



Newsnotes

January 29, 2010

New This Week:

- **Janet Stork Health Update**
- Wednesday Lunch Now by Gregoire!
- TBS Featured on Alfie Kohn's Website
- School Logo Items: Order Now
- Guest Teacher Needs Host Family
- Welcome, New Families!
- Daniel Ellsberg at TBS
- Summer Camp Option for Families
- More H1N1 Vaccine Clinics Offered
- Parent Education Opportunities
- Independent Tuition Payment Plan

Important Reminders:

- TBS Time Bank Meetings Scheduled
- Coin Drive for Haiti at TBS
- Important Reminder Re: EI./MS Parking
- Snack Shoppers Needed at ECC
- Camps for President's Day Break
- TBS Book Club to Meet
- Free Music Jam Wednesdays for 4th-8th Graders
- TBS Auction a Family Affair
- Pick-a-Party Reminders

Health Update for Janet Stork

Many parents have recently been inquiring about Janet's health. On Thursday, January 28, she wrote, "Can you believe it? Throughout my treatment, nothing has been straightforward, and I continue to confound the experts. While some test results have shown marked improvement, some have not; so I have had to try different types of chemo, which has contributed to why this ordeal is taking longer than originally expected. I will not be ready to return to school by the end of this month, as I'd hoped. However, I am still actively involved with school business, particularly because this is a crucial time of year. I have daily contact with Zaq and very frequent contact with the rest of the admin. team and the Board, especially related to strategic issues. That involvement has been good for me and for the school.

"I know the continuing uncertainty around the timing of my return is difficult for our community -- it certainly is for me! -- but please know that the school is kept well-informed and is, responsibly, making plans to cover all contingencies. I continue to be so pleased with the level of everyone's commitment to being the best we can be. I miss everyone, and can't believe how I continue to receive such thoughtful, caring, heartfelt wishes from parents,



Above: Parent Arash Komeili talked to the Laurel Creek K-1 students about composting in your own backyard! Photo: Carrie Birgbauer.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

Coffee with Zaq Roberts, Acting Head of School, Tuesday, February 2, 8:00-9:00, Bread Workshop, 1398 University Avenue. Join Zaq to talk informally about school events.

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

TBS Time Bank Meeting, Friday, February 5, 5:00-7:00 pm, EI./MS.

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.

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.

TBS Book Club Meeting, Wednesday,

faculty and staff, as well as from other Heads of School. Thank you, everybody, and I look forward to seeing you when I come back to the office, I hope within the next month or two.”

Wednesday EI./MS Hot Lunch Now by Gregoire!

