



OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2009

BROADOAKS SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Schools embody the dreams we have for our children.

Deborah Meier, *The Power of Their Ideas*

ENROLLMENT FOR 2009 – 2010

We are pleased to report that our overall enrollment is up this year, something that few private schools can say in this economy. Our retention rates were excellent and our waiting lists remain strong. We attribute this success to our great teachers, the extraordinary ratios that we have been able to maintain, and the remarkable track record Broadoaks graduates have had after they leave Broadoaks, regardless of what kinds of schools they attend. We also want to acknowledge the overall positive attitudes and support among our parent group, helping us create the kind of mutually supportive and respectful community that we all aspire to attain. Thank you, parents.

PRIORITY ENROLLMENT FOR 2010-2011

Can you believe it? In a few short weeks you will receive information about Priority Enrollment for next year. Sixth through 8th grade deadlines will probably fall before the deadlines for the other grades.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP IN THE CAROUSEL COURTYARD

Our insurance requires that parents or the designated adult caregiver constantly and directly supervise their children from the moment we release them in the afternoon. Therefore, students may not play on the Upper Carousel Courtyard unless a parent or other adult is on the courtyard with them. Thank you, parents, for keeping your children with you on the lower Courtyard under your direct supervision so we do not have to interrupt our afternoon meetings to shuttle them back to you.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

We thank you in advance for your careful review and discussion of Broadoaks' Parking Lot Rules with family and friends who drop off or pick up your child from school. Do return the completed forms to your child's teacher.

THE COLLEGE AS OUR CAMPUS

As some of our teachers note in their classroom reports, the Whittier College campus offers so much to Broadoaks students from preschool onward. These are just a few of the ways we have taken advantage of our location on a college campus so far this term:

IT LAB: Fourth grade used the Instructional Technology Lab to research various landforms. They also examined sedimentary rock on campus, discovering how weather erodes sandstone, exposing roots and small insects living in the ground.

CHEMISTRY LAB: Seventh graders recently visited the college chemistry labs, where the members of the Whittier College science faculty led a discussion about applications of chemistry, and about the kinds of jobs chemistry majors get after they complete college or graduate school. Professor Ralph Isovitsch posed some interesting questions: Where did the materials in that binder in your lap come from? Who created the vitamins you took this morning? Students quickly realized that many items they take for granted very day were initially made possible by the work of chemists.

Students also learned about the uses of various equipment in the labs. At one point Dr. Isovitsch planned to introduce the periodic table, but he was pleasantly surprised to discover that Broadoaks students already had studied the table and remembered quite a bit about it even though two years had passed.

The finale was Dr. Isovitsch's demonstration with liquid nitrogen as part of a discussion about transformation of solids, liquids, and gasses. After explaining the important role nitrogen plays in the air we breathe, Dr. Isovitsch placed a flower and a banana in a container of liquid nitrogen. Students were amazed that the liquid nitrogen boiled and even more amazed that the flower and the banana froze. He ended the demonstration by pouring the liquid nitrogen on the floor. Do you know what happened and why? If not, just ask a Broadoaks 7th grader!

Sixth grade will have a similar opportunity in the coming weeks.

SHANNON CENTER: On the 17th of November, students in grades 2 – 5 will see a production of *Brave Irene* performed by the California Theatre Center. On December 14, fourth grade, sixth, and seventh grades will attend a production of *American Acoustic Music* by Eric Tingstad and Nancy Rumbel.

ATHLETIC FIELDS: Most of our elementary and middle school classes frequently use college athletic facilities for PE.

NATURE WALKS, PLAY, AND RELAXING TIMES: All Broadoaks students enjoy frequent nature walks, play, and relaxation times at various locations on the college campus.

UPDATE ON NORMA STRYKER

Norma Stryker, Associate School Director, reports that she is "doing fabulously," after knee surgery in mid-October. She is pain free and getting around on crutches. She appreciates the kind thoughts that members of the Broadoaks community have sent her way throughout her medical leave. Your stamped cards for Norma may be dropped off at the school office. We will be happy to address them and drop them in the mail.

