



# Newsnotes

December 11, 2009

## New This Week:

- Update on Janet's Health
- Financial Aid Applications Due TODAY
- Teacher Holiday Gift Reminder
- Annual Fund Underway
- TBSPA Holiday Bake Sale -- Please Contribute!
- HOS Janet Stork on TBS' Refreshed Pedagogy, Part 2
- Blackberry Creek Students Collect for the Homeless
- School Open Jan. 8, Closed Jan. 15
- A Message from Signy Judd, the "Auction Boss"
- TBS Students in The Christmas Revels

## Important Reminders:

- A Wish List from the K-1 Team
- Food Drive on Campus Continues
- Pick-a-Party Reminders
- Parent Ed. Events Calendar

## A Janet Stork Update from Board Chair Ann Fischer Hecht

"I want to pass along to the community Janet's heartfelt appreciation for all the good wishes and tasty food she has received from our community. She's definitely feeling the love! As with anyone facing a health challenge, she has had her ups and downs, but her doctors are heartened by her progress, and she herself reports feeling on an upswing. While Janet has been out of sight, she has definitely not been out of touch. She is in frequent contact with Acting Head Zaq Roberts and with other members of the administrative team as needed. She and I check in regularly, and she has been able to make use of the relative quiet of home to apply her wonderful writing talents to the school's new website and the creation of other materials. She is looking forward to being back at school in person sometime in the new year, as her immune system allows. Janet says, 'I truly miss my daily contact with teachers, children, staff, and parents. Being forced to be away has allowed me to appreciate what a great place TBS is and what a hard-working and loving community it is.'" -- Ann



Above: Part of the "1,000 cranes" project at the El./MS. See additional photo and explanation below, left. Photo: Julianne Hughes.

## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

**Chanukah**, Saturday, December 12 through Saturday, December 19.

**TBS Board Meeting**, Tuesday, December 15, 4:30 pm, El./MS. All community members welcome.

**Christmas Day**, Friday, December 25.

**Kwanzaa**, Saturday, December 26, 2009 through Friday, January 1, 2010.

**New Year's Day**, Friday, January 1, 2010.

**Winter Break**, December 21, 2009 through January 1, 2010. School closed; no childcare available.

**Open House for Prospective Students**, Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9:00-11:00 am, in the Depot.

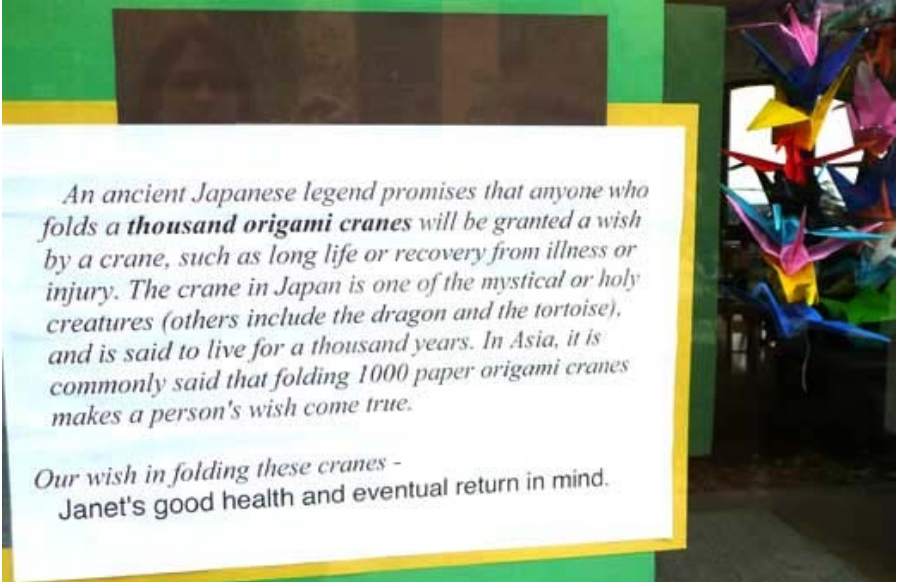
**Journey Through Learning**, Saturday, January 9, 2010, 1:30-5:00 pm. ECC, then El./MS.

**Alumni Dinner**, Sunday, January 10, 2010, 5:30-7:00 pm, at the El./MS.

**Report Writing Day**, Friday, January 15, 2010. School is closed; no childcare available. **(NOTE DATE CHANGE FROM PRINTED CALENDAR!)**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, Monday,

Fischer Hecht, Chair, TBS Board of Trustees



Above: The 7th and 8th grades are spearheading a "1,000 Cranes" project at the EI./MS. With help from the Elementary students, they hope to have 1,000 cranes folded by December 17. Photo: Julianne Hughes.

