



Besant Hill School

Parents' Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

MAY 2010

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Message from our Head of School

In the 1998 film *Shakespeare in Love*, Theater Manager Philip Henslowe explains the theatre business, stating, "The natural condition of theater is one of insurmountable obstacles on the road to imminent disaster." When asked what to do to avoid this disaster, he replies, "Nothing. Strangely enough it turns out well. I don't know. It's a mystery."

I am always reminded of that line as we approach the month of May, and the many days of celebration and reflection as we head toward Commencement. Somehow, in spite of scheduling conflicts - obstacles, finals, retreats, etc. - the end of the year comes and it all works out quite beautifully. **It's a mystery!**

As we begin the month with elections for student body President and class representatives, it is also time to gather the community of students and

staff for a Vision Council. In partnership, we will share our ideas with one another to create and plan next year's school year. It is an awesome experience in our school. Many good and remarkable things have come from the Vision Council, including holding on tight to traditions and philosophies of our founders sixty-five years ago, and focusing on new growth and horizons as we evolve our school in 2010.

Last Thursday and Friday the junior class spent a day and a half in retreat at the home of board members Jimmy and Radha Sloss. In between some formal visioning and discussions, the group spent a good deal of time melding with one another by the pool, on the beach and on the beautiful property. Board members joined Jimmy and Radha for an evening talk about the school, its mission and the Happy Valley

Foundation's relationship with the school. It was a fun-filled couple of days and we all left with a positive sense that this class is ready to assume student leadership of the school come September.

Over the course of the next two months, faculty, staff and administrators will plan our work ahead and take into consideration patterns and themes that have surfaced this year, and eventually goals and objectives will be put to paper in June. The work that the adults do to meet the needs and opportunities of our students is incomprehensible. I appreciate and value each voice as we continue to use our strategic plan as our guide, with the realization that as the earth moves and the world changes, a school must be flexible enough to change with it - to ensure that it continues to teach each student the skills they will need to know and use when they graduate. As we all know, those skills move well beyond reading, writing and math — they also focus on creativity, spirituality, self-knowledge and **the ability to speak one's voice** to better the world around us.

This week, several of us met with parents in an informal conversation about a variety of topics, including college coun-

(Continued on page 5)



Aunt Beguiles Audiences

By Kathryn O'Loughlin

From Ojai Valley News - April 21, 2010

Besant Hill School's production of "Charley's Aunt," by Brandon Thomas, is the taste of spring itself: giddy, intoxicating, and deftly beguiling. The actors are fearless, invested and keep the champagne bubbles of love, foolishness, and madcap comedy freely flowing. The performances are youth itself (something, of course, age has nothing to do with). Alex Neher, Brett Baxter, Ana Bostwick-Singer, Richard Ellwood, Madeline Mikkelson, Sandi Mikkelson and Scott Campbell have worked together before and it shows in the attention to detail and the courage to go all the way.

They are joined in this endeavor by newcomers Tyler Mikkelson, Noah Lashly, Lily Brown, Tohanh Bui, Marja Ritchie, Zelda Grove and Morgan Flannery, who have all caught the infectious enthusiasm and chutzpah and have danced the Charleston with it.

Noah Lashly is a comic genius, just like his dad, Jim, although his timing is as unique as he is. Lily Brown has the comic intensity of her father, Dwier Brown, and the piquant, utterly charming talent of her mother, Kim Maxwell. Her physical interpretation of Stephen Spettigue is truly not to be missed. She's Charlie Chaplin material. Tyler Mikkelson hurls himself into his role as well as around the stage and does so with aristocratic aplomb. Marja Ritchie brings a sly sexiness to the "real" Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, while Zelda Grove is the sweetness of love itself in her role as Ela Delahay.

