



Newsnotes

June 11, 2010

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- Middle School Rite of Passage on Monday
- TBS Parents on Haiti Relief Work
- Field Trip Camps Offered for Teacher Work Weeks
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Important Reminders:

- From the TBSPA Re: End-of-Year Teacher Gifts
- Call for Photos
- Excellent Deal on Guinea Pigs Available!
- Please Note: No Extended Day on Last Day of School
- Lost & Found: Going, Going...
- Teacher Needs New Home
- We've Reached the Finish Line, but We're Not Quite Done
- Party Reminder

Letter From the Head of School

Proving that even Mitch "Kal-EI" (look it up, youngsters) Bostian sometimes runs up against the hard truth that there are only 24 hours in every day, the Letter from the Head of School did not happen this week. Mitch promises intellectual fireworks for next week's final letter of the school year, so stay tuned!

Last Chance to Take the Annual Parent Survey

Please don't forget to take the Parent Survey, which is created each year by the TBS Board of Trustees to get input on various aspects of our families' experience at TBS. The Board was pleased at the interest shown by the many parents who attended their June 8 meeting this week, and wants to emphasize that this survey is one of their most important tools to understand and better meet the needs of its families. Here's the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9KMPDW2>. Please complete it once per child you have enrolled at TBS. We very much appreciate your time and input.



Above: The narrator in Sweet Briar Creek's Spanish play performed with panache. Photo: Kathleen Schwallie.

UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES:

Middle School Picnic/Rite of Passage, Monday, June 14, 3:45-9:00 pm (3:45-6:30 pm for 6th graders), Padre Picnic Grounds, Tilden Park.

Eighth Grade Graduation, Thursday, June 17, 1:00 pm.

Last Day of School, Friday, June 18.
PLEASE NOTE: No Extended Day on either campus.

Partovi Pork-tacular Auction Party, Saturday, June 19, 2:30 pm.

Steve and Kate's Camp Opens, EI./MS, Monday, June 28.

ECC Summer Camp, Session One Opens, Monday, June 28.

QUICK LINKS:

- [TBS' Website](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Admissions](#)
- [Support TBS](#)
- [Newsnotes Archives](#)
- [Wednesday Lunch Form](#)



Above: A panoramic scene from last week's 4/5 Gold Rush Spectacular, featuring the students of Cerrito and Strawberry. Below: A more intimate scene from the play. Photos: Johanna Sedman.



Above: Parent David Chang spoke about his volunteer experiences in Haiti; see story below, left. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: Dusty Sanford and Jacquie Ward, former TBS parents, continued their generous tradition of co-hosting the popular Cal Shakes pick-a-party last Friday night. Photo: Johanna Sedman.



Middle School Rite of Passage Monday, June 14

The Middle School (6th-8th graders) will have their annual Rite of Passage next Monday, June 14 at Padre Picnic Grounds in Tilden Park. They will leave for the park at dismissal, enjoy a pizza dinner together, and have their class-specific ritual before parents pick them up (6:30 pm for 6th graders; 9:00 pm for 7-8th graders).



Above: Future ECC students, with their parents and older siblings, attended the ECC picnic at the EI./MS on Sunday. Photo: Andrea Gordon. Below: TBS parent Warren Gee answers questions after his talk on volunteering in Haiti on Wednesday evening. Photo: Laura Gorjance.



TBS Parents Speak on Haiti

On Wednesday, June 9, TBS parents David Chang and Warren Gee gave an eye-opening slideshow presentation on their volunteer experiences in Haiti after the January earthquake. David, an orthopedic surgeon, was stationed with a surgical team connected with Partners in Health in Saint-Marc, north of Port-au-Prince, for a week soon after the earthquake. He performed up to 15 surgeries a day, in 100-degree temperatures, and without the availability of general anesthesia; but he said he was struck by how "pure" the experience was, reminding him of why he went into medicine in the beginning. Warren, an anesthesiologist, spent a week last month in the capital with a team doing hand surgery. He was astonished to find that, despite the billions in aid that had poured into Haiti since the quake, when he was there 3-1/2 months afterwards, there was almost no sign of rebuilding to be seen. Their talks were very informative on life in Haiti, both before and after the quake struck. In case you're interested, organizations that have the infrastructure to provide effective relief in Haiti include the Lambi Fund (<http://www.lambifund.org>), Paul Farmer's organization, Partners in Health (<http://www.pih.org/pages/haiti>), and the What If? Foundation, founded by TBS alumni parent Margaret Trost (<http://www.whatiffoundation.org>).

Field Trip Camps Offered During Teacher Work Weeks

Our El./MS Extended Day staff will offer a week of fun field trips during both the summer and fall Teacher Work Weeks, June 21-25 and August 30-September 3. A flyer with full details on the June camp is online [here](#); please note that the deadline to sign up is next Friday, June 18, the last day of school. Details will be coming later about the fall Work Week camp.



