



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*

What an amazing year!

Soon we'll all be taking a well deserved vacation. The Book Fair is going on and the kids are excited new summer reading material; thank you to the fabulous Book Fair ladies, Pam Nelson, Susanne Albright, Trina Maas, Janet Sewell and all the helpers for bringing us another terrific Book Fair and raising money for classroom books. Books and Beyond has finished up another successful year. Thank you to Sharon Landacre and Ms. Knight and all their helpers for all their hard work running this year long program.

The Annie show...WOW! Once again the parents and B-W Families made extraordinary efforts to pull this event off. Thank you to everyone who was involved with Annie for all their hard work. The show was incredible! Special thanks to the sewing team led by Ms. Aufmesser. I know there were Grandmas and Aunties and friends getting those beautiful costumes made and donated. Thanks to Susanne Albright for all the ticket and DVD sales. Thank you to Jody Steinbauer and her store Antiques @ The Village in La Mesa, for loaning us the wonderful authentic props. Those back drops are incredible! Those will be staying at Benchley for use in future plays. The back drops were hand sewn by Trina Maas and drawn by her husband Jim Maas. Many hours were spent hand painting and detailing them by Trina, Susanne Albright, Jim Maas, Delaney Maas and myself. Cathy Monroe and her husband Tim created the high tech system to slide the drops on which we might want to consider a patent for. Tim and Cathy also managed to print all the colored programs for the show. We had a parent come to every show to do hair and makeup and parents who volunteered every night to keep the kids happy and safe in the classrooms. A big thank you to Stephanie Moura for taking all the wonderful pictures and to Richard and Kim Fakadej for making the DVD. Thank you to Cathy Monroe and helping run the show and crew back stage and all the organizing and planning that went into the props from the Christmas tree to the teddy bears. Thank you to Janet Weaver for her organization and all her energy backstage with the kids and crew. We are all still in awe of the continued dedication from the teacher's and staff. Mr. Jon who made the sound come to life, Mrs. Knight who supervised kids and helped with sound. Mrs. Paznokas who helped with everything from auditions to supervision to sound. Ms. Barbara who wears so many hats we'd need an entire page to describe the many things she helped with. Thank you to Ms. Hasselbar for organizing props and her husband and her son Kenny for getting the live feed set up and going. Mrs. Aufmesser's period costumes were unbelievable, thank you for your vision and creativity. This leads us to Ms. O'Hara, wow! The experience you have given our children has been incredible and will last a lifetime, thank you for all your time, love and dedication to our children.

It is with mixed emotion that we celebrate the retirements of Kathy Hainley, Linda Regan, Phyllis Mann, Julie Heimburge and Terri Knight. We're so sad to see them go and can hardly imagine the school without their expertise, kindness and love and beautiful smiles. We are thankful for the years they have devoted to our children and to Benchley-Weinberger families. It is with a heavy heart that we say happy retirement to all you fantastic ladies!

What an exciting way to end a great year. Thank you all for helping me have a wonderful experience leading the PTA. I'm happy to welcome Derby Pattengill to the office of PTA President. Derby is looking forward to a terrific school year next year. I plan to continue helping out where needed and support the new team of volunteer's to our amazing PTA.

See you around campus, Chris

Lost and Found

Be sure to check the lost and found area for any items that may have forgotten to go home with your child. Any items that are not claimed will be donated. Thank you for your cooperation.

Calendar

Highlights

June 5—Books and Beyond Gold Medal ceremony

June 15—Last day of school

See you in September!

Dates and times and locations subject to change.

Box Tops Contest Winner!

Congratulations to room B-8, Ms. Hasselbar's class. A special thanks to students and their families for collecting all those little certificates!

Fifth Grade Promotions

Thanks to all the fifth grade promotion volunteer moms for all your help. You have made this a great year for the kids! You guys ROCK.