Then we have our usual suspects: Alex Neher who has apparently perfected outrageous physical comedy to go with his earnest and always believable acting skills. Brett Baxter, with a swaggering roguishness as Sir Francis Chesney, is yet again a delight. Ana Bostwick-Singer, with perfect accent and comic timing as Amy Spettigue, again anchors her performance with grace and authenticity. She and Tohanh Bui are adept at not saying what they really think. Richard Ellwood, aided by partner in crime Morgan Flannery as Gretta, gives his usual impeccable performance as Brasset (he is an Ojai treasure and you must beg him to do his Jabberwocky or "Thisby" at any halfway opportune occasion). Scott Campbell and Sandi Mikkelson have produced with style and joy. Their devotion to the students and the play pervades the production.

Director Richard Kuhlman ("Fuddy Meers," "Inspecting Carol," "Cheerios in My Underwear," "Fractured Fables," "Pounding Nails in the Floor with My Forehead," etc.) has, aside from setting a screwball yet logically illogical tone, given these astonishing young actors the necessary boop boop de doo, 23 skiddoo, and 5-foot-2 to make this comedy as enjoyable as a Marx Brothers' valentine to the heart.

Oh, did I mention cross-dressing gone wild?



Photos by
Dean
Zatkowsky





BHS Spring Concert

April 30, 2010

Photos by
Noah Lashly
and
Donita Coburn-Amadio



Purchase your DVDs

- Spring Variety Show
- **“Charley’s Aunt”**
- Spring Concert

\$25/each

Available at Zelda’s desk in the front office

Or order your copies by emailing:

Eugenia Bostwick-Singer at: ebosinger@mac.com

(Please list your name and address and specify which DVD(s) you would like)

Make checks out to: CUT TO THE STORY

Mail to: Eugenia Bostwick-Singer

BHS - Film Department

8585 Ojai Santa Paula Road

Ojai, CA 93023



Happy Birthday!!!!

Elias Mordecai
May 1

Yannick Atanga
May 5

Natalie Wotman
May 11

Victoria Pollock
May 12

Megan Jacobs
May 13

Lily Brown
May 16

Nirvain Yang
May 17

Zelda Grove
May 21

Tanner Boyden
May 22

Charlie Chen
May 25

Maddie Mikkelson
May 29



Vintage Recipes Nut Loaf

This is a recipe from Alan Hooker, owner of the Ranch House and a friend of Rosalind Rajagopal, one of the founders and longtime headmistress of Happy Valley School.

In the early 70's he shared this recipe with former Food Director Margaret Krull, who found it a great low-cost, vegetarian meal.

Taking advantage of the walnut orchards at the school, she prepared this nut loaf often, and would serve it topped with gravy, as a very healthy and satisfying main course. The students found it delicious, and it became a favorite at the school for many years.

Juana Juarez
Director of Food Services

Nut Loaf

Ingredients:

4Tbs butter
3 cups celery, chopped
3 cups onions, finely chopped
1 cup almonds, finely ground
2 cups walnuts, chopped
2 cups cashews, toasted and chopped
1/2 cup rolled oats

1/4 cup sesame meal
1/4 cup sunflower seeds
2 lbs cottage cheese
1/4 can vegeburger or 1/4 cup rice
4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp herb blend
6 eggs



Preheat oven to 400°F.

Braise the celery lightly in butter. In a bowl, mix together all other ingredients. Add braised celery and mix.

Bake in 2 greased loaf-pans for about 1 hour (or 1 1/2 hours, if firmer loaf is desired).

Serves 8

(Continued from page 1)

selling, discipline, drug and alcohol policy and presentations from the visual and performing arts departments on their programs. For the very first time, we were able to stream the meeting through video for our boarding families. It is clear that parents and staff enjoy these opportunities to gather, and we are looking at scheduling them regularly for the next academic year. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Luisa Neher for serving as Parent Liaison for this year. She is the catalyst for so much and I am so grateful to her for all that she has done to strengthen communication between the school and parents. Communication is an area that we still can do much better in, and we look forward to working with Luisa and interested parents on ideas to continue to improve the dialogue and pro-active partnership. One of those ideas turned out to be the beautiful Parent Newsletter. Luisa is the organizer and design person on the newsletter and she works closely with me on content and focuses each issue. But it is her talent that makes it happen. Again, thanks Luisa.