Above: A scene from Sweet Briar Creek's play about the Spanish conquest of Peru. Photo: Laura Gorjance. Below: student thespians in Temescal's Spanish play. We don't know about you, but Your Newsnotes Staff *really* wants one of those conquistador helmets. Photo: Kathleen Schwallie.



Eat Smart! Blog Still Open for Business

The Eat Smart! lunch program committee members gave a thoughtful and compelling presentation at the Board meeting on Wednesday, June 8. It's clear that there is a great deal of interest within our community in the lunch program, and the many moving parts it involves. As faithful *Newsnotes* readers know, parent Gina Tega-Partovi has set up a blog to keep the community informed and solicit feedback on this big work in progress. Learn more and voice your opinion at: <http://tbseatsmart.blogspot.com>.

TBS Library Books Still Out

There are quite a few checked-out books missing from the EI./MS library. Please take a quick look around and return any your child has borrowed. Be sure to cross it off from his or her classroom's clipboard in the library when you return a book.

A Note from the TBSPA on Teacher Gifts

Many parents wish to give their child's teachers a token of their appreciation at the end of the school year. At TBS, in the spirit of equity and fairness, this is done through donating to a central collection, which is used to fund a special end-of-year gift for all teaching staff, including specialists. Please note that, for the same reasons, you are asked not to make individual gifts to teachers of anything but handmade or homegrown items. Of course, any contributions are entirely optional, and no one should feel obligated to take part. If you would like to participate, please leave a check in either school office, made out to the TBSPA, with "teacher gift" in the memo line. There will be cards available to sign in both offices as well, beginning next Tuesday, June 1. **If you choose to participate, please do so by next Tuesday, June 15, to allow parent volunteers time to purchase the gifts before the end of school, June 18. Contributions made after June 15 will be considered donations to other important work of the Parents Association.**



Above and below: Seventh grade students visited the ECC this week to play with and read to the students. It would be hard to say which group enjoyed it more! Photos: Andrea Gordon.



Please Share Your Photos

The last few weeks of the school year, chock-full of class plays, performances, lunches, and celebrations, is the perfect time to share photos you take of your child's classroom events, since even Your (indefatigable) Newsnotes Staff can't attend every one. Please forward your favorite shots of plays, graduation, etc. to lgorjance@theberkeleyschool.org for inclusion in Newsnotes and the Annual Report.

Great Deal on Piggies

Pre-owned guinea pigs ("Squeak" and "Nibbles") seek new owner; low mileage, low maintenance, bio-fueled critters, excellent handling, plush upholstery, sleek modern styling, fully-loaded amenities package. Contact Jayne Kluger at 845-1335 or jayneklugs@aol.com if interested.

No Extended Day June 18

Please note that there will be no Extended Day offered at either campus on the last day of school, Friday, June 18. Please plan to pick up your child by the usual early Friday dismissal time for his or her class.

Last Call for Lost & Found

Don't forget to check the Lost & Found items at your child's campus. Anything left unclaimed after June 18 will be donated to charity. We also still have the black scarf found at Live Oak Theater after the Middle School play, and the beige-and-brown striped reading glasses found hanging from the chandelier after TBS Idol.

TBS Teacher Looking for New Home

Middle School teacher Chris Perdue is looking for a new home. If you know of a studio, cottage, or 1BR apartment close to the EI./MS, preferably north of University Avenue and west of Shattuck, please contact Chris directly at cperdue@theberkeleyschool.org. He's grateful for the leads he's received so far, but hopes to find just the right spot!

Another Piece of the Puzzle

We're thrilled to announce that we've reached our Annual Fund goal of \$250,000, thanks to the generosity of so many in our community! However, we are far from reaching our goal of 100% participation, and since 100% of our students have benefited this year from the Annual Fund, we think we can do better! If you have made your gift already, THANK YOU! If you have not yet made your gift, please do so today -- the work of our wonderful school is too important to be left for "someone else" to support. Make your gift now at www.theberkeleyschool.org/next-steps/support-tbs/!



Above: Some K-1 students in yoga class. Photo: Clare Woakes. Below: Co-host Steve Adams during a tranquil moment before the rush on the bar at the Cal Shakes Pick-a-Party. Photo: Johanna Sedman.



Auction Party & Pick-a-Party Reminders

The party season at TBS, like the school year, is drawing to a close, but it's not too early to start planning fantastic new Pick-a-Parties and auction get-togethers for next year. If you're signed up for the Partovi Pork-tacular, get ready to tie on the feedbag!

- **Partovi "Pork-tacular,"** Saturday, June 19, 2:30 pm.