



Newsnotes

December 18, 2009

Have a great Winter Break!

See you on Monday, January 4.

Remember, school's OPEN Jan. 8 and CLOSED Jan. 15.

New This Week:

- **NEW TBS WEBSITE DEBUTS!!!**
- Welcome, New TBS Families!
- Journey Through Learning on January 9
- Directory Update
- Brown Grocery Bags Wanted
- Calling Parent Amdassadors!
- Painting Class for Teens
- Reminder: Hot Lunch in January for K-8!

Important Reminders:

- Get In Under the Wire in 2009!
- HOS Janet Stork on TBS' Refreshed Pedagogy, Part 2
- School Open Jan. 8, Closed Jan. 15
- A Message from Signy Judd, the "Auction Boss"
- TBS Students in The Christmas Revels
- Pick-a-Party Reminders
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar

Gentlemen (and -women), Start Your Search Engines!

The new TBS website is up and running at www.theberkeleyschool.org! The administration wishes to offer its fervent thanks, fawning appreciation, and undying, passionate love to Board member and tech wizard Alan Saldich, without whom this website would be still in the "wish upon a star" phase. We're still busy putting the final touches on the new site, but you are officially welcome to log on and look around. We welcome your feedback; let us know what you think by emailing Director of Communications Laura Gorjance at lgorjance@theberkeleyschool.org. And if you're stricken with envy at seeing those parent bios online, the remedy is in your own hands; send us your own one-paragraph bio and photo!



Above and below: Sweet Briar Creek held their annual poetry recitation on Thursday, December 17. Photos: Kathleen Schwallie.



UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

Chanukah Ends, Saturday, December 19.

Winter Break, December 21, 2009 through January 1, 2010. School closed; no childcare available.

Christmas Day, Friday, December 25.

Kwanzaa, Saturday, December 26, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010.

New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2010.

Open House for Prospective Students, Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9:00-11:00 am, in the Depot.

Journey Through Learning, Saturday,



Above: Blackberry Creek teacher Claire Patterson reads to some of her students as they wait at dismissal. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: Sweet Briar Creek students model the hats they created (with help from some clever parents and teachers) from old sweaters for the residents of a local homeless shelter. Photo: Danette Swan.



Welcome, New Students!

TBS welcomes three new students who will join us on January 4, after the winter break: Calvin McClure in Live Oak; Sammy Seetapun in Cedar; and Sakari Pihlajamaki, who will join one of the K-1 classrooms. Their families' names and contact information will be in the first January Newsnotes. If you notice the new faces around campus, be sure to say hello!

Journey Through Learning

Do you want to know how children learn at TBS? The TBS Parents Association invites you to experience first-hand our classrooms through a child's eyes. Join us on Saturday, January 9, 2010, 1:30-5:00 pm, for a simulated class, and experience the hands-on materials, workshops, and learning throughlines that promote learning at the ECC, Elementary and Middle School levels. Limited space is available for \$10

January 9, 2010, 1:30-5:00 pm. ECC, then EI./MS.

Alumni Dinner, Sunday, January 10, 2010, 5:30-7:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

Report Writing Day, Friday, January 15, 2010. School is closed; no childcare available. **(NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM PRINTED CALENDAR!)**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 18, 2010. School closed; no childcare available.

Third Annual TBS Auction, Saturday, April 10, 2010, Craneway Pavilion, Richmond.

QUICK LINKS:

- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)



Above: We made it! The Middle School, with help from the younger students, achieved their goal of folding 1,000 origami cranes by December 17, with the wish for Janet Stork's imminent return to health and to campus in mind. Congratulations to all the paper-folders! Photo: Laura Gorjance.

per person; sign up by emailing parented@theberkeleyschool.org. Childcare is available for all TBS students and their (toilet-trained) siblings at an additional fee of \$10 per family. Please pay and sign up in advance in either TBS office by Tuesday, January 5. Click [here](#) to see a flyer with all the details.

Directory Update

Please update your Directories to include a new address for Neal Davis and Esther Ehrlich, dad and stepmom of Temescal Creek's Riley Kirkman-Davis, who will be at 6109 McBryde Street, Richmond, 94805, as of December 22. Their new home phone will be 965-0625, and Neal's new work number will be 232-8050. Cell phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

Wanted: Brown Paper Bags

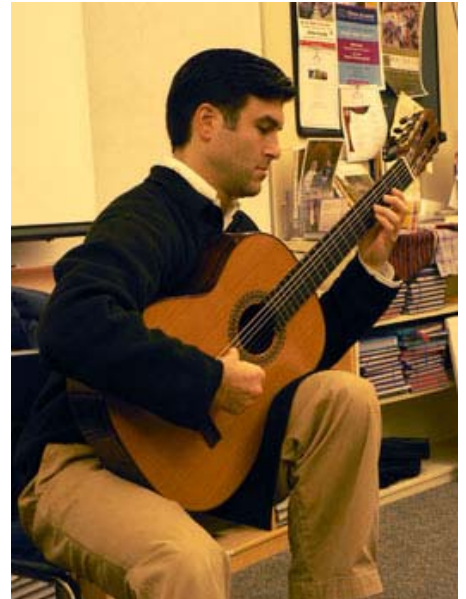
Do you have any brown paper grocery bags you don't need? We need them to dispose of our compostables during the hot lunch pilot program. Please bring them to MaryBeth Ventura in the Depot starting Monday, January 4, 2010.