MANY UPCOMING EVENTS
(Updated Parent Calendar available in the office and on the website)

November 18, 2009	Auction Moving Day (All items moved from Broadoaks to the Radisson Hotel)
November 18, 2009	Decorations Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Radisson Hotel
November 19, 2009	Auction Work Day at Whittier Radisson Hotel
November 19, 2009	Decorations Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at Radisson Hotel
November 20, 2009	Auction Work Day at Whittier Radisson Hotel
November 20, 2009	Holiday Auction @ Whittier Radisson 7:00 p.m.-11:30 p.m.
November 20, 2009	Set-up Committee Workday at Whittier Radisson Hotel, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
November 25, 2009	School Closed, Teacher In-Service
November 26, 2009	School Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
November 27, 2009	School Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2, 2009	School Pictures/Make-Up Day
December 4, 2009	Broadoaks School Tour 10:00 a.m.
December 17, 2009	Kindergarten -7th Grade Class Parties for classes that met auction goals by stated deadlines. Details to follow.
December 17, 2009	Last Day for Children, Full Day (Winter Break for children through 1/3/10)

BROADOAKS STAFF BEYOND OUR GATES

An important function of a college laboratory/demonstration school is participating in the broader world of education, childcare, and child advocacy, as well as child and family-related public policy. Here are a few things our staff members have been doing toward this end.

* Kathleen Pompey recently made a presentation on the Convention on Children's Rights (CRC) for preschool teachers at Curriculum Extenders, a local event sponsored by the East Valleys Committee of the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children. Parents who are interested in the many articles and materials published for parents and teachers about children ages 0-8 by this organization may log on to www.naeyc.org.

* Kathleen King is co-instructor, along with Judith Wagner, for a Worldwide Child Advocacy class at Whittier College.

* Kathleen Pompey is president-elect of the Southern California Association for the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children, an organization she has served in for over 30 years.

* In November Judith Wagner will become president of OMEP-USA, the American national chapter of OMEP, a historic, international organization dedicated to the health, wellbeing, rights, and early education of the world's children.

* Kori Vartanian, Diane Morales, Connie Ornelas, Connie Romero, and Judith Wagner have been leading sessions in the Broadoaks Professional Development Institutes for visiting educators from several local school districts, Head Start Programs, and other state and federally funded program.

* Judith Wagner is the coordinator for American participation in an international study on children's ideas about sustainability.

CLASSROOM NEWS

BEWLEY ROOM

Bewley Room has had a memorable new beginning. The Bewley children have spent lots of time exploring their new classroom. They are quickly learning the daily routine and have met new friends and teachers.

During Small Group Time, we have explored the following High/Scope Key Experiences (www.highscope.org): Initiative and Social Relations, Language and Literacy, Creative Representation, Seriation, and Classification. Some Small Group highlights include discovering the materials in each area, exploring with clean mud, worms, painting with foam, and going on a treasure hunt to find treasures in the sandbox.

We would like to THANK the parents for attending Back to School Night, volunteering to clean materials and making play dough.

Reminders for Bewley parents:

- * Purchase tickets to attend the Auction. We plan to have a great preschool turnout at the Auction! We are all looking forward to seeing you there!

BROADOAKS ROOM

What a great start to a new school year! During the first weeks of school, Broadoaks Room children became familiar with their classroom areas and materials. They made new friends and shared memorable Work Times through their common interests in the classroom and outside yard. Work Time is the child choice time in High/Scope -- the "do" part of the Plan-Do-Review Sequence.

During Small Group times we have focused on problem solving and letter knowledge, among other things. For example, in one problem solving activity, the children had to work together to figure out which ribbons they wanted to use. It was very rewarding to hear them use kind and collaborative words with one another to express their individual ideas and preferences, and then to come up with a solution that satisfied everyone in the group.

In another favorite Small Group, children explored different tools and textures as they formed the letter of the week (P) in shaving cream. They also made drawings of things that start with the letter P. They discovered various writing tools during this activity, including their hands, paintbrushes, and popsicle sticks. Many of the children particularly enjoyed the opportunity to get very messy with their friends, while they talked about P words and the tools they were using!

