

The Jefferson Independent

October 2004
Issue 2

Newsletter of the Jefferson PTA
For the 2004-05 school year



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Upcoming PTA Events

- ◆ Halloween Party on October 29
- ◆ Book Fair on November 2-4
- ◆ PTA Meeting on November 9

Yes on Measure B

At its September meeting, the PTA voted overwhelmingly to support Berkeley's Measure B, a parcel tax measure to raise essential funding for our schools. In the last 3 years, rising health insurance and other benefit costs and lowered state support have forced over \$14 million in cuts.

The state is still \$6-\$10 billion in debt, and future education cuts are likely. Meanwhile, class sizes are too high, library services are minimal, and No Child Left Behind sanctions are looming on the horizon.

Measure B responds to this funding crisis in the tradition begun when the Berkeley Schools Excellence Project (BSEP) was passed by over 80% of the voters in 1982. Reauthorized by 90% of the voters in 1998, BSEP provides \$10 million each year for class size reduction, school enrichment programs, books and educational materials, music education, and facility improvements. To ensure that BSEP funds are spent as earmarked by the voters, parents, teachers, and administrators on the Planning and Oversight (P&O) Committee authorize expenditures and monitor their use. An independent auditor reviews expenditures to further ensure that funds are spent as intended by voters.

Recent funding cuts have created needs that surpass BSEP's fundraising capacity. Class sizes in middle and secondary schools have risen to as many as 40 students in some classes, instrumental music is no longer available to 4th graders, and most school libraries operate without librarians. To correct these inadequacies, Measure B levies a tax of 9.7 cents per square

foot of residential property—\$145 a year for a 1500-square-foot house—and 14.7 cents per square foot of commercial property. It is expected to raise \$8 million per year for the next 2 years. Two-thirds of these funds will reduce class sizes in grades 4-12 and expand middle and secondary school course offerings. One-sixth will go toward school library staffing; 7% to return instrumental music to 4th graders and reduce music class size, another 7% to teacher training and program evaluation; and 2% to parent outreach and translation services. Just like BSEP, Measure B institutes a parent, teacher, and administrator run oversight committee and an independent auditor responsible for authorizing and reviewing expenditures to make sure funds are spent as intended by the voters.

Both Measure B and BSEP expire in 2006. In the intervening 2 years, the district will closely examine its funding situation and propose for the 2006 ballot a consolidated measure to ensure that our children receive the best education the city can provide.

In these last 2 weeks before the election, the campaign needs to raise the last \$10,000 necessary for a citywide mailing explaining the measure to voters. Volunteer opportunities include precinct walking, tabling, and telephoning voters. More information on Measure B, and opportunities to support the measure, are available at www.YesOnB.net.

--Robin Henke

Box Tops for Jefferson

Keep saving those box tops! We have already collected 1000 box tops this school year. That translates into \$100 for Jefferson.

Not receiving your school emails? Read this! ---

The Jefferson e-tree sends out updates on school activities about once per week. You can subscribe by sending an email to pta_jefferson@hotmail.com. Important note: We have received word from several people that they are not receiving the messages. This is because many email services label as junk mail any email sent to a list of names. The solution: Add pta_jefferson@hotmail.com to your address book, or look in your Junk E-Mail folder, open an e-tree message, and click on the button that says it is not junk. If you are still having problems, call the e-tree coordinator, Jay Nitschke, at 525-3663. Our e-tree has about 160 parents/families on the list. We never give your email address to anyone.

Jefferson School Book Fair is Fast Approaching!

Mark your calendars. The Jefferson School Book Fair is just around the corner. It's scheduled for Tuesday, November 2 through Thursday, November 4 in the Cafetorium, with the always popular Ice Cream Social on Thursday evening.

The Book Fair provides a \$5 gift certificate for each child to buy a book, and an opportunity for parents and friends to buy books for their children, and for their children's classrooms.

The Book Fair will be open for sales during the school day and on Thursday evening. We need lots of volunteer cashiers and helpers, during the school day, on Thursday evening, and on Nov. 1 and 5 for setup and breakdown.

Please contact Jon Squire (525-1610/jonsquir@comcast.ent) or Tim Arai (527-8728, ryozo@mindspring.com) if you can help. We hope to see you at the Fair!

Cody's Books Ninth Annual School Benefit Daze

Shop at Cody's Books Friday, November 12 through Monday, November 15 and Jefferson earns 15% of the receipts.

We can earn 15% on anything purchased at Cody's: books, calendars, stationery, gifts, special orders and gift certificates, too. You can even buy a gift certificate during the sale for use at a later time. Purchases at both Cody's stores, as well as those made online, count. Simply save your receipt, or online invoice/email confirmation and place it in the specially marked box in the office.

Please save original receipts (no photocopies). For Internet orders, please note "School Daze order" in the comments field.

Receipts from friends, neighbors and relatives may also be submitted. If you have any questions, call Diana Rossi at 510-841-3983 or email at rossigold1955@mac.com.

Cody's Telegraph Avenue	Cody's Fourth Street
2454 Telegraph Avenue	730 Fourth Street
Berkeley CA 94704	Berkeley CA 94710
510-845-7852	510-559-9500
10 AM - 10 PM Daily	10AM - 7PM Sun.-Wed.
	10AM - 8PM Thurs-Sat.

or www.codysbooks.com

Sally Foster Sale Raised \$6,700 for Jefferson

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Sally Foster giftwrap fundraiser. As of this date we have raised about \$6700 for Jefferson!

The giftwrap items will arrive on Thursday, November 4. The items will be available for pickup in the Cafetorium. This is the same date as the Ice Cream

Social and Book Fair. SO... You could buy a few books, get your sugar fix and pick up your giftwrap all in the same night.

