



Besant Hill School

Parents' Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Asia Day at BHS 2
- Getty Center Trip
- Sophomore Day
- Experiential Ed Trip to Mexico 3
- Vintage Recipe 4
- BHS Students Raise Funds for Haiti 5
- The Green Cup Challenge 6
- Besant Hill Radio
- The Ojai List
- BHS Art T-shirts 7
- BHS Annual Spring Arts Festival, & Alumni Day
- BHS Auction 8-9
- Spring Production "Charley's Aunt"
- Actors' Festival 10
- "Awesome Art" Exhibit
- Film Class Schedule
- IBT Workshop 11
- SAT & ACT Schedule
- Seniors' College
- Acceptances 12
- Senior Photo Project 13
- Staff / Faculty
- Highlights 14-15
- BHS Basketball & Soccer Highlights 16-17
- Calendar of Events
- Department Wish Lists
- Contact Info 18-19

Message from our Head of School

Thinking and Acting Green

In late January Besant Hill School hosted the 2nd Annual Green Schools Alliance Conference, where more than 25 schools collaborated in partnership and planning to ensure that this earth of ours will survive for generations to come. It was both rewarding and awe inspiring to participate and **listen to some of our country's** leading voices on sustainable living, including Karen Brown, Executive Director of the Center for Ecoliteracy, which supports schools in sustainability. Karen spoke about the unprecedented environmental challenges, from a climate change, the depletion of resources, and loss of species. Like us, the Center is focused on developing leaders who think creatively and ecologically. At BHS, our land has always been meant to be a

teaching laboratory. Our 500 acres includes a natural wildlife corridor, a vernal pool and hundreds of indigenous plants and flowers. The mountain range, the one we all wake to each morning from this vista, is called the San Ynez Range. The mystery of the range is that it is one of a few transverse ranges in the world, meaning it runs East to West, allowing us to both see the sun rise and set. The very land we live on was once an ocean, and includes fossils found from whale vertebrae estimated to be 35 million years old — **how "wicked cool" is that?** In 1927 Annie Besant, at the age of 69, came up the Dennison Grade in a horse cart and felt the swirling centers of subtle energy coming out from the surface of the earth. She determined that this is where the new cradle of civilization would begin. Our school today holds an important responsibility to the future world. Our shared

sense of passion, ideals, and moral compass point us toward ensuring that tomorrow's leaders have the tools and skills to answer the question: How can humans live well on this lovely planet without destroying it? How this came to matter to me began simply enough through a story about voices in the night — ghosts who walked the land. And it is true one cannot help but hear the ghosts on our 500 acres, including the voice of the Chumash, the Native American people who inhabited this land first, and founders Judo Krishnamurti, Aldous Huxley, Louis Zalk, Guido Ferrando, Rosalind Rajagopal, and others. Those voices remind a small school that it is our job to celebrate the individual voice and to create true community that advances fellowship of man — to explore and live our passions to make the world a better place. It begins with faculty but ends with all of those under 20. It is their world to save — and my guess is one day they too will hear the voices of those that came before — those who cared enough to dream and push until their voices were heard. Our planet needs creative leaders who walk the path of all the folks who have stewarded and kept

(Continued on page 5)





THE YEAR OF THE TIGER



The year of the Tiger in the Chinese Zodiac was celebrated with great festivity on Thursday night, February 12th, in the Commons. International students cooked their favorite dishes to share at the dinner and Juana made some special Asian dishes. Students had decorated the Commons with all sorts of New Year's streamers and signs. It was magnificent!



The next day, Friday, was Asia Day, with the entire school day devoted to students and teachers sharing aspects of Asian culture. It began with a very meaningful assembly in the Zalk Theater with students sharing videos of traditional and modern dances, a picturesque video of Vietnam, an explanation of the zodiac, and an insightful description of the meaning of the Year of the Tiger for the world.



Asia Day was divided into activities with students teaching classes such as Conversational Chinese, scroll painting, paper cutting and folding, Mah-Jong, Korean mini-Olympics, and dumpling making. Teachers joined in to offer haiku writing. The day was full of enjoyment, learning, and conviviality—a terrific way to begin a new year.

*Sarah White
Director of ESL*

Photos by Marie Samson



Photo by Greg Weiser

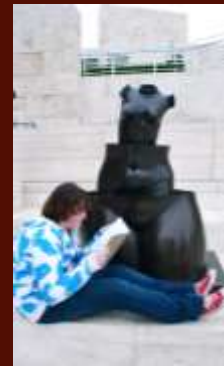


Getty Center Trip

On Wednesday, February 24th, forty BHS students and three teachers headed to the Getty Center for the day. New international students, all 9th graders, art history students, and advanced visual arts students packed into our school bus for the drive to spend a day of self-guided tours in small groups throughout this wonderful art museum. While the day was cloudy and a bit drizzly, it was perfect for a museum day and a garden stroll. We were especially fortunate to see the special exhibit of *Rembrandt and His Pupils*. Everyone agreed that the Getty Center is an amazing southern California treasure, and we'd love to go again.

