



# Newsnotes

December 4, 2009

Communications Director is out this week, so this week's Newsnotes is done by one of her apprentices. We apologize for the imperfection in the workmanship.

## **1. Report on Gender Spectrum**

by Agnes Lord, Parent Ed Committee

The Parent Education presentation on gender identity by Joel Baum of Gender Spectrum stirred lively discussions. Parents came away with a sense of comfort and reassurance. Joel talked about the various gender definitions, beyond just "boy" and "girl" with which most but not all children identify. While our culture may not be as "enlightened" as that of the indigenous tribes on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, where five genders are the norm, gender variant behavior, i.e., boys growing long hair or wearing skirts, is becoming more accepted here. In his talk to the K-1 and older TBS students the following day, Joel encouraged the children to understand and to accept behavior outside the "gender boxes" in themselves and their classmates. For those who couldn't make it to the talk, Joel recommends a book, The Transgender Child by Stephanie A. Brill and Rachel Pepper.

## **2. Additional 6th Grade Step Up Observation**

### **Opportunities:**

Sima Misra has kindly made additional opportunities available for you to schedule an observation of her math class. If you are interested, please RSVP to Paula Farmer at [pfarmer@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:pfarmer@theberkeleyschool.org) for one of the following dates.

**10 AM on Tuesday, December 8**

**9 AM on Thursday, December 10**

## **3. Financial Aid Workshop:**

Still a little unclear about the financial aid process? Need help navigating the new SSS website? Please complete your online application (the PFS) as best you can and bring your questions to one of the two financial aid workshops at the University Avenue campus on **Tuesday, December 8**. These are the last two workshops scheduled before the December 11 filing deadline. **The 9-10 AM workshop will be held in the conference room and the 6-7:30 PM workshop will be held in the Art Room.** These workshops are geared for parents who have never applied for financial aid as well as parents who have applied before and would like a quick refresher course before completing the application by the December 11 deadline. Shira Freehling, Director of Financial Aid, will provide an overview of the application process and answer your questions.

## **4. Annual Fund:**

A Big Thank You to those families who have speedily made their gifts and pledges to The Annual Fund. We have reached 40% of our goal of \$250,000. Please know that all contributions you make will positively impact our school. So we hope you will make a generous contribution in support of all our programs and activities for the year. Please remember that your gift makes a big difference. Thank you!

**5. Please Note December 11 Deadlines:**

All Sibling Applications, Returning Student Re-Enrollment surveys, & Financial Aid Applications are due by 4 PM. In fairness to all, financial aid applications received by SSS after the deadline will be reviewed after all on-time applications have been reviewed and awards determined. So please be on time.

**6. TBS Board Meeting:**

It will be held at 4:30 PM, December 15 in the middle school. All TBS teachers, staff, and parents are welcome.

**7. TBS Third Auction:**

Please mark your calendar for this exciting event! Saturday, April 10, 2010, the greater TBS community will be gathered at the beautiful, historic Craneway Building on the waterfront in Richmond for the third annual Gala TBS Auction and Dinner! This dramatic venue, with a breathtaking view of San Francisco across the bay (check out the views at [www.craneway.com](http://www.craneway.com)!), is the former home of both a WWII tank factory and the first Ford manufacturing plant in the west. Contact Auction Chair Signy Judd at [signyjudd@gmail.com](mailto:signyjudd@gmail.com) or Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at [jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org) if you'd like to get involved.

**8. Time Bank Potluck:**

Come to an all-school family potluck and movie on **Sunday, December 5, 5:00-7:00 PM**, in the Depot. Adults and kids can socialize and share a meal. Kids can do an art project or watch Miyazaki's movie Kiki's Delivery Service. We will give an update on our Timebank activity to date and have the website open for everyone to check out and use. If you'd like to find out more about time banking before the potluck, check out [timebanking.org](http://timebanking.org). Questions? Contact Mark Kohr at [markkohr@gmail.com](mailto:markkohr@gmail.com).

**9: Holiday (Chanukah and Christmas) Bake Sale**

TBSPA will host a holiday bake sale at 2:50 PM on the University campus on December 17 & 18. We will be selling cakes, pies, and your favorite holiday cookies in beautiful, decorative containers for you to give as a present or to bring to your family's holiday gathering. We will take care of the packaging and pricing. You just bring the baked goods to the Depot in the morning on December 17 or 18. Funds raised will be used to support Parent Associations and school activities. If you would like to participate, please contact Hyungsook at [kimbuctu@berkeley.edu](mailto:kimbuctu@berkeley.edu)

Thank you!

**10. Pick-a-Party:**

#19 Candle-Making & Games

Saturday, December 12, 2:00-5:00 PM

#20 Chanukah Party

Sunday, December 13, 5:00-7:00 PM

**11. Winter Break**

December 21 - January 1, 2010

**12. PS:**

One of our TBS parents happened to see Janet Stork briefly the other day. And she realized that Janet's children, Catie (18) and Andrew (20 something), were home taking care of their mom. So this parent who wishes to remain anonymous comments on how lucky Janet is to have such helpful and willing children. And she adds that Janet must be an amazing parent as well, on top of everything else she is good at!