We wish to extend a special "Thank You" to all the parents who continuously keep our play dough supply fresh. The students really enjoy molding, rolling, and getting creative with the play dough.

One student summed up our first few weeks of school this way: "I like this school. I have friends and I get to pick what I want. You teachers are good too."

KINDERGARTEN

Exciting things are happening in Kindergarten! The children are experiencing active learning workshops that focus on letter sounds, shapes, numbers and patterning. They get messy in the Art Studio. They participate in storytelling and reenactments of favorite stories by going on picture walks,

using flannel board characters, and by putting on puppet shows. The children love to explore in the garden and have just begun a study of apples and plants.

Thank you, parents, for all you do to help us through your volunteer efforts. We hope you will donate your items to the Auction if you have not already done so, purchase your tickets to attend the Auction, and line up those babysitters well in advance for November 20. We will all be there to greet you and share in the excitement of another GREAT fundraiser for Broadoaks.

FIRST GRADE

First grade has been busy and active! So far in Language Arts, first graders have learned about digraphs, punctuation, and how to use their ideas in writing. Language Arts concepts soon to be addressed include story elements and word families. Among the math concepts we've covered so far are addition, subtraction, and graphing. Upcoming math concepts include skip counting by tens and estimation.

First Grade Parents, we are hoping to see all of you at the Auction. We depend on the Auction to maintain all the wonderful instructional materials and supplies for our first- grade class. Please donate items if you haven't done so already, buy your tickets for the Auction, encourage your friends and relatives to attend, and get your babysitters lined up. The Auction is great fun and it means so much to our school.

SECOND GRADE

In math the second graders did a review of addition and subtraction facts through games and other active-learning experiences. The students also began working with graphs. They learned to read and create simple bar graphs and Venn diagrams. The students also began Guided Reading (small homogenous groups that read with a teacher several times a week) and writing individual stories using the writing process. The class reviewed the continents, which is a first-grade standard. Next, they will begin focusing on North America, which is a second-grade standard. The second graders also began our year-long study of different Cinderella stories from around the world. This year we began with a story from Ireland, *The Irish Cinderlad*.

THIRD GRADE

What an exciting start we've had in 3rd grade! The year started with a review of place value in math. Students learned new concepts as well, including numbers up to 900,000! We've also been working on money concepts, as well as adding three-digit numbers.

Students had their first math tests and are already learning the importance of studying and preparing for a test.

We've also had fun in our language arts workshops learning about fairy tales and fables. Children wrote scripts for their own plays using Aesop's fables. They were very creative in making their costumes from materials in the Art Area. Blue construction paper taped together became ponds; boxes became foundations for ears and hats; and pipe cleaners became antennae.

Social studies has been all about famous Americans and government. Children researched on the computer to learn more about notable historic figures, such as Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Thomas Jefferson, and Harriet Tubman. The class then studied about citizenship, its role in our government, and how the famous people we studied showed excellent citizenship.

Science has brought a vocabulary explosion during our unit on plants. We learned the meaning of photosynthesis, carbon dioxide, drought-resistant plants, and chlorophyll.

In art we've been learning about art styles such as Primitivism and Cubism, and learning about famous artists, such as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Henri Rousseau.

We encourage all third-grade parents to join the teachers at the Holiday Auction on November 20 at the Radisson Hotel. Again this year, we are making wish lists with the students and anxiously looking forward to the opportunity to enrich our classroom with new books and instructional materials, thanks to the Auction.

We can't wait to start our next units and meet with parents at Parent Conferences!

FOURTH GRADE

How much we experienced and learned so far this fall season! First of all, as writers we focused on developing good ideas, emphasizing sensory details; fresh, original and specific ideas; and ideas that really matter to us. (Research shows that students write best when they are writing for real audiences about something that really matters to them personally.)

At first we described different objects, including plants, from the Broadoaks school garden. Our fourth graders really made their chosen objects come to life!

After describing items in our environments, we began working on settings in literature and in our own writing. We discussed different elements of setting and characters in preparation for our narrative writing unit.

