



# Newsnotes

April 23, 2010

## New This Week:

- Letter From the Head of School
- TBS Board Chair on HOS Committee
- "Community Speaks" Event on May 2
- TBS Parent in the News: "I Just Can't Get You Out of MySpace..."
- TBS Hosts Kindergarten Readiness Meeting
- Community-Supported Agriculture: You're Invited
- Standardized Testing Coming Up

## Important Reminders:

- Come Learn about Accreditation
- Student Step-Up Days Scheduled
- Graduate Art Show at CCA
- Youth Ticket Change for AC Transit
- Teen Safety Event at BHS
- Teacher Seeks Used Car
- Every Week is Strings Week
- "Peace About Life" Dance
- Pick-a-Party Reminders

## Letter From the Head of School

Some of us are uncomfortable with the hyper-competitive, super-achievement-oriented society in which we're raising our children, but worry about their future if they should somehow "fall behind." Read Head of School Mitch Bostian's weekly letter [here](#), and feel better.



Above: a fanciful creation using vegetables delivered in a weekly box from Shooting Star CSA. Photo: Debby Walton.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

**Middle School Travel Week**, Saturday-Saturday, April 24-Saturday, May 1. 8th grade goes to Mexico for a week tomorrow; 7th grade leaves for Pt. Reyes for four days on Monday.

**Parent Ed. Event:** Accreditation, Tuesday, April 27 pm, 7:00-8:30 pm.

### Student Step-Up Days:

- 1st Grade to 2nd Grade: Friday, April 30, 8:50-9:50 am
- 3rd grade to 4th grade: Friday, April 23, 10:00-11:30 am.
- 5th grade to 6th grade: Thursday, April 22, 8:30-11:30 for Strawberry, Friday, April 23, 8:30-11:30 am for Cerrito
- 6th grade to 7th grade: 1/2 groups, Thursday April 22, 8:30-11:30 am and Friday, April 23, 8:30-11:30 am.

**Room Parents Meeting**, Friday, April 30, 9:00 am, in the Depot.

**"Community Speaks,"** Sunday, May 2, 12:00-3:00 pm, in the Depot (note date change).

**Standardized Testing**, Monday-Friday, May 10-14, Grades 4-8, EI./MS.

**Community Circle (formerly Time Banking) Potluck**, Friday, May 14, (**NOTE DATE CHANGE**), 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot.

**Middle School Play, "To Kill a Mockingbird,"** Tuesday-Thursday, May 25-27, Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. Times TBA.

## QUICK LINKS:



Happy Earth Day! Above: a K-1 student shared her poster, showing a sea bird with plastic rings from soda cans caught around its bill, with an appreciative group of administrators on April 22. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: Sweet Briar Creek gave away the terrariums they'd made to celebrate Earth Day. Photo: a Sweet Briar parent.

- [TBS' Website](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Support TBS](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)
- [Wednesday Lunch Form](#)



Above: An 8th grade student presents to Laurel Creek. Photo: Chris Perdue.



### **Ann Fischer Hecht on HOS Committee**

By now, you should have received the email from TBS Board Chair Ann Fischer Hecht, outlining the work of the ad hoc Board committee on recommending a long-term Head of School to the full Board. You can read that letter on our website [here](#).

### **Join Us for "Community Speaks" on May 2**

"Community Speaks," scheduled for Sunday, May 2, 12:00-3:00 pm in the Depot, is designed to bring the whole TBS community together: parents, children, faculty and staff, and board members. The parent sponsors envision a constructive afternoon of community-building. Please come and share a meal and your hopes and dreams for our children and school community. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Mark Kohr at [markkohr@gmail.com](mailto:markkohr@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **TBS Parent in the News**

Sometimes Your Newsnotes Staff's day, it must be said, is a hard slog, beating the bushes for all the news that's fit to steal or make up, boring ourselves silly with the effort to be professional, suffering tragic and inexplicable disasters in Photoshop. And then there are days like today, when we discovered [this video](#) made last year by TBS parent Ali Partovi. Due to his departure from MySpace, it's received over half a million hits on the tech blogs this week. And rightly so.

### **TBS Hosts Kindergarten Readiness Forum**

TBS is excited to be taking on a leading role in peer-to-peer community education. On Wednesday, April 21, the TBS Educational Leadership Team (Mitch, Zaq, and Andrea) hosted a lunch (thank you, Gregoire!) and kindergarten readiness forum for 20 local preschool teachers and administrators. Dr. Ann Gordon, local psychologist and founder of Educational Services

Associates, an organization to help meet the special needs of atypical learners, and Dr. Anne Brodzinsky facilitated a robust discussion around cognitive, social, and emotional development and issues such as, When is a bridge-K program appropriate? What do you do when one aspect of development is out of sync with the others? There is already talk of more programs in the fall; stay tuned!



Above: Participants complained the kindergarten readiness forum wasn't long enough! Photo: Paula Farmer. Below: Eighth grade students recently worked with Laurel Creek to share their science knowledge. Photo: Chris Perdue.