There are a couple of housekeeping items and updates to report here. The permitting for the new pool is well on its way to completion. We anticipate breaking ground sometime in June or July pending any hold ups. This latest addition to our Master Plan is exciting, and we feel invaluable, as we look at

improving and expanding our student-centered activities in the future. The Beato Atelier has opened to tremendous success and this past weekend was the opening reception of the **Visual Art Program's Installation at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts – "Chaos, Change & Uncertainty: Experimentation in the Creative Process."** The work of our students is always inspiring and motivating for me, and the focus of creating art around chaos and uncertainty is not only a valuable learning experience for the viewer but also for the artist. I encourage you to stop by the Center (on weekends) until June 30th to check it out.

There is much to do before we celebrate Commencement on Saturday May 29th at 10:00 a.m., including finals, senior capstone presentations, senior retreat, all-school council, Commendations Dinner and more. Please pay close attention to the weekly News From the Hill, and included in this newsletter is a schedule of important dates and times between now and Commencement. I look forward to seeing all of you between now and then, and to honor our senior class on the 29th, where each senior will give their two-minute farewell to our community. Bring the tissues!

Paul



May 2010 Annual Fund Update

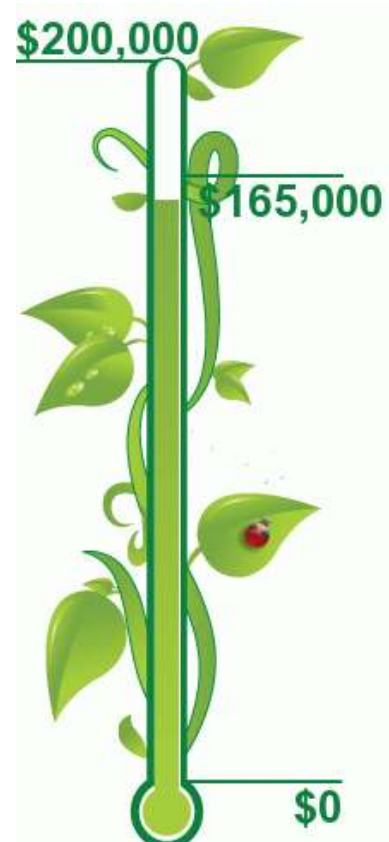
The Spring Arts Festival brought in a flurry of donations moving us up to the \$165,000 marker of our \$200,000 Annual Fund Goal. June 30th marks the end of our Annual Fund campaign, and we need your help to close with a bang!

To those of you who have already given so generously, "Thank you!" We are so grateful for your generous support, and we hope you'll consider another gift to push us up and over the top.

To those who are still considering a donation, there's never been a better time than right now to make your pledge. Please remember that your support is not only tax deductible – it will also make a huge difference in the lives of our children and future generations of BHS students.

Thanks so much for all of your support. See you at Graduation!

Kim Maxwell
Director of the Annual Fund and Community Relations



2010 BHS Annual Spring Arts Festival & Alumni Day

This year's Annual Spring Arts Festival & Alumni Day was a smashing success from the opening Alumni Art Show featuring alumnus Tamarind Rossetti, to the very end when many stayed and danced the night away to the sounds of Greg Weiser's band "Sugar Cream!"

The food was deliciously prepared by our own BHS Chef Juarez and her very capable crew who put together a fresh, local, organic spread. We had good wine from a local organic winery-Casa Barranca and our fantastic bartender was none other than our school's accountant, Monica, from the business office.

Kelly Henschel, our Director of Instructional Support, worked hard to put together a really fun dessert idea with all of the fantastic baker/ donators who made yummy confectionery show pieces for our very successful cake auction.

The very best parts of the day were brought to us by our own BHS student artists and their very supportive faculty mentors. We were delighted by the play "Charlie's Aunt," and inspired by the student music, dance and visual art show in the new Beato Atelier. Even the numbers on the tables were made by our student artists as a part of their art curriculum.

