



CALENDAR

May

7-11th - Teacher Appreciation Week

10th - Washington Open House 6:30 - 8:00pm

15th - African American Unity Meeting 5:45 p.m., Library. Dinner and childcare provided. Topics: Spring Faire new officers.

18th - No School Malcolm X's Birthday Holiday

21st - Safe Routes to School Task Force 7 - 8:30 p.m., Library (See p. 3)

22nd - All-School Parent Meeting (See p. 3)

28th - No School Memorial Day Holiday

June

2nd - Washington Spring Faire Playground, 11-3

7th - Talent Show Two performances, 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., Cafetorium

10th - Kindergarten Picnic 1 p.m. Playground.

14th - 5th Grade Promotion 9:30 a.m.

15th - Last Day of School

Silent Auction and Math Night A Success

The Spring Faire is Coming!

April's Silent Auction and Math Night was a big success! Kids played fun math games and learned about bidding at the kid's auction, where quarters and dollars for donated used toys brought in \$222 for our school! The adult's auction raised over \$3,000! The many wonderful potluck dishes that previewed Washington's Cookbook are sure to boost cookbook sales in June! Many thanks to Margaret Norman, Amy Woodward, Sharon Foster Rupe, Eli Cochran, Kathy Stafford, and Sahoko Tamagawa for organizing the events, and to the many others who pitched in to make this night so much fun!

Now, on to Washington's Spring Faire! Don't miss this year-end party on Saturday, June 2nd from 11 to 3! Bring friends and family.

There will be wonderful booths, including favorites from last year, Fishing for Toys, Boat Races, and the Fantasy Forest. This year we're pleased to welcome *Playland Not at the Beach* with their wonderful vintage carnival games. As usual, many of the activities will be free.

There will be booths sponsored by Family Resources (with invaluable information about their services including Health Insurance) and Washington Kidz Club (they'll have registration forms for next year and will display student art work). Bring a K-5 book for the Book Exchange. There will also be an environmental booth selling compact fluorescent light bulbs at a discounted price of \$2 each. Community booths include bike safety with low cost bike helmets for sale.

We have a lively line-up of performances, including a magician, Kidz Club drumming and Haitian dance performances, and others. The



Photo by Eli Cochran

Math night featured geometry with marshmallows

African American Unity group will be serving their legendary soul food.

The drawing of the raffle will be held at the faire. (See page 3 for the great prizes this year!) You can buy more tickets on the day of the faire up to the time of the drawing. See separate article regarding the raffle.

We can still use some volunteers, both before the event as well as on the day of. Working on the faire is fun and is a great way to get involved. Some assignments only require an hour or two. Contact us and we'll find a task that fits your schedule and interests.

If you have questions or you want to propose a booth or performance, contact Tracy Baillie, Spring Faire co-coordinator and parent of kindergartner Sophia, by e-mail (tracy.baillie@pearsoned.com) or by phone (415-971-4348).

If you are interested in helping out or if you have a sun canopy or ice chest to lend, contact Jamie Greenblatt, Spring Faire co-coordinator (and parent of 3rd grader Raviv Waldman) at barryw1@juno.com or 510-486-1742.

Keeping Your Child Safe in Your Car

Did you know that state law requires children to be secured in an appropriate child passenger restraint until they are at least 6 years old or weigh at least 60 pounds? Kids 4 to 6 years old who are too big for safety seats should be in car booster seats if they weigh 40 to 60 pounds. Booster seats are *recommended* for children up to **80 pounds and 4'9" tall**, because seat belts don't fit properly until then.

According to SafetyBelt Safe USA (carseat.org), it is not usually safe for children under 8 to ride in the back seat with just a lap/ shoulder belt because most do not fit properly in a lap/shoulder belt. Having a lap belt crossing over the stomach can pose a dangerous hazard. Also, using just the lap portion of the lap/shoulder belt, with the shoulder belt tucked behind the back or under the arm, can cause serious internal injuries during a crash.

Your child is ready to move out of the booster seat to a lap/shoulder belt only if, while sitting against the vehicle seat back, your child's:

- knees bend at the edge of the seat cushion,
- lap belt fits over the thighs (not the abdomen),
- shoulder belt crosses the shoulder or collar bone (not the neck), and
- that position can be maintained throughout the trip.

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Berkeley Summer Programs

The City of Berkeley offers summer fun camps, day and youth camp programs, and a variety of other activities at an affordable cost to everyone. Extended morning and afternoon sessions are available.

For more information, pick up the flyer on the parent resource table across from the main office, talk to Ann Callegari in Washington's Family Resource Office (644-6939 or Ann_Callegari@berkeley.k12.ca.us) or contact Berkeley's Parks and Recreation Camps Program at 1947 Center Street, 981-5140 or camps@ci.berkeley.ca.us. Here is a partial listing of programs:

Summer Fun Camps are offered to kids ages 5-12 at all local rec centers and include arts and crafts, swimming & tennis lessons, yoga, organized sports and games, and field trips.