### **Meet the Farmers!**

Shooting Star CSA is a CCOF-certified farm located in Fairfield, just 45 miles away, that supplies the East Bay with boxes of fresh, delicious, nutrient-dense produce. They are truly local; in fact, farmer Lily Schneider grew up just a few blocks from TBS. Her former neighbor (and TBS alumni parent!) Debby Walton is hosting an open house at her home, 2319 California Street between Bancroft and Channing, on Saturday, May 1, 3:00 pm,

where you can enjoy casual food and drink while you meet Lily and learn all about Shooting Star's CSA program. Find out how you can pick up a box of the freshest produce you've ever tasted every week, while you support eating locally and organically. Please RSVP to Debby at 548-5530 so she can plan for the right number. Learn more about Shooting Star through their [website](#).

### **Standardized Testing Coming Up**

Each year, TBS administers the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) test to students in grades 4-8. This year, the tests are scheduled for the week of May 10-14. We look at this test primarily as a feedback tool for our program, and it should not be the cause of anxiety or stress for students. Parents can help in several ways: by not dwelling on the test or what it "means," rather being matter-of-fact and low-key about it if their children bring it up; and by ensuring that their children eat well (especially breakfast) and get plenty of sleep that week. Please contact Associate Head of School Zaq Roberts at [zroberts@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:zroberts@theberkeleyschool.org) with any questions.

### **Accreditation Parent Education Event April 27**

Join us on Tuesday, April 27, 7:00-8:30 pm in the Depot, to learn about and comment on the accreditation process on which The Berkeley School has embarked. Our success with this important work hinges on all community members - parents, teachers, administration, students, alumni - providing thoughtful contributions about every aspect of our school. Collaborate with us to identify concerns, celebrate successes, and develop an action plan to further deepen the great work and programs of our school. This meeting will be hosted by Associate Head of School Zaq Roberts. Click [here](#) to see the flyer! For more information, see our accrediting associations' websites: [www.caisca.org](http://www.caisca.org) and [www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org).

### **Student Step-Up Days Scheduled**

Step-Up Days, the days each year when students who will be stepping up in the fall visit the next level classrooms to get a taste of what it will be like to be "upperclassmen," have been calendared. The schedule is provided for your information in the calendar section to the right.

### **CCA's Thesis Exhibition**

California College of the Arts' graduate thesis exhibition is scheduled for May 5 and 6 at the college's San Francisco campus. Alaa Al-Ban, mother of Dur and Dana Bali, will present her thesis, entitled "Don't Think of a Camel: Visual Deconstruction of Arab Stereotypes in the 21st Century," on May 5 at 5:30 pm. Find more information [here](#).

### **AC Transit Youth Pass Change**

For those of us whose children ride AC Transit buses, it is big news that the 31-day youth passes are being discontinued, and a Translink youth card is the way to go. You will need to pre-register for a sign-up event and then show up with your child and his or her birth certificate/passport to have a photo taken and get a card. The cards can then be "loaded" at any Walgreens. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **BHS Teen Safety Event**

Those 8th grade parents whose children will be attending Berkeley High School next year will be interested to hear of a parent education event, "Teen Safety at School & After School," coming up Thursday, April 29, 7:15 to 9:00 pm in the BHS library. Speakers will be Ardarius McDonald, Dean of Students, Berkeley High School, and Sergeant Jennifer Louis, Supervisor in the Youth Services Detail, Berkeley Police Department.

### **Teacher Needs Good Used Car**

Given AC Transit's cut of some bus routes, including the one she took to get to work, Live Oak teacher Griselda Kondo would like to buy a small used car for getting around Berkeley. If anyone knows of a dependable used car for sale, preferably a Honda, Toyota, or Nissan, please contact Griselda directly at [gkondo@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:gkondo@theberkeleyschool.org).

### **"Every Week is Strings Week"**

If your child is participating in the strings program, don't forget to send his or her guitar, violin, or cello each Friday until the end of the year. All string players are participating in making a CD, so they should be prepared to play each week.

### **"Peace About Life" Dance**

The dNaga dance company, of which Middle School student Catalina Uruena-Jackson is a long-time member, will present "Peace About Life: Dancing with Parkinson's," with choreography by Claudine Naganuma, on May 7 and 8 at 8:090 pm at Laney College Theater, 900 Fallon Street in Oakland. The company has "cast dancers of a mixture of ages, ethnicities, and physical abilities to metaphorically and literally express how to cope and keep one's life beautiful even through age and disease." For more information and to read a review, visit [www.dancenaganuma.com](http://www.dancenaganuma.com).

### **Pick-a-Party Reminders**

There are some fantastic parties coming up in the next few weeks, and some of them even have a few spaces available. Please contact Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at [jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org) for information.

- ¡Viva España!, Saturday, April 24, 7:00-11:00 pm.

- **Cheezy TV Night!**, Friday, April 30, 8:00 pm.
- **Sand Castle-Building Extravaganza**, Saturday, May 8, 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- **TBS Idol Karaoke Party**, Saturday, May 8, 7:30-11:00 pm.