Not enough thanks can be expressed for the volunteer help of our students, parents and faculty who worked so hard to make this year's Spring Arts Festival fun, festive and full of fundraising. It was a great time. Thanks to all!

Donita Coburn-Amadio
Director of Special Events and Parent Relations





2010 BHS AUCTION

Our Spring Arts Festival, with its music, theater, art shows, auctions and wish lists, brought in another flurry of funding totaling just over \$35,000. Several programs and systems we've all been hoping for became a reality when three incredibly generous BHS families granted our first ever "Teachers' Wish List."

- SmartBoards for every classroom were sponsored by the Doornink family.
- Questia, an extensive online library, was made possible by the Neher family.
- BrainPop, an engaging school-wide computer program, was granted by the Boyden family.

And thanks to a Yard Sale hosted by the Tuesday Morning Coffee Parent Group, and your continued support, we hope to see our final wish list item fulfilled in the near future:



A Fume Hood for the chemistry lab, which will allow our students to conduct more advanced experiments.

This school is a better place every day, because of you. Thank you!

Gratefully yours,

Kim Maxwell

Director of the Annual Fund and Community Relations



questia
school™

**Brain
POP**



A HUGE THANK YOU!

TO ALL OUR BHS FAMILIES WHO
DONATED ITEMS AND
HELPED US ORGANIZE OUR

BHS YARD SALE ON SATURDAY, MAY 15TH

TOGETHER, WE WERE ABLE TO RAISE

\$1,428

TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE SCIENCE LAB
FUME HOOD FOR THE SCHOOL

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

The Boyden Family
The Neville Family (friends of the school)
for their huge donations

Carolyn Olsen and
Juana Juarez
for their delicious baked goods,
baskets of organic produce and lemonade

Sina Conley
for organizing the 50/50 raffle

Guy Webster (winner of the 50/50 raffle)
for donating his winnings back to the school

Gary Charlwood
for his generous cash contribution

Eugenia Bostwick-Singer
Heide Boyden
Sina Conley

Morgan Flannery '12

Barbi Reed
Luisa Neher
Carolyn Olsen

for helping to organize and run the sale

We are off to a GREAT start, but we still need your help to make this wish a reality for our Science Department

HELP US WITH A CASH CONTRIBUTION

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of the Science Lab Fume Hood, please send your check, made out to "Besant Hill School" to:

Besant Hill School,
8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd., Ojai, CA 93023
Attn: Kim Maxwell

(Please make sure you indicate on your check that it is a restricted gift for the Science Lab Fume Hood)

THANK YOU!

Luisa Neher
BHS Parent Liaison



PROM NIGHT 2010
Photos by Marie Sampson





PROM NIGHT 2010
Photos by Marie Sampson





Poster by Griffin Davis '10

Chaos Change & Uncertainty

Experimentation in the Creative Process

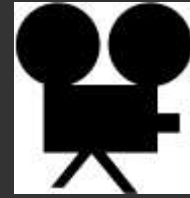
The BHS Advanced Visual Art class is exhibiting their installation, Chaos Change & Uncertainty, at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts, opening May 8 and running through graduation, May 29. Be sure to stop by and see these provocative explorations into the creative process.

What might appear at the beginning as chaos, contains a myriad of possibilities percolating coherence. "Chaologists" from Besant Hill School's advanced Visual Art class exhibit the Art-ifacts of their explorations into planned reckless abandon. Students began by creating situations where they had minimal control over the application of the first layer of paint. These chaotic beginnings inspired bold expeditions into the uncertain world of intuitive creativity, opening new pathways in their imaginations. This exhibition highlights the work of Griffin Davis, Julie Yu, Yue Yu, Pil-Jae Choi, Isabell Hong, and Ashley (Chih-Jo) Lui, under the guidance of Lucia Vinograd.

"Uncertainty and mystery are energies of life. Don't let them scare you, for they keep boredom at bay and spark creativity." R.I. Fitzhenry

<http://www.beatricewood.com/schedule.html>

Lucia Vinograd
Visual Arts Chair



DON'T MISS...

