



Issue #27

BERKELEY TIMES



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Our recent Board Listening sessions have been very insightful and I genuinely appreciate parents who were able to visit and provide feedback. This information allows us to continue to develop our academic program to meet the specific needs of our learning community. One question asked was regarding the soft skills we promote at Berkeley through our Learner Profile, PRIDE: Passionate, Resilient, Inquisitive, Dedicated, and Ethical. There seems to be the notion that developing these traits is at the cost of academic rigor, but I would argue that the two are not mutually exclusive. In fact, colleges are now viewing these types of traits as critical to the role of schools and even prioritizing them in college admission. In a recent report submitted by a consortium of colleges and universities led by Harvard, it was indicated that the future of college admissions should be reframed with recommendations made in three core areas:

- Promoting more meaningful contributions to community
- Assessing students' ethical engagement and contributions to others; and
- Redefining achievement in ways that reduce excessive achievement pressure.

I'm not suggesting that the only reason we want to build a school community that embraces and models these tenets is to support college admission. It is critical that teachers and parents recognize these traits with equal emphasis that is placed on good grades and test scores. These values are important because they are the foundation for children to establish character principles that center on creating an enriching life for themselves and a better world for others.

For the Lions,
Lisa Johnson, PhD
Berkeley Head of School

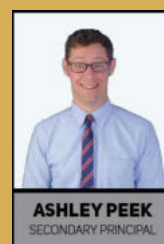


Even though the fall semester is now winding down, the college admissions season is still roaring along at full pace. One of the features of this time of year is the SAT test, which is administered three times a year at Berkeley. In October a number of Berkeley students took the first SAT we offered this year, and I thought it would be good to share the results with our broader school community.

- The average score for Berkeley test takers was 59 points higher than the global average
- 90% of Berkeley test takers scored in the top half of all SAT test takers globally
- 50% of Berkeley test takers scored in the top quarter of all test takers globally
- 20% of Berkeley test takers scored above 1400, which puts them in the top 5 percent of test takers globally.
- All of the test takers scoring above 1400 have spent their entire high school career at Berkeley - they are true products of our system

While SAT scores are not a perfect measure of a student's knowledge or ability, they are an important consideration for most college admissions officers. We are incredibly proud of our students and their achievement on the SAT. They have shown that Berkeley students are not only above average, but compare well with the best students in the world.

Ashley Peek
Secondary Principal



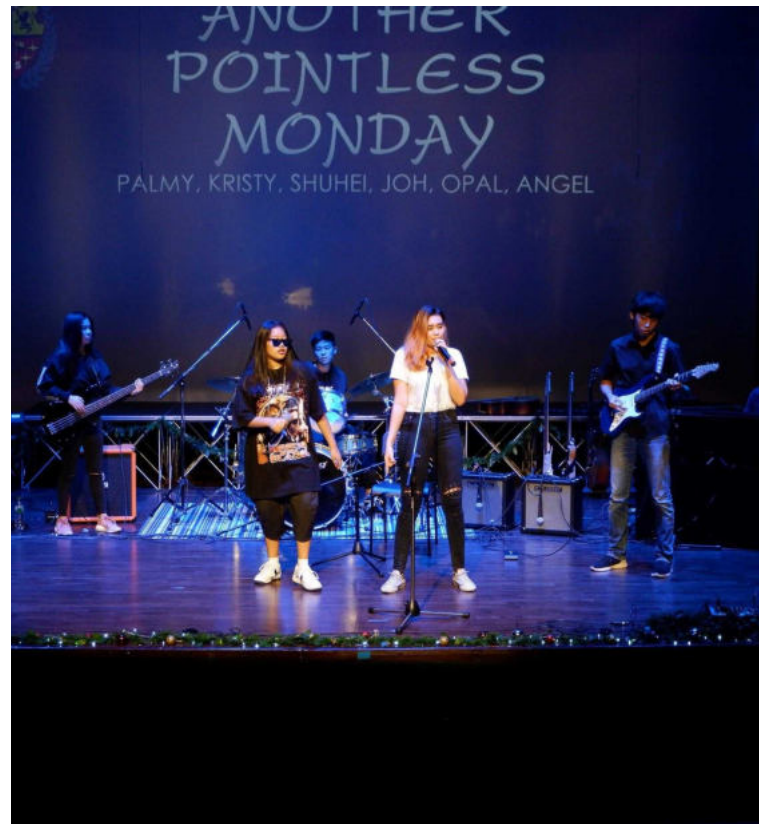
It is this time every year that I enjoy my job the most: Musicals, sports days, spelling bees, and end of semester report cards, to name just a few of the many things happening at Berkeley at the moment. Yes, it is a busy time of year, but what I love about this period are the wealth of opportunities that are presented to our students to shine. Not all students will be exceptional athletes, or musicians, or scholars, or spellers, or coders, or environmentalists. But, what every student has at Berkeley is the chance to try something new and shine.

