



Newsnotes

February 5, 2010

New This Week:

- **Contracts Due Today**
- Order Logowear Today!
- Have You Given to the Annual Fund Yet?
- Student Art Show Scheduled
- Internet Safety Parent Ed. Event Postponed
- Spring Break Camp at EI./MS Available Now
- Real Vocal String Quartet CD Out Now
- Time Bank Meeting Tonight
- Check EI./MS Lost & Found Before It's Gone

Important Reminders:

- Janet Stork Health Update
- Wednesday Lunch Now by Gregoire
- TBS Featured on Alfie Kohn's Website
- Guest Teacher Needs Host Family
- Summer Camp Option for Families
- More H1N1 Vaccine Clinics Offered
- Coin Drive for Haiti at TBS
- Important Reminder Re: EI./MS Parking
- TBS Book Club to Meet
- Free Music Jam Wednesdays for 4th-8th Graders
- TBS Auction a Family Affair
- Pick-a-Party Reminders

Returning Students Contracts Due Today

Please remember that re-enrollment contracts and deposits are due today for returning students and siblings. You may drop them off at either school office.

Order Your TBS T-Shirts Now!

Today's the deadline to order T-shirts and sweatshirts with our snazzy new logo, all made in California! Click [here](#) for the order form. You may drop off your completed form and a check at either TBS office. Questions? Contact parent Ann Buechner at annhb@pacbell.net.

Have You Given to the Annual Fund Yet?

"When schools ask for money beyond tuition, they're asking stakeholders to ensure that the best-trained, most committed adults are available to help students become everything they



Above: Blackberry Creek visited the local public library this week! Photo: Lyssa Ichikawa.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

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, **HAS BEEN POSTPONED. RESCHEDULED DATE TBA.**

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. Year of the Tiger. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

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

TBS Book Club Meeting, Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 pm, Saul's Deli, 1475 Shattuck Avenue.

Student Art Show Opening Reception,

can be. Without that extra push financially from donors, virtually no school can achieve its goals.” – James McManos, Executive Director, California Association of Independent Schools

We can all agree that TBS is a unique school for families that value the whole child. That’s why we are all here. But TBS is no different than other independent schools (and public schools) when it comes to needing additional funds to make possible the special programs that prepare students for the 21st century. By nature, TBS is labor-intensive and people-oriented. We cannot become more efficient by combining classrooms or reducing staff – that would sacrifice the very characteristics that brought you to the school in the first place.

Instead, we rely on the Annual Fund and other fundraising to help us close the gap between tuition and the actual cost of educating a child. This is particularly true at a small school like TBS, which has fewer supporters than larger schools or charities. Because the number who will give is small but our students’ needs are great, every gift counts more. This is why many families make the school their philanthropic priority. They know their gifts are an investment that truly pays off.

If you have not made your gift to this year’s Annual Fund, please do so today. You can drop checks off in either office, make your donation online through the TBS website (www.theberkeleyschool.org), or make a gift of stock or other appreciated assets by contacting Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org. Please support all TBS students with your Annual Fund gift today!

Third Annual TBS Student Art Show Scheduled

Save the date! Mark your calendars now for March 10, 2010, when TBS will proudly present the opening reception for the third annual TBS Student Art Show (time TBD) at the EI./MS. We will show the work from all of the students in ECC through Middle School. Come prepared to be blown away by the creativity of our students and their teachers!

Internet Safety Event Postponed

The Parent Education event on Internet safety scheduled for February 9 has been postponed. The new date will be announced soon.

Spring Break Camp at EI./MS: Sign Up Now

There will be a fun-filled, five-day camp offered at the EI./MS during spring break. (Please note that spring break extends

Wednesday, March 10, at the EI./MS.
Time TBD.

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

QUICK LINKS:

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



Above and below: Wildcat students have a lot to say about time on the faces of the clocks they created in art class!
Photos: Laura Gorjance.



through April 5, with students returning on Tuesday, April 6, but camp runs only March 29-April 2.) **The firm deadline to sign up is 5:00 pm Monday, March 8.** It will be a week of fun field trips (Ironworks, Yerba Buena Bowling and Skating, and Zeum) and projects on campus (cooking, creation station, iStop motion). You may sign up your child(ren) for as few or as many days as you would like, at \$80 per day, \$60 for each additional sibling. Please email Extended Day Director Liz Heck at lheck@theberkeleyschool.org to sign up or with questions.

Strings Teacher Irene Sazer 's Group's CD Out Now
The Real Vocal String Quartet, featuring founder and TBS Strings teacher Irene Sazer, celebrates the release of their new CD with an appearance on West Coast Live, KALW 91.7, tomorrow, February 6, at 10:00 am. Then next week, on Thursday, February 11, they'll have a CD release concert at Berkeley's famed Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, now on Addison Street across from Berkeley Rep. See the Freight's [website](#) for details. You can order the CD from several sources, all on RVSQ's website, [here](#).



The budding (ha!) environmentalists in the K-1 classrooms have been working on planting a butterfly garden with Seed to Table coordinator Simon Hurd. Here they tenderly pat down the earth around a red twig dogwood. Photo: Simon Hurd.

Time Bank Meeting Tonight

The whole family is welcome at the TBS Time Bank potluck tonight, 5:00-7:00, in the Depot. Join us to eat, socialize, and give the kids time to play. We look forward to sharing updates on time banking activity in our community. Future dates are:

- Friday, March 19
- Friday, April 16
- Friday, May 21



Above: A honeycomb made by the TBS bees glistens enticingly. Photo: Lillian Howan.