Otherwise, pick up giftwrap in your child's classroom on the day you come for parent conferences or ask Pam Haenke, 524-8276, for an alternative.

Beverly Thiele

Ms. Thiele grew up in Berkeley, going to Whittier (now Berkeley Arts Magnet) for elementary school and graduating from Cal. Although she has lived in other places, her heart has always been in Berkeley.

This is Ms. Thiele's 20th year at Jefferson. She taught kindergarten for the first 17 years, but is now enjoying teaching first

graders in Room 105. One of her priorities in the classroom is music exposure. She loved hearing the classics as a youngster and enjoys sharing that love of music with her students.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Thiele is an avid reader and animal lover. She has lots of cats at home and reports that she feeds all the cats that come to her.

Annie Tong

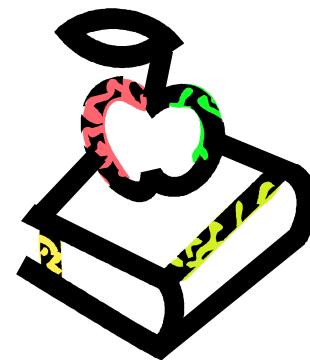
Annie Tong was born in Canton, China, and moved to San Francisco when she was nine years old. Growing up, she went to American school in the morning, and then went to Chinese school for two hours every afternoon through 8th grade. She stayed in the Bay Area, going to SF State University.

Mrs. Tong has been teaching in the Chinese Bicultural Program at Jefferson

for 27 years. Most of that time, she has taught first grade.

Her two children both attended the Chinese Bicultural Program at Jefferson, and her daughter is now in a teaching credential program herself.

At home, Mrs. Tong plays the Er-hu (a Chinese 2-string violin), practices Tai Chi, and likes to knit.



This month we interview First Grade teachers & students.

First Grade Voices - What do you like doing in your class?

I like Activity Time. I like playing and making stuff. I drew this picture today. I like drawing, reading, and everything!
--Chinua, Room 107

I like Morning Message. Ms. Thiele writes words down, like a sentence, on the board, and then she hands out paper. And we write down the words and answer the question. If we need a word we don't know, we ask Ms. Thiele wherever she is, and she tells us. And then we put the paper in our cubbies. Done!

Today, the morning message was, "Dear Bat and Ghost, Today is Thursday, October 14, 2004. Is Crabby a ghost?" You have to answer the question, and I said yes.

--Sylvan, Room 105

I like the Word Wall. It's a big chart of words and if you need a word you can look at it.

--Isabel, Room 105

Sharing. I like sharing because we get to share our favorite stuff that people have never seen. I share on Fridays. Last Friday, I shared my marbles.

--Skyla, Room 105

I mostly like writing the best. We write in our journals. Today, we wrote six sentences about Halloween things.

--Antonia, Room 105

Activity time. I like drawing and I like playing with the toys in my classroom. And, writing. I like writing about Halloween and this school.

--Cecilia, Room 105

I like playing chess. I usually play with William. And, I like Activity Time. Sometimes I play with Chinua at Activity Time.

--Matthew, Room 107

TUTOR REQUEST

The Jefferson PTA is partnering with teachers and staff to establish a volunteer tutoring program designed to help Jefferson students achieve their academic goals. A successful tutoring program will also help the school achieve academic targets needed to ensure funding. Can you help? We need people who can help with math and reading and literacy skills, or can audiotape themselves reading for reading comprehension exercises, or can assist with translation services. Your time commitment could be as little as one hour per week. Most help is needed during school hours or the after-school programs, but some tasks can be worked on after hours. Please contact Chris Hoffman, 526-6982 or chris_h@berkeley.edu

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Phone:
(510) 644-6298

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(510) 644-6984

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pta_jefferson@hotmail.com

School Name Change Update

Principal Betty Delaney has formed an oversight committee of parents and teachers to advise her on the process for considering the question of renaming the school. Committee members represent various school committees and include both supporters and opponents of changing the name. At its first meeting, committee members discussed the voting processes that could be used and the procedure for nominating school names to be considered. No

decisions have been made. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19 at 5 p.m. in the Library.

Parents, teachers and students are encouraged to contact committee members to discuss ideas or concerns they have. The members are: Dora Dean Bradley, Chris Hudson, Marguerite Talley-Hughes, Mark Piccillo, Bob Shireman, and Robert Murray.

Sell and Barter through this Newsletter

Do you have good used clothing or an automobile to sell? Or a pet who needs a good home? Advertise or post these items in this newsletter and our school community can contact you.

Just fill out the attached form, send it back to your child's teacher or bring it to the office and your ad or information will be posted in this newsletter.

We have a great school community and this service is a way for all of us to reach each other and get some great deals and useful information. We hope you will try it and see.

Submissions are due by November 12th so that we can post the information in the November newsletter.

Jefferson Fall Calendar 2004-05

OCTOBER

Friday, October 29

Halloween Night

NOVEMBER

November 2-4

Scholastic Book Fair

November 5-10

Parent Teacher Conferences (Shortened Days)

Tuesday, November 9

PTA Meeting, 7pm in the Library

Thursday, November 11

NO SCHOOL - Veterans' Day Holiday

Friday, November 12

NO SCHOOL - Parent Teacher Conference Day

November 12-15

Cody's Books School Benefit Daze

November 25-26

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Holidays

DECEMBER

Tuesday, December 14

PTA Meeting, 7pm in the Library

December 20 -January 3

Winter Recess Holiday

The Jefferson Independent is edited by Lucinda Sikes. You can drop off your submissions to her in her box in the Jefferson school office, or contact her by e-mail at shiresikes@aol.com. Please give her your submissions by the second Friday of every month. **The Jefferson Independent** is distributed during the third week of every month.

We're on the Web!
www.jefferson.berkeleypta.org