Berkeley Day Camp provides children ages 6-12 an opportunity to visit both Tilden Park and the Marina during a one-week program. Kids have a choice of several activities including arts and crafts, games, swimming and canoeing.

Berkeley YMCA Camp runs all summer at Washington School. Contact the YMCA at 2001 Allston Way, 848-9622.

Summer Math, Reading, & Writing Classes at Washington School. Session A: Math July 23 - August 3. Session B: Reading/Writing August 6 - 17. Hours: Mon-Thurs, 8:00-9:15 a.m. Cost: \$200/session. *Financial assistance available.*

City Camp 2007 Kids 6-12 visit special Bay Area places to find out what makes cities work and why they are special. City Camp is \$309 (9 am-4 pm); extended care extra. Low-income scholarships available. Contact info@citycamp.net or 847-7123.

Albany Sports Camp Non competitive variety program at the Albany Middle School. Soccer, basketball, tennis, capture

the flag, kickball, touch football, frisbee, street hockey, bocce ball, jump rope, hula hoops, giant ring toss, chess and other board games, drawing, story telling. Phone: 559-8208 Email: albanysportscamp@yahoo.com.

Chabot Space & Science Center offers week long half-day and full-day camps for ages 6 - 13 (entering grades 1-8). Call 510-544-2555 to request an application. Call 510-336-7426 to request a scholarship application.

Chess Camp Four one-week sessions from June 18 - July 20. Call 843-0150.

EDC (Extended Day Care) for K-3rd grades. Fee on sliding scale. Registration is ongoing at 1939 Ward Street, Berkeley.

Family Resource Network For a list of programs for children with special needs, call 547-7322.

In addition, Berkeley offers activities at various parks:

Albrier/San Pablo Park - 2800 Park Street. 981-6640

James Kenney Fun Club - 1720 8th St. Call 981-5150. There is an **inclusion program** for disabled youth at this location. Call Denise Brown at 981-6651 for more information.

Live Oak Park - 1301 Shattuck Ave. Call 981-6650.

Willard Park Clubhouse (Water Focus) - 2720 Hillgass. 981-6730.

Berkeley Youth Alternatives - 1255 Allston Way. 845-0155.

Young Adult Project - 1730 Oregon St., Call 981-6670.

Adventure Playground -162 University Avenue, Berkeley Marina - Marina/Southwest Berkeley. FREE for 4 or less children accompanied by adults. Monday - Friday 9-5, weekends 11-5.

Washington News

School-Wide Meeting May 22

The PTA's last meeting on May 22 will be a school-wide meeting with all parent groups: PTA, African American Unity and Fuerza Latina. PTA elections will be held and School Governance will report on the programs that will be funded for next year. Please attend!

Dinner is at 6:00, with the meeting to follow at 6:30-8:00 in the cafetorium. Childcare is provided. Small donation requested for food and childcare.

Report from the Committee on the Solar Proposal

At last month's PTA meeting, a committee was formed to contemplate a \$1 million solar electric system that has been proposed for Washington's rooftop. The committee is developing a resolution to communicate our views to the school board. The resolution will be presented to the PTA at the May 22 meeting for possible adoption.

The committee has met and continues to deliberate about the project. Some of the issues are: Should energy efficiency measures be analyzed and installed prior to the installation of the solar system? Will the funding source that has been identified to pay for the system also be available to meet other Washington facility needs? Is the proposed size of the system optimal? Will a curriculum be developed to complement the system? If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Linda Currie at 848-4005 or lindamurphydog@aol.com.

Great Prizes for Spring Raffle!

This year's raffle has the best prizes ever! They include: a weekend in Monterey including passes to the Aquarium; an iPod, a year's worth of Peet's coffee, gift certificates to restaurants and bookstores, passes to museums, and more.

Each student will soon receive 20 raffle tickets to sell. Instructions on collecting the money and getting more tickets will be included. The drawing will be held at the

Spring Faire (see p. 1). There will be prizes for the classes that sell the most tickets. If you want to volunteer, please contact: Thien Phan at 510-229-0317, e-mail: tphan1969@sbcglobal.net.

BUSD Kicks Off Safe-Routes-to-School Project - Washington Parent Rep Needed

The school district is kicking off a Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) project for the 2007-2008 school year with a meeting at Washington School. The meeting will be Monday, May 21st, at 7:00 p.m.

Staff from the Transportation and Land Use Coalition will run the project, and the Director of Marin's SR2S (Wendi Kallins), who is on retainer as consultant for Berkeley's program, will describe plans and programs and answer questions and we get organized to start our effort. Tom Fairchild will attend, but we also need a Washington parent liaison (or two) for the effort. If you are interested, please talk to Mr. Fairchild or contact Marcy Greenhut, School Traffic Safety Committee (and BHS parent) at imgreen03@comcast.net. If you are not sure whether you want to serve as a Washington parent liaison, come to the meeting to learn more.