*Sarah White
Director of ESL*

Photos by Molly Calvo '12



Sophomore day

Sophomore Day took place on Saturday, February 20. Created by Sophomore Student Representative Ana Ming Bostwick-Singer, with help from teachers Amy and Tod, the purpose of the day was to bring the sophomore class closer together in a fun setting and to create stronger bonds between them. The sophomores had a wonderful time playing interactive games in the Zalk, having a check-in council, watching the Steve Martin film "Bowfinger," eating pizza and roasting marshmallows. Thank you to all of the sophomores who participated!

Ana Ming Bostwick-Singer '12



Focus on Experiential Learning:

Besant Hill School is brimming with pride as we send nine students and two faculty members off on their service learning project in Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico. Orlando Pippig, Tanner Boyden, Pil Jae Choi, Bianca Charlwood, Marja Ritchie, Theresia Meme Gottwald, Alexia Geronimo-Anctil, Tohanh Nguyen Bui and Georgia Metz will be led by Dane Whinnery and Nestor Geronimo on a 12 day Spanish immersion project in the southern-most state of Mexico. The group will volunteer with a local school and orphanage, Albergue, helping to redesign and rehabilitate one of the school's buildings. While in Tuxtla, the group will have ample opportunity to practice their advanced Spanish skills and learn traditional Mexican recipes, all while being generously hosted by Nestor's sister, Xochitl. Their first stop in Mexico City, with a guided visit to the Museum of Anthropology and the Great Pyramids, followed by their exposure to the indigenous community of Chiapas, will provide the group with an inside look at how ancient traditions and modern society blend and mesh to form the community-based culture of Mexico today.

*Brook Masters
Director of
Experiential Education and
College Counseling*





Vintage Recipes

The following story and recipe were submitted by Radha Sloss. Radha's mother, Rosalind Rajagopal, was one of the original founders and longtime Headmistress of Happy Valley School.

Original Bircher Benner Muesli

*There was a chic lady whose stomach
Began to resemble a hummock
So she had it removed although commonly proved
That no person can live with no stomach.*

I met this lady when I was five years old. Krishnamurti, my mother and I were staying in Zermatt, Switzerland to rest up after his annual summer gathering of 3000 people in Holland. The lady in question was actually not chic at all. She was a Boston Brahman and the sister of the well known Harvard historian Samuel Eliot Morison, but she was indeed without her stomach and was to survive into a healthy old age by eating nothing but Bircher Muesli. Dr. Bircher Benner had established a clinic in Zurich, based on a diet of muesli and very little else. He had allegedly cured thousands of people. **This kind lady's devotion to Krishnamurti induced her to prepare bowls of muesli for each of us every morning in Zermatt. This started my entire family as well as many friends and other Krishnamurti followers on a regime of muesli, at least for breakfast, for ever after.**



BHS Parents: Join us for coffee

every Tuesday morning after drop-off for our weekly gatherings at the Ojai Coffee Roasters on Ojai Avenue. No need to RSVP. Just drop in. At least a few of us are there every Tuesday after 8:15.

Original Bircher Benner Muesli

(Not to be confused with commercial packaged Muesli)

Ingredients for one serving:

- 1 Tbs. of slow cooking rolled oats
- 3 Tbs. of water
- 1 Tbs. non-fat plain yoghurt
- 1 Tbs. honey
- 1 Tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Medium red apple (like Fuji)

Soak the rolled oats in water overnight.

Prepare the following within 10 minutes of serving.

Add to the oats the yoghurt, honey and lemon juice. Quarter and core, but **don't peel, the apple. Grate into oat mixture and mix after each quarter is grated to prevent browning. Serve immediately.**

It would be beneficial to precede every meal with a small portion of muesli but it must be made fresh.



Thinking and Acting Green (Continued from page 1)



this planet alive. For us those voices are our daily reminders that education means to "educate," or draw forth. As educators it is our job to teach students not just a mechanical task

to learn a fact or process but to hone the capacity to discern while empowering, validating, and energizing through an active relationship with the world around them. Environmental pioneer David Orr says, "to help students understand their implicatedness in the world and to honor mystery." Tomorrow's leaders must understand the big picture and recognize the importance of aesthetics and to do as the movie AVATAR attempts to do, make us all understand that we are connected to one another and that the Earth is a part of us. That we must never forget that all education is environmental education -- by what we include or exclude, we teach the young that they are part of or apart from the natural world.