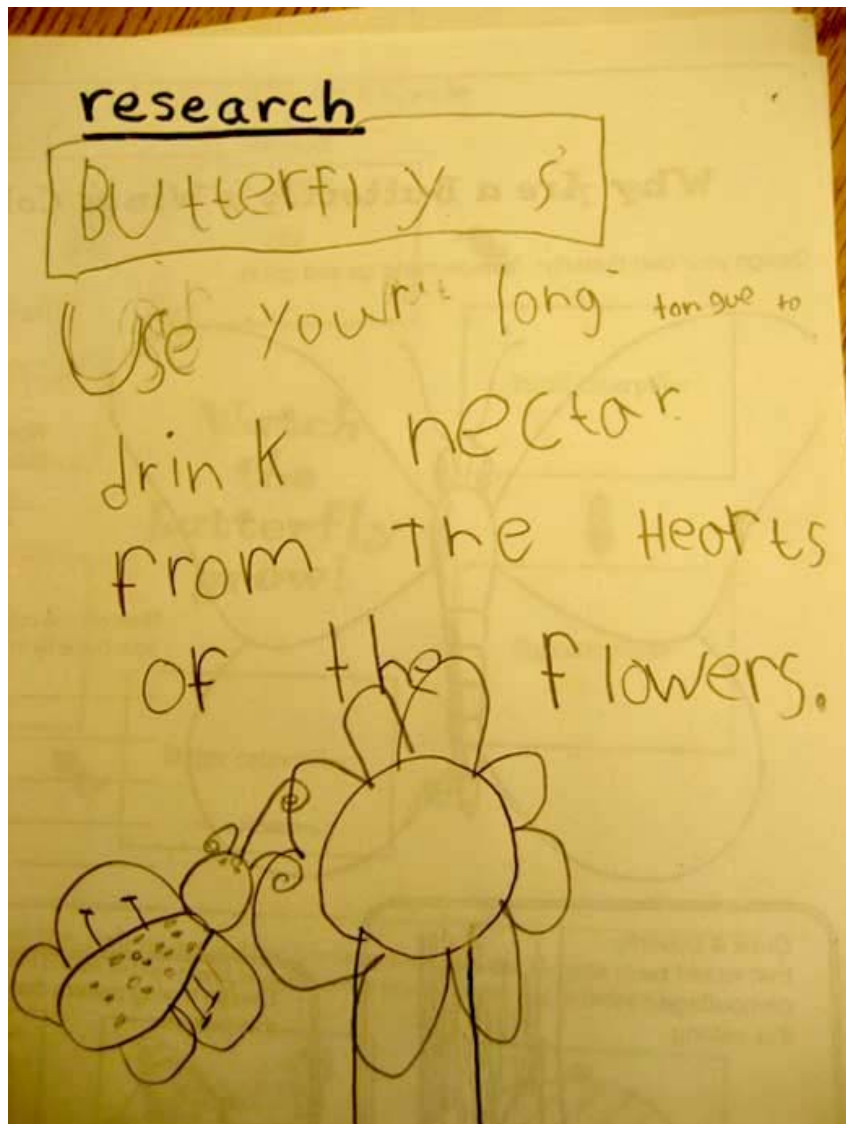
The three-week free EI./MS hot lunch pilot program has come to an end, much to the grief of the entire K-8 parent community. But the good news is that Gregoire himself is taking over the Wednesday hot lunch program, beginning next week, February 3! You may order as few or as many Wednesday lunches as you like; download the menu and order form [here](#). Please keep in mind that the Monday deadline to sign up for any Wednesday lunch is FIRM.

February 17, 7:00 pm, Saul's Deli, 1475 Shattuck Avenue.

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

QUICK LINKS:

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



Above: Laurel Creek was researching butterflies this week, giving one student inspiration for a picture poem. Below: Busy Laurel Creek also visited the Middle School chicken! Photos: Carrie Birgbauer.



Above: Seed to table with Blackberry Creek. Photo: Claire Patterson. Below: Cerrito Creek students searched through their worm bin to determine how healthy their worm population is and to discuss ways to compost wisely. Photo: Kyla O'Neill.





TBS on Alfie Kohn's Site

Nationally-known educational writer and speaker Alfie Kohn has featured TBS on his website, in his article on grades and why they're actually destructive. Please click [here](#) to read about our school's thoughtful switch to more authentic assessment in the middle school.

Order Your TBS T-Shirts Now!

T-shirts and sweatshirts with our snazzy new logo, all made in California, are available for order now! Click [here](#) for the order form. You may drop off your completed form and a check at either TBS office, but order soon -- the deadline is next Friday, February 5!

Swiss Guest Teacher Seeks Host Family

TBS will host a guest teacher from Switzerland in Sweet Briar Creek classroom for several weeks this spring, April 5-23. Heidi Mettler is a student in the University of Zurich teacher education program, and her work there includes spending time teaching in an English-speaking country to improve her English. This is the second year TBS has hosted a teacher from their program, a collaboration that furthers our goals of being a center of learning and actively promoting global citizenship. Heidi is hoping to connect with a host family, ideally close to the EI./MS or with an easy commute by public transportation. Accommodation should include a private room and breakfast, with lunch and dinner (including week-ends) to be negotiated between the host family and Heidi. If interested in exploring this opportunity, which comes with a stipend, please contact Associate Head of School Zaq Roberts at zroberts@theberkeleyschool.org.

Welcome, New TBS Families!

