



# ORCA

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

### February 9, 2010

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**Website:** [www.orcapta.org](http://www.orcapta.org)

#### **February**

09 – Special Election Day

11 – Field Trip/SCT

11 – Green Team Mtg

11 – Garden Committee Mtg

11 – PTA General Mtg.

12 – K-5 Orca Skate

**15-19 – President's Day/Mid Winter Break**

22 – Leadership Council Mtg

25 – Environmental Science Night

27 – Garden Work Party

#### **March**

01 – Leadership Council Mtg

**03 – Professional Development**

03 – General PTSA Mtg

11 – General PTSA Mtg

18 – Race Forum

**19 – Professional Development**

Please Vote!

9:30-Noon

2-2:40pm

3pm

7PM

9:30-2PM K-5

**NO SCHOOL**

3:00pm

6-8pm

10am-2pm

3:00pm

**12:40pm Early Dismissal**

7:00pm budget

7:00pm budget

**NO SCHOOL**

#### THOUGHTS FROM Ben...



Hard to believe that midwinter break is almost here. That means it's time for the annual Valentines Day Skate on February 12. On Thursday, February 11 from 7:00-8:30 pm you can warm up for the skate with a general PTSA meeting tackling advocacy for alternative education.

Take a deep breath during the week away. When you return it will be time for the spring budget/staffing rush. Mark March 3 and 11 on your calendar for General PTSA meetings to discuss Orca's 2010-2011 budget.

Orca students also just completed the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP). MAP is an assessment taken by students K-8 on the computer. It is adaptive, meaning that the questions students receive change depending upon whether or not their answers are correct.

MAP assessments in reading and math are conducted three times during the year - early fall, in January and in April/May. Teachers use a variety of tools to monitor growth, including daily assignments, grades, observations, and tests. No single test can provide a complete picture of a student's knowledge and skills. A collection of different information helps provide the clearest picture of student performance.

If you are interested in learning more about your student's performance on MAP, please contact your child's teacher. They will be able to provide you with your student's MAP results and speak to how your student performed in specific skills areas. For more information about MAP, including resources

for parents and guardians, you may visit [nwea.org](http://nwea.org) or consult the Parent Guide to MAP which is available at your school. Please also feel free to ask me, or your child's teacher, about MAP.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### [ORCA General PTA Meeting, Thursday, 2/11, 7pm](#)

Seattle Public Schools adopted an Alternative Education Policy (C54 attached) in June of 2006. At last month's PTSA meeting we talked about how this policy is reflected at Orca - both successes and concerns. This Thursday, February 11th at 7:00 pm we continue the discussion by exploring the following questions

- What are the barriers to implementing this policy at Orca?
- How can the PTSA support the Alternative Education Policy, both at Orca and in the District as a whole?
- Do we want to take collective action on this issue? If so, what?

Please join us for this enlightening and engaging discussion as we figure out the best way to promote and champion Alternative Education. First timers most welcome~!! Refreshments and childcare provided.

### [PTSA General Meeting Agenda](#)

7:00 Ben's poem  
7:05 2010/11 budgeting update  
- Orca's and the PTSA's  
7:15 Discussion - "Advocating for Alternative Education"  
8:20 Wrap up  
8:30 end



### **ORCA PTA SPRING AUCTION PROCUREMENT PUSH!**

**PROCURE, PROCURE, PROCURE.** . . We need your items by March 15th!

The auction is April 10th, but the procurement push is NOW! We would like to challenge every family to donate or procure at least one item for the auction.

Ideas; If you like to cook, host a meal, or make one for delivery. Or throw a cooking class or cooking party... Think tamale making party, etc. Do you hike? Offer to lead a group in city or out, maybe w/ lunch included? Are you a wine enthusiast? Donate a few bottles of something you think is great. The ideas are endless!!

Please fill out a donation form, for each procurement, located in the office under mailboxes, and leave it in the auction box there. If it is difficult for you to get to the school, call or email us and we'll fill one out for you.

We need folks to canvass neighborhood businesses – Columbia City, Hillman City, Leschi, Beacon Hill, etc. The businesses are expecting us, so it's a lot easier than you might think!

Thanks tons, and let us know if you have questions or are willing to help procure from businesses. Arti Chandra, [artipaul@yahoo.com](mailto:artipaul@yahoo.com), 354-9269 Procurement Co-Chair



### [Garden News](#)

The Orca Garden crew has been busy, busy organizing garden lessons, planning events, and collaborating with our sustainability-minded friends throughout Seattle. This week, we had the opportunity to attend the community roundtable session with Will Allen at the Yesler Terrace Community Center. We learned so much! We are sorting through a long list of ways to greatly improve our garden and environmental education program. Ideas such as maximizing our greenhouse space and committing to year-round growing have super-charged our creative energies!

Please be aware of two important monthly meetings this week. Beginning at 2:00, we'll be holding our monthly Green Team meeting. Teachers, don't forget to send your Green Team representative to the Science Annex between 2:00-2:40! We will discuss the next Green Challenge. At 3:00 the Garden Committee will meet in the Greenhouse. This is our final planning meeting before Environmental Science Night. Join us; we need your help!

