



WHAT'S NEWS?

Our mission is to provide every OUSD student access to a quality school library.

Professionally staffed school libraries provide equitable access to quality resources, including books, information and technology. Some people question the relevance of a school library as print is digitized and information is available online. If children from low income homes have little access to books due to the expense and lack of easy access, how many readers will we lose in schools and homes that can't afford the infrastructure of digitized print?

Hello Dear Friends,

FOPSL believes that school libraries are an essential ingredient in the District's "Alphabet Soup." As OUSD reviews the RBB and prioritizes the LCFF, quality school library programs could ensure equitable distribution of resources required in the LCAP. School libraries staffed by PTLs are proven to increase student achievement and will support the CCSS, BAL and STEM. FOPSL has met with many principals and SSCs, where the decisions are currently made to improve library programs. These schools will be prepared when the new LCFF money arrives. OUSD students will reach the OR2020 goal for 85% of third graders reading on grade level by 2020, if all support systems are in place for success. School libraries provide the robust bouillabaisse for the FSCS. Bon Appetit!



Ingredients:

FOPSL – Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries

OUSD – Oakland Unified School District

PTL- Professional Teacher Librarian (teacher with a Master of Library Science degree)

RBB – Results Based Budgeting (current funding formula used by OUSD)

LCFF – Local Control Funding Formula (new state money from Proposition 30)

LCAP – Local Control Accountability Plan (regulations on the LCFF to be established in January 2014)

SSC – School Site Councils (school governance teams)

CCSS – Common Core State Standard

BAL - Balanced Approach to Literacy

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

OR2020- Oakland Reads 2020 (city wide campaign to increase number of students reading on grade level by 3rd grade)

FSCS – Full Service Community School (schools that provide all services required for healthy, happy learning)

Students Return with High Expectations of Their Library

After one wondrous year visiting a quality school library, students at CUES and Futures expect their library will be ready and available.

Librarian in training, Rebecca Edwards shared these stories about students anticipating opening day:

One student brought her cousin to meet me after school, the cousin being new to the school, she wanted to make sure she knew where the library was. They hung out for a while and talked about their favorite books.

Lots of kids came in to eye the new books (at least 650 new titles since last year.) My favorites are all the little boys coming in and lovingly stroking the new shelves of graphic novels.

I had a student last year who asked me without fail every week, "Do you have any war books?" We quickly went through the few non-fiction titles on the shelf - Para-rescue, Sea Lions in the Navy, etc. I ordered a book about soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan with him in mind, not remembering that he was graduating. However, he turned out to be the very first sixth grader to come back and visit, and sure enough, the first thing he asked was "Do you have any war books?" So I fortunately was able to share it with him after all. His eyes lit up. Unfortunately he said they don't have a library at his middle school.

I love that our library is one of the things that makes kids smile about coming to school!

Rebecca Edwards is currently enrolled at San Jose State in pursuit of a Master of Library and Information Science degree.



A love of reading can begin at birth with access and exposure to books.

85% of OUSD Third Graders Will be Reading on Grade Level by 2020

Oakland Literacy Coalition (OLC) has brought the national campaign to improve reading by the year 2020 to OUSD. In June 2013, OLC held the Oakland Reads 2020 Symposium, engaging the community in solution based discussions. Data from this symposium will provide baseline information for developing strategies to improve reading achievement. This campaign focuses on four key pillars of reading success: School Readiness, Parent Engagement, School Attendance, and Summer Learning; all of which are supported by a professionally staffed quality school library.

School Readiness and Parent Engagement: Preparing children and parents to enter the formal educational institution will help ensure success. FOPSL envisions school libraries as the "literacy hub" of the district's Full Service Community Schools. A place where a teacher librarian provides a welcoming learning environment, offering a wealth of literature, information and technology for the whole family; where parents and

younger children find culturally, developmentally and linguistically relevant resources.

Attendance: Children that feel successful in school are much more likely to attend school. Parents that feel engaged in their children’s education will encourage attendance. The school library is a safe welcoming environment with a professional teacher librarian specifically trained to reach out to and support students, as well as their families.

Summer Learning: Learning how to access books, materials and information in the school library provides students and families the opportunities to build a culture and understanding of library usage, making it more likely that they will utilize the services and resources of the public library.

The Community Takes Part



Changes are in the air at Sobrante Park Elementary. First of all, their name has changed to Madison Park Lower Campus and second, their school library is under construction by FOPSL and the community. Thanks to the East Bay Community Foundation’s Donor Advised Rose Fund, gently used books from Orinda Public Library, and volunteers from Matson’s shipping company and Stepping Stones, dusty outdated books are being replaced by the latest nonfiction, popular fiction, easy readers and graphic novels. A delightful collection of board books and picture books will entice younger siblings and parents into the library. Outdated and nonfunctioning computers will be replaced, providing access to the rich online resources available through school libraries, including e-books and Encyclopedia Britannica. Students continually stop by and inquire about opening day, which is scheduled for late fall.