TBS has recently welcomed four new families to the ECC. Please say hello if you notice a new face on campus! Please update your directories as follows:

- **Nathalie Gahan** has joined Cedar classroom. Natalie and her mom, Charmaine Gahan (cell 781-775-3997, charmainegahan@mac.com) and dad Patrick Gahan are at 1 Park Gate, Berkeley, 94708.
- **Ryo Woltag** has joined Live Oak. Ryo and his mom, Carrie McAlister (cell 292-7838, carrie@redoakrealty.com) and dad Adam Woltag (cell 469-8066, work 524-1998, awoltag@yahoo.com) live at 660 Woodmont AVenue, Berkeley, 94708, home phone 524-1998.
- We welcomed **Alexander Raponi** to Eugenia in a previous Newsnotes. His dad, Mitch Raponi, is at raponi@yahoo.com, and the family is at 2417 Woolsey Street, Berkeley, 94705.
- **Mika Webster-Longin** has joined Magnolia classroom. Mika, mom Maria Webster-Longin (cell 415-283-5854, mlwlongin@me.com) and dad Luke Longin (mlwlongin@me.com) live at 75 Hamilton Place, Oakland, CA 94612.

Daniel Ellsberg Speaks at TBS

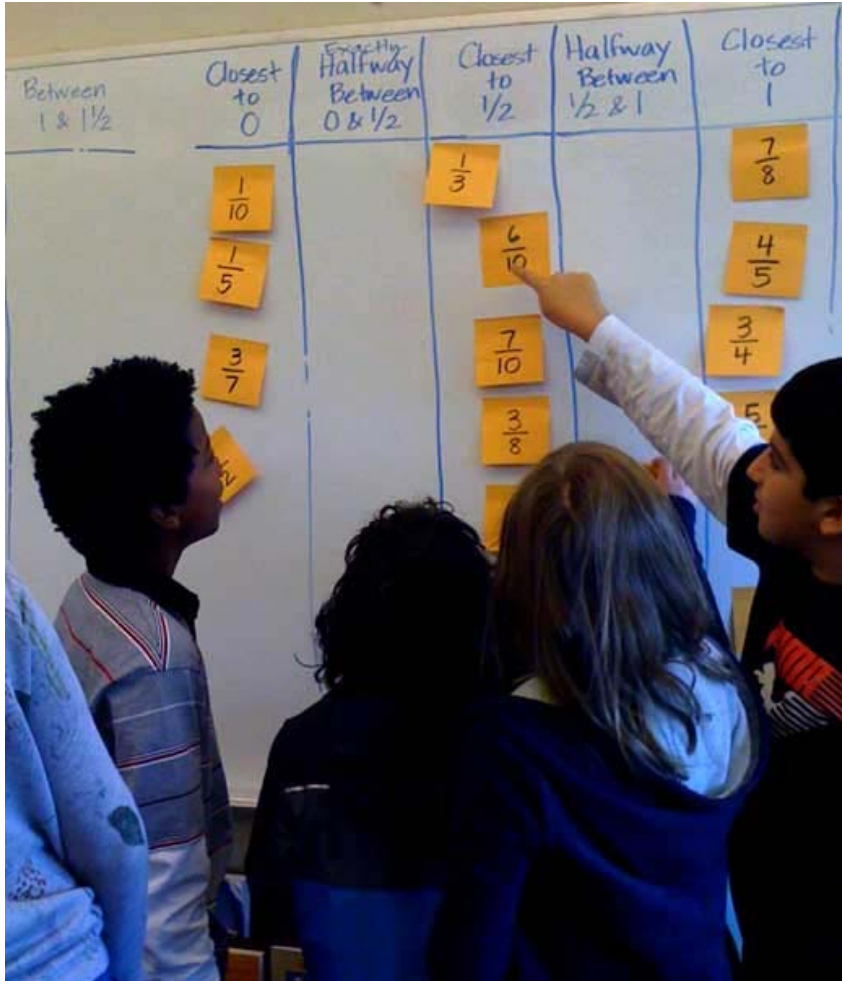
David Trachtenberg, one of the hosts of the event, wrote about an unusual and inspiring Pick-a-Party that took place at TBS recently: "Last Saturday evening at TBS, a new documentary film was screened in the Depot for an audience of TBS parents. The film, *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers*, follows the life of one the most important historical figures of our time. Following the screening, we were honored to have Dr. Daniel Ellsberg present to answer questions from the audience.

"The screening, for an intimate group of about fifty, was organized as a Pick-a-Party [by hosts and parents Lee Swenson and Vijaya Nagarajan and Beth and David Trachtenberg]. Lee and Vijaya are old friends of Daniel Ellsberg, and thus were able to extend the invitation to him for this very special event.