In art we worked on mixing secondary and tertiary color, starting with primary colors. Individual students created their own color wheels, which we then used in exploring complementary, warm colors. Please stop by our room to see the students' projects.

Fourth graders are also participating in their first literature circles. The teachers are quite proud of their hard work on reading assignments and contributions during literature circle conferences. We appreciate your support from home for your child's literacy development. Even at fourth grade, children benefit from reading to and with their parents.

As earth scientists, students used sand trays and water to conduct experiments exploring how water can change landforms. The computer lab on the college campus was also a helpful tool for our research on different types of landforms. On another day we examined real sedimentary rock on the college campus. We were surprised at how easy it is to weather and erode sandstone exposing roots and small insects living in the ground. Thank you, Whittier College, for allowing us to use these amazing spaces.

The 4th graders not only enjoy using the college grounds for science, but also P.E. The football field is one of our favorite places. After running longer distances each week on the track, we ran our first mile last Tuesday. The teachers were impressed how well the students managed their pace. We will document our progress each week.

And, finally, this reminder about the Auction. The Auction is our classroom's primary (only) source of funding for new instructional materials and supplies. We hope to see you all at the Auction, engaged in friendly competition to buy our classroom and teacher items, as well as the wonderful items that have been donated for the voice and silent Auction. Thank you in advance, 4th-grade parents, for supporting our school's only annual fundraiser.

FIFTH GRADE

In 5th grade, the students are learning all about the geography of the United States. We are busy learning all of the states and their capitals. Students are "vacationing" across the United States by creating postcards that highlight great places to visit in different states.

In writing, the students are crafting suspenseful narratives.

In Science, the students have been learning about elements and the periodic table. Students did an "element hunt" around the classroom and courtyard areas looking for examples of the elements seen in our everyday lives. The students are also off to a running start in P.E. As a class we are working towards meeting the requirements of the Presidential Fitness Challenge. 5th grade is an exciting place to be!

SIXTH GRADE

Our location at the Broadoaks Friends Campus has been an exciting adventure for our sixth-grade students. When asked about the transition, one of our students said, "Transition...no big deal. It's been fun."

As expected, students have been easing into the increased expectations in sixth grade with only a few hiccups along the way. The students bring with them lots of enthusiasm for learning. The student-chosen classroom motto for the year reflects their positive attitudes and enthusiasm. After presenting several options, the students voted for: *If the odds are one in a million, be that one.*

Students have been eagerly learning about Pangaea during science. And, in order to prepare them for Literature Circle expectations, we have been exploring the wondrous, yet fantastical world of *The Phantom Tollbooth*. Our budding cartographers are also off to a raring start on one of the cornerstones of the Broadoaks 6th-grade experience. – the world map, using the Winkel Tripel projection. When we complete our study of longitude and latitude, different projections of the Earth as a flat map, and specific world geography, the students will receive a blank map with nothing on it but latitude and longitude lines. We can hardly wait to get started on the map.

We have been focusing on writing across the entire curriculum at the beginning of the year, as well as on the conventions of grammar and spelling. Students are crafting persuasive arguments that they will present both orally and in writing. We also encourage students to do quick writes and brainstorming as they are studying and completing assignments across the curriculum.

For more specific information about what students are studying week-by-week, please see the Friday notes. For an overview of the 6th grade curriculum, please see the information we distributed a few days ago.

And now for the Auction: We are counting on 6th grade parents to support the Auction as never before. Broadoaks purchased so much for our classroom at the start of the new school year that we are very well stocked with materials and supplies, but our students are developing wish lists for additional items that will help them learn, both individually and as a group. The teachers look forward to seeing all of you on November 20 at the Holiday Auction.

