



# Newsnotes

April 30, 2010

## New This Week:

- Letter From the Head of School
- Janet Stork Memorial Fund for Teaching and Learning
- Report on Accreditation Parent Ed. Event
- Update From the Head Search Committee
- New Parent Mixer Date Moved
- Directory Updates

## Important Reminders:

- "Community Speaks" Event **THIS SUNDAY**
- Standardized Testing Coming Up
- Community-Supported Agriculture: You're Invited
- Youth Ticket Change for AC Transit
- Every Week is Strings Week
- Party Reminders (Auction & Pick-a-Party!)

## Letter From the Head of School

What will the accreditation process mean to our school, and why is it important? Read about it in Head of School Mitch Bostian's weekly letter, [here](#), then check out the report on Tuesday's parent ed. event on accreditation below.

## 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. They wrote, "This fund will enable teachers from TBS, and other local schools that lack adequate resources, to participate in national meetings and conferences, and other professional development opportunities centered around new progressive educational research. Additionally, the fund will be used to centralize Janet's personal collection of education resources in a single library on the TBS site." 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: Parent Teela Carpenter gave a hip-hop dance lesson this week that got everyone moving! See more photos below. Photo: Paula Farmer.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

**Middle School Travel Week**, Saturday-Saturday, April 24-Saturday, May 1. 8th grade arrives back from Mexico Saturday, May 1.

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

**Mother's Day Tea, Sweet Briar Creek**, Thursday, May 6, 12:00 pm.

**Mother's Day Tea, Temescal Creek**, Friday, May 7, 12:45 pm.

**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.

**New Parent Mixer**, Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 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:

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

## Report on Accreditation Event

On Tuesday night, Associate Head of School Zaq Roberts and parent Kathleen Schwallie led a presentation and conversation about the accreditation process with a lively group of parents. One of those parents, Elisabeth Ross, said, "I really enjoyed the meeting; in fact it was one of my favorite meetings ever (in 5 years!) at TBS. I'm looking forward to the next steps with great hope and anticipation." Thanks go to Agnes Lord, Clare Woakes, and Nojan Kazerouni (TBS '09) for helping to make this meeting a success. Zaq is leading our accreditation effort as chairperson of the steering committee and the Self-Study Coordinator; Kathleen and faculty member Sima Misra, also serve on the Steering Committee, which will organize and oversee the accreditation process for the next two years. The Steering Committee will mail a packet with information about accreditation to families next week. We hope you join us in this important community work!



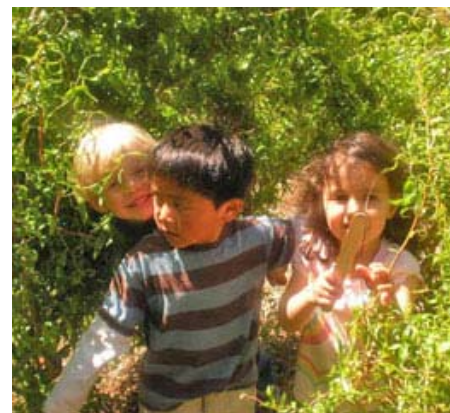
Above: A lively discussion during the accreditation parent ed. event Tuesday night. Photo: Kathleen Schwallie. Below: Watercolor work at the ECC. Photo: ECC staff.



Above and below: two scenes from K-1's "Talent Time" on Tuesday! Photos: Paula Farmer.



Above: Baby bunnies stole the show during an animal care workshop in El Molino. Photo: Chris Perdue. Below: Navigating the willow maze at the ECC. Photo: ECC staff.



### **Update From the Head Search Committee**

The committee to determine the hiring of a permanent, as opposed to interim, Head of School has begun its work (you may read Board Chair Ann Fischer Hecht's letter on the subject [here](#).) Next week, parents, faculty and staff will all have the opportunity to respond to a survey on the attributes the community most values in a Head of School. Please keep an eye out for this, as the survey window will necessarily be short. The committee wants to emphasize that, although they are looking at Mitch Bostian as an inside candidate, they are asking people to think deeply about the attributes and skills possessed by a good Head of School, not to give a general commentary on what they think of Mitch. Once developed, these attributes will guide the Committee in assessing Mitch's qualifications. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful input.

### **New Parent Mixer Date Changed**

Please note that the New Parent Mixer, on the TBS calendar for Wednesday, May 5, has been moved to Wednesday, May 19th. There will only be one session, at 6:00 pm. We all know what it's like to join an unfamiliar group or community; please come help welcome the new families who will join TBS in September! Wine and cheese will be served.

### **Directory Updates:**

**Information removed for web publication.**



Above: Our 8th graders arrived in Mexico safe and sound on Saturday morning, as teacher Chris Purdue put it, "After 4 hours on the plane, 1 hour in customs, 4 hours on a bus. Good morning!" Below: Some of our students outside the cafe in El Molino. Photos: Chris Purdue.



### **Come to "Community Speaks" This Sunday**

"Community Speaks," scheduled for this 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 potluck lunch and a Quaker-style meeting, in which all members of the TBS community get to share and respectfully listen. Please prepare a 5-minute (or shorter) talk or text that can be put up on the walls to share. Please come and share a meal and your hopes and dreams for our children and school community. Childcare will be provided. Contact Mark Kohr at [markkohr@gmail.com](mailto:markkohr@gmail.com) with any questions.

### **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 for students. Parents can help in several ways: by being matter-of-fact and low-key about the test, not dwelling on what it "means," if their children bring it up; and by ensuring that their children eat well (especially breakfast) and get plenty of sleep that week. A letter with more detailed information will be coming from Head of School Mitch Bostian on the topic next week. Visit our accrediting associations' websites: [www.caisca.org](http://www.caisca.org) and [www.acswasc.org](http://www.acswasc.org).



Above: Smiling faces at Teela Carpenter's hip-hop dance lesson! Below: Who knows when teachers and Heads of School get into the hip-hop act? The Shadow Knows!  
Photos: Paula Farmer.



### **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, tomorrow, 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 and its pick-up locations. Please RSVP to Debby at 548-5530 so she can plan for the right number. Learn more about Shooting Star through their [website](#).

### **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, to which your child must show up with his/her birth certificate/passport to have a photo taken and get a card. The cards can then be "loaded" at any Walgreens and many other locations. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **"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 on the designated day each week until the end of the year. All string players are participating in making a CD, so they should be prepared to play each week.

### **Auction Party & 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.

- **Cheezy TV Night!**, Friday, April 30, 8:00 pm.
- **Memoir-Writing Workshop** with Peggy Orenstein, Saturday, May 1, 10:00 am-noon in the Depot.
- **Chinese Dance Workshop** with Florence, Chi Chun and Ah-Lan, Sunday, May 2, 11:00 am-noon
- **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.
- **Inspired by Nature Hike** with Tracy and Kyla, Saturday, May 15, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.
- **Parents vs. Staff Softball Game**, Sunday, May 16, 11:00 am.