It is precisely this opportunity to be involved in a range of differing activities, events and teams that creates a well-rounded child. And that, of course, is our aim, to develop today's students into tomorrow's leaders and workers, who will change the world. So, enjoy the craziness that this season inevitably brings, knowing that your child is growing and developing, by taking chances, trying new things, and shining in whatever it is that interests them. Happy Christmas, all!

Jake Varley
Elementary Principal



Battle of the Bands







Pre-K Friends



The Prek class has been so curious this quarter! The first quarter we were focusing on our new school routines. This quarter we have enjoyed making new friends and playing more with each other in the classroom and outside. We are learning how to share to take turns and also how to start using words to talk to our new friends.

We have been learning about the great outdoors! We dug through dirt to find different bugs and insects and we also had caterpillars that turned into beautiful orange butterflies. Our Prek friends are experts at finding all the butterflies around campus. The last couple of weeks we have been planting and looking at different types of seeds. We love to use magnifying glasses to look closely at different things we find. The students went on a nature hunt around the playground and found a lot of different leaves and we made them into paintbrushes for the students to use in art. We dug for seeds in the different kinds of fruit we like to eat and also used that fruit to paint with. Our Prek friends love messy play and are always looking for ways to get our hands dirty and explore!



K1 Growing



The K1 students continue to learn and grow by exploring, inquiring, and playing in imaginative ways! This quarter we have been learning all about "The Great Outdoors". We learned about the life cycle of a butterfly by watching the incredible transformation of a caterpillar to butterfly, and discovered what they like to eat and where butterflies live. The K1s were also risk takers this quarter as we got our hands dirty while planting in our school garden, and as we searched through the soil for critters like wiggly worms and slimy snails. It has been exciting watching living things grow and change, like our little seedlings. We look forward to enjoying the herbs and vegetables when we return after Christmas break.





K2

Blooming



We are growing and blooming in K2! We started off our great outdoor adventure with the help of our little caterpillar friends. At first, we weren't too sure what would be the outcome of our little experiment, but with lots of tender love and care (and leaves), our caterpillars grew bigger and turned into chrysalides. After a few days of waiting, our chrysalides turned into beautiful Monarch butterflies! It was such an exciting and astonishing experience among our K2 friends! While we loved learning about butterflies, our inquisitive K2 bunch had bigger questions and one of them was, "When we let the butterflies go, what will they eat in our garden?" It was the perfect opportunity for us to talk about plants and why they are important for all of us! We got our hands dirty and started planting different kinds of seeds like flowers, herbs, pumpkins and roots. With water, sunlight and little green thumbs, we are all excited to see our lovely playground grow into a lush and healthy learning area!



K3

Investigating



In K3T and K3J, we have been investigating a fascinating new unit called "The Great Outdoors," including many different topics related to the natural world. We have talked about camping and hiking, animals and insects, being conscientious and taking care of the land, water and air and of course we've talked about how we can help to make a world a cleaner and better place! Each week, we tried our best with reading, writing and math skills to help us learn about the great outdoors! We also enjoyed our first field trip of the academic year-a fun little jaunt to Nong Bon Water Park for a nature walk! We collected many natural treasures we found in our walking path. We discovered shells, bones, beautiful birds, webs, giant pods full of seeds, millipedes.... the list goes on and on! Alongside our diligent discovery of outdoor wonders, we are about to jump into our holiday preparation! We are ready for more fun, more learning and more opportunities here in our last year in Kindergarten!





Kinder Thai

Letters and Culture

Students are encouraged to learn Thai by doing fun activities and crafts related to Thai letters and Thai cultural topics (loy krathong, songkran festivals, etc.). Also they will learn to speak, read and practice writing Thai letters and words through activities. And they will get a chance to listen Thai stories and Thai songs, and be able to say essential phrases and easy instructions in Thai. Such as, "sawasdee" (hello), "khob khun" (thank you), "khor thod" (sorry), "ra bye see" (color the pictures), clean, write, etc. Students will also improve their fine motor and concentration during activities provided (writing, coloring, molding, crafting). This helps students to be nice and calm doing things by themselves with courage imaginatively.