**Financial Aid Applications Due TODAY**

Please note that the deadline for families of returning students and new applicant siblings to file financial aid applications online is end of day today, December 11, 2009. In fairness to all, financial aid applications received by SSS after the deadline will be reviewed by TBS' financial aid committee after all on-time applications have been reviewed and awards determined. One possible consequence of a late application may be a lesser award. See more information on our website [here](#).

**Reminder on Holiday Gifts for Teachers**

During the holiday season, some parents feel moved to give their child's teachers a gift as an expression of appreciation for all the love and hard work that they pour into the classroom. To facilitate this gesture, and in the interest of fairness, each year, the TBS Parents Association organizes gifts for all the teachers and specialists at the school. Parents who choose to participate donate money, and the PA divides it equally among the teachers. This gift-giving opportunity is completely voluntary; there is never an expectation that parents should participate. There are envelopes in both the ECC office and in the TBSPA mailbox in the EI./MS office, where you can leave a check for any amount. There are also holiday cards for the teachers in both offices which you are welcome to sign, whether or not you choose to participate in the gift donation.

**Annual Fund Has Launched**

The TBS Annual Fund has launched, and already gifts and

January 18, 2010. School closed; no childcare available.

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

**QUICK LINKS:**

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



Above and below: K/1 students printing on fabric with hydrangea and geranium leaves in a recent art class. Photos: Julianne Hughes.



pledges are arriving in the Development Office. We want to urge all our parents to make their gifts sooner rather than later. The Annual Fund supports current school programs, which directly benefit your children right now. Please keep in mind, as have many parents who have already made generous gifts, that there is no more compelling reason to give than to support your child's education and school community. You may drop off your gift or pledge in either school office, or give via the school's home page, [www.theberkeleyschool.org](http://www.theberkeleyschool.org). TBS thanks you for your support!

### **Bake Sale Alert!**

The Parents' Association is hosting a Holiday (Channukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa) Bake Sale on December 17 and 18, just before afternoon dismissal on the EI./MS campus. We'll be packaging and selling delicious desserts for your own holiday celebrations or for you to give as delectable gifts. This is a terrific opportunity to exploit your culinary talents, generate holiday cheer, and burn off parent volunteer hours. So, dig up your best recipe, pull out your finest ingredients, and fire up the stove! Then come and purchase some delicious desserts for your own Shabbat dinner, or holiday party, or just for your family. Proceeds from the bake sale will be used to support TBSPA programs and activities.

**When:** Drop off your goodies the morning of December 17 or 18.

**Where:** The Depot, EI./MS campus.

**What:** Bring cakes, pies, cookies or any other dessert that travels well. Please let us know in advance if your goodies require refrigeration (or if they contain nuts, for those with nut allergies).

**How:** Once you drop off your goodies, willing PA elves will package them in decorative containers and price them for sale that afternoon.

**Who:** Email PA Chair Hyungsook Kim at [kimbuctu@berkeley.edu](mailto:kimbuctu@berkeley.edu) to let her know what you will bring and on which day.



Above: You can tell the temperature dipped into the 30's this week by the way our students bundled up at recess. Oh... wait... Photo: Hyungsook Kim.



Above: Art teacher Julianne Hughes writes, "Camille Seaman, mom of Cerrito Creek's Tala Parker, spoke to the class about her art-making process and answered questions about her practice. Camille loaned us working proofs of her photographs entitled 'The Last Iceberg' and the 'Storm' series. We have been living with these stunning photographs for several weeks. The work will be hanging in the art studio until the end of next week. Please stop in to experience these powerful large scale photographs. For more information, go to Camille's website: [www.camilleseaman.com](http://www.camilleseaman.com)."

Below: Some Live Oak students are busy creating worlds of wonder with their nature blocks. Photo: ECC staff.



### **Janet Stork on TBS Pedagogy**

Please click [here](#) to read part two of Head of School Janet Stork's paper on TBS pedagogy. (Part One can be read [here](#).) Since apparently no force known to man can make Janet take an actual rest, you may email her questions about this subject at [jstork@theberkeleyschool.org](mailto:jstork@theberkeleyschool.org).

### **Blackberry Creek Students Help the Homeless**

Blackberry Creek teacher Claire Patterson writes, "As part of

our service learning, Blackberry Creek students voted to support the GRIP charity (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program), which runs homeless shelters in the Richmond area. We are collecting unwrapped donations (art supplies, toys, socks, etc.) in our classroom up until December 18. Our students are doing a unit on money to prepare for our bake sale [which happens today, December 11], and are using practical life skills, measurements, and math to bake treats for the sale. Then Blackberry Creek students will be going on a walking field trip to the dollar store with their Cerritto Creek buddies, to buy more gifts with the proceeds from our Bake Sale. Anything that parents and community members want to contribute will be greatly appreciated!"