SEVENTH GRADE

- In math, students have
 - reviewed order of operations and the language of algebra
 - revisited the identity, equality, distributive, commutative and associative properties and applied them in solving equations (e.g. Multiplicative Property of Zero, Multiplicative and Additive Inverse, Distributive Property, etc.)
 - Students are also evaluating algebraic expressions and finding solution sets of inequalities.
 - Students are currently classifying and graphing real numbers.
- In Literature, the students examined the elements of Folktales vs. Myths
 - Wrote alternate-ending narrative
 - Using Dialogue as a narrative device
- In writing, students are working on using “description that dazzle!”
 - General adjectives do not give the reader a clear picture of what they describe. Students have worked on using specific descriptive words to *paint a picture*.
- In Literature Circle,
 - The students explored the *utopian* community presented in the futuristic society in, *The Giver*, a novel by Lois Lowry. The students analyzed themes, motifs, and symbolism and worked with Dr. Holmes to reenact aspects of the story and plot.
 - Begun exploring character development in our brand new Literature Circle book entitled, *The Hobbit*, by J.R.R. Tolkien.
- Did you know that there are over 25,000 species of orchids? In **science**, our young taxonomists learned how to classify and organize the millions of Earth’s life forms. Under the guidance of Dr. Priest, the students learned how scientist classify organisms into a hierarchy that begins with kingdom and works its way deeper into phylum, class, order, family, genus, species. To help us, we learned the following mnemonic device: **King Philip Came Over From Great Spain**.
- In social studies, students reviewed the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and researched the European Feudal System. The students are taking the information they’ve acquired and incorporating it into a historical fiction journal piece.
- In P.E., students are participating in strength and conditioning exercised to improve their level of fitness on Mondays and working on sports specific skills in soccer on Thursdays. The students have learned the rules and field set-up of soccer and now learning the rules of football.

Our students also have the great good fortune to study Spanish with the absolutely amazing Dr. Doreen O’Connor Gomez, who inspires us with her enthusiasm and her patience as we learn a new language or improve a language some of us already know. In addition, our students are truly “jazzed” about their piano class with Dr. Stephen Cook, from the Whittier College Music Department or their guitar class with Eva Beneke. They are also studying still life drawing with Donna Hollander, and have even gone to the college science labs for a chemistry demonstration.

The Philosophy Academy with Dr. Paul Kjellberg will begin soon. We’re also looking forward to more experiences in the Whittier College science labs.

For the most part, students have transitioned into 7th-grade smoothly and enthusiastically. The work they do in our 6th grade paves the way for this transition. Our expectations are higher in 7th grade. We expect the students to take more and more responsibility for their own learning and behavior, but, as Broadoaks teachers, we are, of course always ready to support them.

We also want to take this opportunity to ask 7th-grade parents to support this year's Holiday Auction. So many resources went into the opening of 7th grade – Just look around our classroom and you will see that we are very well stocked with instructional materials and supplies, as well as technology. Our students will make wish lists of items that would enrich our classroom even further and, of course, teachers are also beginning to develop lists for items we will need to open 8th grade next fall.

We know that 7th-grade parents will rally to the cause by participating actively in every phase of the school's only fundraiser, so we will thank you in advance and say "See you there!"

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

For additional details about curriculum and instruction in your child's class, see homework, Friday notes, and other information distributed via your child.

LIBRARY NEWS

After much hard work and dedication from Mari Ruacho, our School Services Assistant, Mariana Diaz, our library coordinator and parent volunteers, the Rebecca Suzanne Park Children's Library is OPEN. If parents have any questions or wish to volunteer, they may contact Mariana Diaz or contact Mari Ruacho at 562-907-4250.

The library is a perennial favorite for Broadoaks students. They often name the library when asked about their fondest memories of their time at Broadoaks, The library is run by parent volunteers, who do a fabulous job reading to the children and helping them check out books. At a time when so many schools are without libraries, we are especially grateful to our benefactor, Ernie Z. Park and to the parent volunteers who make this wonderful space and experience possible for our students.

A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM JUDITH WAGNER

Dear Broadoaks Parents and Friends,

In the next few weeks I will undertake an exciting and challenging new role as president of OMEP-USA, the American national chapter of an international child advocacy organization that works in association with the United Nations, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization.

The organization's members include teachers, lawyers, parents, students, child care professionals, doctors, nurses – anyone and everyone who wants to support the organization's goals to make the world a more peaceful and safe place for children in our own neighborhoods and in distant lands.