For all you fifth graders get ready for a great last week of fun filled activities. And remember peace out bunny ears!!!! your friend Jody { fifth grade promotions }

Message from the Principal

Marian Jacobs

June 2009

Dear Families,

As we go into our final month of school, we finally know what the school board's decisions are in regards to balancing the school budget. The end results could have been a lot worse, so I am thankful for what we have received:

- Health Tech stayed at 5 hours
- Librarian Assistant was reduced to 4 hours
- OCILE remained (Old Town 4th/Balboa Park 5th)
- Class size K-3 is 24:1
- Bus rider number of students from 8 to 15 (more time on the bus & bus stop changes)
- Lunch/Breakfast up 25 cents (1.75 to 2.00 and 1.00 to 1.25)
- Instructional supplies reduced by 25%
- Reduce 28 Elementary District Counselors (less time)
- Textbook adoption later
- Start time could change by 15 minutes later

As we wind down the school year, many classrooms will be taking field trips and have end-of-the-year activities. Please make sure you check your child's red folder with any updates. Coach Tucker's running awards assembly has been rescheduled for Friday, June 12th at 7:45 am.

Thank you to everyone involved in the "Annie" production and the Jog-a-Thon for all your hard work and help. Both events were a huge success.

Farewell to all my 5th grade families who are moving on to middle school. Thank you for all your years of dedication and volunteer work. Good luck to you in middle school. You will be missed.

Have a great summer and see you in the fall for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 8th.

Sincerely,
Marian K. Jacobs, Principal

Brownie 1st Graders Launch Recycling Program

At our April assembly Brownie Troop 3602, comprised of 14 first grade students, launched a lunch-area recycling program. The Brownies demonstrated appropriate use of the recycle bins in front approximately 500 students at the April assembly. The bins will be used for bottles and cans only.

The Brownie Girl Scouts have been working on a series of badges that help them learn about their role in the community and solving a community problem. The Brownies realized that there weren't any recycle bins in the school's lunch area and wanted to do something about it.

EDCO recycling and the San Diego Unified School District were both contacted (with help from their leader) to find out if a recycling program for bottles and cans could begin. EDCO already has a bin on site for paper recycling in the classrooms. Both entities confirmed that a recycling program would work and that any lunch area recyclables that were collected could be commingled in the EDCO bin already on site. Alternatively, they could also be recycled off-site to raise money for the school.

You could help BW raise about \$500 by recycling the bottles and cans off-site. Daillard Elementary has several dedicated volunteers who have raised enough money through recycling bottles and cans to buy park benches in front of the school. If you are interested in volunteering to take the recyclables, please contact Elizabeth Berg. (continued page 3)

News from Mrs. Knight

The school year is flying by and is nearly over but we have great news! Our Books and Beyond program was extremely successful. The students read 1,981,500 pages, far exceeding the Principal's challenge!! Also, 466 students earned "Gold " medals this year and 7 classes had 100% of their students earn their medals. Congratulations to rooms: K-3, K-4, 1, 3, 5, 7 and B-5!

We will hold our "Gold Medal" ceremony and celebrate a day of "Excellence" on Friday, June 5, 2009 starting at 7:45a.m. All family members are invited. The students will enjoy an extended recess with music provided by our own "D.J." Mr. Jon Freyer. Fun games will be provided by Coach Tucker. The students will also receive a special B-B-Q lunch if they buy their lunch on that day. All students will receive a Krispy Kreme donut and Mrs. Jacobs may even have another surprise in store for the students on that Friday. We need a lot of parent volunteers to help us with our celebration. Please contact the library if you can help.

A big Panda thank you to: Karla Harris from the San Diego Coaster Company and to Rod Jooyan from Albertsons, 8920 Fletcher Parkway, Richard Brown and Jack Harris from Albertsons, 8650 Lake Murray Blvd., and to Susanna Parker from Krispy Kreme Donuts, 4180 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. for providing some very generous and exciting incentives for our reading program. Also, thank you to Sharon Landacre and her Books and Beyond Committee for making this program such a success!

As many of you may know, I will be retiring in June. This was a very difficult decision for me to make. I have some important family matters to take care of that will require my time and attention. I've loved B-W and all of you have been like a second family to me. I have watched your children grow up to be fine young boys and girls. After 24 years, it is going to be very hard to say "Goodbye" so I won't. I'll just say, "I'll see you sometime"! I have always greatly appreciated your help and support over the years and I will never forget the kindness you have shown me. YOU are what makes B-W the wonderful school that it is, so I know that it will always remain one of the top schools in the city!! I do hope that you will read with your children. It's a great way to spend time together and they will never forget it. Check out our B-W library website for links to some great recommended summer booklists.

Thanks to your generosity, we collected enough "Lincolns" for the library to buy two free books for each 3rd, 4th, and 5th grader and donate \$500.00 to the Children's Leukemia Society! Way to go B-W!!