The Kaiser Library Gets a Makeover

Another gorgeous, literature and resource rich school library awaited the return of enthusiastic readers at Kaiser Elementary School. This library was updated and modernized this summer by FOPSL volunteers Susie Goodin and Karen Smith. These dedicated volunteers, featured in our spring newsletter, have created an inspirational space for the students and school community of Kaiser.



The Millionth Book!

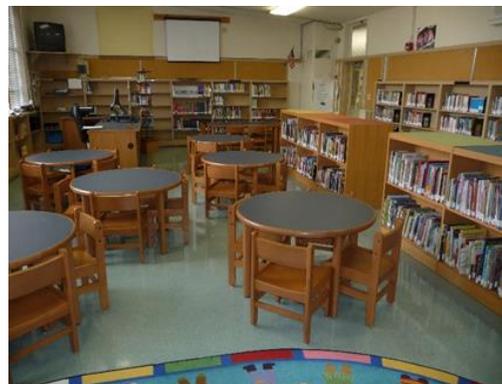
The East Bay Children's Book Project (EBCBP) has made an enormous contribution of books to OUSD school libraries. FOPSL volunteers are regular visitors to EBCBP where they collect quality new and gently used books for libraries. In addition to school libraries, EBCBP donates books to teachers and any organizations that will put the books in the hands of children. In fact, they have recently given away the 999,999th book. This is cause for celebration! So join the fun Saturday, October 12 from 1-4 at Mosswood Park, 2612 Webster Street, in Oakland. Witness the passage of the millionth book to a deserving child! Enjoy the Prescott Circus Clowns and meet several popular children's authors. For more information visit www.eastbaychildrensbookproject.org.

A New Library Information Technology Center at WOMS

A Library Information Technology Center (LIT Center) emerges at West Oakland Middle School. When FOPSL first arrived at WOMS, we were met with a large underutilized space full of potential. District Librarian Ann Gallagher began her usual measuring and mapping, then met with Principal Ron Smith to discuss his vision for creating a vibrant learning environment. This vision is being realized with the help of FOPSL, community volunteers and a construction grant from Lowes. A new window brings natural light into a room filled with a large updated collection of literature, popular fiction and nonfiction titles. Newly installed computer stations in the main library space and a small adjoining room will provide ample opportunities for research and access to state-of-the-art technology. Teachers will soon bring their students and conduct class in an environment rich in resources.

Finishing Touch for Brookfield Library

Excitement was in the air at Brookfield when the moving van pulled up and unpacked furnishings for the recently modernized school library. Teachers, students and parents drawn by the activity in the library, exclaimed at the transformation, "We have a REAL library!"



Lafayette Library Looks Lovely



FOPSL volunteers Connie and Jon Hartung assist Nina Nicole, the new senior library clerk at Lafayette in organizing and fashioning an inviting place for kids to explore the world of books. Lafayette is one of the original FOPSL restoration libraries. FOPSL provides continuous support.

Volunteering is Big in Oakland

The 5th Annual Volunteering for Oakland Volunteer Fair was held at the OUSD Lakeview Complex on September 7, 2013. Community organizations filled the room, advertising opportunities to get involved in improving the lives of Oakland children. Natalie Van Tassel, a founding member of VFO, felt that this year's fair was a great success. "My hope is that we will now have more folks working with and for the kids in Oakland, so that those children will continue to thrive and learn." Mayor Jean Quan, Acting Superintendent Gary Yee and OUSD School Board President David Kakashiba attended the event, demonstrating their support.



Joy Jacobs of FOPSL, grabs the attention of potential volunteers.



Acting Superintendent Gary Yee visits with FOPSL member Elaine Wells at the Volunteer Fair.

Honor a Friend or Loved One

Donations to OUSD school libraries and the work of FOPSL is an ideal way to honor someone special. This summer, friends and family of Barbara Flores, a retired librarian, celebrated her birthday by collectively donating \$1500 to FOPSL. Over \$20,000 have been donated in memory of Barry Ress, a dear friend and founding member of Friends of the Public School Libraries. If you are looking for a unique way to honor a loved one, consider FOPSL. Every dollar will be used to increase access to quality school libraries in OUSD and make an impact on literacy in Oakland.

Thank You Citizens of Oakland

Thank you for your continued support of OUSD libraries through your Measure G Parcel Tax Contributions and to the many generous donations that support our work.

Thank You OUSD Principals

We appreciate your role in keeping OUSD school libraries open and operating during these financially difficult times. FOPSL is dedicated to supporting your school library. Let us know how we can help you.

For More Information

Please visit our website to learn more about Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries, ways to get involved and how you can support quality school libraries.

www.fopsl.org