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SPRING 2007 NEWS

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LS POWER PROVIDES \$5,000 GRANT FOR NORTH MONTEREY COUNTY SCHOOLS

LS Power, which owns and operates the Moss Landing Power Plant, has provided a \$5,000 grant to O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO) to provide its free marine science and ecology program to northern Monterey County youth. The power plant was previously owned by Duke Power, which had purchased the plant from Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1998. Duke Power was a strong booster of OSO's programs in Monterey County, and PG&E continues its robust support of Sea Odyssey to this day.

It is therefore natural for us to provide a program to local schools that will create environmental leaders for tomorrow," said David Hicks, L S Power Generation spokesman. ♦

"LS Power's support will enable O'Neill Sea Odyssey to serve and educate children who have never had exposure to the ocean, science, or technology," said Dan Haifley, Executive Director for O'Neill Sea Odyssey. "Without the leadership of LS Power, we would not be able to provide our environmental program to local schools in the Moss Landing Power Plant neighborhood."

"We are proud to serve our customers with the new, efficient and environmentally friendly system we have in place at the Moss Landing Power Plant.



From left to right: Executive Director Dan Haifley, Board Chair Bridget O'Neill, Randy Hickok of LS Power, David Hicks of LS Power, Skipper Tim O'Neill.

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SPRING 2007 NEWS

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SEYMOUR CENTER, LONG MARINE LAB
SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2007
OSO GALA EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

TEACHERS GIVE OSO AN 'A' —

Teachers have once again given the OSO program high scores according to the latest report by Applied Survey Research (ASR). ASR, a non-profit social research firm, has compiled the results of a comprehensive survey given to all teachers participating in our program. The goal is to evaluate our program to discover how much the kids are learning from their experience. The results show us that OSO remains very highly rated by teachers with all learning stations scoring well above the 90th

percentile. 93.2 % of participating teachers felt that their students had learned a lot from their O'Neill Sea Odyssey experience. Teachers are also steadily increasing their usage of the pre and post trip activities available on our web site, making our program a more comprehensive experience for the students. OSO is also reaching more new students than ever, serving 94% new students in the 2005/2006 season. The staff and crew of O'Neill Sea Odyssey are proud of their ability to help teachers reach their goals by providing outdoor education aligned with California State Education Standards. ♦

"THIS IS A GREAT FIELD TRIP! ALL TOO OFTEN LEARNING STANDARDS ARE INTANGIBLE FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT LEARNING. YOUR FIELD TRIP IS A WONDERFUL LEARNING OPPORTUNITY FOR MANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TO THE BEACH OR ON THE OCEAN BEFORE. THANKS!"

— Armin Martin, Teacher, Radcliff Elementary

OSO ONLINE LEARNING CENTER IMPACTS CLASSROOM CURRICULA —

OSO integrated pre and post trip activities and curricula into www.oneillseaodyssey.org in 2002. Since then many participating teachers and schools have used OSO curricula to design and implement comprehensive ocean science units into their regular classroom lesson plans. Since OSO's curriculum is aligned with National and State Educational Science Standards teachers are able to reach the standards through the study of marine science. Some examples:

❖ Laura Moore, a 4th grade teacher has implemented a 6-week ocean unit into all fourth grade classes at Bay View Elementary in Santa Cruz. Utilizing the OSO teacher's packet of pre and post trip activities, Ms. Moore has created an ocean unit that includes a scientific writing narrative requirement that is completed by all students. Participating students must choose from tide pool, kelp forest and deep ocean habitats to research an in depth report. Ms. Moore times her ocean unit to allow for preparatory and follow up time before and after the OSO field trip. Part of the preparation phase is her class' participation in Coastal Cleanup Day each year to fulfill OSO's community service require-



| www.oneillseaodyssey.org



| Santa Theresa students bring their marine science unit study to life.

ment. The OSO teacher's packet includes plankton identification information, food web charts and activities, marine science vocabulary lists in English and Spanish, and other activities that facilitate integration of marine science into the classroom.

❖ 5th grade teachers Mara Licina, Erin Tuttle, and Becky Gordillo, have



| Erin Tuttle of Santa Theresa School.

integrated a two-week ocean unit into the 5th grade classroom science curriculum at Santa Theresa Elementary in San Jose. Utilizing the teacher packet and follow-up activities entitled "Expand your knowledge of the Monterey Bay. A resource of terms, facts and Q & A" on www.oneillseaodyssey.org these teachers have been able to reach educational science standards through marine science concepts.

❖ Theresa Coyle, a teacher from Soquel Elementary, and former OSO Education Coordinator has designed a month-long ocean science unit for

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❖ THANK YOU ❖

her students based upon activities and curriculum from O'Neill Sea Odyssey. Ms. Coyle's students participate in a beach clean up to fulfill a community service project for OSO, including dis-

ussion of decomposers and decomposition rates as the students separate different types of waste. Students also participate in a school composting program to promote landfill diversion. Ms.

