



Newsnotes

January 14, 2010

**No School Tomorrow or Monday, 1-18
See you next Tuesday, 1-19!**

New This Week:

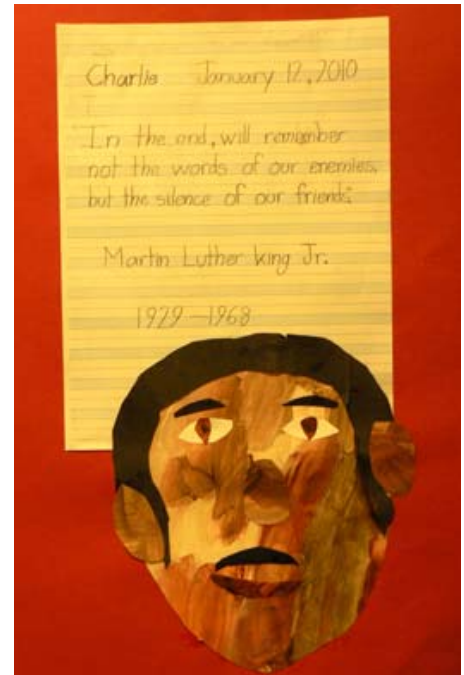
- TBS Responds to Disaster in Haiti
- Welcome, New Eugenia Student!
- Camps for President's Day Break
- "Price of Privilege" on January 25
- Parent's Report on "Journey Through Learning"
- Alumni Panel Tells All
- Auction News
- Last Chance at Lost & Found
- Mandarin Classes for Children
- Sign up for Spring Lacrosse

Important Reminders:

- Calling Parent Ambassadors!
- Art Class for Teen-agers Offered
- News from the Pick-a-Party Committee
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar

TBSPA Gives to Haitian Earthquake Relief

The TBSPA, on behalf of the school, has decided to make a donation to disaster relief in Haiti, in recognition of the tremendous human toll the earthquake has taken, and how easily the Bay Area could be facing the same situation. If you would like to contribute to Haiti earthquake relief, you may be interested to know about the What If? Foundation, founded in 2000 by Margaret Trost, mom of 2007 TBS graduate Luke Tanaka, to provide food and educational opportunities for poor children in Haiti. Along with major aid organization such as the Red Cross, the What If? Foundation is currently collecting funds for earthquake relief. You can learn more about them at www.whatiffoundation.org.



Happy Martin Luther King, Jr. Day! Above: one of the commemorative portraits with quotations done in Sweet Briar Creek.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

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.

Contracts & Financial Aid Decisions mailed to returning students and siblings, Friday, January 22.

"The Price of Privilege" Parent Ed. event with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky, Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm, EI./MS.

Coffee with Zaq Roberts, Acting Head of School, Tuesday, February 2, 8:00-9:00, Bread Workshop, 1398 University Avenue.

Contracts & Deposits Due for returning students, siblings, 3- and 4-year-olds, Friday, February 5.

Child Visit Day, EI./MS, Saturday, February 6.

Child Visit Day, ECC, Sunday, February 7.

Internet Safety for Parents Parent Ed. event, Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-9:00, EI./MS.



Above and below: Buddy classrooms Laurel (K-1) and Strawberry (4-5) work on the books they are writing and illustrating. Photos: Carrie Birgbauer.



Welcome, New TBS Family

Please help us welcome Alexander Raponi, a new student in Eugenia at the ECC. Xander and his family recently relocated from Pennsylvania. Mom Magda Morton is at

Professional Development Day, Friday, February 12. School closed; no childcare available. (Please note that the printed calendar says "Report Writing Day" in error, but the date is unchanged.)

Chinese New Year, Sunday, February 14. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

President's Day Break, Monday-Wednesday, February 15-17. School closed; camps available.