This year OMEP-USA has adopted the following issues and projects:

1. Childbirth health: maternal and infant mortality are often referred to as the single worst preventable cause of death in the world. Even in the U.S. we could and should do a much better job with childbirth health. OMEP-USA has joined with other organizations here and abroad to promote childbirth health.

2. Jamaica projects: OMEP-USA is supporting the development of a professional library for a new early childhood teacher education program at a university in Kingston, Jamaica. The organization also supports a preschool where the university students complete fieldwork experience.
3. Emergency response: OMEP-USA contributes to the development of UNICEF backpacks distributed to infants and children after a natural disaster or other emergency.

OMEP-USA members commit to doing something – anything – that they are not already doing for children. Some make contributions of heroic proportions as, for example, one member did when he and his college students went to Indonesia after the tsunami to help rebuild childcare centers and preschools. Another member went to Georgia after the recent floods to provide childcare for parents who needed to find places for their families to live after their homes were destroyed. In addition, some members of our campus OMEP group traveled to New Orleans last year to help with on-going rebuilding efforts. Others volunteered for a week in a shelter in downtown LA.

Others take steps that may seem less heroic, but are none-the-less important. For instance, some of our local members, including members of the student group and their friends (including some Broadoaks children) have knitted caps for premature babies in a pediatric hospital in Milawi or contributed books to a preschool located in a local detention facility for women with young children.

I wanted to let you know about this organization and how my work with it complements the work we do at Broadoaks and at Whittier College. I also wanted to let you know that I would sincerely appreciate your joining OMEP-USA if you are so inclined. Membership for 2010 is \$50 with the organization's journal, published three times a year, and \$35 without the journal. Membership forms are available in the Broadoaks office. I would be delighted to hand deliver any new memberships we receive at our next meeting.

You should also know that Kathleen Pompey has recently been named to the Board of Directors for OMEP-USA. She will serve as chair of the Campus Chapters Committee.

As always, I appreciate whatever you do for children in our own backyards and beyond. I will also appreciate your encouragement and support as I take on this new role as part of my professional responsibility as a faculty member at Whittier College.

Judith Wagner

**JOIN THE HUMAN CHAIN ON NOVEMBER 20
FROM 11:50 - 12:10 TO HONOR UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY**

On Friday, November 20 (Auction Day!) from 11:50 - 12:10 Broadoaks students, college students, college faculty and administrators, and Broadoaks parents are invited to join hands to form a human chain reaching as far as possible around the campus. This event honors the 55th anniversary of Universal Children's Day and also the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. On this day, similar events are taking place in many countries around the world and at the center stage at the largest national conference on early childhood in Washington, D.C.

The purposes of this event, sponsored by Broadoaks and OMEP-Whittier College, are to celebrate children's value and potential and to acknowledge the contributions Broadoaks children make to Whittier College and our broader community.

Kathleen King, primary program supervisor and co-faculty advisor to OMEP-Whittier College, will coordinate this event.

We hope that parents will take a break from their work or their set-up tasks at the Radisson in preparation for the Holiday Auction to participate in this event with their children. This marks the first campus-wide event focusing exclusively on children and their value to society, both now and in the future.

History of Universal Children's Day and the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 1954 the United Nations General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to celebrate children and promote their welfare. On November 20, 1959, fifty years ago, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Thirty years later, on November 20, 1989, it adopted the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), a treaty that is widely recognized as the first legally binding international instrument incorporating the full range of human rights into a single text. The CRC was drafted to promote and protect the wellbeing of all children, regardless of national boundaries.

The Convention sets forth basic standards that individual nations agree to pursue on behalf of children, based on the CRC's 4 underlying principles:

- the right to Survival;
- the right to Develop to the fullest potential;
- the right to Protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and
- the right to Participate in family, cultural, and social life.

Emphasizing the authority of parents, the treaty calls for governments to respect parental responsibilities, rights, and duties to provide direction and guidance to their children. In addition, the CRC calls on governments to work to ensure that ensure children grow up in supportive family and community environments, fostering an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding. As of 2008, 193 countries have ratified the CRC. Somalia and the U.S. are the only two countries that have not ratified this celebrated agreement. To learn more about the CRC visit www.childrightscampaign.org,