### **TBS Closed January 15**

Please note the following change to the printed school calendar: TBS will be closed for report writing day on January 15, 2010. School will be open on January 8.

### **TBS Annual Auction: Getting the Goods!**

>From the Auction Boss: "We hope you've already put the TBS Annual Auction Party on your calendars -- it will be held Saturday, April 10 at the Craneway Building in Richmond. This fun and fabulous event is held each year by and for our school community, with the goal of raising money to send our teachers to enriching and highly valued professional development programs. As you can imagine, one of the more important tasks is to procure donations. These may be items, services, places to visit, cash donations, or advertising space in the Auction catalog. As you head out to do your holiday shopping, please consider asking the businesses you frequent to support our school. To make it official and easy, we will leave copies of solicitation letters, donation forms, and advertising forms in the 'Auction mailbox' in the offices at the ECC and LE/MS. For novices, we'll also leave a 'How to' guide (where to go, how to make the pitch, etc.) in the mailbox, to help get you started. And please, be creative!! Purchasing a prepared meal or dessert at a local restaurant or bakery? Ask if they would be willing to donate a cake of the month. Taking a family trip to Monterey? Ask the Inn or hotel where you're staying if they would be willing to donate a 2-night stay. Night on the town with, dinner followed by a show? Ask for gift certificates and tickets. You get the idea... Joan Bostian (Queen of Procurement) and Signy Judd (Auction Boss) thank you for your support, and hope you enjoy helping us in our quest to get the goods!"

### **TBS Students Perform in The Christmas Revels**

California Revels has been bringing festive seasonal performances to the Bay Area for 23 years. This year's

Christmas Revels: A Theatrical Celebration of the Winter Solstice, will feature the stories, music, drama, and dance of old Bavaria. "As always, there will be music, ranging from inspiring chorales to hearty sing-alongs, lovely costumes, and country dancing. Our adult and children's choruses will add to the warmth, along with storytelling and performances by accomplished guest artists -- tradition-bearers of the culture." Three of the fourteen children performers will be TBS students: Sophia and Aine Brewer-Thompson and Grant Konkell. Here are the details:

**When:** December 11-13 & 18-20

Fridays at 7:30 pm

Saturdays at 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Sundays at 1:00 pm & 5:00 pm

**Where:** Scottish Rite Theater on Lake Merritt, Oakland

For more information or to order tickets, call 510-452-8800 or visit [www.californiarevels.org](http://www.californiarevels.org).



Above: The children performers in this year's Christmas Revels.

### **K-1 Playspace Wish List**

The K/1 Backyard play space is undergoing a bit of a makeover. We are interested in creating a sustainable collection of recycled materials for cooperative building and dramatic play. In the ethos of The Berkeley School, we don't want to buy new when we can find creative ways to reuse everyday materials that are excellent for K/1 play. After meeting with some of the K/1 teachers and parents, we made a list of items we hope that people may have to donate to the enhancement of the playscape. Here is a list of some of the items we are looking for:

- River rocks

- Semi-finished wooden planks lightweight enough for children to build with
- Milk crates
- Large thermos water dispenser or water cooler with dispenser
- Tree stumps or railroad ties
- Plastic tubes (preferably clear or white)
- Plastic pipes (preferably clear or white)
- Freestanding bathtub of the clawfoot design (or one without sharp edges)
- Clear plastic tubs
- Clear plastic pouring utensils (measuring cups, funnels, beakers, ladles, etc.)
- Woodworking materials
- Action Figurines (pirate, superhero, etc are all welcome, sans weaponry)
- Multicultural human figurines

For the front yard:

- Frisbee
- Balls
- Scarves
- Ribbon sticks
- Baseball gloves

Any items you have to donate can be brought to the back yard behind the Blackberry Creek or Laurel Creek classrooms.

If you have any questions or are interested in helping contribute to the beautification of our play space, we welcome you to email or talk to us at any time.

Thanks so much,

The K/1 Team

### **Non-Perishable Food Wanted for Food Drive**

Temescal and Wildcat Creek classrooms are sponsoring a food drive through the Alameda County Food Bank this holiday season. Please bring in canned and other non-perishable food (don't forget to check the expiration date, since any expired food cannot be used) and deposit it in one of the large cans at the EI./MS. The Food Bank's most-requested items are: canned meat and fish, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans, canned fruits and vegetables, canned soups (low salt), tomato sauce, and powdered milk. No glass jars, please.

### **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:

### **#19 Candle-Making & Games**

Saturday, December 12, 2:00-5:00 pm

### **#20 Channukah Party**

Sunday, December 13, 5:00-7:00 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.

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"