Christy Walsingham did a terrific job running the R.I.F. program. All students in grades K thru 2 received three free books this year.

Once again, thank you to our B-W PTA and Foundation for their tremendous support with these programs.

One last thing, I would like to apologize to one of my spectacular "Guest Readers", Chris Morache, for omitting her name from last month's bulletin. She read for our "Read Across America" day. She also guest reads in classrooms and in the library and is amazing!! I really appreciate her and the rest of you who donate your time and effort to our school. Thanks so much. Have a great summer!

Sincerely, Mrs. Knight

Brownies Recycling program continued from page 1

The Brownies decided the solution would be to provide two new blue bins in the lunch area and help teach the student body about appropriate items to recycle. They presented their solution to the school principal, Mrs. Marian Jacobs who approved the plan.

The Benchley Weinberger Foundation has helped cover the cost of the two bins, which totaled \$130. The Brownies have also used money raised through cookie sales to buy the bins.

To prepare for their all-school assembly, the Brownies were given a presentation about appropriate recycling from I LOVE A CLEAN SAN DIEGO. That presentation took place on Earth Day.

Contact: Elizabeth Berg, Troop 3602 Girl Scout Leader, with questions. (619) 462-1557 or elizabethberg@cox.net

PTA Spring Book Fair 2009

Thank you to the Chairs of this year's Spring Book Fair: Pam Nelson, Susanne Albright, Christine Morache, Trina Maas and Janet Sewell. A big thank you also goes out to the MANY volunteers that make this popular event successful and possible.

The printing schedule of the Newsletter this year is such that the event is underway as the issue goes to print.

We couldn't let the year end without at least saying thank you until we could write a more complete article on this fantastic event.



Congratulations! Hooray! Fantastic!

Room B-6's book Listen, Listen, Listen Can You Hear That? has been selected as one of twenty-five Honorable Mention winners in the 2009 Scholastic Book Fairs Kids Are Authors competition. What an accomplishment! To be chosen out of thousands of entries is truly a great

City Library Essay Contest

Three of our Benchley-Weinberger students were winners from the San Carlos Branch Library in the citywide Library Essay Contest. They were Attie Davis, Megan Sewell and Lily Morache. Each won a Certificate of Achievement and a \$25.00 Barnes and Noble gift card. Megan Sewell and Lily Morache were selected as semifinalists in the citywide contest. They both had written essays about Courage. Lily Morache went on to become one of the 13 Grand Prize winners. She was one of only five 4th graders citywide to accomplish this. Lily was rewarded with a City Proclamation from Marty Emerald's office, 4 Padre tickets and a \$50.00 check from the Friends of the Library in San Diego. Congratulations!! Our B-W students are terrific!

Teacher Appreciation Week *Regina Young & Christy Walsingham, PTA Hospitality*

The teachers and staff at Benchley-Weinberger are the best. To show them how much we appreciate them, the PTA treated them to goodies during the week of May 11-15. On Wednesday, the PTA and the Foundation hosted a delicious luncheon catered by Los Primos. All who attended won some fabulous raffle prizes. Our teachers and staff are wonderful and work so hard all year long! A special thanks to businesses who helped out with generous donations: Keils, Starbucks Coffee, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Cohn Restaurants, Hooley's, and California Pizza Kitchen. Also, thank you to Chris Morache, Teresa Lombardo and Yuko Doron for helping with the luncheon. Again, thank you for all you do!



2009

Spirit Assembly Coffee 5th Grade Promotions Committee

We would like to Thank This Year's 5th Grade Parents that helped make this a great year. For starters, this 5th Grade class made Approximately \$300.00! We would like to express thanks to the following families for their donations of coffee, bagels, and muffins; The Monroes, Willis's, Nelsons Balestreris, Sandovals, Dromgooles, McGraws, Capps, Darnells, Kishabas, Deans, Leckners, Sipes, Westermans, and Rintouls. I would really like to thank Elizabeth Kishaba, Kathy Darnell and Cathy Monroe for running the Coffee "Cart" During the assemblies. It is now for the Next class to take the Cart over for next year's Promoting Class. See you for Coffee at the next Assembly! Mary Rintoul, Spirit Assembly Coffee Chair for 5th Grade Promotions, Class of

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.

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