



CALENDAR

Late April

11th - Berkeley Main Library Tour Sponsored by AAU and Fuerza Latina, 6-8 p.m. Childcare provided.

15th - PTA Meeting Topic: Where to Dedicate PTA Funds? Dinner - 6 pm (donations welcome); Meeting - 6:30 - 8 pm. Childcare provided.

18th - Parents for Academically Successful Students Meeting (PASS) 6 p.m. at B-Tech, 2701 MLK.

21st-27th - Turn Off TV Week (and other screens, too!) Give it a try!

23rd - Walk and Roll to School Day

25th - Urban Village Marketplace-Silent Auction 6-8 p.m., Cafetorium

28th - State Testing Begins

28th - School Governance Council 5:30 p.m., library

Early May

2nd - African American Unity & Fuerza Latina Meeting 5:30 p.m., Library.

3rd - Washington Playground Clean-up 9 am

Putting the "Fun" in Fundraiser

Washington's Urban Village Marketplace-Silent Auction

By Washington Parent Sahoko Tamagawa

What do you get when you cross Washington's most popular fundraiser with a Mexican Fiesta and a community raffle?

An Urban Village Marketplace! This year's expanded Silent Auction promises to be an exciting event for Washington School. On Friday, April 25, stroll through the doors of the Cafeteria, transformed into a festive environment showcasing a diverse collection of goods and services. Enjoy great food, participate in fun activities, and bid on must-have items and attractions donated by merchants from Berkeley's unique shopping districts and beyond.

You will have the opportunity to purchase a delicious Mexican dinner hand-made by Fuerza Latina parents, buy tickets for a community raffle with fun prizes sponsored by the African American Unity Group, hang out and chat, do a little dancing, and bid on items at the PTA's Silent

Auction! Even the newly formed Green Committee promises to have a booth in honor of Earth Day, which is April 22. Childcare will be provided in the library. Your kids will be producing the latest in recycled art while you get to have a grown-up evening with your friends at Washington School.

Over 100+ mostly local businesses have generously donated goods and services to our Auction this year. They will be organized into neighborhoods, so that you can "shop" in the areas you frequent or have always wanted to explore, and bid on items from distinct districts, such as Solano Avenue, Downtown Berkeley, and Fourth Street. This way you are supporting the local business community while also supporting Washington.

For those of you who are not quite sure what a silent auction is, read on.

Please see page 2

Take Action on the Budget Crisis!

Rally - A statewide mobilization will be held in Sacramento on Thursday, April 24, from 11 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. to protest planned budget cuts to education. The rally is sponsored by the California State PTA, which opposes any cuts to education and children's programs in the state budget. Buses will leave from Berkeley, and there may still be spaces available. Alternatively, please ride the train or carpool. For more information, contact Linda Currie at lindamurphydog@aol.com or 510-851-2552 or check the California PTA website at www.capta.org.

Letter Writing - Mark Coplan, Public Information Officer for BUSD reports that letter writing to elected officials is happening across the state, and it is having a significant impact. The California PTA strongly encourages everyone to write all of their elected officials every week (addresses below). Just a simple message will give strength to those who are already committed to revenue enhancement to protect public education, and pressure those who are not. Both websites below have sample letters, but one line on the page every week is sufficient!

Please see page 2

Washington Wish Lists

The office is in need of a working printer. If you can help, see Washington Secretary Paula Shoemaker. Also, some of Washington's teachers and the PTA have posted wish lists on iLoveSchools.com. Fulfilling these wishes is a great way to donate directly to the needs of the classroom.

Clothing Donations Needed

Thanks to all who donated clothes for children who need them during the school day. Still needed: socks, underwear and shoes. Please drop them off in the office.

PTA Coffee Hour Every Wednesday

If you have a few minutes to an hour on Wednesday mornings at 8:15, please join parents in casual conversation at the PTA's coffee hour, directly across from the office.