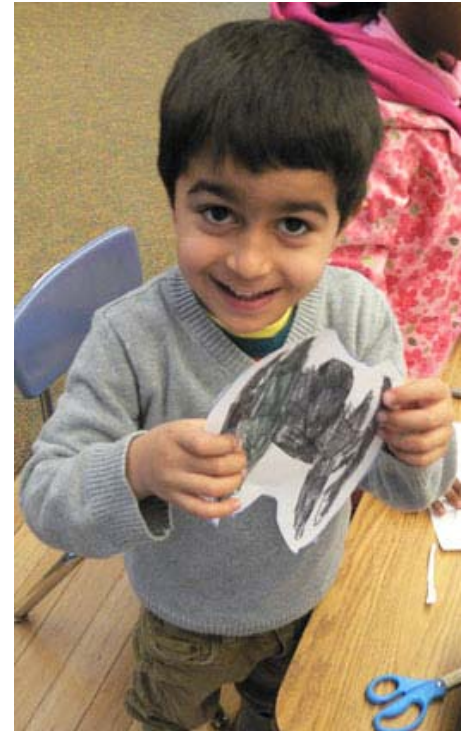
Above and below: Star Wars Day in Laurel Creek incorporated math, art, archetypes of good and evil, and wicked good models. Photos: Carrie Birgbauer.



Friday, June 4
Mark your calendars now!



Above: The talented winners of the Library Club's story competition! Photo: Danette Swan.



Check Lost & Found Soon (We Really Mean It This Time)

Because of the mysterious email list plague from which our community has suffered recently, we have not carried through on our threat to donate everything in Lost & Found to charity. There is some terrific clothing on the rack and we want to be sure its rightful owners have a fair chance to reclaim it! But anything left unclaimed by next Thursday, February 11, really will be given to charity -- please come check it out soon!

Health Update for Janet Stork

In case you were affected by the mystery Newsnotes email list plague, the following appeared in last week's Newsnotes. On Thursday, January 28, Head of School Janet Stork 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, 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."



This week, the 8th grade visited Chabot Observatory, where they took part in a workshop on elements and the periodic table, watched a movie on solar winds, saw a planetarium show on scientific achievements of the Mayan culture, and toured the center's exhibits, including the observatories. Photos: Chris Perdue.



Wednesday EI./MS Hot Lunch Now by Gregoire!

As our K-8 parents know, the Wednesday hot lunch program is now being run by Gregoire himself! You may order as few or as many Wednesday lunches as you like; download the menu and order form [here](#). Please make checks out to "Gregoire," and keep in mind that the Monday deadline to sign up for any Wednesday lunch is firm.

TBS on Alfie Kohn's Site

It's no secret that The Berkeley School makes its decisions, from choosing curriculum to framing student assessment, based on what works best for children's learning. And while we may be a small school, we're beginning to be recognized for our bold decisions by big names in the field of education. Alfie Kohn, bestselling educational author and speaker, recently put TBS and Head of School Janet Stork's leadership front and center in the "News" section of his website, in a story featuring TBS Middle School's shift away from letter grades. Kohn's books include *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*;

Unconditional Parenting: Moving from Rewards and Punishments to Love and Reason; What Does It Mean to Be Well-Educated, and More Essays on Standards, Grading, and Other Follies; and The Case Against Standardized Testing: Raising the Scores, Ruining the Schools. We're proud of our school's stand on authentic assessment, and we hope this story will assuage any lingering doubts among our parents! Please click [here](#) to read about our school's thoughtful switch to more authentic assessment in the middle school.

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.

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

The City of Berkeley is offering 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 to take advantage of this program.

Coin Drive for Haiti

The people of Haiti are still suffering the effects of near-total

intrastructure breakdown after the devastating earthquake there last month. Please remember to bring in those spare coins that are weighing down your sofa and shelves and deposit them in one of the collection jars in both TBS offices. The TBSPA will organize and donate everything raised to disaster relief in Haiti, and will try to wrap things up within a week or two. 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.**

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, TBSPA Chair Hyungsook Kim at kimbuctu@berkeley.edu, or Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org.

Pick-a-Party Reminders

Some lucky TBS folks attended In Vino Veritas at the Firepines' home on Saturday night, where they perhaps imbibed a glass or two more terrific wine than was strictly necessary for politeness' sake. Some equally fortunate parents arrived chez Goodhead/Perry bright and early on Sunday, to eat unreasonable quantities of bacon and watch the tragic demise of Arsenal's hopes at the hands of a hungry Manchester Utd. team who dove to the ground more than once with questionable injuries (I'm just saying). A few, like Your Newsnotes Staff, did both, and have no idea why nothing ever gets done around their house.

Those parties may be in the past, but there are some great ones coming up! A few of these parties still have a space or two available; please contact Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org for information.

- **Worm Composting for Kids and Adults**, Saturday, February 13, 1:00-2:30 pm
- **Valentine's Night of Love**, Saturday, February 13, 7:00-11:00 pm
- **Queens of Thrift III: Welcome Back, Baby, to the Poor Side of Town**, Saturday, February 20, 9:30 am-4:00 pm
- **Women's Clothing and Accessories Swap with Wine and Cheese**, Sunday, February 21, 2:00-5:00 pm
- **Build-a-Drum Party**, Sunday, February 28, 1:00-4:00 pm