"A member of the audience asked Dr. Ellsberg why there are no whistleblowers now, no people like Ellsberg among those holding high office. Why does someone like Colin Powell enable a G. W. Bush, with a sales job before the U.N.? It's hard to understand. Military courage is an everyday event - heroism on the battlefield is commonplace, said Ellsberg. But what Ellsberg calls 'public courage,' the kind that requires one to 'betray' one's peer group, risk career and livelihood and even one's life, is extremely rare. He said he does not, to this day, fully understand why this is so, as it came so instinctively to him. He said he thinks there's a deep evolutionary imperative for social cohesion, for acceptance by one's group that makes it extremely difficult for people to

self-ostracize in the way that he did.

"I've been an admirer of Daniel Ellsberg for most of my life, but seeing this film and hearing this brilliant and courageous man speak was extremely moving for me, and the experience has stayed with me for days."



Above: After solving a problem about fraction benchmarks, Wildcat Creek students placed their fractions in the correct column before checking their work as a group. Photo: Sima Misra. Below: The children of Cedar classroom help fold clean towels. Photo: ECC staff.



Art Camp for Grown-ups (Children, Too!)

Feather River Art Camp, to run June 20-27 this summer, is a week-long retreat for creative adults, featuring classes in everything from bookmaking to landscape painting to recycled glass fusing. Located in the Sierra foothills, the camp supplies "rustic but civilized" lodging and all meals. There is a theater arts class for children aged 6-12, but children who attend camp with their parents must have another adult available to them during their parents' classes. For more information, go to www.featherriverartcamp.com.

Free H1N1 Clinic Continues

Beginning today, Berkeley will offer free H1N1 vaccinations for everyone, each Friday from 9:00-11:00 am at the City of Berkeley Public Health Clinic. The new temporary location is 2500 Milvia Street, Suite 114, in Berkeley. You do not have to be a Berkeley resident.

Parent Ed. Opportunities Offered

There are two parent education events coming up at other schools which our parents may find interesting. (We apologize for the short notice; we found out just this week about these events.)

- Tomorrow, January 30, Redwood Day School Parents' Association invites the East Bay community to attend their fourth annual Parent University conference from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm. The keynote presenter is best-selling author Po Bronson, co-author of *NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children*. In *NurtureShock*, Bronson's central premise is that many of modern society's strategies for nurturing children of all ages are backfiring because important concepts in the science have been overlooked. Space is limited and registration is required. For more information and online registration, visit

http://www.rdschool.org/News_and_Events/Parent_University.

- Next Tuesday, February 2, at 7:00 pm, *Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture* will be shown at Black Pine Circle School, 2027 7th Street, Berkeley. For more information, visit <http://www.blackpinecircle.org> (RSVP to gwong@blackpinecircle.org). *Race To Nowhere* is "a groundbreaking documentary film that examines education, childhood and the unintended consequences of the achievement-obsessed way of life that permeates American education and culture."

Tuition Payment Plan Available

Your Tuition Solution is an education loan company that has recently come to TBS' attention. It offers fixed-rate extended payment plans for independent school parents. TBS does not recommend this or any other loan program, but if you are interested in researching this option to see if it might be right for your family, you may pick up a brochure in the main office, or go to www.tutionsolution.com.

Time Bank Potlucks Scheduled Through June

The TBS Time Bank Committee writes, "Fun and time bank talk coming your way! We have scheduled our monthly potluck dinner dates at The Berkeley School Depot through the end of the school year. We hope that having this advance notice will make it easier for more of us to get together. As before, the time is set for 5:00-7:00 pm so we can eat, socialize, and give the kids time to play. We look forward to sharing updates on timebanking activity in our community." The dates are:

Friday, February 5

Friday, March 19

Friday, April 16

Friday, May 21

Friday, June 4

Coin Drive for Haiti

If you are anything like Your Newsnotes Staff, your pockets, sofa cushions, vehicle, and various interesting household vessels are full to bursting with 1987 pennies and 1998 nickels (though, sadly, very few 1941 Walking Liberty half-dollars or 1937 Mercury dimes). Here's how to put all those coins to an important use! There is a collection jar in both TBS offices for all your surplus coins, which the TBSPA will organize and donate to disaster relief in Haiti. This is an excellent opportunity to involve your child in a concrete way of helping people in trouble.

