



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 *Derby Pattengill*

In lieu of the article normally run in this space, we are running this message from our PTA Vice-President.

Hundreds attend School Board Meeting

Budget proposals for the 2009-2010 school year by the San Diego Unified School Board drew a crowd of hundreds to the Eugene Brucker Auditorium on March 24th. Board members heard hours of public testimony on a range of proposed cuts. The most passionate testimony was heard regarding the proposal to cut busing for magnet schools, a proposal to cut a number of principals' positions, cut music programs and increase class sizes. BW PTA parents, teachers and your principal Mrs. Jacobs were in attendance. After many hours of public testimony, the Board clearly got the message. Board member John De Beck noted to the audience that the budget is not final and that the public should stay involved.

Let your voice be heard. Not just here, but statewide. Write your legislators. Write your councilman, your assemblyman, your governor. SD Unified is currently not getting an equal share of the state education budget. Let your representatives know what is happening here. There is stimulus money coming to the state. What better investment than to our future. Dr. De Beck's message that the squeaky wheel gets greased was clear. To look more closely at the budget, go to www.sandi.net/budgetupdate. For a complete list of your representatives and contact information, please see the BWPTA website or contact Chris Morache (Chris.lily@yahoo.com) or Derby Pattengill (CPattengill@cox.bnet)

Contacts:

Superintendent: Terry B. Greer(superintendent@sandi.net)

Board Rep.:KatherineNokamura(Board@sandi.net)

SD Unified School District

4100 Normal St. #2231

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 13. Please avoid making any medical/dental appointments or scheduling any vacation days during this very important time period.

Thank YOU—for a Successful Auction *Drew Smith, Foundation President*

Thank you for making this years' auction "Saturday Night Fever" so successful. Our chair Mr. Ron Zapelli did a phenomenal job. A big thank you to our auctioneer, Steve Scott and our DJ Paul Peterson of High Energy. For all those who helped with this event went to the auction, helped organize, got auction items, donated auction items, helped make baskets as well as assisted in setting up and cleaning up we could not have done this without you! THANK YOU!

The Foundation is always looking for ways to raise money to help fund programs and improvements at Benchley. Your participation is vital now more than ever given the impending budget cuts.

Our last fundraiser of the year will be the Jog-A-Thon in May and we encourage everyone to participate to help offset the looming budget cuts. Additional information regarding this event will be sent out in the red folders.

Calendar Highlights

April 6 through 12—
Spring Break

April 16—RIF
distribution

April 22 through
May 13—STAR
testing

April 24—Spirit
Assembly

Dates and times
and locations
subject to change.

Message from the Principal

Marian Jacobs

April 2009

Dear Families,

Once again, the Benchley-Weinberger Auction was spectacular and a huge success. The 70's costumes and music provided by D.J., Paul Peterson (a parent of one of our students), made for a fun evening and one of the school's best events yet. The final figure is not out yet on the proceeds, but it looks like they did well and will be able to support our choral music program for next year. Thanks to everyone on the auction committee for all your hard work.

The Variety Show was very successful and so much fun to watch. Our school has so many talented students who put on a very impressive show. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard and put in such long hours to make this show possible. We are all looking forward to watching our talented students perform again in the upcoming "Annie" play at the end of May.

We are currently in the process of completing the site's budget for next year. Most everything will stay the same at our site next year with the exception of the reduction of clerical staff and three teachers due to the class size increase in grades K-3 from 20 to 24 students. As you have read and heard, magnet transportation at this time has been eliminated for the 2009-2010 school year. We are hoping that our parents can organize carpools for families who will possibly need help transporting their children to school in order for them to continue attending Benchley-Weinberger.

Just a reminder that STAR testing will begin April 22nd and continue through May 13th for grades 2 through 5. Please make sure your children eat a good breakfast and get plenty of sleep. Please do not make any vacations or doctor appointments during this time.

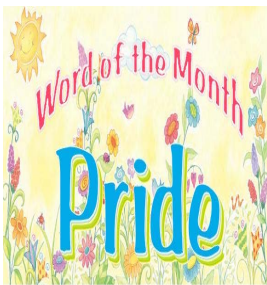
Sincerely,
Marian K. Jacobs, Principal

Variety Show—Happy Days and a Happy Time *Debbie Zappelli*

The annual B-W Variety Show was a great night for all!!! The students performed their hearts out and the audience loved the show! I for one was very impressed with the variety of acts this year and the amount of effort that went into them. We had over 40 acts performed this year! I had the privilege of watching the acts evolve from the audition to the practices to the evening performance and I am so impressed with our students here at B-W. They developed their own acts, practiced at recess, at lunch, and at home, and then performed a fabulous show for their peers, teachers, and parents! Applause, applause, applause for all the performers who completely surpassed my expectations and blew us all away with their talent!!!