Tennis, Anyone?

Learn to play tennis and have fun with your friends! The Berkeley Junior Team Tennis League is looking for novice players age 6-12. The season runs from May 5 to June 9, with practices and matches taking place on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to Noon at the tennis courts at Grove Park (Oregon at MLK) and San Pablo Park (Park between Russell and Ward Streets). Several Washington kids are already taking part, and there is still room available.

The cost is only \$50 for the season (12 group lesson-hours), and limited scholarships are available. For more information, contact Lori Shepherd at 510-530-8004 or shepherd@norcal.usta.com. Register at www.norcalteamtennis.com.

4th & 5th Grade Music Assembly

On Tuesday, May 22, at 10:20 a.m., the 4th and 5th grade music students will perform an end-of-year concert in the Cafetorium. Be there!

Stay Connected, Electronically!

You can keep up to date on all Washington School events and other information on our website: <http://washington.berkeleypta.org>. The current and all past issues of *The Acorn* are posted there in full color.

Get the latest news from Washington School by email -- sign up for Washington Talk! To join wTalk, send a blank email to: wTalk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Sign Up for Escrip & Update Your Cards!

Raise money for our school over the summer through Escrip! Escrip costs you nothing except the 5 minutes it will take to register your ATM and credit cards. After that, retailers contribute money to Washington with every electronic purchase through a secure electronic system.

To sign up, go to www.escrip.com, enter the Washington PTA group number - 137657765, click on "my account", and enter your name. EScript does not automatically update your card information, so please log on and do so.

PTA Officers

Please contact any one of the officers if you have ideas, questions or concerns.

Abigail Surasky - President.
Phone: 649-9413, email:
acubabe_2000@yahoo.com

Kathy Stafford - Vice-President.
Phone: 848-7223

Sahoko Tamagawa - Secretary.
Phone: 848-0780,
email: sahkot@yahoo.com

Margaret Norman - Treasurer.
Phone: 848-8338,
email: margaretnorman@sbcglobal.net

Newsletter Editor - Nancy Rader,
phone: 510-845-5077,
email: nrader@igc.org.
Ideas, information and articles for *The Acorn* are welcome!

We're on the Web! <http://washington.berkeleypta.org>

Washington Elementary

2300 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone: 644-6310
Fax: 644-7718

Rita Kimball, Principal.
Email: rita_kimball@berkeley.k12.ca.us

Paula Shoemaker, Secretary.
Email: paula_shoemaker@berkeley.k12.ca.us

Kidz Club: 644-6939

Teacher Voice Mail: 644-4500, extension 21XXX replacing XXX with the number of the classroom.

BUSD

2134 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
Phone: 644-6348

Washington Learning Center Shares Goals with Parents

Hello Washington Families!

We would like to take this opportunity to share again some points made at the PTA meeting on April 12:

- Washington's Learning Center exists to provide assistance to any student in any grade who needs support in a particular area.
- A child does not have to be in the Special Education program to receive Learning Center support.
- Learning Center support can take place in the child's classroom ("push-in"--i.e., support to child and/or teacher) or in the Learning Center classroom ("pull-out"--i.e., help outside of the classroom in Room 102).
- Learning Center support can take place one-on-one or in a small group setting.

Our goal is to ensure that no child "slips through the cracks" here at Washington. We hold "snapshot meetings" twice a year with every classroom teacher to talk about the progress and concerns of every student. We use this "snapshot" information to provide a well-planned "push-in/ pull-out" schedule for the Learning Center staff that will provide the most support to the greatest number of students.

We are constantly evaluating ourselves to fine-tune our work and to provide (as our Principal likes to put it) the "Biggest Bang for the Buck"!

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or performance at school, please talk to his/her teacher. This is the first step in our C.O.S. (coordination of services) process. This may lead to Learning Center support and/or an SST (Student Services Team) meeting where we will all talk (including parents) about how we as a team can best meet the needs of the child. Our C.O.S. team meets every week, and that is where we schedule the actual SST meetings.

Well, now that you've "heard" all about it, please feel free to come by the Learning



Marykate McGoldrick and Chris Crone of Washington's Learning Center

Center (Room 102, right across from the cafeteria) and check us out, ask questions, and actually "see" what we do!

Thanks,

Chris Crone
christopher_crone@berkeley.k12.ca.us
Marykate McGoldrick
marykate_mcgoldrick@berkeley.k12.ca.us

Car Safety ...

Continued from p. 2

Also, be reminded that, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- The safest place for *all* infants and children younger than 13 years to ride is in the back seat.
- *Never* put an infant in the front seat of a car, truck, SUV, or van with an air bag.
- Infants must always ride in rear-facing car safety seats in the back seat until they are at least 20 pounds AND at least 1 year of age. The AAP recommends that infants ride rear-facing until they reach the maximum weight and height allowed by the manufacturer for use of the car safety seat.