This year's
**FILM CLASS
PRESENTATION**

on

THURSDAY

MAY 27th

7:00 - 8:30 PM

at

THE ZALK THEATER

Film Class Students
will be reading
and/or screening their
scenes and films.

Brief discussion
to follow.

Eugenia Bostwick-Singer &
Ray Singer
Screenwriting/Production Teachers

"Manifestations"

An Evening of Theatre at the Zalk



Senior Alex Neher, after starring in three plays at BHS, with college acceptances to Emerson College, CalArts, and Boston University, will be producing an evening of theatre called *Manifestations*. Showcasing the talent of the Besant Hill students, alumni, and faculty (including Head of School, Paul Amadio), this will be the conclusion of Alex's Senior Capstone Project and his final tribute to the Besant Hill Theatre Department.

Manifestations will include a variety of scenes from plays such as *Speed-the-Plow* by David Mamet and *Married Bliss* by Mark O'Donnell, all produced and directed by Alex Neher and Scott Campbell. Alex Neher said: "Over the past two years the Theatre Department at Besant Hill has become my second family. I couldn't leave without one last goodbye."

Manifestations

is showing

on

May 21st and 22nd

at

7:00 pm

The Zalk Theatre
Besant Hill School

Come and enjoy
a splendid night of theatre!

Seniors' Schedule of Events May 2010



May 3-16	Capstone Projects
May 19-20	Capstone Presentations
May 20	Grad night at Disneyland (Depart campus in the evening)
May 21	Senior legacy tile making at The Beato Atelier (1:00 - 4:00pm)
May 21	"Manifestations" and "Best of Capstone" show
May 22	"Manifestations" Show
May 23	Senior Farewell
May 24-27	Senior Retreat
May 27	Graduation Rehearsal (1:00 pm)
May 27	Film Class Presentation (7:00 - 8:30 pm)
May 28	Appreciation Council (2:00 - 5:00 pm)
	Commendations dinner (5:30) followed by "Passing of the Flame Ceremony"
May 29	Graduation Ceremony



COMMENCEMENT 2010 Saturday, May 29, 2010 10:00 am

Following the long tradition of Happy Valley School, Besant Hill School of Happy Valley celebrates graduation in a beautifully unique way that is individually expressive for each graduate and their families.

Commencement will begin at 10:00 am. Seniors will line up in the Zalk music room by 9:30 am. Each graduate will speak for 2 minutes during the ceremony. All seniors will need to have a prepared, typewritten speech that will be presented to Paul or another designated person.

The commencement speaker this year is Karen Brown, creative director from the *Center for Ecoliteracy*

Karen Brown, *creative director*, is an award-winning designer who has worked with the Center for Ecoliteracy for over a decade. A former independent software developer and technologist, her exposure to concepts initially learned in IBM's usability laboratories instilled in her a life-long sensitivity to the human and environmental consequences of good and bad design. An early adopter of culturally sensitive, multi-disciplinary design practices, she has lectured on design-related topics in Japan and Europe. Today, Karen's primary area of creative interest is in communicating with general audiences on issues of ecological literacy, education, and re-localization. Her work has been included in the Smithsonian Institution and Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and featured in *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, and dozens of other popular and technical publications as well as NBC's *Today Show*.

The ceremony will last about 2 hours and will be followed by a Celebration Lunch and a Photo Show by Fran Collin featuring BHS graduates from the class of 2010.