*Paul Amadio
Head of School*



BHS Students Raise Funds for Honor and Respect Foundation Benefiting Haiti

Students at Besant Hill School, touched by the catastrophic earthquake in Haiti, decided to fundraise to help a non-profit involved with providing relief in this devastated country. The students decided to make their donations to Honor and Respect Foundation (www.hrfhaiti.org), a registered non-profit founded by Reed Lindsay, the brother of senior Tate Reed. Honor and Respect Foundation has always focused its fundraising efforts to help the impoverished in Haiti; because of the dire needs now facing so many Haitians, all moneys donated are being directed toward helping to alleviate suffering and the hardships brought on by the earthquake. As Honor and Respect Foundation has no overhead, all moneys received will reach Haiti and solely be used to help those most affected. Updates on the situation in Haiti are being presented to BHS students at assemblies by Barbi Reed, the mother of Tate and Reed. (Reed Lindsay is a journalist covering the situation in Haiti since the day after the quake. His reports have made the magnitude of the destruction more real to all the students. Barbi Reed, on behalf of the board of Honor and Respect Foundation, continues to express thanks to the students, faculty and staff for their generous donations and sensitivity to those less fortunate.

*Barbi Reed
Mother of Tate Reed '10*

Photograph by Fran Collin



Sustainability and the Green Cup Challenge

By *Tod Cossairt*
Director of Sustainability

In the month of February Besant Hill School dipped into the wild side of Sustainability by competing for the second year in the Green Cup Challenge with 230 other independent schools across the nation. The Green Cup Challenge is a student driven project of the Green Schools Alliance designed to create an opportunity for member schools to experience directly the relationship between our daily behavior and our “carbon footprint.” Using a baseline energy measurement for February, averaged over three years, schools challenge each other to see who can reduce their energy use the most over the month of February. This is “no holds barred” competitive sustainability at its best— you do not want to be found using electricity unnecessarily around Besant Hill School during the Green Cup Challenge!

We started the first week of the Challenge with an eye-opening and heartbreaking *increase* in energy use compared to our three year average for February, but we rebounded in the second, third, and fourth weeks to wipe out the excesses of week one to end up with a *9.6% decrease* in energy use by the end of the Challenge! This number reflects a community working together to effect change, and this degree of change could only have happened by a community working together.

The Green Schools Alliance calculates that reducing our use of electricity by 9.6% also reduces our contribution of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere in the month of February by over 1 metric ton; an amount that the Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management estimates is the equivalent of the carbon offset provided by 16 mature oak trees during their lifetime.

Green Cup Challenge Video !

A component of the Green Cup Challenge, the Green Cup Challenge Video competition offers an opportunity for students to produce their own short video in support of the challenge and in support of the movement toward a more sustainable world. The BHS Green Cup Video can be viewed along with the videos of other schools by going to the Green Schools Alliance Video Ocean site at

<http://www.greenschoolsalliance.org/videoocean10.html>

You will also be able to view this BHS video production as a short video at the Ojai Playhouse.

The selection for the national competition will be made over our spring break. We encourage all BHS parents and students to vote. Go to [Survey Monkey Voting Site](#) and cast your vote before March 21st!

View the Renewable Energy Generation of the Theater Solar Array Online!

The renewable energy being generated by our new 1.4 Kilowatt Solar Array on the Zalk Theater can be seen in real time by accessing our Enphase Energy subscriber site at: <http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/WND53102>

At the Besant Hill School site you can monitor the real time work of the new solar array, as well as the energy history of the system, and the environmental benefits of the renewable energy being produced in terms of reduced greenhouse gases emitted. There is nothing like seeing a **visual display of the energy potential of the sun...** it's the ultimate reality TV.

What does Kermit the Frog have to do with Sustainability?

Years ago Kermit the Frog tried to tell us in song that, “**It’s Not Easy Being Green,**” but at the upcoming Spring Arts Festival Live Auction we are hoping to prove to you that it is a lot easier than you think. Prepare yourself for the multi-tiered auction item we are designing to help you discover new and exciting ways to enrich your life *and* reduce your Carbon Footprint.



Sustainability Factoid

According to the EPA, Educational buildings represent 13% of the energy use in U.S. Buildings, and a typical school emits nearly 2,000 tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere per year. *This is ten times more than Besant Hill School emits in a year!* Furthermore, by using the EPA WARM Waste Management Guide for a hypothetical school the size of Besant Hill School we also discover that:

- *Converting 8 diesel vehicles to biodiesel* can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 29 tons per year.
- *Adding 100 solar photovoltaic modules* can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 22 tons per year.
- *A recycling program reducing waste by 35%* can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 23 tons per year.

So...it seems efficient school recycling can offer BHS the best results for the least amount of dollars.



Besant Hill Radio



Sophomore Eric Olsen, who continues to impress us for the second year in a row with his thorough and enthusiastic coverage of our Championship Basketball games, has found yet another opportunity at BHS to hone his broadcasting skills. Every Friday afternoon he hosts the Besant Hill Radio "Classic Rock Album" hour from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. On February 26th he had the pleasure of interviewing, live from our campus, special guest musician, Prescott Niles of the 80's rock group, The Knack, renowned for their hit "My Sharona." Prescott shared many anecdotes regarding the making of the album, "Get The Knack," the interesting story behind the real Sharona, and lots of other tales. Stay tuned for a repeat visit from Mr. Niles and other guest artists in the near

Besant Hill is Now Listed as a Non-profit on The Ojai List

What is the Ojai List?

