



Newsnotes

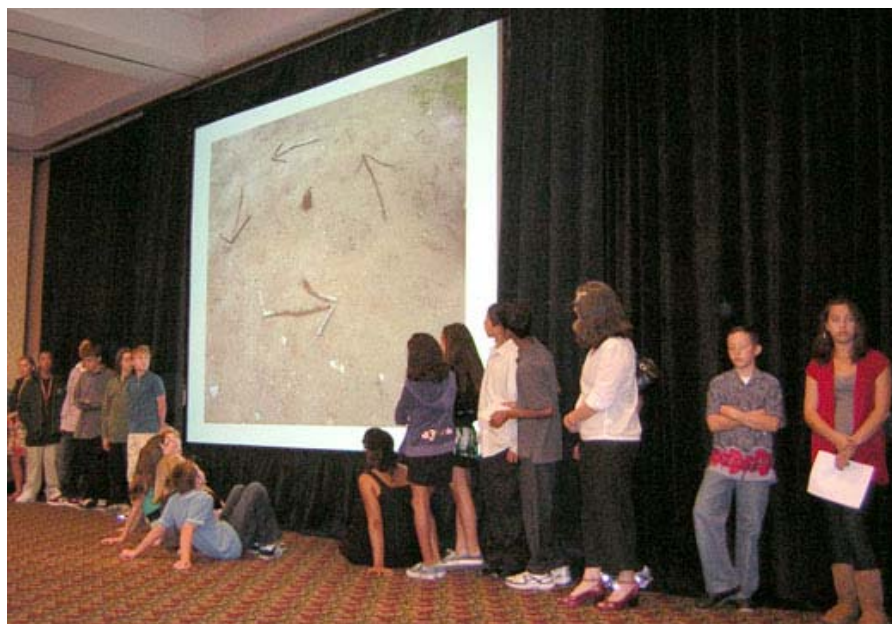
October 2, 2009

New This Week:

- Come to the Ice Cream Social (Volunteers Needed, Too)!
- ECC Photo Day Next Week
- Come Visit Us at the Spice of Life Festival
- More on EI./MS Dismissal Times
- Childcare Offered for Parent Education Events
- Head Lice are Back (Sigh)
- Learn about Time Banking at TBS
- Welcome, New TBS Families!
- Flag Football Games Begin
- "Gender Spectrum" to Visit TBS
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar
- Does Newsnotes Look Wonky to You?

Important Reminders:

- K-8 Extended Day Schedule Changes
- Parent Ed. Event Coming Up; **RSVP Requested**
- "Identity and Otherness" Event at Head Royce
- TBS Book Club October Meeting
- Calendar Changes



On Wednesday, September 30, the eighth grade went to the Oakland Marriott, site of the Biennial State of the S.F. Estuary conference, to receive the Creekseekers Award which they won last year for their "found object sculptures" created from natural materials found at Strawberry Canyon. The



The field trip to an apple farm is a highlight of the ECC calendar. Photo: Jennifer Firestone.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

Coffee with Janet, Tuesday, October 6, 8:30-9:30 am, Bread Workshop, 1398 University Avenue. (**Note time change from printed calendar.**)

Photo Day, ECC, Tuesday, October 6.

Flag Football Game, Tuesday, October 6, 3:45 pm. TBS at French American School, 1009 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley (at 9th Street).

Parent Education Event: "News From Neuropsychology - The Relationship of Brain Function to Learning," with Dr. Chuck Ahern, Wednesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

Indigenous People's Day, Monday, October 12. School closed; no childcare available.

TBS Board Meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 4:30-8:30 pm, at the EI./MS.

Ice Cream Social and Pick-a-Party Kick-Off, Sunday, October 18, 2:00-4:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

Parent Education Event: "How Parent-Child Relationships Affect School Performance," with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky, Wednesday, October 21, 7:00-9:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

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

project integrated water quality studies at the watershed and place-based art. Student Vivek Ramchandran received the award on behalf of the entire class of 2010. Above, a photo of one of their sculptures is projected at the ceremony. Photo: Mesoma Esonwune

Ice Cream Social on October 18

Come one, come all to the all-school Ice Cream Social, Sunday, October 18, 2:00-4:00 pm at the EI./MS! You will enjoy creating your own ice cream sundae with plenty of delicious toppings. *Don't miss special guest, K-8 strings teacher Irene Sazer, playing fiddle (with a guitarist friend) in the ultimate family-friendly show; get ready for swing, jazz -- who knows, maybe some klezmer!* We're still looking for a few more volunteers to help with the Social (an amazingly fun way to get in some volunteer hours!). We need greeters/door watchers as well as folks to set up and scoop ice cream during the first shift (1:30-3:00), and especially to scoop and help clean up during the second shift, 3:00-4:30. Please contact Ice Cream Social Queen Summer Nastich at snastich@smithtrager.com. ECC families, this is a great time to get to know the upper campus better, especially our wonderful new playscape behind the K-1 classrooms. This is also everybody's chance to sign up at last for all the wonderful Pick-a-Parties our community has conjured up this year. The catalog will be out in plenty of time for you to browse through it and narrow down your choices (always a difficult process -- so many parties, so little time!). We'll see you there!