SENIORS

Photos by Fran Collin



YANNICK ATANGA
Santa Clara University



DAN GROSBACH
University of Delaware



AARON BENETT
Undecided

“BHS gave me the opportunity to learn how to live life”
Yannick Atanga

“I most enjoyed the diversity at Besant Hill, not only in the student body, but in teaching and educational methods. It was rewarding to make the friendships I made and learn so much about this world, and about myself. I've been inspired by so many incredible mentors and peers, and these experiences are unforgettable. Also, a huge thanks to my family for pushing me to be the best I can be! BHS gave me the opportunity to open my eyes to such different things. Many of these events will be lifelong inspirations ”
Dan Grosbach



GRIFFIN DAVIS
Otis Art Institute



JIACHENG (KASON) CHEN
Pitzer College

“BHS is a place where you can be yourself. No matter who you are everyone becomes friends. You're not an outcast EVER. It's a place where teachers aren't JUST your teachers - you build relationships with them. You begin to think of them as good friends rather than teachers that you can actually share personal business with. It's not just a school it's a community. Things change in people. It brings out the butterflies that have been dying to break free.”
Lily Jensen



LILY JENSEN
Santa Barbara Community College

SENIORS

Photos by Fran Collin



ALEX KEY
Bard College



Yu-Cheng (Jonas) Lee
University of California,



LING LI
Cal Poly, Pomona

“I will miss Erica and Scott at BHS.”

Alex Key

“One of the things I liked the most about BHS is the fact that it allowed me find out what my talents and my strengths are, and how I can use them in the future to become successful and to be the best person I can be. Because this environment gave me a voice and an opportunity to be myself and to express my talents the way I wanted, I have a better idea now of who I am, and also who I am not. It is that maieutic effect that makes me feel like I’m ready now to go off to a bigger environment, to be what I’m destined to be. I am so grateful for that.”

Ivan Matip

“The best thing about BHS is all the dismembered mice and the grimacing faces in response to my horribly chaotic and intense taste in music. That always makes me happy!”

Ryan Mc Cauley

“Besant Hill let me draw on the school.”

Rick Meredith



IVAN MATIP
Undecided



RYAN MC CAULEY
Undecided



YUAN LU
Irvine Valley College



RICK MEREDITH
Northern Arizona University

SENIORS

Photos by Fran Collin



ARIANE MERKEL
Johnson State College



ALEX NEHER
Emerson College



GEORGIA METZ
Savannah College of Art & Design

“I cannot choose one best thing about BHS. It's more than one thing, it's everything. It's my heart, and all the love it holds.”

Georgia Metz

“BHS gave me the opportunity to take advantage of my curiosity and learn freely without the pressure to conform”

Madeline Mikkelson

“The thing I will miss most about BHS is how the teachers are more than just your educators; they're your mentors and your friends.”

Alex Neher



VICTORIA POLLOCK
San Francisco Art Institute

“Happy Valley has always allowed me to be myself intellectually, physically, and any other way. If I hadn't come to this school I would not be the well rounded individual I am today.”

Victoria Pollock



MADELINE MIKKELSON
Carnegie Mellon University

“My favorite part of BHS is the supportive faculty and all the amazing friends I have made and people I have met.”

Tate Reed-McDorman



TATE REED-MCDORMAN
Northern Arizona University

SENIORS

Photos by Fran Collin



JUN-MIN SUN
Life University

“BHS gave me the opportunity to learn in a supported environment.”
Natalie Wotman



JULIE YU
Otis Art Institute

“The thing I love most about BHS is its concerts, which provide me the chance to play music in front of people.”
Wen Bo Wu



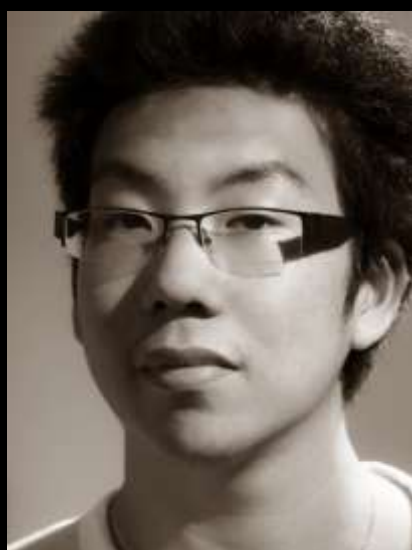
NATALIE WOTMAN
San Francisco State University

“BHS gave me the opportunity to enjoy the peaceful surroundings here.”
Xucheng Zhang



XUCHENG ZHANG
University of California, Irvine

“The thing I love most about BHS is the beautiful scenery here.”
Dolphin Zou



WEN BO WU
Worcester Polytechnic Institute



YUE YU
Undecided



YING JUN (DOLPHIN) ZOU
Penn State University

Staff / Faculty Highlights

Dane Whinnery

***Transportation Fleet Manager,
Resident Team Member, Habitat Crew
Leader, Bus Driver***



Where were you born?
Memphis, Tennessee.