Used Ink Cartridges Earn \$ for Washington

Bring in your used printer cartridges to the blue and yellow box across from the school office. Cartridge World gives us 25 cents - \$1 per cartridge. They will take all kinds, even the ones they can't use. This effort brought in \$22 last month!

Ask your workplace if you can bring their cartridges to school for recycling and some school funds!

Urban Village Marketplace-Silent Auction...

Continued from page 1 ...

Businesses and individuals donate goods or services to the Washington PTA. These items will be displayed in the Cafeteria with a starting price well below its value. Upon arrival you will be given a unique number and throughout the evening, you can bid on the items anonymously by writing your number on a list next to the price you are willing to pay. As the deadline for the evening approaches, keep track of the items you want, as others may be out-bidding you. Be prepared to increase your bid to get things you really want. There's always a bit of a frenzy when the bids are closing! At the end of the evening, the highest bidder gets to take the item home. Bring cash or a check that night, and walk away with your prizes! Remember, each dollar you bid is a dollar more for Washington School!

Some of the items include: Gift certificates from restaurants such as Chez Panisse, Spenger's, and Picante. For the family, there are tickets to the Albany Bowl, Landmark Theaters, and Great America plus cultural event tickets to places like the Berkeley Rep, La Pena, and Beach Blanket Babylon. There are gift certificates to stores such as the Gardener, Kermit Lynch, and the Berkeley Bowl. Washington parents are offering services such as acupuncture, bike riding lessons, and personal organizing. And much more!

Save the Date: Friday, April 25th, from 6-8pm. There's something at the Urban Village Marketplace for everyone!

For more information or to volunteer, please contact William Gordon at 848-0780 or sahokot@yahoo.com.

Take Action on the Budget Crisis ...

Continued from page 1 ...

Assemblymember Loni Hancock shared this website created by the Assembly Democrats. It is full of information and ideas, and will be providing timely updates on the budget situation: www.adc.asm.ca.gov/issues/budget. The website suggests writing to the Republican leadership.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Assemblyman Michael Villines
Assembly Republican Leader
State Capitol, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

Senator Dick Ackerman
Senate Republican Leader
State Capitol, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Don Perata
Senate Democratic Leader
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 94248-0001

Assemblyman Fabian Nunez
Speaker of the Assembly
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 94249-0046

Assemblymember Loni Hancock
State Capitol, Room 4126
Sacramento, CA 94249-0014



PTA Officers

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

Andrew O'Shea - President.
Phone: 415-971-4322, email:
Andrew.O'Shea@pearsoned.com

Joal Arvanigian - Vice-President.
Phone: 843-3085, email:
arvanigian@yahoo.com

Lisa Rock - Secretary. Phone: 847-5150, email:
rock.lisa@sbcglobal.net

Thien Phan- Treasurer.
Phone: 229-0317, email:
tphan1969@sbcglobal.net

Acorn Coordinator - Nancy Rader, phone: 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

Berkeley Unified School District

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

Next BUSD Meetings: 4/9 and 4/23 at 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for Washington's annual

Spring Fair

Saturday, May 31

11 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

There will be game booths, a book exchange, crafts and a raffle, as well as fabulous home cooking by Fuerza Latina and the African-American Unity Group. This event is fun, builds our Washington community, and most importantly raises vital funds for our school! Please come, and bring your friends too!

To volunteer at the Fair, contact Eve Graham Mohr, (510) 644-9388.



Photo by Richard Norgaard

Students in Ms. Bail's 4th-grade class board the Balclutha at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf during a March field trip. The Balclutha, a three-masted ship built in Scotland in 1886, served along the Pacific Coast carrying fish and lumber. While the ship was not part of California's Gold Rush History, the National Park Service at the San Francisco Maritime Historic Park uses the boat to bolster fourth-grade curriculum, stressing the risks of panning gold, the difficulties of trading on the frontier, and the hardships of long sea voyages that many gold miners endured.