ECC Photo Day

Next Tuesday, October 6, is Photo Day at the ECC. We recommend that parents keep the emotional temperature very low around this event, unfamiliar to many young children. If your child resists the idea of wearing special clothes, remember that in years to come, the precious memento will be his or her beautiful little face, not the outfit s/he happens to be sporting in the photo.

We'd Love Your Help at the Spice of Life Festival!

The Spice of Life Festival is this Sunday, October 4, 10:00 am-6:00 pm, on Shattuck Avenue. TBS' booth is between Vine and Cedar Streets, booth #406. Come meet and greet prospective parents, and have fun hanging out with Director of Admission Paula Farmer. Can't stay? Stop by just to say hello.

More on EI./MS Pick-Up Times

EI./MS parents, please look over this schedule to be sure you're arriving at the correct time to pick up your child (last week's Newsnotes neglected to include the times for early Friday dismissal).

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).

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

QUICK LINKS:

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



Above: Cedar teacher Nancy Lieblich reads to some engrossed students. Photo: ECC staff.

- **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)**

If you have children with different dismissal times, and use the drive-through, remember to arrive at the latest time; your younger child(ren) will wait with their older sibling for you. Please note that, if you arrive before or after the ten-minute window for your child's dismissal, you should find street parking so that you can a) wait for your child without causing a traffic back-up, or b) go sign your child out of Extended Day. Please do not expect staff members to leave their curbside posts to go find your child. K-5 students who are checked into Extended Day at the end of their ten-minute window are charged the drop-in rate of \$11 per hour, billed by the half-hour.



Above and below: Cerrito Creek students read to their "reading buddies" from Blackberry Creek. Photos: Laura Gorjance.



Childcare Offered at Parent Ed. Events

The TBS Parents Association (TBSPA) is pleased to offer childcare for most Parent Education events held in the evenings and weekends, on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost of childcare is a nominal \$10 per family, but you must sign up and pay in advance in the ECC or EI./MS offices. Please note that if we do not have confirmed registration (and payment) of a minimum of five children by the Friday before each event, we will cancel childcare for that event. The maximum number of children we can accommodate varies on an event-by-event basis. In the event that the childcare is either full or canceled, the TBSPA will provide a list of possible babysitters composed up of high-school-age TBS alums. If you have any questions, or to RSVP for parent ed. events, please email parented@theberkeleyschool.org.

Head Lice are Back

Head lice have once again been identified at the EI./MS. These unsettling visitors are not a serious health hazard, nor are they a shameful sign of poor family hygiene; but in order to prevent constant reinfestation, it's vitally important that parents take responsibility for follow-up after treating their children. Please read the TBS Head Lice Policy and Information Sheet [here](#), and follow it up with your own research if desired, so that you can make an informed decision on how you would/will deal with this pest.

Come to a Potluck Time Banking Exploratory

Looking for ways to strengthen our school community and create more connections among families? Come to an all-school family potluck and movie on Friday, October 23, 5:00-7:00 pm, in the Depot, as we explore starting a TBS time bank. We'd love parent input on the idea of establishing an exchange where hours volunteered to help other families

in the community can be exchanged for help from other skilled members of our group. We can trade babysitting for guitar lessons, gardening for tax advice, rides to school for computer repair -- and get to know each other better in the process. Please bring a dish to share. We'll also share childcare while the kids play and watch "My Neighbor Totoro." If you'd like to find out more about time banking before the potluck, check out timebanking.org. Questions? Contact Mark Kohr at markkohr@gmail.com.



Above: Energetic ECC students help bring in the harvest at the apple farm.
Photo: Jennifer Firestone.

Welcome, New Families!

The Berkeley School welcomes Jema Dosembet, a new student in Live Oak classroom at the ECC, and her parents, Angella Goddard and Cemal Dosembet. Jema's parents are Angella Goddard (cell: 917-593-4408; angellagoddard@yahoo.com) and Cemal Dosembet (cell: 917-371-9245; csd36@columbia.edu), 40 Valley View Road, Orinda, 94563, home phone 212-334-5401. We are also glad to have Kai Morton with us in Cerrito classroom. Kai and her mother, Kimberly Bryant (cell: 415-810-1633; work: 707-454-5020; mskvbryant@aol.com), are at 1725 Washington Street, #11, San Francisco, 94109.