Calling Parent Ambassadors!

Parent ambassadors are needed for the last official school tours of the season. We appreciate all of the hard work and effort you've put into showcasing our school, and we have just a few more events for which we could use your help:
 ECC Tour, Thursday, January 14, 9:00-11:00 am
 ECC Tour, Thursday, January 21, 9:00-11:00 am
 EI/MS Tour, Wednesday, January 20, 9:00-11:00 am
 If you have any questions about parent ambassador responsibilities, please contact Director of Admission Paula Farmer at pfarmer@theberkeleyschool.org.

Paint Class for Ages 12-16

Is your teen on the lookout for an artistic after-school activity? TBS parent Mary Reed Johnson is offering a new 10-week painting class for 12- to 16-year-olds, beginning Friday, January 22, 4:00-6:00 pm. Classes will be held in the old Hillside School building, 1581 LeRoy Avenue in Berkeley. The \$180 fee includes most materials. For more information contact Mary Reed at 910-0994 or maryreed.johnson@comcast.net.



Above: Leo Garcia, dad of Max in Blackberry Creek, is an award-winning classical guitarist and founder of KinderGuitar, a music program dedicated to educating very young children through the guitar. He visited TBS this week and played for both K-1 classrooms. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: A Middle School student serves holiday cookies he helped bake in his cooking exploratory to a senior citizen in Berkeley. Photo: Bill Gorjance.





Above: The TBS Express eludes the defense in their recent basketball game against Archway. Photo: Kathie Hoehn. Below: "Rock and Roll Heaven:" The TBS staff holiday party featured performances by many of our talented musicians. As always, Your Newsnotes Staff is willing to spill secrets from the party if the price is right. Photo: Laura Gorjance.



Free January Lunches for K-8 Students!

We are thrilled to announce a free, full-scale hot lunch pilot program, to run from Monday, January 4 to Friday, January 22, 2010 at the El./MS (sorry, there's just no space to do it at the ECC!). All K-8 students and their teachers will receive a delicious hot lunch, free of charge, each day during those weeks. Gregoire Jacquet, father of Milo (Sweet Briar) and Elodie (Blackberry), and owner of Gregoire Restaurant in Berkeley and Oakland, has agreed to serve as Executive Chef of the pilot program, which is being funded by generous parent donations. Compostable forks and plates will be used.

Gregoire has requested some parent volunteers to help serve food during these three weeks. If you are available to volunteer between the hours of 11:00 am and 12:15 pm any day between January 4 and January 22, please contact Ann Fischer Hecht at afhecht@gmail.com with your availability.

Immediate, burning questions about the program during the next month should be directed to Ann as well. This is a pilot program, and its success relies on constructive feedback from the community. We will send a mechanism to collect feedback formally in January. Please see FAQs below.

What is the cost to families? It's 100% free.

Why is the school doing this? TBS has been kicking around the idea of a hot lunch program for several years. We will learn more about the feasibility of running this program in three weeks of doing it than we could in three years of talking about it. Plus, some of your fellow parents have generously donated the funds to make this happen.

No strings attached? We would like you to take a minute to respond to a survey we will be doing in January, to gather data about the feasibility of making this an all-year program.

What about Wednesday's "Lunch and Munch" program? Lunch and Munch will resume the week of January 25th. Wednesday the 27th will be the first Lunch and Munch of 2010.

What are you serving? A variety of delicious and nutritious food. At this point, the menu is not set.

What if my child wants a lunch from home? Part of what we are piloting is the community benefit of eating together. We know the food will be delicious and kid-friendly, and we hope you will encourage your child to share this new opportunity with his or her classmates.

What about snack for the 4th-8th grades? Do I still need to pack a snack? Yes, please do.

Will teachers and classes be able to use the kitchen for cooking projects? Yes, but please don't plan to use it between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm.

What about field trips? You will need to pack a lunch on these days, just as you do now when field trips fall on "Lunch and Munch" days for which your child is scheduled.

This sounds really great; is there anyway I can help? YES! Parent volunteers are needed to help serve food. Please

contact Ann Fischer Hecht at afhecth@gmail.com if you can help.

