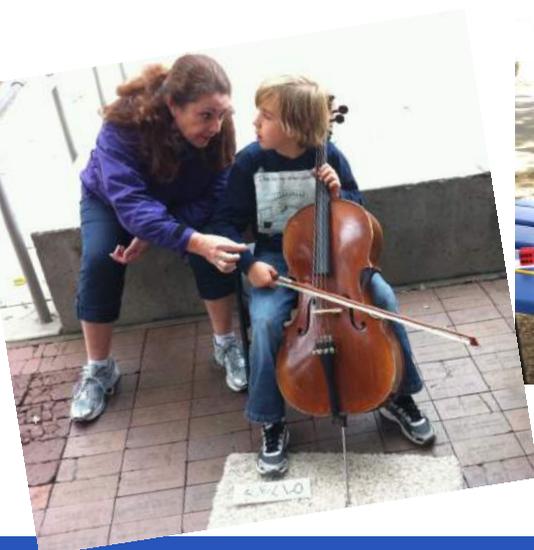
We are fortunate as parents to be welcomed into the classroom and valued as a partner in our child's education. OCLM is built on a great philosophy, but really thrives because our parents take an active role in implementing its principles. Both teachers and students

The 4 Pillars of Open Classroom:

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

appreciate help from our parents and depend on it everyday, in a variety of ways beyond academics.

Our commitment of time and energy at OCLM demonstrates our value of the learning process, and our kids notice. Also, being involved with the students on a regular basis shows them that we want to get to know them as individuals and help them be their best. 🌍



Joyful Volunteering

Gail Small Visits OCLM with a Message of Making a Difference

Gail Small was one of the early founders of the Open Classroom program at Conejo Elementary, which has become OCLM. She is an educational consultant and child advocate whose passion then and now is to help bring out the best in each and every child.

She helped design and develop the early Open Classroom experience. This included positive and effective learning for children of multi-ages and backgrounds, which remains an important aspect of OCLM. Her years of experience in Choice Theory, Circle, Self-Esteem, Journal Writing, and Volunteering also helped shape the Open Classroom program in its early years and continues to influence its current philosophy and learning environment.

Gail also has a passion for enticing volunteers to give of their time, energy and expertise to children and others. As an educator and world traveler, Gail shares knowledge, techniques and experiences with audiences of all ages, backgrounds and languages. Gail has journeyed to all seven continents in pursuit of her dream of joyful living for everyone. She has written books on education, parenting and volunteering.

Gail Small's latest book, *Joyful Volunteering*, is the focus of a workshop she will lead on March 18 & 19 for OCLM's parent volunteers. We are fortunate to have her and will likely be inspired by her stories of volunteers who have gained unexpected experiences and opportunities by giving of their time and energy. Copies of the book are available for OCLM parents and teachers for \$10. 

More About Gail:

Gail is a Fulbright Memorial Scholar, certified with the William Glasser Institute, published author of six books, named in Who's Who Among American Teachers and Who's Who In American Colleges and Universities. Currently Gail speaks on motivation and joyful living to audiences around the world. Gail's extensive experiences as an educator include working in an IDEA League of Innovative Schools, a Madelyn Hunter Clinical Teaching Demonstration School, and an Early Childhood Education Model School. She also has taught and lectured for the Gifted Children's Association. Learn more about Gail and her books (listed below) at www.GailSmall.com.



