

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17TH, 2008

SCHOOL SCHEDULE UPDATES:

SPRING BREAK- Monday, March 24th through March 28th is Spring Break. School will also be closed on Monday March 31 for Cesar Chavez Day. School resumes on Tues., April 1st.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Budget Cut Information:

The State of California is proposing a 4 Billion dollar cut in education costs for next year, meaning a 23 Million dollar cut from Oakland Unified alone.

These cuts are equivalent to:

- Laying off more than 107,000 teachers statewide
- Increasing class sizes statewide by up to 35%
- Closing every school in the state for an entire month

If this proposal

comes to life, it means that in Oakland and many other districts, the budget cuts could result in layoffs and would significantly reduce funding for, and in some cases, eliminate programs that cover:

Class size reduction, Textbooks and other instructional materials, School and library improvement, Child nutrition programs, before and after school programs, Home-to-school transportation, Childhood development programs, Adult and special education, Cost of living adjustments.

Further details can be found in this month's newsletter as well as information on steps you can take to prevent this crisis from happening. Additional

information can also be found on the OUSD website : www.ousd.k12.ca.us

MEETINGS:

Site Improvement Committee Meeting 7pm

EVENTS:

NATIONAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK will be held March 17th through 21st at Bret Harte Middle School. This week will feature Cultural Celebrations, the Essay and Poster contests, and other fun activities. So far over 300 students have participated in the essay contest and an equal amount of students are expected to participate in the poster contest. For more information please contact the Parent

Center at bhparentcenter@yahoo.com or 510.879.2068

Join Us for a Free Live Webinar on March 18th on the topic How Weather Alerting Technology Can Help K-12 Schools React Quickly To Severe Weather Threats:

The threats to students, faculty and staff from severe weather – lightning, tornados, ice and more are very real. The newest technology, using Global Positioning Systems and Location Based Services, can

help pinpoint forming or impending severe weather systems around those locations you specify. You may want to keep an eye out on the entire school district, or maybe just one or two locations. State-of-the-art technology with live weather monitoring will help you identify the threats so you can make the most time-essential and informed decisions regarding safety. In this Webinar you will learn:

How schools are implementing this weather alerting technology for the greatest benefit.

How the technology uses Global Positioning Systems (GPS), combined with Location Based Services (LBS) to monitor weather in real-time.

Please join us for this **FREE EVENT**, or pass this along to a colleague who may benefit

Two Times Available: 11 a.m. eastern and 4 p.m. eastern

Space is Limited. To register please go to the following Link

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/marketplace/webinars/webinars.html>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

NEWSLETTER: The Parent Center is looking for volunteers to help with the assembly of the monthly newsletter on **Wednesday March 19th**. We will begin at 9 am and can use as many hands as possible to get the job done. Please come by or contact the parent center if you would like to help with this.

Donations Needed:

Ms. Hughes has started a student garden project and needs your help! She is taking donations of birdseed, large pinecones, peanut butter, low bowls, (for bird baths...dog dishes work great), melon rinds (good slug trap), and any type of vegetable or fruit seed. This is an ongoing project so donations are welcome at any time. Donations can be taken to room 303 or left in Ms. Hughes' box in the main office. For more information please contact Ms. Hughes.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

First Friday Coffee for Parents and Teachers hosted by the Parent Center 7:30AM – 10AM