



Paw Prints

WWW.BWPTA.ORG

Letter from the PTA President *Derby Pattengill*

I would like to express a big thank you to all of the parents and teachers who sent emails to the board members and attended the SD Unified budget presentation at Serra High. Let's make them look at the faces of parents, students and teachers when they are dealing with the budget. The fact that the district receives 75% of its money from the State and California is facing a projected deficit of \$21 billion means that there will be some tough decisions to be made. Rather than just focusing on cuts, we must find a champion for education in the legislature and figure out some way to generate revenue for education. Please know that the PTA as an advocate for parents, teachers and children is working hard on the state and local level on your behalf.

Enough budget talk already! I am sorry to sound like a broken record, so let's make a right turn, Clyde. I would like to talk about some things we should really be thankful for at Benchley Weinberger. Let's be thankful for the dedicated teachers and staff who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty for our school and ask nothing in return. How about our talented artists and writers? The Reflections Art show once again was amazing and inspiring. Thank you for art and music in our school.

What about all of the parents who quietly volunteer in the classrooms? It is such a big help to the teachers to know that there is a steady stream of help on a daily basis so they may spend their time actually teaching. Who isn't thankful for the running program? How can you not get pumped up upon arriving at school seeing the masses of students and teachers circling the track, running, walking and socializing? How many miles will be run in total this year, I wonder?

The generosity of the BW family is remarkable. This community is always willing to give, whether it is disaster relief, a food drive, or Lincolns for the Library. I have just learned that this is the 19th year that BW has participated in the Teddy Bear Drive. Helping those less fortunate and learning social responsibility is a great way to start the holiday season. Let's help more children than ever on December 4th with our contributions. Personally, I am thankful to the PTA board and committee heads. This has been a busy year, filled with lots of new members, program changes, and funding challenges. Without their hard work, Benchley Weinberger would not be the top school it is today.

That's my list for what I am thankful at BW. What did I miss? Let me know and I will put in the next issue of Paw Prints. Catch the quote? It was pretty easy this month. A bonus goes to the person who can name Clint's character in that movie.

Derby Pattengill
CPattengill@cox.net

Message from the Foundation President *Drew Smith*

This has been a great year so far. Thank you parents and staff for all you have done and are doing. The hats have been ordered and should be in very soon. If you have not ordered yours, fill out an order form today and return it in your child's red folder. We will then process your request.

Hope to see you at Night at the Bench on December 4th at 6:30 where we will be watching *Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs*.

May you all have a safe and great holiday season.

Letter from the Principal

December 2009



Dear Families,

I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Break. There will be three busy weeks ahead for everyone before Winter Break.

Thank you to all the parents and teachers for a very successful parent/teacher conference week. Being involved in your child's education does make a difference.

Thank you to the PTA for another successful Innisbrook fundraiser. The school definitely needs funding more than ever in light of the district's continuing budget struggles. If you would like to be involved and learn more about the district budget crisis, there are upcoming Budget Town Hall Meetings. They want parents, students, employees and community members to have the opportunity to offer ideas and feedback to the Board of Education. The following meetings are scheduled from 6:30 - 8:30 pm:

12/3 San Diego High School (Performing Arts Theater)

12/8 Madison High School (Performing Arts Center)

12/9 Mission Bay High School (Auditorium)

12/14 Porter Elementary North (Auditorium)

I would also like to thank everyone for being so diligent and responsible in making sure your children stay home when they are ill with a fever and making sure they do not return to school without being fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. By following the county health directions, our school has stabilized and has had fewer illnesses since I sent home the last health advisory message. I feel this has definitely helped our school get through the flu season so far.

Applications for Magnet/Enrollment Options for the 2010-2011 school year are available. Please make sure you have completed a Magnet/Enrollment Options application for any siblings by February 15, 2010. If you have any friends or neighbors who would like to attend Benchley-Weinberger in the fall, please let them know about the application. Applications are available online at www.sandi.net/enrollmentoptions.

Upcoming events for the month of December include:

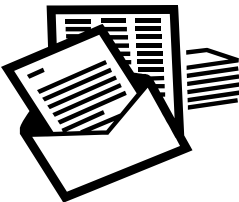
December 4th - Teddy Bear Drive Assembly (students bring a **new** bear to donate to Rady Children's Hospital) 1:30 pm

December 4th - "Night At The Bench"-Movie Night-6:30 pm Auditorium

December 21 - January 1 - Winter Break-no student attendance

Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the time with your family and friends.

Sincerely,
Marian K. Jacobs
Principal



Calendar

Highlights

Dec. 4—Teddy
Bear Drive
Assembly

Dec. 4—Night at
the Bench: *UP*

Dec. 7—Rubio's
and Barnes &
Noble Dine Out

Dec. 21 through
January 1—Winter
Break

2010 JOG-A-THON *Lou Bertsche*



Our 2010 Jog-a-thon will be held on school grounds on February 10, 2010.

It will be the biggest and best one Benchley-Weinberger has ever had! We will be offering the BEST PRIZES EVER this year.

The students who raise the most money will have their choice of a new Wii, A LAPTOP COMPUTER, A DIGITAL CAMERA OR AN IPOD!

Every student who raises \$25 or more will receive a t-shirt. We have tons of great stuff to raffle off for the kids. Pizza parties for the top classes! Running shoes, gift certificates and more. However, if any parent has a connection (Padres, Charges, Zoo, Legoland, Disneyland, etc., etc.) that can lead to bigger and better prizes, please call us!!!! We need you!

