



# Newsnotes

October 23, 2009

## New This Week:

- Mexican Artist Visits TBS Today; Alebrijes to be Available for Purchase
- *Head Lice Policy Change*
- Update on Our Head of School
- Pick-a-Party Report
- **Note Change in Sunday's Pumpkin-Carving Party Time**
- Call for Photos, Parent Bios
- Directory Updates
- Financial Aid Workshop Next Tuesday
- Report on "Effect of Family Life on School Performance"
- Reminders from EI./MS Extended Day
- Softball for Girls Offered

## Important Reminders:

- Learn about Time Banking at TBS *TONIGHT*
- Save the Date: Third Annual TBS Auction!
- Sign Up for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Halloween Celebrations at TBS
- EI./MS Pick-Up: Please Read!
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar

## Oaxacan Woodcarver Visits Today; Alebrijes Available for Purchase

Today (Friday) is the day TBS welcomes Oaxacan alebrijes (painted wooden statues) artist Jesus Sosa Calvo, who will spend the day at work on the solar system courtyard at the EI./MS. From 3:00 to 6:00 pm, the TBS community is invited to stop in and meet Jesus and, if desired, purchase some of his work. Parents are encouraged to attend if K-3 students wish to make a purchase, since these young students should not bring money to school for this purpose. Students in grades 4-8 may bring up to \$10 to spend if desired, although of course there is no expectation that anyone do so. On Tuesday, November 3, we'll host Felipe Horta, an internationally-known mask-maker and woodcarver from a tiny village called Tocuaro, just outside Erongaricuaru, where our 8th grade students visit each spring. Felipe will be in the Bay Area for Dia de los Muertos celebrations, and will be visiting TBS to do demonstrations and run workshops.



Above: Even princesses and kittens -- and kitten princesses -- waited patiently in line for their treats at the Ice Cream Social on Sunday, October 18. Photo: Laura Gorjance.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

**Time Bank Community Potluck & Movie**, *tonight*, Friday, October 23, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot.

**Financial Aid Workshop**, Tuesday, October 27, 6:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**, Thursday-Friday, October 29-30. School closed; childcare by reservation only (free during your conference).

**First Day to Apply for 2010-2011 Financial Aid**, Sunday, November 1.

**Professional Development Day**, Friday, November 6. School closed; no childcare available.

**REPORT WRITING DAY (note: school is closed!)** has been changed from Friday, January 8 to Friday, January 15, 2010.

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

## QUICK LINKS:

- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)

## Head Lice Policy Change

After consultation with lice removal specialists and other independent schools, TBS has decided to change its head lice policy to a "no nits" policy. This means that if nits, or lice eggs, are discovered on your child's head, you will be called and asked to pick him or her up immediately, rather than just notified at the end of the day; in other words, nits will be treated the same as live lice. In either case, your child will need to be treated and combed out before returning to school. Please remember that, whatever lice removal method you choose, you must continue combing with a metal lice comb to ensure you catch any straggler lice as they hatch. Click [here](#) for TBS' updated head lice policy sheet.

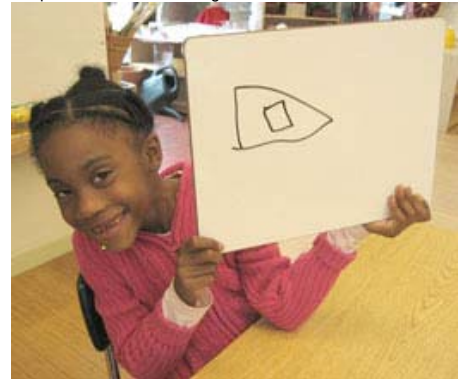
## Update on Janet Stork

By now, everyone in our community should have received the letter from Board of Trustees Chair Ann Fischer Hecht dated October 16, concerning Janet's health. (Read the letter [here](#); the card Ann mentioned in her letter is available to sign now in the El./MS office.) Janet is still undergoing tests to confirm and refine her diagnosis, which has not been straightforward. Having signed up for several Pick-a-Parties by proxy, she is her usual upbeat self, although her doctors have been quite clear on the importance of her staying away from TBS and all the viruses that run rampant in any school this time of year, since she needs to be as strong and healthy as possible when treatment begins. She says, "This prolonged period of testing has been frustrating and difficult, but it's really necessary because the choice of treatment is so different, depending on the exact diagnosis. Beginning treatment will actually be a relief. I'm working a lot at home, and I'm looking forward to working at school again!"