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

QUICK LINKS:

- [TBS' New Website!](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Support TBS](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)



Above: Middle School students pack for their camping trip to Pinnacles National Park, Monday, January 11. Below: "Into the valley of Death rode the TBS parents..." Two MS parents about to drive to Pinnacles stoically contemplate their fate. Photos: Laura Gorjance

mfmorton@gmail.com, (619) 318-5618; dad Mitch Raponi is at (858) 717-2084. More contact information will follow.

Camps Available for President's Day Break

Camps are available at both campuses during the President's Day Break, February 15-17.

- **The ECC** is offering a three-day camp, a relaxed version of the school day, from 8:30 am until either 3:00 (\$195) or 5:00 pm (\$240). A minimum enrollment of 12 is needed to run the camp, so please sign up at the ECC office by Friday, January 22. Contact ECC Director Andrea Gordon at agordon@theberkeleyschool.org or 849-8340 with questions.
- **The EI./MS** will offer excursions like climbing at Berkeley Ironworks, ice skating and bowling at Yerba Buena Gardens, and creating animation and music videos at Zeum, led by the Extended Day staff. You may sign your child up for one, two, or all three days (9:00 am-5:00 pm), at \$80 per day, \$60/day for each additional sibling. Please don't delay in signing up; we will need to cancel the camp if we don't reach a minimum enrollment of ten by Tuesday, January 19. Contact Extended Day Director Liz Heck at lheck@theberkeleyschool.org with questions or to sign up.

"Price of Privilege" Parent Ed. Event

On Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm at the EI./MS, TBS Psychologist Dr. Anne Brodzinsky will lead a conversation on "the price of privilege," during which parents will explore how to sidestep the pitfalls of parental pressure and material advantage that can create unhappy, disconnected kids, and how to help our children manage impulses and emotions, form healthy relationships, and become useful, well-adjusted and ethical people in this era of relative affluence. Please RSVP to parented@theberkeleyschool.org. Childcare is available for only \$10 per family; please sign up and pay in either school office by next Friday, January 22.



Above: A found art project in Eugenia. Below: Painting a winter watercolor in Cedar. Photos: ECC staff.





Above: Slimy fun in Eugenia! Photo: ECC staff. Below: Robotics, ECC style. Photo: Paula Farmer.



Parent's Report on "Journey Through Learning"

Jonathan Wade, dad of Live Oak's Beckett Judd-Wade, attended the "Journey Through Learning" on Saturday and wrote this report: "I recently attended the "Journey Through Learning" held at both TBS campuses. It was a truly valuable and insightful experience. My wife and I have spent months visiting private and public schools, trying to decide where our daughter (presently in Live Oak) will go to kindergarten and beyond. All of these visits have been helpful, in that we've had the chance to hear about different learning philosophies

and observed children in the classrooms. The "Journey Through Learning" is different: it gave parents a chance to experience how students learn at TBS and in general; engage in the same processes; and understand some of the strategies they acquire to tackle problems. It's not really a window into the classroom (which I've always wanted so I could watch my daughter), but a place in the circle or a seat at the table.

"In addition to parents with children at the school, parents of prospective students came, too. It says a lot about TBS that teachers and administrators open up their doors on a Saturday afternoon and put together such an in-depth program about learning.

"At the end of the day, when we reflected on the afternoon as a group, one of the parents commented that she had always heard that children are like cups, and you fill them up with what you think they need to know so that hopefully one day they'll be able to pour it out. Then, taking a line from the TBS website, she went on to say: 'Now I believe that I don't know what will resonate with my children, and it's my job to ignite their fire for learning so that they can blaze their own path.'

"After this experience, I feel more confident than ever that TBS teachers have the minds and hearts to take on just such a task: igniting children's minds and fostering their curiosity. We are excited that our daughter will have the chance to go to school in this environment, and I am really grateful to the TBS faculty and staff we had the pleasure of interacting with on Saturday, for making such a remarkable event available. They are truly awesome."