The paperwork for the event will be coming home in the red folders before winter recess so that the kids can make use of all the family gatherings over the break. We will also be displaying some of the better prizes on school grounds during the two weeks leading up to the break.

Congratulations to our Reflections artists!

Family and friends filled the BW auditorium to see the artwork created by our very own artists at the Reflections art show and awards ceremony on Nov. 4th. Thank you to all of the students who submitted their artwork this year and came for this special evening!

Our outside judges selected 24 finalists whose artwork has now moved on to the next level of the Reflections program. Congratulations to our finalists: *literature*: **Owen Cooksy, Dania Castillo Mayoral, Douglas Prodor and Liam Quintal**; *music*: **Leianna Weaver**; *photography*: **Cameron Coates, Zachary Earner, Kyndal Gaines and Nicholas Viatella**; and *visual arts*: **Joshua Bucky, Ian Calbreath, Kalos Chu, Somprathana Clariza, Emmanuelle Cola, Franek Czapl, Ava D'Amore, Abigail Filson, Julia McCauley, Hannah Malloy, Michael Stumpf, Cameryn Sweet, Matthew Thomas, Nicole Wakeland and Sydney Zoehrer.**

We would like to recognize the teachers who did Reflections with their classes: Mrs. Armstrong, Ms. Aufsesser and Miss Janette. We would also like to thank the many parents who gave their time to catalog the artwork and mount it for display: Karen Capp, Judit and Russ Havens, Andy Hayt, Kimberly Hintz, Rebecca Lewison, Craig McEwan, Deanna McDonald, Derby Pattengill, Mary Radley, Scott Shelton, Cynthia Zamarripa, Trista Zeis and Alice Zoehrer. Special thanks to Russ Havens for being our master of ceremonies and Mary Radley for organizing all the refreshments. Thanks to everyone for supporting the arts at Benchley Weinberger!

Sarah Calbreath, Heidi Dromgoole and Kristin McGraw, co-chairs

FAME, I'm Gonna Live Forever, I'm Gonna Learn How To Fly, High!

BW students, get ready to shine on stage with this year's Annual Variety Show. Auditions will begin in January; so get your act together!! We are looking for dancers, singers, actors, gymnasts, karate experts, cheer leaders, magicians, etc... and 5th Grade Announcers.

If you are auditioning for an Announcer position, please use the FAME theme as a guideline. The night of the Big Show will be Sat. March 13th! Look for permission slips to come home in the red folder when we get back from Winter Break!

Your Variety Show Committee, *Debbie Zappelli, Chris Morache, and Kim Fakadej*



Dine Out Day

One of the easiest and tastiest ways to help raise funds for PTA programs is to participate in designated 'Dine Out Days'. On **December 7**, join us at Barnes & Noble in Grossmont Center (La Mesa) from 5:00 to 8:00 PM to hear some stories read by our own Ms. Sward, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Glaze, Mrs. Hasselbar, and Mrs. Knight. Get some of your holiday shopping done and help the school at the same time! Don't forget to take a trip to Rubio's for dinner that same evening.

Fliers with more detailed information have been distributed in your child's communication folder .

Hope to see you there!

NIGHT AT THE BENCH, FEATURING: DISNEY'S NEW MOVIE "UP"

Come Join us for a wonderful evening as we watch Russell, Carl, and Doug go "UP", up, and away on a great adventure.

We are excited to have movie night on Friday, Dec. 4th at 6:30 in the auditorium. Bring your pillow, blanket, and friends for Disney's latest release (rated PG). This fundraiser is one you don't want to miss. Fifth grade will be hosting the concession stand.

Law Enforcement Teddy Bear Drive

Each holiday season, Law Enforcement agencies throughout San Diego County collect teddy bears and deliver them to Rady Children's Hospital. Initially, bears are given to each child staying at the Hospital through the holidays. Throughout the remainder of the year however, the nurses and doctors at Children's use the excess bears to help comfort new patients during their hospital visit. Last year San Diego County Law Enforcement Agencies collected and delivered several thousand bears to Rady Children's Hospital.

In 2000, the kindergarten classes began participating in the Teddy Bear Drive, and in 2001 the whole school got involved. Since then, the students and teachers at Benchley-Weinberger have opened their hearts and donated between five-six hundred bears each year. That's a lot of bears, and a lot of love!

The Teddy Bear Drive is a unique and heartwarming way for your children to help other children.

If you would like to participate in the Teddy Bear Drive, have your child bring new, unwrapped teddy bears to school the week November 30th.

Deputies will collect the bears at this "beary" special school event. The Teddy Bear Assembly is Friday, December 4th, 1:30 p.m

REMINDER— Check Lost and Found!

Please be sure to look over the lost and found cart before the Winter Break for any items your child may have lost over the past few months. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

To aid in identification, please be sure that items of clothing are marked with a name and room number . This makes it easier to return found items to classrooms to be claimed by the owner.

Paw Prints is edited by Jeannette Stumpfel and the Benchley-Weinberger PTA.

Next issue's deadline is Dec. 19 for publication in the January issue. Articles may be sent to: BWPawPrints1@Yahoo.com

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: **Green Fact:** Approx. 380 billion plastic bags are used in the United States every year. That's
: more than 1,200 bags per US resident, per year!
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