The goal of The Ojai List is to grow and maintain a completely connected community. It's simply an email list of all local Ojai folks. When you subscribe to The Ojai List, you agree to receive an email every Sunday about local happenings for the upcoming week. And when a business has a special promotion or coupons, or an exciting special event is on the horizon, count on The Ojai List to inform you first via email. It's free to subscribe and get local!

- Locals want to consume locally and know about upcoming local events and resources.
- Businesses want to advertise locally with instant communication and measurable results.
- Local non-profits and community organizations can always benefit in some way from an extra annual donation.

Sign up for the list -which is free-, and select Besant Hill School from the list of non-profits to support. As a non-profit, each year the school will receive a small amount of money, based on the number of subscriptions there are.

VISIT www.TheOjaiList.com FOR MORE INFORMATION

CHECK IT OUT...

The BHS Artist Series merchandise is now available online for global purchase. Featuring artwork from:

Julie Yu, Griffin Davis, PJ Choi, Jordan Wrench, Lukas Huberman, Rick Meredith, and Isabelle Hong.

The designs are sweet. Buy some! All profit made goes straight to student government. Enjoy!

To purchase, go to:

<http://www.printfection.com/besanthill>



2010 BHS Annual Spring Arts Festival & Alumni Day

Saturday, April 17, 2010

“There is nothing more the child of art than a garden.”

Sir Walter Scott

This year’s Besant Hill School of Happy Valley’s Annual Spring Arts Festival will be held in conjunction with Alumni Day on Saturday, April 17, 2010. Spring Arts Festival celebrates our school through the arts and also serves as a major **fundraiser for our school programs. It’s a great time and a perfect way to commune with students, other parents and faculty.**

Please join us for a day filled with Celebration of the Arts and Alumni at
Besant Hill School of Happy Valley

Tickets
\$50 per adult
\$35 per BHS student

(BHS students may attend festivities through dinner if they are accompanied by a parent. After dinner students will be excused to their own dance festivities so the adults can dance the night away!)

RSVP by April 9, 2010
by calling
Zelda Marshall at
805-646-4343 ext. 100
Or
Register at
www.besanthill.org

(Online registration will be available after Spring Break)

Saturday, April 17, 2010
12:00 noon
Alumni Art Opening
Featuring Happy Valley Alumnus
Tamarind Rossetti-**Johnson, HVS ‘94**
<http://tamarindrossettijohnson.com>
<http://rossettijohnsondesigns.com>
Center for the Arts

2:00 pm
BHS Spring Production
The BHS Players
“CHARLEY’S AUNT”
Brandon Thomas
The Zalk Theater

4:30 pm
Jazz Cocktail Hour
Featuring
The BHS Music & Visual Arts Programs
BHS Art Show & Silent Auction
Showcasing Student Art
The NEW Beatrice Wood Art Atelier

6:00 pm
Luscious Locavore Dinner
Featuring BHS Celebrity Chef Juarez
The BHS Dancers & Musicians
The Upper Green

Following Dinner 7:00(ish) –10:30pm
Wild Dancing & Live Auction
Featuring
“Sugar Cream”
(70s, 80s & 90s Dance Band)
The Upper Green



BHS AUCTION



The BHS Annual Fund
proudly announces the
2010 Spring Arts Festival
Live, Silent and Dessert Auctions
Saturday, April 17, 2010

All proceeds from the auction will benefit the school and its programs directly

Look for...

Framed and Signed Beatrice Wood Limited Edition Lithograph
Vacation Packages
Personal Green Consultation with Actor/Eco-Activist Ed Begley Jr.
Student Art & Photography
Wine Tasting and Carriage Ride
Dining at the Award Winning Feast Bistro
Besant Hill School Headmaster for a Day
Gourmet Pastry from a Le Cordon Bleu Trained Chef

and so much more...

A complete list of auction items and descriptions will be available shortly.
For questions, donations or to place an absentee bid please contact:

Kim Maxwell
BHS Director of Community Relations and the Annual Fund
805-646-4343 xt135
kmaxwell@besanthill.org



The BHS Players Present
The Spring Production

“Charley’s Aunt”

A Farce in Three Acts

by

Brandon Thomas

Directed by Guest Artist Richard Kuhlman

Produced by Sandy Mikkelson and Scott Campbell

Thursday and Friday, April 16, 17, 22, 23

8:00 pm

Saturday, April 18

2:00 pm

Zalk Theatre

Second Annual Actors’ Festival



On January 30th, BHS hosted the second annual Actors’ Festival, an event for students in Ventura County interested in a career in theatre and film. This year’s festival drew some top name guests for the students, including producer Steve Nicoladies (Boyz in the Hood), writer Caroline Thompson (Edward Scissorhands), show runner Rick Cleveland (Nurse Jackie), casting directors Amy Lieberman and April Webster, and many others. Over 75 students had the opportunity to perform for and be informed by these top pros of the industry. The school is very excited about the festival’s potential, and plans are being made now for an even bigger event next year. Kudos to the many BHS students who garnered “Best of Fest” recognition this year!