- [Support BMS](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)



Above: eager beavers in Blackberry Creek vie to answer a question. Below: A Blackberry student shows her "Quick Shape." Photos: Carrie Birgbauer.



Above: A new student arrives for his first day at the ECC. Below: The concentration is intense as an ECC student works on her handwriting skills. Photos: ECC staff.



Above: Members of the eighth grade class visit St. Mary's College High School for a look at one possible future. Photo: SMCHS staff. Below: Members of the TBS class of 2009 visit their old stomping grounds for the Ice Cream Social. The high schools attended by these students include Lick-Wilmerding, Berkeley High School, Maybeck High School, and The Urban School of San Francisco. Photo: Laura Gorjance.



### Party On, TBS!

On Sunday, October 18, the TBS community showed it really knows how to party (and make plans to party!) Despite chilly temps and grey skies, we went through an impressive amount of delicious Ben & Jerry's ice cream (thank you, Mo and Parisa Samimi of Ben & Jerry's of Berkeley, for the great deal you gave us!). And we are on track to best our existing records in both number of partygoers and amount raised to support our school. A number of parties sold out, but some upcoming parties still have a few spaces available. ***(Middle School students, don't miss Mario's House Halloween Dance Party!)*** Just download the sign-up form [here](#) and drop it off with payment in either school office.

**#6 Mario's House Halloween Dance Party, \$35/6-8 grader**

Saturday, October 31, 7:00-10:00 pm  
 1519 Arch Street, Berkeley  
 Your hosts Chris, Audrey, and Mario D'Andrea will provide ghoulish hors d'oeuvres and cool grooves; come shake your bones in costume and enjoy!

### **#7 Single Track Ride w/ Mitch, \$30/adult**

Sunday, November 1, 8:30 am-noon  
 Camp Tamancho, Fairfax  
 Join Middle School Director Mitch Bostian for a single track mountain bike ride through this beautiful, restricted private area (he'll provide the needed permits).

### **#8 Beading Bonanza, \$40/adult or (accompanied) child**

Sunday, November 1, 1:30-3:30 pm  
 TBS Art Studio  
 Join your hosts Marites Abueg, Johanna Eigen, Stevie Kaplan, and Jayne Kluger to make beautiful jewelry to give as gifts or to keep! All beading supplies provided.

### **And Speaking of Parties...**

Please note that the time for the Pumpkin-Carving Party this Sunday, October 25, erroneously listed in the Pick-a-Party catalog as 3:00-6:00 pm, is actually 10:00 am-1:00 pm. The correct time was posted on the sign-up sheet at Sunday's kick-off, but we want to be sure all guests get the memo!



Above: Live Oak teacher Brad Kershner holds more raw material at the classroom

pumpkin-decorating fest. Photo: ECC staff. Below: Wildcat math students work on a visual display of the differences between factors and multiples. Photo: Mitch Bostian.



### Parent Photos and Bios Wanted

As you know, the new TBS website is under development now. We would love to feature photographs by parents of special events held in their children's classrooms, as well as of other school activities or scenes. Please send your favorite photographs to [tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org).

We have also received a good number of parent biographies, in response to our request a few weeks ago.

We'd love to have even more! Don't be shy -- write a paragraph for the new website about your professional/artistic/intellectual accomplishments and send it along to [tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org)!

### Directory Updates

- Please update your directory listing for Okona Kwende's family. Their new home address is 978 Cornell Avenue, Albany, 94706. Dad Michael's new work phone is 615-5728, and his new cell phone number is 219-5293.
- TBS also welcomes Neo Chai to Eugenia classroom. Neo joins sister Siena, already a student in Cedar, at the ECC.
- Please update the numbers listed for Andrea Lingenfelter, mom of Wildcat's Isaiah Salesin. Her home telephone number is 665-4189, and her work number is (415) 512-8812.