Where were you before coming to BHS?
I was working for *Hill Billy Golf Trolleys* (Ventura, CA) and part-time at a golf course.

Where did you go to school?

I left junior college early on to pursue pro skateboarding and had factory sponsors for several years but it did not pan out and I had to get a real JOB. I plan on returning to college and I also promised my father I would graduate; it's a promise I intend to keep.

How/when did you first hear about BHS?

Rumors of a school that had Aldous Huxley as a founder had interested me because I was/am a huge fan of his writing. At the time I did not know the name of the school but I knew it was in Ojai. When I met my wife Dani, who was working here at the time, I asked her to tell me more. She mentioned Huxley and I then knew the name of the school and had to come visit. The rest is...

How long have you been teaching / working at BHS?

I started in October of 2005.

Tell us the ONE thing you like best about BHS.

I enjoy the concerts the best - all of them.

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

To be as present as possible and as a mission - just to do the best job I can at any given task that is in front of me.

Who is someone you admire? Why?

John Steinbeck, John Prine, John Lennon, John Malkovich. That should take care of the Johns. I could go on for days with the list of people that inspire me. The reasons being mostly of creative genius and human insight with the understanding of faults and humor.

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

Short term - to see the pool installed. Long term - to see the school continue to grow while continuing to examine and understand the founders' reasons for starting a school like this.

Is there anything else you would like to mention?

T-minus 4.5 months till lift off of our new baby, nicknamed Piggy Bank.

Dane's advice to BHS students:

"Unlearn slavery to technology and use it as a tool to be put away at the end of the day. Re-learn reliance on self and awareness of life and how much we all take for granted, starting with acknowledging the present moment and immersion in it."

Staff / Faculty Highlights

Juana Juarez

Director of Food Services

Where were you born?

Fresnillo, Zacatecas, Mexico.

Where were you before coming to BHS?

I had just sold my restaurant in San Diego and was traveling the coast of California. I decided to return to Ojai where my children were born.

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

Universidad Autonoma de Baja California UBC, Sociology; Tante Culinary School San Francisco, CA; Marilau Cooking School in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico; Cuernavaca Morelos Cooking School, Mexico. I became a Certified Chef through the American Culinary Federation.

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

I had the opportunity to enroll my son as an art student. When I visited the school I found out they were hiring...

How long have you been teaching / working at BHS?

I have enjoyed working at BHS for seventeen years.

Tell me the ONE thing you like best about BHS.

I have always enjoyed the lovely interaction I and the faculty have with the students. The personal approach and "family feel" in an environment that is enduring and warm.

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

I would like the students to be more involved in their daily culinary decisions, preparation and education. My mission is to further BHS's goal to become a leader in the idea of a sustainable existence and to help promote and support that endeavor.

Who is someone you admire? Why?

Mother Teresa. I admire her because of her belief in supporting the poor people of the planet. She talked in her biography of a "call within a call." I believe, like she did, that we are all blessed with some attributes and that it should be our pledge to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

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

As a mother of two children who are graduates of the school I am hopeful that the School is able to continue to provide an avenue where artists and professionals can mentor students and provide an environment of expression. My son, who is a concert pianist, was inspired by the school teacher who said that, "You always carry talent, even if the instrument is broken."



*Juana's advice
to students:*

**"Follow your voice
and pursue with
passion."**



*Is there anything else you
would like to mention?*

The children of the School have always been my inspiration. When events or situations in my life weigh me down it is always a kind word or gentle smile of the students that brings me back. I will always appreciate the warmth and light of the students of BHS.