### [Orca School Skate! K-5 & Special Ed](#)

Time: Bus leaves 9:30 and returns at 1:30  
Date: Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Where: Skate King in Bellevue  
Who: Grades K-5 and Special Ed  
Cost: \$4 skate rental, \$3 bus  
Lunch: Please bring a sack lunch



## The Orca Spring Rummage Sale...The Ultimate Recycling Event!

It's time once again to start putting aside items for our Rummage Sale coming up in May. Items we would be happy to accept for donations to this PTSA sponsored event include:

- \*Toys and Games in Good Condition
- \*Gently Used Clothing
- \*Sports Equipment
- \*Baby Items
- \*Books
- \*Household items: dishes, linens, etc.
- \*Small furniture items
- \*...and More!

For more information and/or to volunteer (all help is welcome!), please contact Christina Morehouse Hidalgo ([cesar-christina@clearwire.net](mailto:cesar-christina@clearwire.net)) or Sabranie Coyne ([sabranie@hotmail.com](mailto:sabranie@hotmail.com)).  
More information to follow!



### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR NEWS .....

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NIGHT IS APPROACHING AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Please sign up to help with our Environmental Science Night Thursday February 25th! See below for the various volunteer opportunities and come join the fun!

- o Set-up 5-6pm
- o The following shifts will be 6 to 7pm and 7 to 8pm
  - o Welcome and Raffle Table
  - o Food Miles Bean Bag Game
  - o Water Relay Game
  - o Newspaper pot making
  - o Clean-up 8-8:45pm

**LOST AND FOUND IS GOING, GOING, GONE AT THE END OF THIS WEEK!**  
Missing coats, hats or gloves? Check through the Lost and Found before we head into mid-winter break and claim whatever is yours! Lost and Found is located just outside the cafeteria doors on the first floor. It will be packed up and sent off to Goodwill the end of this week so make sure and take a look!

#### HELP STILL NEEDED FOR SCHOOL TOURS

Please join in on school tours! Ben will be leading tours on the following dates and we need parents to mingle amongst the visiting parents and answer questions. Here are the dates:

**Elementary Tours:** February 25th and March 4, 9, 16, and 23 from 9:00am to 10:30am

**Middle School Tours:** March 11 and 18th from 9:00 to 10:30am

#### SEEKING FINANCIAL REVIEW PANEL

Mike Cruz, our 5-year plan treasurer, is looking for 3 to 4 parents to be part of a panel regarding financial plan reviews. Members of this panel will be reviewing 4 to 6 short presentations from committees needing monetary support from the PTSA in the upcoming year. These reviews will take place **February 10th and 11th from 6:30 to 8:00pm**. So if Finance and Budget is where your interests are, then this is the panel for you!!

#### ON THE HORIZON.....

- o **Jog-a-thon** is Friday March 12th; many volunteers will be needed to count laps and serve snack! Pledge envelopes will be coming home soon; please do what you can to help make this a success!
- o **Many Cultures One World** is on Thursday March 25th in the evening. Be on the lookout for information from your Room Coordinator on which country your class will be representing and how you can help!

**THANKS FOR THE MANY TIMES YOU ALL ANSWER MY CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS! ORCA FAMILIES ARE THE BEST!**

**-DEB KOON, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR [debkoon@comcast.net](mailto:debkoon@comcast.net)/723-7444/612-1080**



## Treehouse Clothing Drive

It's time to clean up for Treehouse!

Treehouse could use your clothes. Ages newborn - 18

(Gently used or new clothes) Bring clothes to Ms.Tanisha's Room

(Room 306) or drop in the box by the office! Starts February 1st and ends March 5<sup>th</sup>!

\*Treehouse is an organization that serves children in foster care. Visit

[www.treehouseforkids.org](http://www.treehouseforkids.org) for more information

Treehouse  
Clothing Drive  
Feb 1 thru Mar 5!

It's SPIRIT WEEK at Orca! Join the fun!



Tuesday, 2/9	Wednesday, 2/10	Thursday, 2/11	Friday, 2/12
<b>Character Day</b> Dress up as your favorite t.v. personality, super hero, use your imagination!	<b>Job Day</b> Show us what you want to be when you grow up!	<b>Single Color Day</b> Dress in your favorite color	<b>Spirit Day</b> Wear your Orca colors – Blue, Black and White!

## From Seattle Public Schools (SPS):

Seattle Public Schools' New Student Assignment Plan plays a key role in the district's effort to ensure that every school is an excellent School. The attached document provides basic facts about the new assignment plan and the transition plan for 2010-11 as approved by the School Board.

Additional information about the plan, enrollment, an address look-up tool to check attendance area schools, and a schedule for school open houses and visits are available online:

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/newassign>.

Global Goods Fundraising:

## Have a heart!

This Valentine's Day  
Give a gift from the heart  
AND  
Support your school



GGP School Fundraiser: 20% of each purchase back to your school

[www.globalgoodspartners.org](http://www.globalgoodspartners.org)