Important Reminder Re: Parking at EI./MS

Please remember that TBS rents specific spaces in the lot behind Ledger's Liquors (the fenced lot on Acton Street, just north of University, across from Fellini's parking lot). **We should ALWAYS park ONLY in numbered spaces 1-20. Your car is very likely**

to be towed if you park in the other spaces, which are rented by another local business.

Please also remember never to park in front of the gate to the basketball court at the EI./MS. The only person who should park there is our custodian, Yu Ren Lin, who regularly loads and unloads heavy items from his truck, and who can always be found quickly when necessary. If there are no open spaces in the lot, please drive the 1-1/2 blocks to Ledger's and park there, in one of our contracted spaces (#1-20).

ECC Snack Shoppers Needed

The ECC is looking for a few good shoppers to help with purchasing snacks for the campus. If you can devote a little time to helping our smallest students enjoy their healthy snacks, please contact Colleen Shelly at coolleen@sbcglobal.net.

Camps Available for President's Day Break

The deadline to sign up for the camp at the EI./MS for the President's Day Break has passed, but there are still a few spots available in the ECC camp, February 15-17. They are 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). If you have signed up but not yet paid, please do so immediately in order to secure your child's spot in camp. Contact ECC Director Andrea Gordon at agordon@theberkeleyschool.org or 849-8340 with questions.

TBS Book Club to Meet

The TBS Book Club's next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 pm. We will meet at Saul's Deli, 1475 Shattuck Avenue, to discuss *The Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick. New members are always welcome! For more information, please contact Kathie Hoehn, kdevoli@aol.com or 527-0151.

Music Jam for 4th-8th Graders

All 4th-8th graders are invited to join (free of charge!) Music Jam on Wednesdays from dismissal until 5:00 pm. This fun after-school class is completely free of charge, and will serve as an opportunity for students to access their musical talents and explore new musical possibilities. Training and instruction can be given on both pitched instruments (guitar, piano, xylophone, woodwinds, banjo, etc.) and unpitched (drums, shakers, cajon, and other percussion traditions). The core mission is to give the students practical tools and training to find creative outlets for self-expression and mastery of musical skills. Please contact Music Teacher Tracy Welsh, tracymusic@gmail.com, with any questions.

TBS Auction a Family Affair

The auction this year is shaping up to be a real family affair -- the TBS family, that is! With dinner catered by our own Gregoire Jacquet, flowers done by parent Elisabeth Ross, sound production by parents Mark Kohr and Marian Bradley-Kohr, and the auction

itself called by Martin Gammon, brother-in-law of parent Colleen Shelly and former TBS parent himself, this will truly be an intimate and memorable event. Held on April 10 at the gorgeous and architecturally significant Craneway Pavilion on the waterfront in Richmond, it will have a setting as special as its participants. Be sure to put it on your calendar now! If you'd like to get involved in planning the party, please contact Auction Chair Signy Judd at auction@theberkeleyschool.org, or Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org.



Above: The Craneway Pavilion in Richmond. Below: 41 children attended the Pizza-Pajama-Movie Pick-a-Party in Sweet Briar Creek last Friday night! The highlight of the evening was hide-and-seek in the dark, supervised by the ever-valiant Danette Swan and Kate Klaire, who were helped by Associate Business Manager (and pajama-clad parent) Randy Yee. Photo: Danette Swan.



Pick-a-Party Reminders

We've watched a movie about Daniel Ellsberg and then got to ask him questions about it, we've seen what looked an awful lot like

magic in a darkened sound studio, we've run around TBS in our pajamas in the dark, and we've watched Charlie Chaplin's granddaughter swing in velvet drapes high above the stage. Those parties are over, but these are coming up this week-end:

- **In Vino Veritas: Reprise**, Saturday, January 30, 6:00-8:30 pm, hosted by Jennifer and Daniel Firepine and Summer Nastich and Katherine Kettler, with special guests Margaret Gutowski and Michael Marletta.
- **British Soccer Party and Breakfast**, Sunday, January 31 (Note date change from Pick-a-Party Catalog!), 9:00-11:00 am. Mighty Arsenal takes on Manchester United (boo!) in this dream match of The Beautiful Game!