



Newsnotes

November 5, 2009

*Professional Development Day Friday, November 6.
NO SCHOOL; see you Monday, November 9!*

New This Week:

- Reminder to K-1 Parents
- Next Level Tours for TBS Parents
- TBS Flag Football Team Dominates
- TBS Teachers' Lesson to be Published
- Parent Ed. Events on Positive Discipline
- Janet Stork News
- Parent Stephanie Challberg's Work on FRONTLINE
- Woodcarving Artist Visits TBS
- "Coffee with Janet" BACK ON, with Guest Stars
- Directory Update
- And Speaking of the Directory...

Important Reminders:

- TBS Book Club to Meet
- Pick-a-Party Reminders
- Call for Photos, Parent Bios
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar



Above: ECC students really know how to celebrate Halloween! Photo by Jon Witort. Below: Sweet Briar Creek students were dancin' fools at their Halloween celebration! Photo: Kathleen Schwallie.



Above: Head of School Janet Stork enjoys the late afternoon sun on her deck in this recent photo. See the update on Janet below. Photo: Laura Gorjance.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

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 Andrea" Tuesday, November 10, 8:30 am, Village Grounds, 1797 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. ECC parents, come on out and chat with Andrea!

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.

Parent Ed. Event: "Positive Discipline for ECC-Third Grade Students," Wednesday, November 11, 7:00-9:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

League Championship Flag Football Game, Thursday, November 12, 4:00 pm. TBS plays French-American, James Kenney Park, corner of 8th and Delaware Streets, Berkeley. Come support our team!

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

Parent Ed. Event: "Positive Discipline for Fourth-Eighth Grade Students," Wednesday, November 18, 7:00-9:00 pm, at the EI./MS.

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

Thanksgiving Break, November 23-27. School closed; no childcare available.



K-1 Parent Survey Replies Needed

K-1 parents should have received a letter earlier this week from Head of School Janet Stork, asking them to respond to a survey about the new K-1 program. Please complete the survey by end of day tomorrow, Friday, November 6. [Here](#) once again is the link to the survey.

"Next Level Tours" Wednesday, November 11

Parents of elementary students who are moving up next year (current first, third, fifth, and sixth grade students), be sure to join us for Next Level Tours on Wednesday, November 11, 9:00 am, at the EI./MS. You'll have an opportunity to observe in next level classrooms, talk to teachers, and ask all the questions you want as you prepare for the excitement of a new program next year. Questions? Contact Director of Admission Paula Farmer at pfarmer@theberkeleyschool.org.

TBS Flag Football Team Reaches the Heights

Your Newsnotes Staff would like nothing better than to claim authorship of the following report, but we must reluctantly conclude that someone would rat us out if we tried. In fact, it comes from the calm and measured pen of Middle School Director Mitch Bostian, who witnessed the epic contest:

"Snatching a hard-won victory from the jaws of defeat, the TBS flag football team defeated Beacon Day 21-18, avenging last week's 22-20 loss and clinching a spot in the league finals.

"The TBS offense started out strong, building a 15-6 lead around an explosive running game, solid quarterback play, deep-threat receivers, and a rock-solid offensive line. Highlights included a length-of-the-field touchdown run by eighth-grader Bill Harrington-Abrams and a lightning-quick touchdown strike from quarterback Mickey Healey to wide receiver Aidan Bernal. The defense continually thwarted Beacon Day's scoring attempts, with Max Appel and Yoni Wulf making key stops.

"However, as the game wore on, Beacon Day managed to

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: "She blinded me with science..." Two seventh grade students show the clay sculptures they made in science class of the major organs of the human body, color-coded by system (respiratory, digestive, etc.). Photo: Chris Perdue. Below: More Halloween at the ECC! Photo: Paula Farmer.



score twice -- the last touchdown coming with only 1:30 remaining in the game. Although there may have been a ripple of concern among spectators about the 18-15 deficit, the TBS gridders refused to waver. Following the kickoff, two plays put them in position to score, and an amazing run by quarterback Sashko Phillips on the final play of the game put TBS in front for good.