Flag Football Starts Up

Come support TBS flag football! Watch our Middle School team play French American on their field on Tuesday, October 6! Join Coach Craig Jackson and the mighty TBS Express at 1009 Heinz Avenue at 9th Street in Berkeley at 3:45 next Tuesday afternoon. Students will return to TBS by 5:30 pm.

"Gender Spectrum" Comes to TBS

Gender Spectrum, a Bay Area group committed to increasing awareness and understanding of the range of gender variations found in everyone, visited TBS last year for a professional development event with faculty and staff. This year, they will both do another staff training, in November, and present a Parent Education event in early December (see below). Following the Parent Ed. event, they will visit each EI./MS classroom for a brief, age-appropriate session with the students on understanding and respecting individuals regardless of where they fall on the "gender spectrum." Visit their website [here](#) for more information on this well-regarded group.

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, and see above for information on childcare during these events.

Wednesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00 pm
 "News From Neuropsychology - The Relationship of Brain Function to Learning," with Dr. Chuck Ahern.

Wednesday, October 21, 7:00-9:00 pm
 "How Parent-Child Relationships Affect the Child's Performance in School," with Dr. Anne Brodzinsky.

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. *See article above.*

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"

Does Newsnotes Run Across Your Screen?

We've discovered that some recipients of Newsnotes are having problems with the larger left-hand column of Newsnotes running too far across the screen and pushing the right column off. We're working on the problem, but if you're one of the affected, please let us know by emailing tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org. We'd also appreciate the expertise of any computer wizards among our parents who could tell us what to try next!

K-8 Extended Day Schedule Finalized

The schedule for 2009-2010 K-8 Extended Day classes and options has been finalized; click [here](#) for the flyer. Please note the following changes; please contact Extended Day Director Liz Heck directly, at lheck@theberkeleyschool.org, if you should have any questions.

Parent Ed. Event on Children's Learning Coming Up

Parents with children of all ages will want to attend a Parent Education event next Wednesday, October 7, 7:00-9:00 pm at the EI./MS, with Dr. Chuck Ahern. Called "News From Nueropsychology: The Relationship of Brain Function to Learning," the evening will detail the relationship of brain function to the processes underlying learning, and how understanding these concepts has direct relevance to the choices we make in our teaching and parenting. Dr. Ahern has been working on an ongoing basis with our teachers as part of our professional development program this year, and they are very enthusiastic about his insights. ***Please RSVP to parented@theberkeleyschool.org so that we have an idea of numbers.***

"Students Navigating Identity and Otherness"

Head-Royce School is hosting a full-day event, presented by Compass Collaborative, called "A Repertoire of Daily Enactments: Students Navigating Identity and Otherness." To be held on Saturday, October 17, 9:00 am-4:00 pm, this important day of facilitated discussion and break-out sessions includes the Bay Area premier of "The Prep School Negro," a film by Andre Lee that explores how identity is "affected by and defined for African American students in predominately white learning institutions." Please click [here](#) for more information. Questions? Call 510-531-8222, ext. 2.

TBS Book Club Meets in October

Please join the TBS Book Club at their next meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 7:00 pm, at Saul's Deli, 1475 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. We will be reading *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. New members always welcome. Contact Kathie Hoehn, kdevoli@aol.com.

Calendar Changes/Corrections

We know you've seen these before, but we've learned through experience that it's impossible to communicate calendar changes too often! **Please make a special note of those changes that affect when school is open, such as Report Writing Day, which has been changed from the date listed in the printed calendar (see below).**

1. Coffee with Head of School Janet Stork, the first Tuesday of every month, will be held from now on from 8:30-9:30 am, instead of 8:00-9:00. Please consult your calendar for the coffee's location each month, which won't change.
2. "Journey Through Learning" Immersion Program will be held Saturday, January 9, 2010, instead of Sunday, November 15, 2009.

Next Level Tour for Parents of 4-year-olds has been changed from Thursday, November 12 to Tuesday, November 3.

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

Child Visit Day for New EI./MS Applicants has been changed from Saturday, February 13 to Saturday, February 6.

The Board of Trustees, in their meeting on September 8, voted to **change their meeting schedule** this year to the following:

Wednesday, October 14, 4:30-8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 15, 4:30-7:00

Tuesday, January 12, 4:30-8:30 pm, possibly longer

Tuesday, March 9, 4:30-7:00 pm

Tuesday, April 20, 4:30-7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 18, 4:30-7:00 pm

Note there is no meeting scheduled of the full Board in November or February. The Board may schedule a meeting in June, in which case we will notify you as soon as the date is set. Remember, Board meetings are open to the community; you are always welcome to attend.