*Scott Campbell
Chair of Performing Arts*



Photos by Dean Zatkowski. Available at: <http://deanzat.smugmug.com/>

OV Museum: Awesome Art

From the fine folk at the Ojai Valley Museum...

2010 marks the 9th consecutive year that the annual student art exhibit, "AWESOME ART" is mounted in the changing gallery at the Ojai Valley Museum, Ojai, California. The exhibition runs March 4 through April 11, 2010 and showcases upper level student artwork from Nordhoff High, Thacher, Besant Hill, Ojai Valley, Villanova, and Oak Grove schools.



AWESOME ART group exhibition features 150 works of art, including ceramics, sculpture, drawings, paintings, photography, graphic design, digital, and mixed media pieces. PLEASE NOTE: many of the artworks are available for sale. This is an opportune time to collect new talent, purchase a special & affordable original gift, and support the Ojai Valley Museum programs.

In addition to museum exposure for the burgeoning Ojai student artists, the "AWESOME ART" show is an award opportunity for the participants. Each year since 2005, siblings Karen O'Neill and Michael Burgos have granted monetary awards to selected exhibiting students in memory of their mother, Marion E. Smith. Mrs. Smith was a longtime Ojai resident, an Ojai Valley Museum docent and a youth art supporter. The monetary awards, given in her name, are for merit and scholarship. The judges of "AWESOME ART, 2010" will be Ojai Studio Artist members: Bruce Tomkinson, Ceramicist; Shahastra, Painter; and Valerie Freeman, Photography/Digital Arts. The O'Neill and Burgos grant also allows free admission to all students visiting the exhibit.



BHS students showing:

Haojie Xie, Yi Yang, Ashley Liu, Isabel Hong, Yue Yu, Griffin Davis, Julie Yu, Pil-Jae Choi, Sadie Pierson, Elena Galland, Ariane Merkel, Victoria Pollock, Tohanh Nguyen Bui, Jennifer Hu, Parker Jin, Nirvain Yang, Tom Zheng, Rose Labib, Ana Bostwick-Singer, Lily Brown, Lily Jensen, Molly Calvo



FILM CLASS

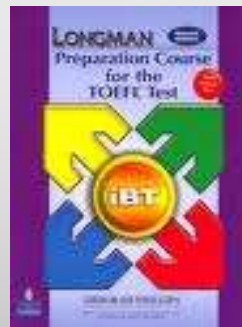
Film students :Alex Key, Victoria Pollock, Alex Neher, Jackson Diehl, Dan Grosbach, Rick Meredith), will be filming their scripts in March, April and May.

These are dates that are scheduled

Wednesday	March 10	2:00 to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	March 30	2:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	April 2	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	April 3	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	April	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	April 11	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	April 14	2:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	April 17	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	April 18	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	April 21	2:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	April 24	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	April 25	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	April 28	2:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	May 1	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	May 2	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Saturday	May 8	10:00 to 6:00 pm
Sunday	May 9	10:00 to 6:00 pm

IBT

Internet-Based TOEFL Workshop for International Students
Saturday, April 10th



On Saturday, April 10th, international students will attend an IBT (Internet-Based TOEFL) preparation workshop on campus. The workshop will be taught by Deborah Philips, a professor of TESOL (Teachers of English as a Second or Other Language) at UC Santa Barbara. Deborah is the author of many TOEFL-prep books and an internationally-known expert on the IBT. Students will each receive one of Deborah's books for use during and after the workshop. All international students who are juniors will be taking the IBT on Saturday, April 24th. We are all looking forward to this terrific opportunity to work with Deborah!

Sarah White
Director of ESL

Happy Birthday To...

Gunner Von Burg

March 9

Marja Ritchie

March 13

Su Jin Cho

March 16

Eric Olsen

March 18

Haojie Xie

March 20



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To the Following Seniors for their
College Acceptances

Yannick Atanga

Santa Clara University

Kason Chen

Pitzer College

Griffin Davis

San Francisco Art Institute

Rick Meredith

University of Northern Colorado

Fort Lewis College

Colorado State University

Ariane Merkel

Johnson State College

Georgia Metz

Savannah College of Art and Design

Madeline Mikkelson

Cornish College of the Arts

University of the Arts

Savannah College of Art and Design

Alex Neher

Chapman University

California State University, Long Beach

Victoria Pollock

San Francisco Art Institute

Savannah College of Art and Design

Tate Reed

University of Northern Colorado

California State University, Chico

California State University, Channel Islands

Fort Lewis College

College of Charleston

Natalie Wotman

University of Nevada at Reno

Evergreen State College

Xucheng Zhang

Penn State University, Schreyer Honors College

California Lutheran University

We are so proud of all of you!
We will keep our list going as more and more of you
receive your acceptances!