The teachers thrilled us with a skit and song to "Be True to Your School," loved the cartwheels!!! Both, Mr. Jon and Miss Corinna treated us with some great singing. Lily Quintal, Jessica Young, Mitchell Capp and Mitch West were our wonderful announcers that thoroughly entertained us with their Laverne and Shirley, Mitch and Mitch acts, and had fun announcing throughout the show. Krystal Vickery, Rachel Cogan, Cailin Nenow, and Sophie Abadilla were our great back stage crew who worked hard to keep the show moving and were top notch with virtually no glitches. Hats off to Mr. Jon and Monica Morgan who kept us pumping with the sound and music all throughout the show. Thank you, thank you to Kim Fakadej for making a Universal CD this year, it made the sound much better, she spent many hours working on this project and it paid off big time! A HUGE thank you to Chris Morache who directed our large group act of K-5th graders producing a fantastic reenactment of American Band Stand!

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honor
self respect
dignity
personal satisfaction
value
greatness of soul

News from Mrs. Knight

Our B-W students are doing an incredible job reading for our Books and Beyond program!! Collectively, they have now read over a million pages and are trying very hard to reach their reading goal of 1,500,000 pages. Only 7 weeks left to earn a "Gold" medal!! The program will end on May 15th. Thanks to Sharon Landacre, Michelle Zix, Susanne Albright and Mary Myers for their continued work on this program.

I would like to congratulate our B-4 students, Lily Morache, Megan Sewell and Attie Davis for winning this year's San Diego Public Library essay contest. They will be honored at the San Carlos Public Library, Monday, March 30th at 6:30p.m. Way to go!

On Monday, March 2nd we celebrated "Read Across America" day and Dr. Seuss' birthday. We were honored to have many guest readers come to B-W and read to our classes. A big "Panda" thank you to: Grandpa Leonard Gray, Michael Higginbotham, Ms. Giles, Mrs. Contreras, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. McHugh and Mrs. Stumpf, for reading and helping make the day so special.

We are finished collecting "Lincolns" (pennies) and "Washingtons" (quarters) for the library. Thank you to everyone who sent in donations. Because of your generosity, and our B-W Foundation, we will be able 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 some money to the children affected by leukemia. A special thank you to our B-2 student, Krystal Vickery and her family, for donating \$70.00 to this worthwhile cause.

I would also like to thank another very generous student, Sophie Abadilla from B-5 for donating \$50.00 of her birthday money to buy new books for our library. And thank you to her aunt Judy Eby for inspiring Sophie to be so giving and to love reading. 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 their birthday.

Thank you again to the many volunteers helping me and our students in the library this year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Knight

Variety Show Continued from page 2

A big thank you to Tammy Cerney, Kathy Bouman and all the school staff who helped us run auditions, practices, performances and schedules. There are so many wonderful parents who volunteered their time and talents to our show: Derby Pattengill and Kim Fakadej for set design, Michelle Wakeland for programs, Richard Fakadej for DVD, Cris Tolley for flyers, Diane Sipe & Sharon Henry for the Finale, Kristin Kauffman, Pam Nelson, Trina Maas, Drew & Mary Agnes Smith, Cathy Monroe, Suzanne Albright, Cris Tolley and Sharon Sfiligoi for helping with the kids during the shows. I want to personally thank Kim Fakadej, Chris Morache, and Sunny Gebhardt for helping me in so many ways throughout the whole process; I couldn't have done it without you! Thanks to all the parents for supporting and encouraging your kids.

THERE IS A WONDERFUL DVD FOR SALE OF THE BEST OF BOTH SHOWS FOR ONLY \$15.00, a great keepsake for your performers!

Debbie Zappelli, Co-Director

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 Amy Heil has something wonderful planned with a local restaurant in April . Dine Out events are a great way to support our school, local businesses and have a wonderful meal all at the same time. Please join us at West Coast Barbeque on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 from 4 to 8 PM. Take out orders are included in this offer. West Coast Barbecue is located at 6126 Lake Murray Blvd., La Mesa, CA 91941. Phone: 619-462-3663. Check them out on the internet at www.westcoastcater.com

"Mrs. Knight loves the ribs and sweet potato fries!! "

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.

The Oopsy Daisy Warehouse Sale and Fundraiser is Back!

Its time to get all of your gift shopping for the year finished in two hours! The hugely popular sale at the Oopsy Daisy warehouse returns on April 30 this year.

30% of the purchases made by Benchley Weinberger families will go to the BW PTA. In addition to artwork, growth charts, necklaces and the items that are produced by oopsydaisy.com and studioavo.com, this warehouse sale will also feature gift items and small home furnishing goods that include crib sets, decorative pillows and more.

Oopsy Daisy, Fine Art for Kids and Studio Avo products are sold by retailers nationwide, including Pottery Barn for Kids, Land of Nod, Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom. The warehouse is located at 650 Gateway Center Way, San Diego 92102, by the I-15 and Market Street. Keep on the lookout for fliers to come home in April

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.