



Benchley-Weinberger School
PTA Newsletter

Benchley-Weinberger
Elementary School
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Paw Prints

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Message from the B-W PTA President *Chris Morache*

March Madness...

March is an exciting month, the kids are all abuzz about the Variety Show. We'll be going back in time rocking and rolling with "Happy Days." The show looks great and the kids have worked really hard to get their acts prepared. Thank you to Debbie Zappelli, Kim Fakadej and all the wonderful volunteers who are keeping this terrific event going. The school show is Friday morning, March 13th and the evening show is Saturday night, March 14th from 6-8.

We'll again be traveling back in time to the 70's with Disco Night for this year's Annual Auction. It's the party of the year with lots of laughs and great fun. It's on Saturday, March 21 — look for tickets on sale in front of the Office.

I know you have all been following the State Budget cuts like I have. I have to tell you, I'm frustrated too. Each of us feels the weight of this uncertainty. The question lingers, how is this going to affect my child? On our PTA website, www.BWPTA.org we have posted current news about school budget cuts and how our school board is dealing with it. These cuts threaten to close magnet schools, raise class size, eliminate programs like Old Town education and Balboa Park explorations. We all work so hard to prepare our children for school, support our teachers and enhance our kids' education. It's "just wrong" to be undermined by unreasonable fiscal pressures. This is my opinion, please voice your opinion to our elected officials.

Disco Fever!—Get some Auction...

It's time to catch that "disco fever" and "boogie the night away" at Benchley-Weinberger Foundation's Annual Auction!!!

Date: March 21, 2009 **Time:** 5:00 p.m. **Place:** La Mesa Rec. Center, 4975 Memorial Drive

The theme of this year's B-W Foundation auction is 1970's disco. Attendees are encouraged to come in 1970's attire. There will even be a costume contest for the best dressed! Dinner will be catered by Phil's BBQ, and as always a great feast will be had by all! Paul Peterson of High Energy Productions will be spinning the tunes under the giant disco ball!

Tickets are \$30 per person. (B-W teachers and staff are \$15, their spouses are \$30.) All tickets purchased by Friday, March 13, 2009, will also include one complimentary drink ticket. Tickets will go on sale beginning Monday, March 2, 2009, in front of the office, both before and after school each day.

Help Out Patrick Henry High School—Our Good Neighbor

BRIDGE TO PATRICK HENRY HIGH Senior Exhibitions, April 23, 2009!

Panelists needed! Here is an opportunity to be a part of Henry High campus and sit on the Senior Exhibition panel to observe the process your child will eventually undertake. The time frame is from Noon - 3 pm on Thursday, April 23. Please contact Yvonne Walden, Employer Outreach Specialist @ Henry. She is available at (619)286-7700, ext. 2233, or please e-mail her at: ywalden@sandi.net <<mailto:Sbrennan@sandi.net>> .

What a terrific way to understand what your child will need to accomplish for their Senior Exhibition, plus be a panelist along with teachers, business or community members, and parents. If you have questions about being a panelist, contact Mrs. Walden or visit the Henry web site: www.henry.sandi.net <<http://www.henry.sandi.net/>> and click on "Students" and then "Senior Exhibitions". We need approximately 225 community members as panelists!

Calendar Highlights

March 14—Variety Show

March 18 through 20—Minimum days and Parent/Teacher conferences. School ends at 11:30.

March 21—Foundation Auction

Dates and times and locations subject to change.



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Message from the Principal

Marian Jacobs

March 2009

Dear Families,

We are now in the middle of the district’s budget crisis. We still are not fully aware of how this will affect Benchley-Weinberger. You may have noticed a recent article in the newspaper on February 23rd regarding district spending cuts. One of the cuts being considered is the closure of Magnet Schools. We are hopeful that this will not happen.

I have written a separate letter to Benchley-Weinberger families regarding attendance and student contracts. Benchley-Weinberger is working hard to improve student attendance, so please make sure to read this important information.