SAT and ACT Test Dates and Registration Deadlines Through June 2010

Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Test Date
SAT	Passed	Passed	January 23
SAT	Passed	Passed	March 13
ACT	Passed	March 19	April 10
SAT	March 25	April 8	May 1
SAT	April 29	May 13	June 5
ACT	May 7	May 21	June 12

To register for tests go to:

<http://collegeboard.com/> (SAT) or
<http://actstudent.org> (ACT)



Photo of Fran Collin by Victoria Pollock '10

The Senior Photo Project

By Donita Coburn-Amadio

Fran Collin

Photographer extraordinaire is back again for a new round of senior photos!



Fran's ability to capture the essence of a human being in a photograph is nothing less than magical. Fran has a special way of getting to the soul of his subjects and thankfully, as a school community, we have been the lucky recipients of his artistry.

This year, like last year we are putting together a program for students to art direct their own *Senior Photo Shoot* with Fran Collin. Each participant will go through several steps to get to the final product, which is a CD with all the pictures from their self, art-directed shoot. Once a student is committed, the process goes something like this...



Fran will send a questionnaire to the individual student to help form a picture of who they are as a whole person and what they are imagining their photos will represent about them. Then Fran will meet with the students and discuss the logistics, ideas and inspirations for their one-of-a-kind senior photos. The creative process evolves into layers of production ideas that begin to form their very own individualized shoot.

Last year we had a myriad of creative ideas and the results were amazing! Students did every thing from gorilla photo shoots to very carefully planned fashion shoots and theme based shoots.



We had nature lovers, adventure lovers (think Indiana Jones), lovers of film, animals, music and sports. There were quirky and out of the box shoots and highly stylized and artistic shoots. The creativity really had no boundaries other than legal and safety restrictions. As parents, please feel free to communicate your own restrictions to your child and to Fran. The school will act as a facilitator for the process but the actual shoot is a private contract between individual students, parents and Fran Collin.



Last week Fran came to BHS and did senior headshots for the yearbook. Seniors will have an opportunity to choose the shot that they like best. The school has paid for the shoot and the photos that will be included in the yearbook. In addition parents will be able to purchase personal copies of headshots directly from Fran for an additional cost or if your child is committed to the full shoot it will be included in your package.

During Commencement 2010 we will have a photo show featuring our new graduates from the class of 2010!

Please feel free to contact Fran through email if you have questions francollinphoto@msn.com. Please send all photo fees directly to Fran at:

Fran Collin
5148 Foothill Road
Carpinteria, CA 93013

Photos of 2009 Seniors by Fran Collin



Staff / Faculty Highlights

Zelda Marshall

Receptionist



Where were you born?

I was born in Wynberg, South Africa

Where were you before coming to BHS?

I worked in the financial services department of a chartered account firm in Cape Town, South Africa as a money-market assistant.

Where did you go to school?

I graduated in 2001 from Eben Dönges

How/when did you first hear about Besant Hill School?

I came across an ad in the local newspaper.

How long have you been working at BHS? What is your role?

I have been working at the school for about one and a half years. I answer people's questions, assist a variety of departments, and keep the candy jar and coffee pot full.

Tell us the ONE thing you like best about BHS.

I appreciate the family feel the faculty and students create at BHS.

What do you want to accomplish at BHS? What is your mission?

I take all of my commitments and obligations seriously and strive to present my best efforts in all that I do. With this in mind, I feel it is my mission to not only complete my required duties but to also take care of the 'little things' that may not necessarily be required of me but allow me to create a sense within myself that I have truly done all that I can in contributing to the overall smooth running of BHS.

Who is someone you admire? Why?

I admire most my Mother. She is the most caring, unselfish, and down to earth person that I know. My father passed away when I was 10 and she raised me and my three siblings through great adversity. I admire her tenacity and strength and cannot fathom anyone in my life that has managed to overcome such obstacles. I care for her deeply.

What would you like to see the school accomplish in the future, short term or long term?

I believe that BHS at its' core has an admirable goal of educating people to become responsible citizens of the world and it does this by creating the space for young minds to grow and achieve. BHS helps open minds and pave the roads of the future through education.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

I would like to express my gratitude for the chance to work at such a wonderful institution. BHS is situated in a serene environment and populated with a beautiful group of people. It is truly a place where learning never stops.

Zelda's advice to BHS students:

"I hope the students will take what they learn from BHS and apply the thoughts and ideas they have been exposed to in order to contribute to their respective communities. In this way everyone that passes through BHS will contribute to a better, more peaceful world."



Staff / Faculty Highlights

Scott Campbell

***Chair of the Performing Arts, Director of Theatre,
Teacher of Acting, Theatre Production
and Modern Drama***

Where were you born?

Jacksonville, FL. Married to Patty Campbell, my childhood sweetheart, and we have one daughter, Joy, who is in 4th grade.