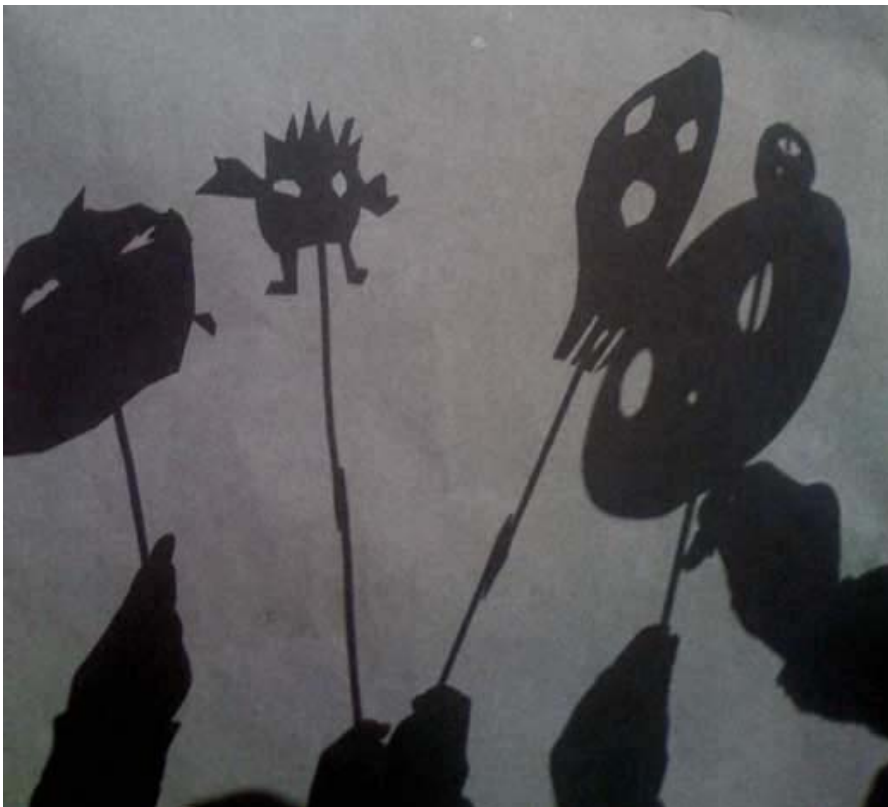
### Financial Aid Workshop Tuesday, October 27

Please note that the first Financial Aid workshop for the 2010-2011 school year will be held next Tuesday, October 27, at the EI./MS. The workshop, for current TBS families, will begin promptly at 6:00 pm and must end at 6:45 sharp, so please plan accordingly.

### Report on "Effect of Family Life on School Performance"

On Wednesday, October 21, the TBSPA and Dr. Anne Brodzinsky presented a Parent Education event called "Exploring the Impact of Family Life on a Child's Performance in School." Parent Katherine Gee reports, "In Anne's talk, there was a big emphasis on transitions, which as we all know can be challenging for children, especially young ones. Times such as bedtime, and the hours just before and after school and dinner, are especially stressful. How can we make them smoother, for both the child and the family as a whole? Anne pointed out how the parents, who are ultimately in charge, can plan transitions so they go better for everyone. She suggested 'interviewing' your child about what works best for him or her when problems arise. Anne also presented the interesting concept of 'the stranger.' When you've been separated from the family all day, you've had experiences different from theirs, making you a stranger in a sense, so you need to reconnect with them by yourself transitioning from the busyness of your day and all the distractions and experiences on your mind. It sometimes takes a conscious effort to focus on your children in the face of all that, but it's very important. For example, you can set out to make the dinner table the 'hot place to be' – fun and attractive enough to make your children want to be

there on time every night. Anne also talked about a book called Nurture Shock, by Paul Brannan. It has some really important information on sleep, and the negative effects of sleep deprivation, among other topics.” Copies of Anne’s PowerPoint presentation will be available in both school offices next week. The well-attended event also featured wine and snacks (thank you, Katherine!) – did someone mention the hot place to be? See you at the next Parent Ed. event!



Above: Sweet Briar Creek students show off their Halloween shadow puppets.  
Below: The sausage being made: before the lights went out on the shadow puppets. Photos: Linda Cleary.



## Two Reminders From EI./MS Extended Day Program

We would like to remind parents about the EI./MS **Extended Day policy of staying only about five minutes** when you arrive to pick up your children. Parents who stay longer can unwittingly send uncomfortable mixed messages to the students. Especially among the younger ones, it creates confusion about who's in charge, and whose rules apply; and for those who are missing their own parents, it brings up painful homesickness and separation anxiety. Therefore, parents are encouraged to spend five minutes admiring a block structure or artwork their child wants to show them, and helping with clean-up, and then head home. If you would like to observe the Extended Day program for a longer period, you are welcome to contact Extended Day Director Liz Heck at [lheck@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:lheck@theberkeleyschool.org), who will schedule and facilitate your observation.

Also, as indicated on the school calendar, there is **no camp offered during Winter Break**, December 21-January 1. There will be camps offered for President's Day Break and Spring Break. Information on these camps will be available in January.