Thank you to the PTA for putting on a fantastic Multi-Cultural Fair. It was one of the best yet and everyone should be commended for their hard work, especially coming through at the last minute to pull everything together to be inside on a rainy day!

Upcoming March events at Benchley-Weinberger include the Variety Show on Saturday, March 14th at 5:00 and the B-W Auction at the La Mesa Recreation Center on March 21st from 5:00-10:00. It is a 70’s disco theme this year and it will be a great night to socialize with other B-W families.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for March. Only parents whose students are in need of a Parent-Teacher conference will be contacted by the teacher to schedule a time on the following days: Wednesday, March 18th, Thursday, March 19th, and Friday, March 20th. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 on these days. Please make sure to make arrangements to pick up your students on time.

Sincerely,
Marian K. Jacobs, Principal

Important Message for Parents/Guardians of 2nd - 5th Grade Students

This is a reminder that our S.T.A.R./C.S.T. Testing window at Benchley-Weinberger will be from April 22 - May 8. Please avoid making any medical/dental appointments or scheduling any vacation days during this very important time period.

Please come to our Annual BW Variety Show!

Saturday March 14th 5:00-7:00 pm

Friday March 13th 8:00-11:00 am school day show (split two shows)

Wed. March 11th 12:00-3:00 Dress Rehearsal for all in the show

We have many great acts this year including a guest appearance from Laverne & Shirley and their dates, American Band Stand from the 50's, the cast of Grease, piano players, dancers, Taekwondo studs, singers, hula hoopers, gymnasts and much more....this is a show you don't want to miss!

Questions, please contact Debbie Zappelli at dzappelli@hotmail.com or 466-0773.



What: San Diego's favorite kids' race! A series of one mile runs/walks for kids and adults.

When: Saturday, May 2, 2009; 8:00 a.m.

Where: The Magic Mile starts and finishes at 6th and Laurel in Balboa Park.

Who: Everyone - that's who! Over 5,000 little people and big people. This is the largest kids run in California.

Why: Because proceeds from this event benefit the San Diego Council on Literacy in its efforts to help every San Diegan become literate.

And: All kids 12 and under in the Magic Mile will receive a cool T-shirt, a medal and a book. And we all get to celebrate running and reading at the finish line, with food and entertainment!

Ms. Sward will be sending out sign up details soon.

News from Mrs. Knight

Our B-W students are doing a fantastic job reading for our Books and Beyond program!!

Collectively, they have read over 876,000 pages and are trying very hard to reach their reading goal of 1,500,000 pages. Almost 100 students have already earned their "Gold" medals and 14 of our 24 classrooms have had 100% of their students turn in a least one reading sheet! The program will end on May 15th. If your child is interested in earning a "Gold" medal, they have about eleven weeks left to do so. Thanks so much to Sharon Landacre for all of her hard work on this program. Also, a big thank you to Ann Green, Ah Simmons, Michelle Zix, Susanne Albright, Chris Morache, Kim Shull, Kristin Kaufmann, Mary Rintoul, Jayne Anda, Kathy Viatella and Becky Richardson for their help as well.

We are still collecting "Lincolns" (pennies) and "Washingtons" (quarters) etc. for the library. We will do so through the end of March. Thank you to everyone who has already sent in a donation. With your generosity, and help from our B-W Foundation, we hope to give all students in grades 3-5 two free books to keep in their own personal libraries at home. We will also be donating the remaining money to help children affected by Leukemia. If you are able to give any amount of money to this worthwhile cause, please send your donation to the library.

Thanks to our B-W PTA, all students in grades K-2 have received some free books through the R.I.F. (Reading Is Fundamental) program. The students have been very happy choosing their new books.

We have had many new books donated to our library through the Birthday Book Club program. If you haven't donated a book and would like to, please send a new or like new book to school along with a note including your child's name, room number, and birthday month on it. You may donate books at any time, not just on your child's birthday.

