



# Newsnotes

May 21, 2010

## New This Week:

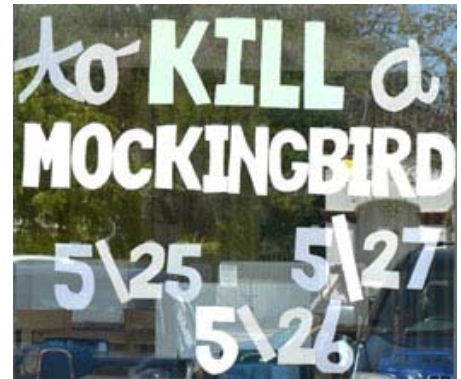
- Letter From the Head of School
- Mitch Bostian Appointed Head of School
- Food Still Wanted for Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- 2/3 Beach Day June 4
- Parent/Staff Softball Game Breaks Hearts! (or, "He Who Writes the Newsnotes Article, Laughs Best")
- Join Us for a Berkeley Path Walk
- Please Come to the Student Recital This Sunday
- Tonight's Parents' Night Out FULL

## Important Reminders:

- Community Circle Potluck June 4
- Every Little Bit Helps the Annual Fund
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" Opens May 25
- Update on Lunch Program Plans
- Room Parents Wanted
- K-1 Plant Sale Today
- TBS Book Club to Meet
- Party Reminders (Auction & Pick-a-Party!)

## Letter From the Head of School

Mitch Bostian's letter this week contained a glimpse of some fascinating research that's been done on how groups are (or are not) able to effectively make decisions in the face of uncertainty. This is obviously a subject with important implications for a school environment! Read his letter [here](#).



Don't miss the Middle School play next week! See story below, right. Photo: Laura Gorjance.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

**Parents' Night Out**, Friday, May 21, 6:00-10:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

**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. Everyone welcome.

**TBS Book Club**, Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 pm, Tacubaya Restaurant.

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

**Last Day of School**, Friday, June 18.

**Steve and Kate's Camp Opens**, EI./MS, Monday, June 28.

**ECC Summer Camp, Session One Opens**, Monday, June 28.

## QUICK LINKS:

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



Above: The Al-Bar/Bali family (including Wildcat's Dana and Laurel's Dur) sponsored a special Saudi Day in Wildcat Creek last week, featuring clothing and food from their country. Below: Laurel Creek students performed their Mexican-Peruvian dances with panache this week! Photos: Laura Gorjance.



### Mitch Bostian Appointed Head of School

At their May 18 meeting, the TBS Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Head of School Search Committee and unanimously voted to offer Interim Head Mitch Bostian a contract as TBS Head of School. Congratulations, Mitch, and thank you to the Search Committee for all their work!

### Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Next Monday

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



Above: The Al-Bar/Bali family in traditional Saudi garb. TBS bids a loving farewell to Alaa, Ayman, Dana, and Dur as they leave Berkeley this summer to return to their home. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: Watery fun at the Orinda Park Pool Pick-a-Party! Photo: Kathleen Schwallie.



There has been a generous outpouring of help and assistance for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, coming up on both campuses next Monday, May 24. We could still use a little more food, particularly main courses; if you, like Your Newsnotes Staff, have been meaning to sign up but haven't managed it yet, please email Hyungsook Kim at [kimbuctu@berkeley.edu](mailto:kimbuctu@berkeley.edu) (for the EI./MS) or Jennifer Grasso at [jenngrasso@gmail.com](mailto:jenngrasso@gmail.com) (for the ECC) as soon as possible.

**2nd/3rd Grade Beach Day June 4**

Temescal Creek and Sweet Briar Creek will hold their annual Beach Day on Friday, June 4. The students and their teachers will visit beautiful Heart's Desire Beach in Tomales Bay. Complete information will be coming from your child's classroom. Pray for good weather!



Above and below: ECC students first studied mosaics, then created their own in art class. Photos: Maureen Beck.



Above and below: More scenes from Laurel Creek's Mexican-Peruvian dance performance. Photos: Laura Gorjance.



Above: The staff softball team's rally, featuring their stylish and becoming rally caps, fell just short. Photo: Freyja Knapp. Below: Dust-up in the infield! Photo: Colleen Shelly.



### Staff Softball Team Robbed!

In a shocking and suspicious upset, the powerful TBS staff softball team lost a squeaker to a hungry band of upstart parents last Sunday, during the Parent/Staff grudge match at James Kenney Park in Berkeley. Fielding a questionable team of (possibly chemically enhanced?) ringers, the parents took an early lead. However, the feisty and courageous staff battled back to within one run, making the sweating parents resort to their most dastardly tactic of the day: sneaking a cooler of beer, Trojan Horse-style, into their opponents' dugout, which led to a precipitous collapse of the looming offensive threat. (Your Newsnotes Staff, on the scene taking notes, can assure you that the parents' indignant insistence that a staff member brought the beer is completely false.) Memories differ on the final score, but the scrappy staff team did, in the end, come up just short. However, they instantly demanded a rematch, much discussed during the picnic following the game, so stay tuned for further developments! Congratulations to parents Jason Divine, Cicilia Drafton, Steve Healey, Signy Judd, Jane Kluger, Judy Malamut, Aaron McGee, Kristi McKenney, Summer Nastich, Jon Sacco, Colleen Shelly, Jonathan Wade, Jon Witort, and Dave Yetter and his mysterious (possibly MLB?) friend, Andrew. Props go to the game but outgunned staff