Where were you before coming to BHS?

I had a 25-year career in Los Angeles as an actor in theatre, film and TV. I was Artistic Director of the Alliance Repertory Company for over 10 years, where I also directed and produced many successful productions. (My Trivia: I was once killed in a movie by a monkey. With a gun. The monkey was smarter than me: he hit me over the head with a pipe, took my gun, and shot me dead. I gasped my last breath saying: "What hit me?" I died in the arms of my partner. That's life.)

Where did you go to school? What was your major in college?

Graduated from West Virginia University with a BFA in Acting and Theater Arts.

How/when did you first hear about Besant Hill School?

I was fortunate enough to be asked to direct OUR TOWN here in 1999-2000, with a sophomore, Portia Pelow, in the lead role of Emily.

How long have you been teaching / working at BHS?

Five years.

Tell me the ONE thing you like best about BHS.

It's successful, progressive approach to education, in which the traditionally rigid roles of teacher and student are replaced with a more open and honest Socratic approach to learning. It is great fun to be learning along with the students.

What do you want to accomplish at BHS? What is your mission?

I would like to be involved in establishing BHS as a school where guest artists come to work side by side with students in creating collaborative art that expresses the views of the students as well as the artists. It's never too soon to begin the creative journey in life, and I enjoy seeing students beginning down that path.

Who is someone you admire? Why?

My wife. She is honest, compassionate and funny. And she's put up with me for 35 years, so she is also patient, forgiving and resilient.



If there was one piece of advice Scott would give students at BHS, it would be:

**“Lead with kindness,
and pursue your
passion.”**

What would you like to see the school accomplish in the future, short term or long term?

I would like to see the school continue to connect with its auspicious beginnings through work with other great minds and artists like Huxley, Beatrice Wood, and Krishnamurti. I believe the school is on the path to accomplish this, and I look forward to meeting more inspiring artists.

Anything else you would like to mention?

Besant Hill School is an amazing place, not only for the people here now, but also for the history in the ground. I feel very lucky to be here at this time when the school is surging forward with strong leadership and direction.

Also, I have a dog that looks like a small table or ottoman.





Besant Hill Wins Another CIF Basketball Title!!

By Derry Eads
Ventura County Star
March 6, 2010

ONTARIO — Ivan Matip approached each teammate with a hand slap and a vow.

“We’re not done yet. We’re not done yet,” voiced the Besant Hill senior.

Back-to-back section titles are not enough for the Ojai private school.

Matip had 24 points and 10 rebounds and Yannick Atanga added 13 points, 25 rebounds and seven blocks as Besant Hill (26-2) defeated Sierra Canyon 55-45 in the CIF-Southern Section Division V-A boys’ basketball championship game at Colony High.

Jesse Howell and Michael Cohen had 14 and 13 points, respectively, for Sierra Canyon (22-8).

Ranked No. 5 in the state in Division V by CalHISports.com, Besant Hill will draw a home game for the first round of the CIF State Championships next week.

Besant Hill has won nine straight section playoff games, but is 0-1 in the state tournament.

Only a start-up program three years ago, Besant Hill has gone 48-4 over the last two seasons.

Sierra Canyon didn’t make it easy for Besant Hill.

Coming out with a 1-2-2 zone, Sierra Canyon’s defense made it difficult for Besant Hill to get the ball inside where it held a distinct height advantage.

Besant Hill, which had averaged 20 assists per game, was limited to seven.

A 9-1 scoring spurt gave Sierra Canyon a 21-13 margin in the opening minutes of the second quarter.

“We made some adjustments after the first quarter with better switches and matchups,” said Besant Hill coach Randy Bertin. **“That made the difference.”**

Matip’s 3-point basket sparked a 14-0 run for Besant Hill. Matip scored eight points in the run and Francois Tchoyi added four.

In the 38 seconds of the second half, Tchoyi drew his fourth foul and would take a seat on the bench until mid-way into the fourth quarter. Matip was called for his third and fourth fouls in the third quarter.

Just when Besant Hill needed it, freshman Rudolfs Arnicans made 3-point baskets on consecutive possessions to give the Coyotes a six-point lead and some needed breathing room.

Besant Hill’s defense stifled Sierra Canyon in the final eight minutes. Sierra Canyon missed 19 of 21 field-goal attempts and was held scoreless until Michael Cohen’s free throw with 2:42 left in the game. Sierra Canyon’s first field goal of the quarter came with 53.7 seconds remaining.

“We gave Gunnar Von Burg and Rudolfs Arnicans tough matchups,” said Bertin. **“We told them ‘no shots from beyond the arc.’ We’ll take the shots inside the paint. We can handle those.”**

Besant Hill outrebounded Sierra Canyon, 58. Atanga had 11 of Besant Hill’s 15 offensive rebounds.

Besant Hill joined Santa Clara and Channel Islands as the only county boys’ basketball teams to win back-to-back section titles.