Please check out our library website. Log onto our B-W website, then click on Classrooms and you will be able to enter our library site. We are so grateful to Mary Myers for continually keeping the site updated and interesting. Don't forget that from our site your children are able to access two great student online resources, the World Book Online Reference Center and Proquest. These are safe sites for the students to find information.

A special thank you to Shakey's Pizza in Grossmont Shopping Center for giving us a discount for our "Caught Doing Something Good" (Green Card Store) lunches with the Principal. Thank you, Pam Nelson, Chris Morache and Susanne Albright for running the Green card store.

We still need help in the library. If you have any time to volunteer, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Knight

Multi-cultural Fair—thank you! *Jeannette Stumpf*

So many folks contributed their time, effort and love into this program that it is almost impossible to name each person. Thank you, Janet Weaver, for chairing this wonderful event and coordinating a global experience right here on our campus. It takes many volunteers to make this event a reality. Everything from setting up and tearing down tables and banners, to lining up performers from diverse cultural backgrounds. We look forward to your participation next year!

Oh...did you get dancing feet during the fair? If so, Ken Beaumont and the band Rebel Tree may have been the cause!

Box Tops Contest *Susanne Albright*

Earn Cash For Your School

1. Clip your Box tops 2. Send Box tops to School - turn them in to your teacher. 3. Our School Earns Cash

The classroom with the most Box tops collected, from November 1st through May 15th, will win a Pizza Party sponsored by the BW-PTA. Any Questions, please contact Susanne Albright 619-465-9682 or we4@cox.net



Dine Out!

We haven't had a Dine Out! Event in a while, but rest assured that Amy Heil has something wonderful planned with local restaurants in April and May. Dine Out events are a great way to support our school, local businesses and have a wonderful meal all at the same time.

Watch for more details to come home in the red folders. Contact Amy Heil at amyheil@yahoo.com for more information or if you know of a local restaurant that might like to partner with us.

Recycle For Education! *Susanne Albright, Chair*



Did you know that the number of ink and laser toner cartridges thrown away in one year is enough to circle the earth? Did you know it takes 1,000 years for an ink or laser toner cartridge to decompose in a landfill? Recycling is good for our environment but it is also good for our school. **The PTA has joined the Staples Recycle for Education Program. For every eligible ink or laser toner cartridge we collect, Staples will give our school \$3.00 to spend.** A list of eligible cartridges is on the staples.com website and there is also a list in the school office. We ask that you wrap or box the cartridge when sending it to school with your child. For parents dropping off cartridges, there is a box in the office workroom. Let's help our school and the earth by sending in your cartridges!

Fundraising Made Easy

Throughout the school year, the PTA coordinates several ongoing fundraisers that require minimal effort and absolutely no out-of-pocket expenses from parents. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Escrip is a relatively new, quick and easy way for our school to earn money. There are over 150 merchant partners including Vons, Macy's, Office Max and Big 5 Sports that contribute a percentage of the dollar value of purchases you make at their stores to our school. Sign up your grocery card and credit/debit cards for free online at www.escrip.com or pick up a registration form in the school's office. Our group number is 500001462. Then just shop as you normally would, know that you are helping the school every time you buy something (nothing extra is added to your bill—it is 'free money' for the school). Sign up today! Did you participate last year? You'll need to renew your registration if you want to continue participation for this year.

How to Contact the Editor or Submit a Paw Prints Article

Have an idea for an article or just want to relay a message to the editor? Please send an e-mail to :

BWPawPrints1@yahoo.com

Or leave a note for the Paw Prints folder in the office. Not all articles can be printed and those accepted for publication may be edited for space/content.

We value your input in helping to make this a useful and informative newsletter. Publication deadline for April's issue is Monday, March 23, 2009. All articles submitted for inclusion should include contact information such as name of the author, e-mail and/or phone number. Anonymous articles will not be considered. Business ads/solicitations are not allowed per National PTA guidelines.