



# WHAT'S NEWS?

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

## Hello Dear Friends,

Spring is upon us and the recent rains will no doubt produce a fantastic floral display in the coming weeks. However, we will not be distracted by spring fever; FOPSL remains steadfast in our mission to open libraries across OUSD. While the task ahead of us is great, we want to take a minute to reflect on our progress and acknowledge all our partners and community volunteers that share our vision and understand that OUSD students deserve access to this vital educational resource. We have included a note of thanks and links to our community partners on our website. Please take a minute to visit us at [www.fopsl.org](http://www.fopsl.org). We greatly appreciate the many dedicated individuals and community organizations working toward bringing libraries back into all the public schools in Oakland.

## More OUSD Libraries Will Open This Spring

Our central focuses this year have been the libraries at Community United/Futures and PLACE @ Prescott. These libraries are in the process of being updated, automated and decorated with plans to open later this year.



Elaine Wells, a FOPSL volunteer, organizes books by the Dewey Decimal system at PLACE @ Prescott.

## 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.



## Community Service

Calling all scout troops, clubs, students, churches, businesses and community organizations! Earn credits, have fun and contribute to a great cause.

FOPSL will need your help moving several library collections over the summer. If you would like more information, contact Kari Hatch at [khatch.fopsl@gmail.com](mailto:khatch.fopsl@gmail.com)

Volunteers have worked in many libraries across OUSD this school year, including: Fruitvale Elementary, Bridges Academy, Brookfield, Reach Academy, Grass Valley Elementary, Marshall Elementary and Cleveland Elementary. See additional photos of beautifully restored OUSD libraries on our website.



Volunteers from Hillcrest Helps Out and The Focal Point transformed the library at Fruitvale Elementary School this year.



## **Don't Miss the Fun!**

**April 21 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm CAL DAY 2012**  
**UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education's 16th**  
**Celebration of Children's Literature and Literacy**

Visit our booth in the Education-Psychology Library, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Tolman Hall in room 260 and receive a free book mark, recommend your favorite books for our summer reading list, and create your own mini "library" book.

**April 19 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm**  
**Learn More About Family Literacy & Community**  
**Engagement Events!**

You're invited to attend a \*FREE seminar designed to help you create, implement or enhance effective, powerful literacy and community events in your PreK-12 school district. \*Registration required. Seating is limited. For registration form or questions please contact Cynthia H. Gonzales, Educational Consultant 415-412-1213 or [CynthiaHGonzales@att.net](mailto:CynthiaHGonzales@att.net) Alameda County Office of Education – Room 142 313 West Winton, Hayward, CA



Audra Casanova is a parent volunteer dedicated to providing library services to students at Cleveland Elementary School.

## **School Libraries** **Promote Literacy**

We strongly believe school libraries are a vital component of the education system and a critical resource for students and teachers. Volumes of research demonstrates that students with access to quality school libraries perform better in all academic areas, test scores are higher and overall literacy improves. Check out "Why Libraries" on our website for more information and studies supporting school libraries.

**WE NEED YOU**  
**to help put books back**  
**on the shelves!**

**Mondays 9am-4pm**  
**Community United Elem.**  
**Note: M-F 8-3:00 during**  
**Spring Break April 9-13**

**Fridays 9am-4pm**  
**PLACE @ Prescott**

**Contact: Kari Hatch**  
**[khatch.fopsl@gmail.com](mailto:khatch.fopsl@gmail.com)**

## Third Graders across California Receive Dictionaries

Friends of the Oakland Public Schools participated in The 2012 California Dictionary Project by presenting the third grade students at PLACE @ Prescott, Marshall Elementary, Garfield Elementary and Howard Elementary with beautiful student dictionaries. It has been very rewarding watching the excitement and enthusiasm of the third graders as they discover the extensive value of this resource. Of particular interest were the biographies of all the presidents, the longest word in the English language, and geographical information on every state. We thank the California Dictionary Project for this significant contribution to literacy. Please visit the CDP at [info@californiadictionaryproject.org](http://info@californiadictionaryproject.org).

## Volunteering for Oakland

FOPSL recruited volunteers at Mayor Jean Quan's Volunteering for Oakland event, March 10, 2012. We had a very successful day meeting new "Friends" and signing up volunteers. If you missed this event, you can still join us by contacting Kari Hatch at [khatch.fopsl@gmail.com](mailto:khatch.fopsl@gmail.com) or visit our Volunteer Calendar on our website [www.fopsl.org](http://www.fopsl.org). The amount of time you contribute is up to you and any time is very helpful.



FOPSL board members making new "Friends" at the Volunteering for Oakland fair at City Hall, March 10, 2012

## Who's that Cat in the Hat?



FOPSL volunteers celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday and Read Across America by reading to students at PLACE @ Prescott.



## Citizens of Oakland

Thank you for your continued support of OUSD libraries through your Measure G Parcel Tax contributions.

Please visit our website to learn more about FOPSL at

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