Alumni Panel Tells It Like It Is

On Wednesday, January 13, five TBS graduates came back to their alma mater for the Alumni Panel. Speaking thoughtfully and frankly about their experiences here and in high school, they answered questions from the audience for nearly 90 minutes. Now attending Lick-Wilmerding, St. Mary's College High School, Urban School, and Berkeley High, the students of course had different perspectives, but several themes were repeated as they talked about what advantages TBS has given them: the confidence gained in a close-knit community, where one is deeply known and accepted, and the value of long-term friendships; the skill, explicitly practiced at TBS, to manage their time and approach their teachers for help and clarification when necessary; the belief that they have truly learned how to learn, not just to regurgitate facts; and the equanimity and

willingness to try that comes from the "gifts and challenges" paradigm. The concept of gifts and challenges teaches that we all have inborn talents as well as areas that are more difficult for us to master. No one has all of one or the other, and -- most important -- we are all capable of improvement in our challenges if we work at them. Far from defining us, understanding our gifts and challenges profoundly frees us both to help others, and to go outside our comfort zone to try new things and revisit areas of difficulty. Many thanks to the five panelists and to the parents who took time from their busy lives to attend!

Auction & Party Coming Up

As you know, this year's auction and party will be held on Saturday, April 10 at the Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. Be sure to save the date! There will be wine aplenty, delicious food prepared by our own Gregoire Jacquet – here's your chance to see what the Elementary/Middle School kids have been raving about! – and an opportunity to spend some festive and frivolous time together outside of the usual drop-off and pick-up. So whether or not you plan to bid on that week in Mazatlan, we hope to see you at this fabulous evening in honor of our terrific teachers. We can't think of a better reason to celebrate! If you'd like to get involved in planning the party, please contact Auction Chair Signy Judd at auktion@theberkeleyschool.org, or Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org.

Last Chance to Check Lost & Found at the EI./MS

Please check the Lost & Found rack at the EI./MS, which is full to bursting! We will be donating to charity anything left unclaimed by next Friday, January 22.

Chinese Lessons for Children

A TBS parent enthusiastically recommends Chinese lessons from the Berkeley Chinese Academy, held at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1953 Hopkins Street in Berkeley, for children ages 4-12. Classes are held on Saturday mornings in 10-week sessions; the next session has just begun and runs from now until March 20, 2010. Four levels of Mandarin are currently offered by experienced native speaker instructors, in an interactive format appropriate for children, using stories, songs, and games to introduce Chinese culture and demystify reading and writing Chinese. For more information or to register, contact Phoebe Chen at (925) 876-1148 or (925) 283-8866, or phoebechen@comcast.net; or Amy Kao at 526-1212 or 847-5202, or amykao@hotmail.com. You may contact ECC parent Rachel Sing at 486-0996 or rachel.n.sing@gmail.com if you'd like a parent's perspective.

Berkeley Lacrosse Club Registration Open

Sign your child up to play the fastest game on two feet! Registration for the Berkeley Lacrosse Club is open; the season begins February 1. BLC serves children ages 7-14, grades 2-8. New this year is a Girls Skills Team for under 13. All divisions are based on the age of the player on December 31 of the year preceding the season being played. Visit: <http://www.berkeleylacrosse.org>. For assistance with registration, call 510-527-8728 or 510-229-2633.

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 two more events at which we could use your help: 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.

Pick-a-Parties Roll On!

There is limited space still available for **Tea and Swedish Cinnamon Rolls**, Sunday, January 24 (**note date change from Pick-a-Party catalog**), 3:00-6:00 pm, \$30 per adult. Let your hostess show you how to make delicious Swedish cinnamon rolls just as she learned back home in Sweden. You'll also enjoy beautiful photos of the tea gardens of Darjeeling and Bhutan, as well as an incredible tasting of teas from all over the world.

The Women's TransDance party scheduled for January 24 has been **canceled**. If you have signed up to attend, please contact Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org.

Please also note the date change (due to the film being shortlisted for an Oscar nomination!) for "The Most Dangerous Man in America" Documentary Screening

with Daniel Ellsberg, now Saturday, January 23, 7:00-9:00 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.

Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm
"The Price of Privilege," with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-9:00 pm
"Internet Safety for Parents"