What if my child only wants to eat food by Gregoire from now on? Fortunately for you, Gregoire has two convenient take-out locations, at 2109 Cedar Street in Berkeley, and at 4001b Piedmont Avenue in Oakland!

Last Chance for a 2009-2010 Tax Deduction

The TBS Annual Fund has launched, and already gifts and pledges are arriving in the Development Office. We are so grateful for the many parents who have already given generously to the Fund. Remember, you can still write a check and receive a tax deduction for 2009-2010! The Annual Fund supports current school programs, which directly benefit your children right now. Please keep in mind, as have many parents who have already made generous gifts, that there is no more compelling reason to give than to support your child's education and school community. You may drop off your gift or pledge in either school office, or give via the school's home page, www.theberkeleyschool.org. TBS thanks you for your support!

Janet Stork on TBS Pedagogy

Please click [here](#) to read part two of Head of School Janet Stork's paper on TBS pedagogy. (Part One can be read [here](#).) Since apparently no force known to man can make Janet take an actual rest, you may email her questions about this subject at jstork@theberkeleyschool.org.

TBS Closed January 15

Please note the following change to the printed school calendar: TBS will be closed for report writing day on January 15, 2010. School will be open on January 8.

TBS Annual Auction: Getting the Goods!

>From the Auction Boss: "We hope you've already put the TBS Annual Auction Party on your calendars -- it will be held Saturday, April 10 at the Craneway Building in Richmond. This fun and fabulous event is held each year by and for our school community, with the goal of raising money to send our teachers to enriching and highly valued professional development programs. As you can imagine, one of the more important tasks is to procure donations. These may be items, services, places to visit, cash donations, or advertising space in the Auction catalog. As you head out to do your holiday shopping, please consider asking the businesses

you frequent to support our school. To make it official and easy, we will leave copies of solicitation letters, donation forms, and advertising forms in the 'Auction mailbox' in the offices at the ECC and LE/MS. For novices, we'll also leave a 'How to' guide (where to go, how to make the pitch, etc.) in the mailbox, to help get you started. And please, be creative!! Purchasing a prepared meal or dessert at a local restaurant or bakery? Ask if they would be willing to donate a cake of the month. Taking a family trip to Monterey? Ask the inn or hotel where you're staying if they would be willing to donate a 2-night stay. Night on the town with, dinner followed by a show? Ask for gift certificates and tickets. You get the idea... Joan Bostian (Queen of Procurement) and Signy Judd (Auction Boss) thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy helping us in our quest to get the goods!"

TBS Students Perform in The Christmas Revels

Three of the 14 children performers in this year's Christmas Revels: A Theatrical Celebration of the Winter Solstice will be TBS students: Sophia and Aine Brewer-Thompson and Grant Konkell. Come enjoy the stories, music, drama, and dance of old Bavaria in these festive seasonal performances. Here are the details:

When: December 11-13 & 18-20

Fridays at 7:30 pm

Saturdays at 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Sundays at 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Where: Scottish Rite Theater on Lake Merritt, Oakland

For more information or to order tickets, call 510-452-8800 or visit www.californiarevels.org.

Party On, TBS!

The Pick-a-Party season really ramps up again after the holidays! Here is a schedule of upcoming parties, for the benefit of guests who signed up:

Evening Spa and Sleepover in Marin!

Friday, January 8, 2:30 pm until Saturday, January 9, 8:45 am, at the Bostians' in Marin County.

"The Most Dangerous Man in America" Documentary

Screening with Daniel Ellsberg

Saturday, January 9, 7:00-9:00 pm

"Recipes for a Good Life" Bookmaking Party

Sunday, January 10, 1:00-4:00 pm

Tour & Demonstration at Meyer Sound, with Lunch by Gregoire

Friday, January 22, 10:00 am-1:00 pm

Pizza, Pajama, and Movie Night in Sweet Briar Creek

Friday, January 22, 6:00-9:00 pm

Aurelia's Oratorio - Berkeley Rep

Friday, January 22, 8:00 pm curtain

Homemade Pasta-Making Class

Sunday, January 24, 1:00-3:30 pm

Women's TransDance and Dinner

Sunday, January 24, 5:00-9:00 pm

Parent Education Event Calendar

Here is a quick reference guide to this year's Parent Education events. All events are held at the EI./MS unless otherwise noted. **Please RSVP** for parent ed. events by emailing parented@theberkeleyschool.org. Childcare is available during these events by pre-registration only, for the nominal fee of \$10 per family. Please sign up and pay in the office at either campus by the Friday before the event.

Saturday, January 9, 1:30-5:00 pm

"Journey Through Learning" (ECC and EI./MS)

Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm

"The Price of Privilege," with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-9:00 pm (***date to be confirmed***)

"Internet Safety for Parents"