members, who played their hearts out: Paula "Rainmaker" Farmer, Laura "Catfish" Gorjance, Benicia "Sparky" Hill, "Hammerin' Simon" Hurd, Captain Lyssa "Cookie" Ichikawa, Coach Craig "Shoeless Joe" Jackson, Brad "Airborne" Kershner, Claire "Three Fingers" Patterson, Chris "Rocketman" Perdue, Zaq "Attack" Roberts, "Mighty Mike" Sinclair, and MaryBeth "Terminator" Ventura. Many thanks to all the coaches, players, and spectators who made the game so much fun.



Above: Can you say, "Pop fly?" Below: The teams confer just before the start of the marathon game. Photos: Freyja Knapp.



### **You're Invited to a Berkeley Path Walk**

The TBSPA has invited Colleen Neff, an alum parent and the president of Berkeley Path Wanderers, to be our guide on a two-hour walk. If you are interested, please meet us by 8:45 am at the ECC (Francisco and Shattuck) next Thursday, May 27. There will be some stairs and hills, but we will go at a conversational pace. This is a good chance to meet and talk with parents of children in different grades, and alum parents as well. No need to RSVP, but we will leave at 8:45 am sharp.

### **Join Us for the Student Recital on Sunday**

The fourteenth annual TBS Student Recital is coming up this Sunday, May 23, at 2:30 pm in the Depot. It's not too late to sign up your child to perform; 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](mailto:kimbuctu@berkeley.edu). This fun, low-key event is a great way to introduce your child to the idea of taking music lessons, so please come along to join the audience to cheer on your child's friends!

### **Parents' Night Out FULL**

The response to tonight's Parents' Night Out, the perennially popular Middle School fundraiser for its travel program, has been so strong that it is now fully subscribed. If you are already signed up, your child is welcome tonight in the Middle School from 6:00-10:00 pm.

### **Community Circle Potluck June 4**

A Community Circle potluck will be held on Friday, June 4, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot. This will be the last and best gathering of the school year, featuring great company and food, playtime, and a hip-hop dance-along with a wonderful guest artist! Please plan to join us on June 4.

### **All Together Now!**

Make your gift to the Annual Fund now at [www.theberkeleyschool.org/next-steps/support-tbs/](http://www.theberkeleyschool.org/next-steps/support-tbs/)! We are close to reaching our goal for this year's Annual Fund, but we need EVERY family to participate. If you have made your gift already, THANK YOU! If you have not yet made your gift, please do so today -- the work of our wonderful school is too important to be left for "someone else" to support.

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

The Middle School play will run 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. Today is the deadline to pre-order a picnic dinner to enjoy during intermission on Wednesday and Thursday; click [here](#) for the order form for both tickets and dinners. Remember, tickets at the door will be on an as-available basis, and dinners are ONLY available by pre-order. **Please note: although our younger students usually enjoy the Middle School play, this story, as you know, deals frankly with a strong theme -- racism in mid-20th century America -- and you may think its language unsuitable for young children. Please use your discretion and knowledge of your own child in deciding whether to bring him or her.**

### **Eat Smart! Hot Lunch and More**

If you've been waiting for TBS to develop a comprehensive lunch and food program, you can now learn all about what's brewing and give feedback. A group of teachers, parents, and administrators have been building on the success of the pilot lunch program in January, and with volumes of feedback and survey responses from parents, have been planning a program called [Eat Smart!](#) The long-term vision is to offer the ultimate school food program. Right now, it's a work in progress and we want your feedback! Learn more, stay abreast of the plan as it develops, and voice your opinion at: <http://tbseatsmart.blogspot.com>.

### **Room Parents Wanted for 2010-2011**

Room parents are some of the most important people at TBS, and each year we need to fill that role for each classroom, with either returning room parents, or new ones who have the time and interest to be the liaison between their child's classroom and the rest of the school. If you can take on this important job of teacher support next year, or would just like to talk over what it would mean, please contact Colleen Shelly at [coolleen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coolleen@sbcglobal.net).

### **K-1 Plant Sale**

The K-1 classrooms will hold their second plant sale this afternoon. Please **park on the street** and come in to visit them in the labyrinth after school today, 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.

### **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](mailto:kdevoli@aol.com) with any questions.

### **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](mailto:jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org) for information.

- **Santa Fe Bistro**, Friday, May 21, 6:30 pm.
- **Fraenkel Gallery Tour**, Saturday, May 22, 1:00 pm.
- **The Cow and the Vine**, Saturday, May 22, 6:00-8:30 pm.
- **"All In" Poker Tournament**, Saturday, May 22, 6:30 pm 'til the cows come home.

- **"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.
- **Cal Shakes Under the Stars**, Friday, June 4, 6:00-11:00 pm.