



CALENDAR

March

14th - Community Work Day, 9:30am-1pm, Washington Yard

16th - School Governance Meeting, 5:30-7:45pm, Library

25th - PTA Steering Committee, 6-8pm, Library

30th - School Governance Meeting, 5:30-7:45pm, Library

April

6th-10th - Spring Recess, no school

13th - School Governance Meeting, 5:30-7:45pm, Library

16th - AAUG Meeting, 5:45pm-7:30pm, Library

17th - Spring school pictures

21st - PTA Meeting, Cafetorium, Dinner at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m. Childcare Provided

23rd - Washington Walk to School Day

25th - Community Work Day, Washington Yard

29th - PTA Steering Committee, 6-8pm, Library

Sign Up for wTalk!

Get the latest Washington news - sign up for Washington Talk!
Go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wTalk/>.

Special thanks to Alko Office Supply for donating a portion of this years homework folders.

Culture Night!

By Matt Norgaard 5th Grade, Ms Mitchell's class

Culture Night is a celebration of the traditions and ancestors of the kids at Washington School. Families brought traditional food, shared crafts (book-making, beading, origami, rope-making, etc) and much more!

It took place Thursday, January 29 in the cafetorium. Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Australia were represented.

Children ran from table to table doing crafts while adults stamped their "passports" (papers with squares to stamp when a kid finishes a craft). African drumming was also performed!

Everything was so interesting that it made we want to visit all the continents! Culture Night is awesome!!



Photo by Lindsey Turrentine

Students work on crafts at January's PTA-sponsored Culture Night.

Time for Spring Fair preparations

By Laurie Wonnell and Samantha Swor, Kindergarten parents

It's time to prepare for Washington's annual fun-fest: the Spring Fair. On **May 30th**, the fair will feature all sorts of fun: the Cake Walk, Car Races, Coach Don's Obstacle Course, performances by Washington students and parents, a magician, and a wizard will grace the grounds of our fair school. A mermaid art car, a "green" theme booth, pony rides, and an auction are also in the works.

To help us make this event the best ever, we need the following:

- Canopies (that sun can be uncomfortable sometimes).
- Small toys (look for donation box around the school office).
- Large ice chests.
- Suggestions/ideas to improve the event.
- Volunteers, volunteers, and more volunteers!

Please contact Laurie Wonnell, this year's Fair coordinator, at 510-295-9940

or laurie_wonnell@yahoo.com with your offers and ideas.

Want to be involved but don't know how? Do you have a skill or talent that few people know about?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you can still help. We're looking for donations of goods and services to be auctioned off at our Spring Fair auction, as well as prizes for the raffle.

Some examples of services parents are offering include post-partum care by a local midwife, knife-sharpening, and chiropractic care.

Perhaps you'd be willing to babysit or do some housework, gardening, or sewing? Maybe you could offer a free color consultation or give an introductory music lesson?

If you have extra tickets or to an event or a museum that you won't use, consider donating them. Or maybe you know someone at a local store or

Continued on page 2

WASHINGTON WONDERS School mysteries solved!

Have a question?
Please contact Lauren Schiller
(laschiller@sbcglobal.net) or
Lindsey Turrentine
(lturrentine@yahoo.com).
We will publish a selection of
answers each edition.

Q. Is it OK to park in the staff parking lot for PTA meetings?

A. Yes!

Q. What is allowed and not allowed when dropping off your kid for school?

A. Cars are not allowed to double park and stop in the middle of the street. It's illegal, and parents will be ticketed for doing so. The only safe way for a child to enter a car in the street is to step from the curb directly into a car parked legally by the curb. Under no circumstances should students walk out into the street.

Q. Why no mascot? Not a mascot fan, just curious.

A. The school mascot is actually the acorn and acorn tree. Go, acorns!

Q. When was a school first built at the corner of Bancroft and MLK? When was our school built?

A. The original school was the Bancroft Way School, later renamed Longfellow School. In 1905, the structure was moved to its present site, and a new school was built at the Washington site. Additional property was purchased in the 1940's and 1950's. A new school was built in 1953 and retrofitted and renovated in 1996 for earthquake safety.

Spring Fair planning

Continued from page 1...

restaurant who could donate an item or gift certificate?

If you're interested in helping but can't think of a skill and don't have time for meetings, consider joining the "I-don't-ever-want-to-go-to-a-meeting" auction/raffle committee. Duties would

include making 5 to 10 phone calls and sending some e-mails or visiting local vendors.

To help, please contact Samantha Swor at 510-280-4584 or samanthabeth@comcast.net.

Achievement Gap update: how you can help

PTA raising funds with music event

By Ari Krantz

This year, Washington's PTA founded the Educational Equity Alliance, a group that raises funds to help Washington close the achievement gap. This year's primary fundraiser will be a great new event: the DOWNTOWN BERKELEY MUSIC SHOWCASE at the Jazz School in downtown Berkeley, from 5-7:00 pm on May 25, 2009 (Memorial Day). The event will raise money from the downtown business community and others who have a stake in helping Berkeley and its kids thrive.

Among the featured performers at the Music Showcase is our own Kidz Club Assistant Director Todd Shipley, a talented up-and-coming musician who is performing for free to help our school. (Find out more about Todd at his website: <http://www.toddshipley.com>.)

If you have time help the organizers of this event or know of businesses that would be interested in sponsoring the event, please contact Elena Condes, 510-649-0428, elena@lmi.net or Ari Krantz, 510-848-8670, akrantz@leonardcarder.com.

Families are also welcome to purchase tickets themselves, and some businesses may donate their tickets back to our community, so please let Elena or Ari know if you would like a donated ticket.

The funds we raise through this project are needed more this year than ever. Already ranked 46th out of 50 states in education spending, California cut another \$8.4 billion from school budgets in February 2009.



Photo by Lindsey Turrentine

The 4th and 5th-grade orchestra performs with the Berkeley Symphony on March 3.