



ORTEGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WELCOME BACK PACKET FOR FAMILIES

2020-2021

Welcome Ortega Families

PTO President, Maria Jackson

As your new PTO president, I want to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning families to Ortega for the 2020-2021 school year. These are uncertain times but I know together we will get through this and ensure that our children thrive and grow. I look forward to meeting and working with you over the coming year.

The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) comprises every parent or guardian of an Ortega student and all teachers and professional staff. We are an independent organization and do not have any state or national affiliation; we also do not support any political platforms. Being independent allows us to keep all funds that we raise in house for our school and its programs.

Our PTO mission is to promote open communication and understanding between parents and staff at Ortega Elementary. Our goal is to enhance and maximize each child's education while helping them to achieve their highest potential. To meet this important goal, it is imperative that we have engaged parents and that we fundraise from our immediate and extended Ortega family. Participation will look a little different this year but we welcome your ideas!

When all families participate, we can best achieve our goals. We recognize that each family will participate in the PTO in their own way. Our monthly PTO meetings are open to parents or guardians; we encourage your engagement.

We offer many opportunities for fundraising from direct giving, to purchasing PTO-related goods, to sponsoring a student in school-wide events, and many more! We need families who can donate their time and we have a multitude of volunteer opportunities.

Every dollar and every hour that you donate to Ortega is greatly appreciated. We hope your involvement helps us reach our goals for students and also deepens your connection to the Ortega community.

For more information and all the latest news about Ortega events and activities, be sure you are on the email list for OtterTown News (visit www.ortegapto.org to sign up). And, please join us at Back to School Night on September 8, 2020 when the PTO will introduce itself and September 15th at 6:30 PM for the PTO General Meeting.

Thank you.

Ortega Otter Spirit Wear!

Even though we can't be on campus, we can still show our Otter Spirit by purchasing a piece of Otter Spirit Wear.

Call the Ortega Office at 650-738-6670 or email Tenisha at tkavanaugh@pacificasd.org to order yours today! See page 3 for details.

The Ortega PTO website is a one-stop shop for information on events, archived newsletters, school calendar, Otter gear and more.
www.ortegapto.org



SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Welcome Back Packet
For Ortega Families

YOUR 2020-2021 PTO REPRESENTATIVES

President—**Maria Jackson** msmedina10@gmail.com

Vice President—**Rachel Merlo** rachelmerlo@hotmail.com

Treasurers—**Megan Close** megs.close@gmail.com / **Tenisha Kavanaugh** tenkav@comcast.net

Secretary of Record Keeping—**Danielle Kehr** daniellekehr@sbcglobal.net

Secretary of Communications—**Andriana Antoniou** Andriana@gmail.com

Fundraising Coordinators—**Brenda Melton** brendamelton4@gmail.com /

Tala Wood-Stephens Talafitness@gmail.com / **Lisa McNichol** lisaanneprice@yahoo.com

Volunteer Coordinator— **Megan Dailey** meglet628@yahoo.com

Parent Council Representative— **Dawn Rege** dawnrege@gmail.com

TK-2nd Grade Representative—**Colleen McLaughlin Komeyli** colleenmclaugh@gmail.com

3rd-5th Grade Representative—**Julie Cotter** juliecotter28@gmail.com

Activities Coordinators— Vacant (Please email the Ortega PTO at ottertownnews@gmail.com if you are interested in planning fun events!)

The Ortega PTO meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm via Zoom. Please email ottertownnews@gmail.com for the link. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Otter Town News

Ortega's Weekly Newsletter

Our weekly newsletter is a useful information tool that contains important school updates, upcoming events, extra-curricular activities, and much more. It is emailed every Sunday by 6:00 pm. Submissions are welcome and must be received by Friday at 4:00 pm to be reviewed for that week. To submit content or ask questions, email:

ottertownnews@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook

Our Facebook page is an open group that allows Ortega families the ability to connect, find out about upcoming events, and ask questions.

Look us up at:

Ortega Elementary School PTO



DON'T BE LEFT OUT: Make sure you are signed up to receive important school emails and the weekly OtterTown News newsletter by signing up on our website

www.ortegapto.org .



SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Welcome Back Packet
For Ortega Families

2020-2021

AUGUST

- 20 1st Day of School! Welcome Back Otters
- 20 District wide Minimum Day
- 21 Ortega Minimum Day

SEPTEMBER

- 07 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day
- 08 Ortega Back to School Night
- 15 Ortega PTO General Meeting

OCTOBER

- 12 NO SCHOOL—Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 13 NO SCHOOL—Staff Development Day
- 30 Halloween—Ortega Minimum Day

NOVEMBER

- 01 NO SCHOOL—Staff Development Day
- 11 NO SCHOOL—Veteran's Day
- 16-20 Parent Conferences—Minimum Days
- 23-27 NO SCHOOL—Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER

- 18 District Wide Minimum Day
- 21-31 NO SCHOOL—Winter Recess

JANUARY

- 01 NO SCHOOL—Winter Recess
- 04 School Resumes
- 15 NO SCHOOL—Staff Development Day
- 18 NO SCHOOL—MLK Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

- 12 Valentine Day— Ortega Minimum Day
- 15-19 NO SCHOOL—Presidents' Week

MARCH

- 15-19 Parent Conferences—Minimum Days

APRIL

- 02 District wide Minimum Day
- 05-09 NO SCHOOL—Spring Recess
- 22-24 PEF Donation Week

MAY

- 31 NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day

JUNE

- 07-11 Ortega Minimum Day
- 11 Last Day of School, Minimum Day

Ortega Otter Spirit Wear!

Order your Ortega Otter Spirit wear TODAY by calling the Ortega Office at 650-738-6670 or email Tenisha at tkavanaugh@pacificasd.org!

Adult Sweatshirt \$35 (S-3XL), Adult Unisex T-Shirt (S-4XL) \$20, Adult V-Neck T-Shirt \$25, Youth Sweatshirt \$25 (S-XL), Youth T-Shirt (XS-XL) \$15, Otter Lunch Box \$12.

All Items and Size are subject to availability.

Items can be purchased through the Ortega Office during business hours. Cash and checks should be made payable to Ortega PTO or Credit/Debit.



FUNDRAISING

Welcome Back Packet For Ortega Families

Dear Ortega Families,

We are proud of Ortega and we know how much this school means to our families and to our students. Even though our school doors are closed, our community will still come together. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is doing everything we can to support our students, teachers and parents during these unprecedented times, and we plan to use our collective voice to advocate for our school and raise funds to support all the things that make Ortega such an amazing place for our students, teachers and families!

Why do we fundraise? Everything we do, we do for the kids! We would not have a robust enrichment program without our community's continued support. In typical years, we spend about \$100,000. Even though we have made strategic reductions to our budget, we still want to do everything we can to support our kids and families. To provide a different, yet still a quality enrichment program, we expect to spend about \$60,000 this upcoming year. ***This works out to an average of \$150 per student.***

What do we fundraise for? For the 2020-2021 school year we will be supporting every Ortega teacher with supplies, materials and teaching apps. We will be supporting virtual enrichment classes and providing supplies for Art, P.E. and Science. We also plan to support our families, students and teachers as with tech support office hours and additional educational enrichment apps.

How do we fundraise? This year will be a little different since typically most of our major fundraising events revolve around gathering our Ortega community together. Our annual Basket Auction & Raffle and our fall Walk-a-Thon Carnival raise 40% of our fundraising goal each year. We plan on getting creative with these fundraisers, with an online auction in this fall and a virtual Walk-a-Thon in the late spring, but really plan on focusing our attention on our Annual Giving Campaign.

You will be hearing more about our Annual Giving Campaign in the coming weeks, but in the meantime you can visit our [Ortega PTO website](#) for more information. The website has a link to make a one time or recurring donation.

We look forward to doing what we can to help Ortega reach its fundraising goal, but love hearing from our families too! Please reach out if you have any questions, have a fundraising idea or want to get involved.

Brenda Melton: brendamelton4@gmail.com
Tala Wood-Stephens: talafitness@gmail.com
Lisa McNichol: Lisaanneprice@yahoo.com
Rachel Merlo: rachelmerlo@hotmail.com





ONGOING FUNDRAISERS

Welcome Back Packet
For Ortega Families

There are many different ways to assist Ortega with fundraising throughout the year, and it can be as easy as shopping in our community and online.



[Oceana Market Loyalty Program](#): Sign up for a loyalty card and designate Ortega to receive 2.5% of your purchases.



Use **AmazonSmile** when shopping on Amazon and Ortega will receive a percentage of all eligible purchases. No signup required. Click the Amazon link from the Ortega PTO website or go into AmazonSmile and designate Ortega as your non-profit of choice. Shop as you normally do and Ortega receives a quarterly check from all purchases.



[Box Tops for Education](#): No more clipping. No more sending Box Tops to school. All you need is your phone. Download the ALL-NEW Box Tops app, shop as you normally would, then simply scan your store receipts to find participating products.



Eat out and Help Out!: Feed your family, help our local businesses, and help Ortega all at once! Stay tuned for more details.