"After the game, coach Craig Jackson congratulated the triumphant team and called particular attention to the unselfish and supportive attitude exhibited by all members of the team -- in his view, this was what ultimately gave TBS the victory.

"TBS will now play the French-American School for the league championship, a contest which will take place at 4:00 pm next Thursday, November 12, at James Kenney Park (on the corner of 8th Street and Delaware in Berkeley). Come out and support the students as they aim for a final win in an already-successful season!"



Above: Several members of the TBS flag football team celebrate their thrilling, come-from-behind victory over Beacon Day School on Tuesday. Photo: Joan Bostian.



Above: The triumphant TBS flag football team celebrates their win over Beacon Day School. Photo: Shannon Collins.

TBS Teachers' Work to be Published

A Middle School lesson on "linguicism" created last year by Middle School Spanish teacher Tanya Madrid-Campbell and Elementary Art teacher Julianne Hughes was recently accepted for publication in Teaching Tolerance magazine. Linguicism is a form of prejudice, an "-ism" along the lines of racism or sexism, which involves making judgments about another's education, social status, character, or other traits based on accent and use of language. Teaching Tolerance is published twice a year by the highly-regarded Southern Poverty Law Center, a nonprofit civil rights organization that combats bigotry and discrimination through litigation,

education and advocacy. It is the nation's leading journal serving educators on diversity issues, profiling educators, schools and programs promoting diversity and equity in replicable ways and read by over 630,000 people per issue.

About the lesson, Tanya writes, "Last year, Zaq had asked the Middle School Team to teach about some form of discrimination such as sexism, antisemitism, etc. I noticed that linguistic discrimination, although prevalent and felt not only by language minorities but also by people with different accents and language ability, was almost never mentioned as a type of 'ism.' I approached Julianne to co-teach the lesson with me, since we love collaborating, and have different strengths in our teaching which complement each other. She did the visuals with the children and I did my part on language. Julianne demonstrated visual thinking as I asked students to uncover their own biases by creating three different people based on language characteristics: What does a smart person sound like? What does a villain sound like? A not very intelligent person? Later students watched some videos and were asked to focus on the voices of the characters in the movies. Some of the videos, which we found on YouTube, were made specifically to demonstrate linguistic profiling and linguistic discrimination. In the end, the children were asked to make a video about Linguicism and to come up with a definition." Tanya also created a video of her and Julianne's work, which we will post on the new TBS website, coming soon.

"Positive Discipline" Parent Ed. Events Coming Up

Make plans now to attend one or both of the Catherine Bronnert parent education events coming up in the next two weeks. Learn long-lasting approaches to helping your children develop self-discipline, responsibility and problem-solving skills. Become more familiar with the Positive Discipline philosophy that TBS teachers are using in their classrooms, so that together you can support your child's development. Both sessions are 7:00-9:00 pm, at the EI./MS:

ECC-Third Grade: Wednesday, November 11

Fourth-Eighth Grade: Wednesday, November 18

In each workshop, you will learn parenting tools to help you respond to some of the typical behavior challenges of younger or older children. REMEMBER, you must sign up for childcare in advance, in either school office; by end of day today, Thursday, for next Wednesday's event, and by next Friday, November 13, for the November 18 event.

Please RSVP for both events to

parented@theberkeleyschool.org, so that we have some idea of numbers.

Janet Stork News

By now, all parents should have received Janet's letter, emailed yesterday, November 4, clarifying her (temporarily) offstage work for TBS. (You can also click [here](#) to read the letter.) As you know, during the years of her tenure at our school, Janet has driven a lot of big changes, all of which have enormously strengthened and differentiated our program. Not the least of her accomplishments has been to put into place a strong leadership team, and it is another sign of success that, in Janet's short-term absence from our campuses, we have such effective, distributed leadership. Janet doesn't have to be involved in every meeting and communication in order to continue her work at the school; no Head should have to be -- in fact, such a scenario would be a sign of a fatally personality-driven administration. The changes and structures she has put into place have set a clear direction for the school, and the faculty and administration are continuing the natural progression of that work every day. Although Janet continues to be actively involved, and plans to be back on campus by January if not before, she is proud that the work she has begun is being carried on so seamlessly.

