



Newsnotes

October 28, 2009

Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday-Friday, October 29-30. **NO SCHOOL**; see you Monday, November 2!

New This Week:

- Annual Fund Letter
- Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday/Friday
- No School Next Friday; Professional Development Day
- H1N1 News
- Materials from Dr. Brodzinsky's Talk Available
- "Coffee with Janet," Brownbag Lunch Canceled
- Belated Thanks to our Parent Volunteers!
- TBS Book Club to Meet
- Jesus Sosa Calvo at Talaveras this Week-end

Important Reminders:

- Head Lice Policy Change
- Pick-a-Party Report
- Call for Photos, Parent Bios
- Directory Update
- Reminders from EI./MS Extended Day
- Softball for Girls Offered
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar



Above: ECC students sing for a tough and critical crowd at the Halloween celebration. Photo: Mohammad Kazerouni. Look for more Halloween photos next week, and please send your own to Communications Director Laura Gorjance at tbsnews@theberkeleyschool.org!



Above: It's fair to say that a good time was had by all at the Ice Cream Social! Photo: David Sklansky.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

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.

Next Level Tour for Parents of 4-year-olds, Tuesday, November 3, 9:00 am, at the EI./MS.

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

Open House for Prospective Students, Sunday, November 8, 11:00 am-1:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

"Coffee with Janet" Tuesday, November 10 **CANCELED**.

Next Level Tour for EI./MS Parents of 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade Students, Wednesday, November 11, 9:00 am, at the EI./MS.

Financial Aid Workshop, Friday, November 13, 6:00-7:15 pm, at the EI./MS.

Brownbag Lunch with Janet Stork, Thursday, November 19, **CANCELED**.

Thanksgiving Break, November 23-27.

Annual Fund Launches Soon

Dear TBS Families,

With the new school year in full swing, it's time to think about our all-important role in supporting TBS programs. As you may already know, there is always a gap between tuition and the full cost of running the school. We rely on the support of everyone in our community to close that gap. I am the Chair of the Board's Development Committee this year, and I am happy to tell you that the Annual Fund is already well underway. The Board and teachers are on fire and their gifts are pouring in. It's an exciting time at The Berkeley School. I want to invite each of you to start giving some thought to your own gift. This year, more than ever, we are asking you to make the school's well-being a priority in your family's charitable giving. If we, who benefit directly from our amazing school, don't step up, who will? You will be receiving a letter soon asking for your pledge to the Annual Fund. I encourage you to give generously so that we can continue to make The Berkeley School the best place for our children. With your help, we'll ignite curious minds for a lifetime of learning.

Lucy Mahaffey

(Carter, Strawberry Creek, and Isabel, TBS 2009)

Parent/Teacher Conferences Thursday and Friday

As you know, there is no school tomorrow or Friday during Parent/Teacher Conferences. Childcare is free during your conference, but available only by pre-registration otherwise.

Professional Development Day Friday, November 6

Just a reminder that, as the school calendar says, there is no school and no childcare available next Friday, November 6, a professional development day. The entire staff will be attending an EBISA conference for a panel discussion and featured workshop presentations, with keynote address by nationally-known educator, author, and speaker, Dr. Pedro Noguera, of the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, NYU; Director, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education; and Co-Director, Institute for the Study of Globalization and Education in Metropolitan Settings (GEMS). Dr. Noguera will be speaking on "What it Takes to Leave No Child Behind: Creating Conditions that Promote Learning and Child Development."

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



Above: Cedar classroom teacher Florence Tsai helps a student with pin hole punching, practicing his pincer grip, a pre-writing skill. Photo: ECC staff. Below: A Live Oak student inspects the haul at her class' trip to the apple orchard. Photo: Jon Witort.





Above: A Middle School student explains her solution to the Problem of the Week in math. Photo: Mitch Bostian. Below: TBS students pose with the artist after Jesus Sosa Calvo's presentation. Photo: Julianne Hughes.