Coyle uses the OSO teacher's packet and curriculum to teach ocean science vocabulary, plankton and kelp ecology, marine mammal facts and watershed ecology. ♦

GIFT OF INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE THROUGH 2007 —

Until the end of 2007, distributions of up to \$100,000 from Individual Retirement Accounts can be excluded from an individual's gross income for federal tax purposes if donated to a qualified non-profit organization, such as O'Neill Sea Odyssey. Such

a gift can ensure OSO's legacy as a gift to our endowment, our building fund, or to support our current program needs. To take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Dan Haifley at (831) 465-9390, or dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org. ♦

SOME THOUGHTS ON OSO'S SECOND DECADE —

By Bridget O'Neill, OSO Board Chair, and Jack O'Neill, Founder and Co-Chair

What started in 1996 as an informal effort to get kids onto the ocean and teach them to protect it, has blossomed into a full-fledged program that has served 40,000 kids in 11 years. We'd like to take a few moments to share some thoughts on where we have been, and where we are going in our second decade.

The first ten years saw the following accomplishments: the formalization of our program and its alignment with State and Federal education standards, the establishment of our website and online learning center, including applications for program participation, classroom curriculum, real time weather data and data from participating classes. The donation of the O'Neill Building to OSO and its subsequent renovation with

revenue-generating tenant spaces and a first class education center. The establishment of an endowment to help assure the program's future; and a strong base of generous supporters who keep the program alive.

As the program heads into its second ten years, OSO is in high demand from classroom teachers who want a one day program along with classroom materials for use before and after their time at sea. Keeping up with that demand requires more funds, and we can all help with the effort to meet that requirement.

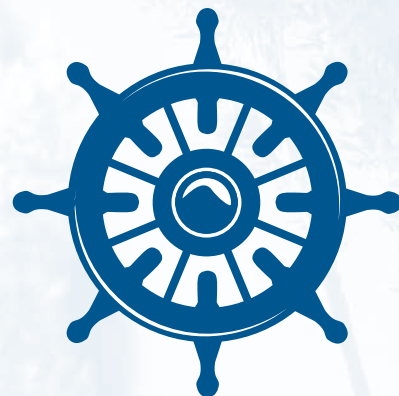
OSO has been lucky to be able to partner with many organizations to create effective, multi-day hybrid programs. OSO will continue to work on these special projects (see article on Ocean Scholars) as long as we have the resources to meet the demand for our core program.

This year the program used grant funds to purchase a weather station and will begin re-aligning our curriculum to encourage the use of ocean concepts – including the relationship between oceans and weather - in regular school curriculum. OSO staff is working with a bright UCSC psychology student named Brian Vickers who will

conduct a study of the program's long-term impact on youth.

Of course, the program will evolve, using feedback from our yearly evaluations, comments from classroom teachers, as well as our Board and staff. This strengthens our program, and makes it more effective in its goal of helping to create a generation of ocean stewards. The key to making this happen, however, is financial security.

Securing our future through the endowment is a key component to our longevity. And our longevity is the key to our ability to have a lasting impact on our youth, and our environment. To make a difference, we need to make an investment. Our future depends on it. ♦



LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THE KIDS AND RECEIVE INCOME FOR LIFE!

You can leave a permanent legacy for O'Neill Sea Odyssey's programs and receive income for life. O'Neill Sea Odyssey has established an endowment within the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County. Through its Planned Giving Center, the Foundation prudently manages \$35 million in assets.

How can this be done? Donors can leave a legacy for the kids through a gift of stock, real estate or cash, through a beneficiary designation in a life insurance or retirement policy, or through the establishment of a gift annuity or trust.

Will my gift stay with the program permanently? O'Neill Sea Odyssey's endowment at the Community Foundation



Students learn seamanship and teamwork at OSO

of Santa Cruz County is a permanent fund designed to generate earnings for the program. The Foundation has the professional management necessary to manage assets appropriate to preserving their value and maximizing the benefit for charitable work.

How do I learn about my options? Please contact Dan Haifley at (831) 465-9390, or dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org, and we will meet with you to explore your options and what will make the best sense for you and your family. ♦

WELCOME NEW CREW MEMBERS —

OSO would like to introduce new crew members, Celia Lara, Isaiah Meyer and Jay Weber. To learn more about our crew please visit our website at www.oneillseaodyssey.org and click on the button that says 'OSO Team'. ♦



Celia Lara



Isaiah Meyer



Jay Weber

WELCOME TO TOMORROW'S OCEAN SCHOLARS —

Dr. Jim Beckett and Dr. Gary Griggs of UCSC's Long Marine Lab initiated a discussion last fall that revolved around a simple idea: could underserved, low-income youth be encouraged to look at ocean stewardship, education or science as a potential career by placing them with ocean educators as mentors?

OSO Executive Director Dan

Haifley, Seymour Marine Discovery Center Executive Director Julie Barrett Heffington and Familia Center Executive Director Yolanda Henry met and developed a plan, which, thanks to the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, will be put into action this year.

Ocean Scholars will begin with an extended OSO program and time with ocean educators at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center, OSO and associated organizations. Youth and their families served by Familia Center - whose clientele are low-income Latino families

in Santa Cruz County - will engage the youth with ocean educators as mentors. Familia Center will work with their school guidance counselors to pursue their interest in ocean stewardship.

The partners wish to thank the Packard Foundation for the start-up funding, and we hope to raise additional funds to keep the program rolling for two years. Future newsletters will keep you posted on the progress of the Ocean Scholars program... ♦