### **ABGSL Seeks Players**

Calling all girls! Come out and play ball with the Albany Berkeley Girls Softball League. Professional women coaches lead FREE softball clinics for beginning and experienced players in grades 1-9 (special introductory clinics just for first graders). Clinic dates are November 8 and 15, 1:00-5:00 pm (each hour is focused on a specific age group) at Codornices Park located at Euclid Ave and Bayview Place in Berkeley. RSVP required to [clinics@abgsl.org](mailto:clinics@abgsl.org). For complete information about the clinics and the league, see [www.abgsl.org](http://www.abgsl.org) or call 510-869-4277.

### **Time Banking Exploratory/Potluck TONIGHT**

Looking for ways to strengthen our school community and create more connections among families? Come to an all-school family potluck and movie tonight, October 23, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot, as we explore starting a TBS time bank. Please bring a dish to share. We'll also share childcare while the kids play and watch "My Neighbor Totoro." Questions? Contact Mark Kohr at [markkohr@gmail.com](mailto:markkohr@gmail.com). We hope to see you tonight!

### **Third TBS Auction Scheduled**

Save the date! Saturday, April 10, 2010, the greater TBS community will be gathered at the beautiful, historic Craneway Building on the waterfront in Richmond for the third annual Gala TBS Auction and Dinner! This dramatic

venue, with a breathtaking view of San Francisco across the bay (check out the views at [www.craneway.com](http://www.craneway.com)!), is the former home of both a WWII tank factory and the first Ford manufacturing plant in the west. Contact Auction Chair Signy Judd at [signyjudd@gmail.com](mailto:signyjudd@gmail.com) or Director of Development Jennifer Kirk at [jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:jkirk@theberkeleyschool.org) if you'd like to get involved.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences Coming Up**

As you know, Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up Thursday and Friday, October 29 and 30. There will be no classes those days.

- Please sign up for a conference time slot now, if you haven't already. **At the ECC**, sign up on the sheet posted on your child's classroom door. **At the EI./MS**, sign up in the binders located in the main office.
- Childcare is free during your conference, but if you need half-day or full day childcare either or both days, **you must sign up in advance**. There is no drop-in childcare available. Details on cost and sign-up procedures at both campuses have gone out by email. Please email Andrea Gordon, [agordon@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:agordon@theberkeleyschool.org), with questions about childcare at the ECC, and Liz Heck ([lheck@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:lheck@theberkeleyschool.org)) for EI./MS childcare questions.

### **Halloween Celebrations at TBS**

Since school is closed for Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 29 and 30, we'll celebrate Halloween on Wednesday, October 28, with parades at both campuses to which parents are enthusiastically invited. Please keep in mind that costumes (for all ages) should not include masks, weapons, or gore. Please check with your child's teachers for more specific guidelines. At the ECC, the parade will be at 9:15 am; at the EI./MS, the parade will be held at 11:00 am. Don't forget to send your best photos to [tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org)!

### **EI./MS Pick-Up; Please Read!**

Some parents are still consistently arriving early or late to pick up their children at the EI./MS. Although it may seem petty, it's true that arriving even five minutes before your ten-minute window can contribute to a serious traffic back-up, and arriving even five minutes late will mean your child has already been checked into Extended Day. In either case, please find street parking and walk onto campus to pick up your child.

- K-1: 3:00-3:10 pm (Fridays 2:00-2:10 pm)
- 2-3: 3:10-3:20 pm (Fridays 2:00-2:10 pm)
- 4-5: 3:15-3:25 pm (Fridays 2:15-2:25 pm)
- 6-8: 3:25-3:35 pm (Fridays 2:15-2:25 pm)

### Parent Education Event Calendar

Here is a quick reference guide to this year's Parent Education events. All events are held at the EI./MS unless otherwise noted. **Please RSVP** for parent ed. events by emailing [parented@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:parented@theberkeleyschool.org). Childcare is available during these events by pre-registration only, for the nominal fee of \$10 per family. Please sign up and pay in the office at either campus by the Friday before the event.

Wednesday, November 11, 7:00-9:00 pm  
"Positive Discipline for ECC-3rd Grade Parents," with Catherine Bronnert.

Wednesday, November 18, 7:00-9:00 pm  
"Positive Discipline for 4th-8th Grade Parents," with Catherine Bronnert.

Wednesday, December 2, 7:00-9:00 pm  
"Gender Spectrum Speaks to Parents," including a panel of TBS parents.

Saturday, January 9, 1:30-5:00 pm  
"Journey Through Learning" (ECC and EI./MS)

Monday, January 25, 7:00-9:00 pm  
"The Price of Privilege," with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

Date to be confirmed:  
"Internet Safety for Parents"