TBS Parent's Work to Air on PBS

In other news about talented TBS'ers, Stephanie Challberg, mom of Cedar's Anna Challberg, has edited a film scheduled to air on PBS on Tuesday, November 24 (just before the busiest shopping day of the year!). FRONTLINE correspondent Lowell Bergman examines the consumer loan industry - credit cards, debit cards, pre-paid gift cards, and more. In this co-production with the New York Times, Bergman talks to industry insiders, lobbyists and politicians, who shed light on some of the industry's darkest secrets. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/creditcards/> The website has links to additional reporting by the New York Times, and up-to-the-minute blogs by industry insiders and analysts. The date of broadcast, the site will be updated with links to resources for consumers and much, much more. The program will also be available in its entirety on-line.

Felipe Horta Visits TBS

On Tuesday, November 3, visiting artist/wood carver Felipe Horta spent two hours in the art studio with the 8th grade students, teaching them his traditional way of carving wooden masks. Leading up to the art workshop, which he taught entirely in Spanish, the students worked with TBS Spanish teacher Tanya Madrid-Campbell to prepare questions for him in Spanish. Art teacher Julianne Hughes demonstrated how to safely use the carving tools, and

student Evan Adams shared some experience in using a mallet and chisel to remove large pieces of wood. Students will continue to develop their carving skills over the next few weeks to bring their carvings to completion. Felipe told the students that the most important thing in learning to carve is patience and perseverance. He said that it is a custom in his workshop to keep "mistake" pieces, to remind him of what he did that hadn't worked, and what he learned from it. The students did a great job, working through difficulties they encountered using some unfamiliar and challenging tools.



Above: Mask carver Felipe Horta (center) works with the eighth grade on wood carving. Below: An eighth grader shows some curious Temescal Creek students her work during the carving class. Photos: Julianne Hughes.



Correction to "Coffee with Janet" -- Please Come!

Contrary to what we confidently asserted in last week's Newsnotes, "Coffee with Janet" will continue in the short term, but with guest stars Andrea Gordon, Director of the ECC, and Zaq Roberts, Associate Head of School. ECC parents, please join Andrea for a cup of coffee or tea next Tuesday, November 10, at 8:30 am at Village Grounds.

El./MS parents, mark your calendar now to join Zaq at the Bread Workshop at 8:30 am on Tuesday, December 1. Please do drop in for a morning chat with Andrea and/or Zaq! (The November "Brownbag Lunch with Janet Stork" remains canceled.)

Directory Update

Please update your directory for the parents of Wildcat's Isaiah Salesin. Andrea Lingenfelter's work phone is (415) 512-8812, and her home phone is (510) 665-4189. David Salesin's home and work telephone numbers should be deleted; his cell number and email address are correct.

And While We're On the Subject of the Directory...

A few parents have asked for the Directory in an electronic form. Rather than send a large file to everyone, we'll be happy to distribute it upon request. Please email Director of Communications Laura Gorjance at lgorjance@theberkeleyschool.org if you would like to receive a PDF of the directory.

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.

Party On, TBS!

The Pick-a-Party season is well underway. Here is a schedule of upcoming parties, for the benefit of guests who signed up:

#10 Women's Life-Work Planning and Values Exploration - Wine and Cheese

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

#11 Paella Party

Saturday, November 7, 6:00 pm

#12 Belly Dance for Girls (10+ years old)

Thursday, November 12, 4:00-5:30 pm

#13 Decorative Cakes with Fondant

Saturday, November 14, 12:00-3:00 pm

#14 You've Got to Move It, Move It!

Sunday, November 15, 10:00 am-noon

#15 Make a Felted Gnome

Sunday, November 15, 2:30-5:00 pm

#16 "Rock the Lobster" Backyard Extravaganza

Sunday, November 15, 2:00-8:00 pm



Above: The proud guests at the Beading Pick-a-Party on Sunday show off their accomplishments!

Keep Those Parent Photos and Bios Coming!

As you know, the new TBS website is under development now. Several parents have been amazingly generous in sharing with us whole albums of beautiful photos they've taken of school events, to be featured on the site -- please keep it up! 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!

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"