More on H1N1

As the H1N1 flu runs its course through our community this fall, we're doing all we can to minimize the spread of this virus. We have increased cleaning of surfaces and doorknobs, and we continue to talk to children about the importance of hand-washing and using hand sanitizers. Also, beginning Monday, November 2, we will have a hand sanitizer station just inside the gate of each campus during morning arrival time, and ask each student, parent, and staff person to use it as they enter and before they have handled anything on campus. And we will continue to isolate a sick child until his or her parent can arrive.

Like other schools in the Bay Area and nationwide, TBS acknowledges that the H1N1 virus is already widespread in



Above: Mexican alejibres artist Jesus Sosa Calvo talks with TBS students while showing one of his works. Photo: Kathleen Schwallie. Below: Some of the alejibres created by Jesus Sosa Calvo. Photo: Julianne Hughes.



Above: Dorothy and Toto got an escort from Supergirl at the EL/MS Halloween parade. Below: Middle School kids got into the act as well at the parade. Photos: Laura Gorjance.

both our school, and our greater, communities. As reported in our last update (October 9, 2009; click [here](#) to read), our school has already had cases of suspected H1N1 flu; most of these cases have been mild and all to date have resolved without incident. We will not be notifying the community of every illness reported, in order to avoid unnecessary anxiety, since testing to confirm a diagnosis is being done rarely now, and there are certainly other viruses abroad besides H1N1. That said, as the Berkeley Unified School District emphasized in a letter to parents, the fact is that we should all treat it as though we have been exposed. The most important thing any of us can do is to stay home when we're sick, and be sure our children do, too, in order to minimize the spread of this and all other communicable illnesses.

Materials from Anne Brodzinsky's Talk Available

Dr. Brodzinsky has placed copies of the chapter on sleep called "The Lost Hour," from Nurture Shock, by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, in both TBS offices, along with a copy of her PowerPoint slides, both featured in the Parent Education event last week on the relationship of family dynamics to a child's school performance.

Coffee and Lunch with Janet Canceled

Please note that, until further notice, the monthly "Coffee with Janet" and Brownbag Lunch with Janet Stork listed in the school calendar will be canceled due to the need for Janet to avoid as far as possible the possibility of infection as she begins treatment.

Belated Thanks to Superstar Parent Volunteers!

Once again, Your Newsnotes Staff must blame that lazy and irresponsible colleague who, in last week's Newsnotes, neglected to thank the people who created the greatness that was the Ice Cream Social and Pick-a-Party Kick-off. We can't thank you enough, Ice Cream Socialite Extraordinaire **Summer Nastich**, for making the event such a resounding success! (We also must thank Summer's wife, **Katherine Kettler**, who at the risk of fanning the flames of marital discord must be acknowledged as working possibly EVEN HARDER than Summer, what with keeping the home fires burning and riding herd on son Myles during the Social...) We also thank all the volunteers who helped on the Social: **Evy Ballegeer, Audrey D'Andrea, Jennifer Firepine, Lisa Hanson, Charlie Hoehn, Mary Reed Johnson, Sima Misra, Kee Nethery, Jacqueline Olive, Colleen Shelly, Rebeka Silva, Ruijie Sing, Jonathan Stillman, Keren Stronach, Esperanza Urueña, and Jonathan Wade.**

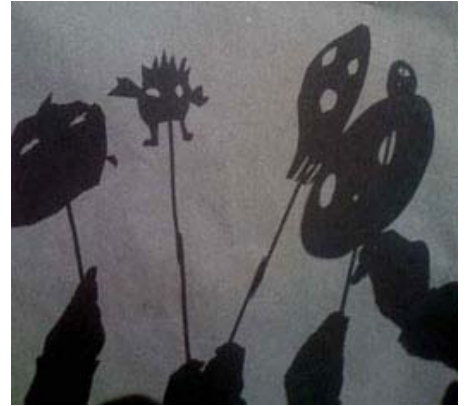


Above and below: Faces from the ECC Halloween parade. Photos: Paula Farmer.