Elementary Thai

Thai Grammar & Writing

Learning Thai from out of the book!!

Wow! The time flies so fast!! It nears the New Year again. It's time to say "Sa wad dee wan pui mai ka!!"

This quarter all elementary students learn more about language and culture. First and second graders studied about Thai vowel and Thai Flag and Thai anthem song. Some of our activities we did it through our hands - cut glue stick search think click - that's so amazing!

Third and fourth graders studied about Thai grammar. It's hard but we can do it! We also learn Royal Anthem song, Thai flowers and the Royal projects of King Rama IX and X. We are so proud of our Kings!

Fifth graders prepared themselves to be the Middle school students. We learn more Thai grammar and Thai writing such as opinion writing and information writing. We use more technology to do our best work. That's so fun when we start finding the Thai letters on the keyboard. New experience!!

Hope all of you have a great holiday!!! See you after Pui Mai ka!





Grade 1



Publishing Party

In First Grade, our students are introduced to The Teachers College Writing Workshop model. During Writing Workshop, the children become Authors and Illustrators of many different types of writing. Using the foundations of the curriculum, students see that writing is a craft, and they will enjoy learning how to become better writers through hard work and practice. Students are not assigned specific topics, but have the flexibility to choose to write about what matters to them, within the guidelines of the specific genre of study.

At the beginning of the year, students began writing personal narratives, focusing on a small moment. The children learned about the writing process from beginning to end. Which includes; planning, drawing, writing, editing and finally publishing their work. At the end of the unit, we celebrated by having a publishing party! The students were excited to share their personal narratives with their parents, family and teachers. It was a fun time for everyone!



Grade 2



Busy Bodies

The 2nd quarter has gone by so fast and the Berkeley second graders have been very busy both in and outside the classroom. In Reading we have been exploring nonfiction and informational books and learning how to use their unique text features.

In Writing we learned how to write "how to" writings by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in class! We also learned how to write friendly letters, just in time for the holidays.

In Math we have been working on place value and all the different ways that numbers can be represented. In the last few weeks we have been working on adding and subtracting 2 digit numbers with regrouping.

In Science we learned about the 3 states of Matter and how they make up the world around us and in Soc. Studies we discussed the idea of government around and even had our own class election.

In addition to all the excitement in the classroom the Berkeley second graders also; celebrated World Outdoor Learning Day with tons of fun eco friendly activities, recognized Loy Krathong with a school carnival and krathong making, participated in the Elementary Spelling Bee with three of our students going on to represent our school at the KPIS Spelling Bee.

It has been quite a quarter and we are ending 2019 on an incredibly high note. We hope everyone has a lovely holiday and we are looking forward to an even more excitement in 2020!



Grade 3

Grade 3 has been learning about a variety of things this quarter! In Science we have been investigating fossils through articles and webquests. Students were amazed that a trace fossil has to be at least 10,000 years old to be considered a fossil! They also enjoyed learning how paleontologists use fossils to learn about animals. Scientists learned that Bear Dogs had strong jaws and could defeat animals larger than themselves because of their strength.

In Social Studies, students have been learning about Vikings. The Vikings were amazing ship builders, explorers, raiders, and navigators. They created tools such as the bearing circle which helped them find latitude while they were sailing. They also created long boats that were shallow enough to help them sail up rivers to raid nearby towns. The students had so much fun building things from Viking times!

In LA, students have been reading Kate Messner novels. They have really enjoyed reading a chapter book for their guided reading! They have also been improving their writing skills as they are bringing to life their own personal narrative. They have been learning how to use dialogue and descriptive adjectives to create an engaging, and usually funny, story to entertain their friends.

There is always something exciting happening in Grade 3.



Grade 4

Middle Ages & Multiplication

Quarter 2 has been a whirlwind of learning in Grade 4! In our Literacy classes, students have been developing their writing craft in our realistic fiction unit. Students spent weeks creating believable characters, dramatic climaxes, and meaningful resolutions so that their stories captivate their readers. Students have also been reading realistic fiction books to see how professional writers have made their characters come to life. Studying the pros is a great way to grow our writing skills! To celebrate their hard work, students were able to perform dramatic readings of their stories at our literary cafe event (with treats!).

