



Newsnotes

May 7, 2010

New This Week:

- Letter From the Head of School
- Please Complete Head of School Survey!
- June 8 Board Meeting Added
- Student Recital Rescheduled
- Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Coming Up
- Middle School Play: Save the Dates
- Community Circle Meets Next Friday
- TBS Book Club to Meet
- K-1 Classes to Hold Plant Sale

Important Reminders:

- Janet Stork Memorial Fund for Teaching and Learning
- New Parent Mixer Date Moved
- Standardized Testing Coming Up
- Party Reminders (Auction & Pick-a-Party!)

Letter From the Head of School

Mitch Bostian's letter this week has to do with asking ourselves foundational questions about children's learning, rather than focusing exclusively on pedagogy and methods, important as they are. Read his letter [here](#).

Please Fill Out Head of School Survey

Early this week, you received an email from the Head of School Search Committee, asking you to fill out a short survey about what qualities you consider most important in a Head of School for TBS, now and in the future. It's crucially important that we receive a response from as many community members as possible, so that the results are truly representative. If you haven't yet completed the survey, just follow this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LHKQGR5>. Please complete it by noon next Tuesday, May 11.

June Board Meeting Added

Please note that an additional Board of Trustees meeting has been added to the TBS calendar. On Tuesday, June 8, 4:30 pm, the Board will hold its Annual Meeting, when, along with other business, the Trustees will present reports on the operations and finances of TBS. As is every Board meeting, it will be open to the TBS community, and you are welcome to attend.



Above: a TBS student shows off some fancy footwork during a soccer scrimmage at El Molino. See more photos from the 8th grade trip to Mexico below, left. Photo: Chris Perdue.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

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

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

TBS Board of Trustees Meeting, Tuesday, May 18, 4:30 pm, EI./MS.

New Parent Mixer, Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 pm, in the Depot.

Student Recital, Sunday, May 23, 2:30 pm, in the Depot.

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Monday, May 24, at both campuses.

Middle School Play, "To Kill a Mockingbird," Tuesday-Thursday, May 25-27, Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. Tuesday, 6:00 pm; Wednesday-Thursday, 7:00 pm.

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31. School closed, no childcare available.

ECC Picnic, Sunday, June 6, 10:00 am-1:00 pm, EI./MS.

TBS Board of Trustees Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 8, 4:30 pm.

Eighth Grade Graduation, Thursday, June 17, 1:00 pm.

Last Day of School, Friday, June 18.

QUICK LINKS:

- [TBS' Website](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)

Student Recital May 23

The fourteenth annual TBS Student Recital, originally scheduled for May 2, has been rescheduled for Sunday, May 23, at 2:30 pm in the Depot. TBS students are often accomplished musicians, and this is their chance to shine! Please download the sign-up form [here](#) and drop it off in either school office, or email all the information to TBSPA Chair Hyungsook Kim at kimbuctu@berkeley.edu. Even if your child isn't performing, you're welcome to come enjoy the recital and some cookies and juice!

- [Support TBS](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)
- [Wednesday Lunch Form](#)



Above: 8th grade students on their trip to Mexico, at the crater of the Güeros Volcano.
Below: a TBS student plays with some kindergarteners at the local elementary school in Eronguarícuaro. Photos: Chris Perdue.



Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Coming Up

The annual Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is coming up on both campuses on Monday, May 24. Parents usually enjoy this opportunity to show their appreciation to their children's teachers almost as much as the teachers enjoy the terrific lunch on offer! Please plan now to bring your specialty to school on May 24. Volunteers are needed to set up, serve, and clean up on both campuses. Please contact TBSPA Chair Hyungsook Kim at kimbuctu@berkeley.edu.



Above: Head of School Mitch Bostian listens and learns at the ECC. Below: Parent Evy Ballegeer helps Eugenia students make a papier mache bird as part of the classroom's research on birds. Photos: Anahita Bakhtiary.