Books by Gail Small:

- *JOYFUL VOLUNTEERING: Making a Difference*
- *JOYFUL PARENTING: Before You Blink, They'll Be Grown*
- *JOYFUL LEARNING: No One Ever Wants To Go To Recess!*
- *THE SPELLING BEE and ME: A Real-Life Adventure in Learning*
- *THE BIG SQUEAL: A Wild, True, and Twisted Tail*
- *LIFE'S LITTLE LESSONS: An Inch-by-Inch Tale of Success*



All OCLM Parents are ENCOURAGED to attend one of the following workshops:

Monday, March 18 at 6 pm

Tuesday, March 19 at 9:15 am

RSVP to Robyn Schwartz at rjs828@gmail.com

Celebrating the 100th Day of School

On Friday, February 8, we celebrated the 100th day of the 2012/2013 school year. To commemorate the day, all OCLM students participated in a special assembly to meet Mr. Ziff, who is 100 years old! He is the great-grandfather of fifth grader Elana Ziff (pictured at right) and second grader Sarah Ziff. Mr. Ziff shared photos of what life was like a century ago as well as answered questions from the students. Below: OCLM students at the assembly. The K/1 students (in the front 2 rows) are imagining what they may look like when they are 100 years old.



SCOPE

Supporters of Conejo Open Classroom Endeavors (SCOPE) is the parent organization that supports the Open Classroom Leadership Magnet. With the help of parent volunteers and faculty, the SCOPE board helps to coordinate fundraising projects that benefit the school, as well as help raise money for art, music and other school-wide programs and events, including the annual Fall Festival and Stepping Up Ceremonies.

SCOPE Leadership

A sincere thank you to our current SCOPE officers for their efforts these last two years. Their careful planning and creativity help keep our school vital, our classrooms equipped and our teachers effective. We appreciate their leadership and their gifts of time and effort to provide the extra support that make OCLM a unique and fun place to learn.

We hope you will consider being a part of the SCOPE Board for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year. Our current officers will be finishing out their two-year terms and we need a new batch of leaders, like you.

Please contact Robyn Schwartz at rjs828@gmail.com for more information.

2012/2013 SCOPE Officers

President	Robyn Schwartz	rjs828@gmail.com 805-241-5381
Vice President Community	Liz Beaven	lizzeus@yahoo.com 805-495-1178
Vice President Marketing	Linda Tang	lindabtang@yahoo.com 805-241-0369
Vice President Fundraising	Rebecca Jubin	rebecca@initnews.com 818-991-4309
Treasurer	Stacey Per	staceyper@yahoo.com 805-870-4487
Secretary	Carolyn Howard	hikingdiva@aol.com 714-348-3969

2013 SCOPE Meetings

Monday, March 11	Monday, May 13
Friday, April 5	Monday, June 3

Upcoming Happenings

Wednesday, February 27	OCLM Campus Tour 8:45am
Wednesday, February 27	PFA Fundraiser at Qdoba (Janss Marketplace) noon-10pm
Friday, March 1	Read Across America Day - Pajama Day at Conejo!
Friday, March 1	OCLM Barnes & Noble Read Aloud Night 6pm
Tuesday, March 5	PFA Meeting 3pm in Room 26
Monday, March 11	SCOPE Meeting 1pm in Room 26
Wednesday, March 13	Let's Glow Conejo! Dance-A-Thon
Monday, March 18	'Joy of Volunteering' Workshop 6pm
Tuesday, March 19	'Joy of Volunteering' Workshop 9:15am
Tuesday, March 19	Women In History Presentation 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 20	Habit 4 Parent Training 8:30am

No School

Monday, March 25 - Monday, April 1	Spring Break
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Ongoing Events

Mondays	Weekly Welcome 8:15am Upper Quad
Tuesdays	Coffee with Dr. Sellers 8:20am in Rm 26
Wednesdays	Savraw Organic Produce Pick Up 12:30-2pm
Thursdays	English Language Classes 6:30pm in Rm 15
Fridays	PFA \$1 Popcorn Fridays
Afterschool	Spring Wednesday Clubs through June 12 Spring Band and Chorus Programs <i>Band (M/W), Sr. Chorus (3rd-5th, T), Jr. Chorus (K-2, Th)</i> Winter Afterschool Enrichment Classes through March 8: <i>Young Rembrandts (M), Afterschool Hoops (T), Sky High Dance (W), Yoga (F)</i>

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