Georgia's
"Head of School"
Day
April 26, 2010
Photos by Kim Maxwell





PROJECT DAY April 16, 2010

BHS Community joins forces to make our campus even more beautiful!



Besant Hill School of Happy Valley Outdoor Education Program Research Study

As a parent, you hear about Fall Trips to Kings Canyon, and weekend trips to Joshua Tree, Big Bear, and the Channel Islands. Now is your chance to learn more about these experiences, and share your thoughts with the Outdoor Education Program! What do these experiences mean to your students, and how do the skills they learn through their participation in the OEP transfer to their daily lives at BHS and beyond? A research study is being conducted by Amy McCann, Director of Outdoor Education, on the long-term impacts of the Outdoor Education Program at Besant Hill School of Happy Valley. All interested parents can volunteer to participate in an online survey and/or an interview with Amy on

campus or over the phone during the month of May. Your decision to participate is greatly appreciated and completely voluntary. The goal of this study is to offer insight, with your assistance, to provide more effective experiences to Besant Hill School students in the future. Thank you for your time and support of the Outdoor Education Program at Besant Hill School of Happy Valley. Happy Trails!

Amy Mc Cann
Director of Outdoor Education

Please click on the link below to participate:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LifeEffectivenessTransferSurveyParents>





BHS TENNIS TEAM

Recently the boys played Cate, Villanova and Thacher.

We won a few matches every time we played. We played both singles and doubles. It has been such a heartwarming season for me. These boys (most of which have never picked up a racquet before) practiced hard every day, competed in matches and gave it their all. We competed against schools that had teams that were quite accomplished. We were always right in the match. They have big hearts and have a love for their newfound game!

They made me proud every day!

Kim Reichenbach
Varsity Tennis Coach



BHS Calendar of Events

May 2010

Monday, May 3 - Friday, May 21
Senior Capstone Projects
Various locations

Saturday, May 8 - Saturday, May 29
“Chaos, Change and Uncertainty”
Art Exhibition
Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts

Thursday, May 6 - Friday, May 7
Junior Retreat

Monday, May 10
LA County Museum of Art Outing
Los Angeles

Monday, May 10
Condor League Meal
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Beato Atelier

Wednesday, May 12
Institutional TOEFL for all students
in ESL classes

Thursday, May 13
Getty Center Outing
10:00 am - 5:30 pm
Los Angeles

Sunday, May 16
Humanities Fair

Wednesday, May 19 - Friday, May 20
Capstone Presentations

Thursday, May 20
Seniors' Grad Night at Disneyland
Anaheim

Friday, May 21
Senior Legacy Tile Making
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Beato Atelier

Friday, May 21
“Best of Capstone” - 7:00 pm
“Manifestations” Show - 8:00 pm
Zalk Theatre

Saturday, May 22
“Manifestations” Show
7:00 pm
Zalk Theatre

Sunday, May 23
Senior Farewell

Monday, May 24 - Thursday, May 27
Finals / Senior Retreat Week

Thursday, May 27
Graduation Rehearsal - Seniors
1:00 pm

Thursday, May 27
Film Class Presentation
7:00pm - 8:30 pm
Zalk Theatre

Friday, May 28
Appreciation Council (2:00 - 5:00 pm)
Commendations Dinner (5:30pm)
Torch Ceremony (following Dinner)
2:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 29
Graduation Ceremony
10:00 am
Upper Green

Saturday, May 29
Summer Break begins

Saturday, June 12 - Sunday, June 27
Experiential Ed trip to Italy

LOOKING AHEAD...

August 30
Student Leadership Arrives
Sept 1
Registration For All Students
Sept 2-3
Orientation and Assessments
Sept 4
Beach Day
Sept 6
First Day of Class

Parent Liaison Committee

Luisa Neher (Alex '10)

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Newsletter Committee

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This is the last
Parents' Newsletter for
the 2009-2010
school year.
Have a great summer!

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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