"To Kill a Mockingbird" to Run May 25-27

The Middle School play, always a hotly-awaited and hugely applauded event on campus, is scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday, May 25-27. Based on the classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird* will be performed at Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley, at 6:00 pm on Tuesday and 7:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday. You may pre-order a picnic dinner to enjoy during intermission on Wednesday and Thursday; look for details soon!

Community Circle Potluck May 14

The TBS Community Circle, the same parent group who organized last Sunday's "Community Speaks" event, will hold their next potluck and meeting on Friday, May 14, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot. The event will feature an all-ages hip-hop dance lesson/follow-along! Please bring the family and a dish to share.

Book Club to Meet

Save the date: The TBS Book Club will meet on Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 pm at Tacubaya on Fourth Street, to discuss *How the Soldier Repairs the Gramophone* by Sasa Stanisic. New members always welcome! Please contact Kathie Hoehn at kdevoli@aol.com with any questions.

K-1 Plant Sale

The K-1 classrooms are planning a plant sale to benefit the Backyard Beautification Project and the K-1 Students' Backyard Committee Projects. Please (**park on the street** and) visit them

in the labyrinth after school on Friday, May 14 and Friday, May 21 to buy plants selected by the students: corn, watermelon, nasturtiums, peppers, cucumber, basil, and wildflowers. Many other choices! One dollar for each plant or a planting box for \$5.



Above: Some of the 7th graders on their Pt. Reyes hike last week. Photo: Simon Hurd.

A Fitting Memorial for Janet Stork

Some parents have inquired about whether there is to be a permanent memorial for Janet Stork. In case you missed it in the program at the April 14 celebration of her life, Janet's family has chosen to remember her by establishing The Janet Stork Memorial Fund for Teaching and Learning at The Berkeley School. As our community knows, our teachers' professional development was truly at the heart of Janet's vision for our school, and we agree with her family that this is the perfect way to honor her memory. If you would like to participate, contributions to The Janet Stork Memorial Fund for Teaching and Learning may be sent in care of The Berkeley School.



Above: Blackberry Creek students visit the East Bay Vivarium and get to pet an albino boa constrictor -- thrilling! Photo: Claire Patterson. Below: Magnolia students inspect the honeycomb during their class' visit to the Kluger family's urban farm. Photo: Andrea Gordon.



New Parent Mixer Date Changed

Please note that the New Parent Mixer has been moved to Wednesday, May 19th. There will only be one session, a wine and cheese reception at 6:00 pm. We all know how daunting it can be to join an unfamiliar group or community; please come help welcome the new families who will join TBS in September! Childcare will be available by preregistration; please RSVP to Director of Admission Paula Farmer at pfarmer@theberkeleyschool.org. Look for an evite soon!

Standardized Testing Coming Up

As you know, Monday through Friday next week, May 10-14, we will be administering the ERB standardized test to the 4th through 8th grade students. These low-stakes tests should not be a source of anxiety either for students or for parents, who can help in several ways: by being matter-of-fact and low-key about the test, if their children bring it up; and by ensuring that their children eat well (especially breakfast) and get plenty of sleep next week.

Auction Party & Pick-a-Party Reminders

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

- **Sand Castle-Building Extravaganza**, Saturday, May 8, 11:00 am-3:00 pm.
- **Pizza & Potions Party** with Danette, Claire, and Lily Gee, Saturday, May 8, 10:00 am-1:30 pm.
- **Bike Safety Clinic and Ride** with Mike and Kate, Saturday, May 8, 10:00 am-2:00 pm.
- **TBS Idol Karaoke Party**, Saturday, May 8, 7:30-11:00 pm.
- **Science Museum Outing** with Sima, Saturday, May 15, 1:00-4:30 pm.
- **Parents vs. Staff Softball Game**, Sunday, May 16, 11:00 am.
- **"Precious" Book and Movie Party**, Saturday, May 22, 7:00-10:00 pm.
- **Tie-Dye Pick-a-Party**, Sunday, May 23, 10:30 am-12:30 pm.