We also (figuratively speaking) kneel at the feet of Pick-a-Party King and Queen **Keith Morris** and **Marites Abueg**, who worked such long hours on this year's Party program and put it over the top, with 52 fabulous parties! How did they do it, while simultaneously dealing with big work deadlines, two daughters, and the flu? They're not telling, but they made it look easy. We're also so grateful to all the other volunteers, without whom the Kick-off never would have kicked off: **Jolie Coursin, Ceci Echeverria, Nomi Harris, Kathy Kaspar, Ann Kim, Lucy Mahaffey, Jean Marsters, Laurent Morton, Colleen Neff, Dobe Snowber, Clare Woakes, and Helen Yoon.** Keith and Marites also want to especially thank Their Dowager Majesties **Ann Fischer Hecht** and **Catherine MacNeal**, for their almost unreasonable help in ensuring the success of this year's party program.

Huge thanks to one and all! And if we have inadvertently left anyone off these lists, please accept our sincere apologies on behalf of that flibbertigibbet colleague of ours.



Clarification to photo caption in last week's Newsnotes: The puppets may have seemed to have a Halloween theme, but students in Sweetbriar and Temescal are doing more serious work, exploring the qualities of light and shadow. They have experimented with hand shadows and cut paper silhouettes. Here, a few are creating a cast shadow puppet play. Photo: Linda Cleary.



Above: Ice Cream Socialite Extraordinaire Summer Nastich (center) inspects the work of her scooping volunteers. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: The pumpkin-carving Pick-a-Party, one of the first parties of the year, attracted a large and enthusiastic crowd. Photo: David Sklansky.



TBS Book Club Meeting

The next TBS Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 pm at Saul's Deli, 1475 Shattuck Avenue in Berkeley. The selection will be Birds of America by Lorrie Moore, an older book of lighthearted short stories. Newcomers always welcome! For information, please contact Kathie Hoehn at kedevoli@aol.com.

Jesus Sosa Calvo at Talaveras Ceramics

In case you missed his appearance at TBS last week, Oaxacan alejibres artist Jesus Sosa Calvo will be the guest of Talavera Ceramics, 1801 University Avenue (at Grant), this week-end, October 31 and November 1, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. You can watch him create his delightful copal wood carvings and receive a 10% discount on Talavera ceramics storewide.

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.

Party On, TBS!

The Pick-a-Party season is well underway. A number of parties sold out, but some upcoming parties still have a few spaces available. *(Middle School students, join your classmates for Mario's House Halloween Dance Party! All you bicyclists, join Middle School Director Mitch Bostian for a rare Marin County riding opportunity. And with the holidays right around the corner, don't miss the Beading Party this Sunday!)* 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.

#9 Belly Dance for Women, \$20/adult

Thursday, November 5, 2:30-4:00 pm

Come learn the basics of belly dancing in this fun and supportive environment, home studio of one of the world's most sought-after performers, teachers, and choreographers.

#10 Women's Life-Work Planning and Values

Exploration - Wine and Cheese, \$50/adult

Saturday, November 7, 2:00-5:00 pm

Life Coach Andrea Brewer-Thompson will help you explore what's most important to you while you enjoy wine, snacks, and community at co-host Johanna Eigen's home.

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.

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!

Directory Updates

- Please update your directory listing for Kee Nethery, dad of Temescal Creek's Keris Nethery. Kee's work and cell phone numbers are both 684-9026.

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, who will schedule and facilitate your observation.

Also, as indicated on the school calendar, there is **no camp offered during Thanksgiving or Winter Breaks**. 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. For complete information about the clinics and the league, see www.abgsl.org or call 510-869-4277.

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. 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.

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00-9:00 pm **(date to be confirmed)**
"Internet Safety for Parents"