CONGRATULATIONS BESANT HILL COYOTES!!!!!!



BHS Boy's Soccer Team Went Undefeated in Their 2009-2010 Season

with wins over Thacher, Midland, and Oak Grove. The final game of the season was played at home with a 3-1 win over Thacher with goals from Roman Kompanyiets, Jordon Wrench, and Parker Jin. Outstanding mid-field play by Tanner Boyden, Tyler Mikkelson, and Pil-Jae Choi. Outstanding defense played by Focus Chirarattanipichet, Kason Chen, and goal keeping by Dan Groshbach. The team was focused and dedicated all season long.

Photos by David Boyden and Kevin Henschel



Their hard work paid off with their undefeated season!



BHS Calendar of Events

March / April 2010

MARCH 2010

Friday, March 5
 Saturday, March 6
 Sunday, March 7
 Outdoor Education Trip to Joshua Tree
 Rock Climbing

Friday, March 5
 8:15 pm
 Basketball Championship
 Colony High School - Ontario
 (BHS vs. Sierra Canyon School)

Wednesday, March 10 -
 Saturday, March 20
 Experiential Education Trip to Mexico
 Mexico City and Tuxtla Gutierrez

Thursday, March 11
“Awesome Art” Awards Reception
 4:00pm—6:00 pm
 Ojai Valley Museum

Thursday, March 11
 BHS Variety Show
 7:00pm—9:00 pm
 Zalk Theatre

Friday, March 12 -
 Sunday, March 28
 Spring Break - NO CLASSES
 Dorm students depart by noon

Monday, March 29
 Dorm Students return
 By 5:30 pm

Tuesday, March 30
 CLASSES RESUME
 8:00 am

APRIL 2010

Friday, April 9
 Saturday, April 10
 Sunday, April 11
 Outdoor Education Trip to Joshua Tree
 Rock Climbing

Saturday, April 10
 IBT (Internet-based TOEFL)
 Workshop for International Juniors
 11:00am—4:00 pm
 BHS Campus - Classroom 6

Thursday, April 15 - 8:00 pm
 Friday, April 16 - 8:00 pm
 Saturday, April 17 - 2:00 pm
 Spring Production
“Charley’s Aunt”
 Zalk Theatre

Friday, April 16
 Project Day
 BHS Campus

Saturday, April 17
 Spring Arts Festival
 12:00 pm - 10:30 pm
 BHS Campus -
 See page 8 for more details

Thursday, April 22
 Friday, April 23
 Spring Production
“Charley’s Aunt”
 8:00 pm
 Zalk Theatre

Friday, April 30
 Spring Concert
 7:00 pm—9:00 pm
 Zalk Theatre

Parent Liaison Committee

Luisa Neher (Alex '10)
lneher@bak.rr.com
 Barbi Reed (Tate '10)
barbi@annereedgallery.com
 Kim Maxwell (Lily Brown '11)
kim@kimmaxwellstudio.com
 Jennifer Jacobs (Megan '11)
jenniferjacobs01@msn.com
 Carolyn Olsen (Eric '12)
crolsen@sbcglobal.net
 Eugenia Bostwick-Singer (Ana '12)
ebsinger@mac.com
 Heide Boyden (Tanner '13)
ojaiboyden@earthlink.net

Newsletter Committee

Luisa Neher
lneher@bak.rr.com
 Brian Walton
bwalton@besanthill.org
 Donita Coburn-Amadio
dcoburn@besanthill.org

Look for the next issue of our BHS Parents Newsletter in mid-April

Besant Hill School
 8585 Ojai Santa Paula Road
 P.O. Box 850
 Ojai, CA 93023
 Tel: (805) 643 4343
 Fax: (805) 646 4371



BHS DEPARTMENT WISH LISTS

In this and future issues you will find Department Wish Lists. If you have any of the items listed, or know someone who does and would like to donate them, please contact the school; if you have similar items that you think the school could benefit from, please let them know.



ART DEPARTMENT WISH LIST

- Etching Press
- Artists' flat files



Music Department Wish List

The Music Department could use any instruments, for example:

- Guitars
- Keyboards
- Trumpets
- Violins
- Saxophones
- Flutes
- Instrument cables
- Microphones
- Old speakers
- PA equipment

Outdoor Education Department Wish List

We could use any outdoor gear (Kayaks, packs, sleeping bags, etc). And big on our wish list is if any families would be interested in donating money for a rock climbing wall!!!



Theatre Department Wish List

- ETC Express 48/96 Light Console
- ETC Source 4 Pars, Parnels or Ellipsoidals
- 2 12-Set Dimmer Packs
- Color Scrollers
- Pivoting Lights
- Lapel Microphones for Musicals
- High Quality Vocal Microphones for Concert
- High Quality Ambient Microphone for Concert Recording
- Bank of DMX Controlled Black Lights
- Surround Sound system
- Macintosh G-4 or greater for DMX/Video Control