In Math, we've been exploring different ways of solving multiplication problems by adding tools to our multiplication toolkit, such as area models. These tools help students make sense of multiplication on a deeper level and prepare them for more advanced math later on. Now we are ready to take on division!

In History, we are traveling back in time to the Middle Ages. We've started in Europe where students are learning about how the fall of the Roman Empire changed society. Everyone is eager to learn more about lords, knights, serfs, and what life was like in the not-so-Dark Ages. When we come back from break, we'll explore what happened in China and West Africa during the Middle Ages.

It's been a busy and fun quarter, and we can't wait to come back from our holidays refreshed and ready to learn!



Grade 5

Action Packed

In fifth grade, we have had an amazing, action-packed, fun-filled second quarter. In Math class, we created our own restaurants and used menus to work with decimal operations. In writing class, we finished our personal narrative stories and shared them with our classes. In Science class, we had an egg drop challenge and learned about the scientific method. Then, we had our Science Fair and showed off all of our hard work. We had so much fun parading with our countries on International day. We also got all dressed up for Halloween in funny and spooky costumes.

Finally, to finish off this quarter, we went on an overnight trip, where we got to cruise the Chao Phraya River and do really interesting investigations! Now, we are just preparing for Seussical, which we are so excited for. We can't wait to see what the second semester brings!



Library

Parent Volunteers

Our library serves the entire student population K-12 as well as faculty, staff and parents. There are currently 13,695 books in our library and 2,108 of those are checked out. Kindergarten classes come to the library once a week for story time and to borrow books. Elementary classes come once a week to borrow books. Secondary students come at different times for classes or to study or read. I would like to extend an invitation to parents who would like to volunteer to help in the library. It would be beneficial to me and our students. You could also learn about the library and even practice speaking English if you're interested. You could help me with library classes as well as cataloging books. To catalog books they need to be entered into a database and then labeled. I have appreciated having parent volunteers in the past and look forward to having more in the future. You are invited to stop by just to have a look and to borrow a book if you like. Thank you.



We're very excited to be developing Berekey's first-ever FACS class. Never heard of it? That's short-hand for Family And Consumer Sciences, which used to be known as Home Economics. Essentially, our 11th and 12th graders are learning independent living skills as they prepare to launch onto their own as they leave high school. They're also getting exposure to the world of work and associated careers. They've had fun developing their skills in the field of culinary arts: from kitchen sanitation essentials to preventing food poisoning; from safely and efficiently using chef's knives to planning a meal for 20 people; from preparing breakfast to making cookies, from operating blenders to create fruit and vegetable smoothies to learning how to use a microwave to safely defrost meat. They recently learned the basics of threading a needle and using basting- and back-stiches, and immediately applied their skills to assist with the costuming for the elementary musical, *Seussical*. Next semester we'll continue to expand these skills and also explore child development and basic home repair, including creating the set for the high school musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, while applying that knowledge to their first apartment or dorm rooms.



Seussical The Musical, Kids!

Thank you to everyone who helped put together the Elementary annual musical, *Seussical the Musical*! This musical weaves together many of Dr. Seuss's beloved characters, such as: Cat in the Hat, the Grinch, the Whos, the Wickersham Brothers and Horton the Elephant. As every elementary student contributed through music, set design, and perhaps acting, we became very invested into this production as a community. We were all inspired by this story of friendship, loyalty, and love. Thank you to everyone who came to support us and join in the fun, as Horton and Gertrude risked everything to save the tiny world of Whos and restore peace to the Jungle of Nool.



Oh! The Places You'll Go

Art



In primary, we have painting,
and mothers and fathers been fainting.
To see the paint has burst
all over their children's shirt!

Parents, we are sorry,
and we don't want you to worry.
So, send me an oversize shirt
that you don't mind a paint squirt.

While we prepared for the big musical,
we have been getting very Seussical!

All the 2nd grade made a wish,
that they could paint a funny fish.

The 3rd grade paid their dues,
and painted houses just like the "Who's."

4th grade spent many hours,
painting lovely leaves and flowers.

The 5th grade were so happy,
to paint their Seuss-style bush and tree.

Making the backdrop for the show was really fun,
but we had to build and paint a ton.

We hope you enjoyed the brilliant sight,
With many colors so bold and bright.

Now take home your paintings and hang it on your wall
To remind you of the hard work you did this fall.

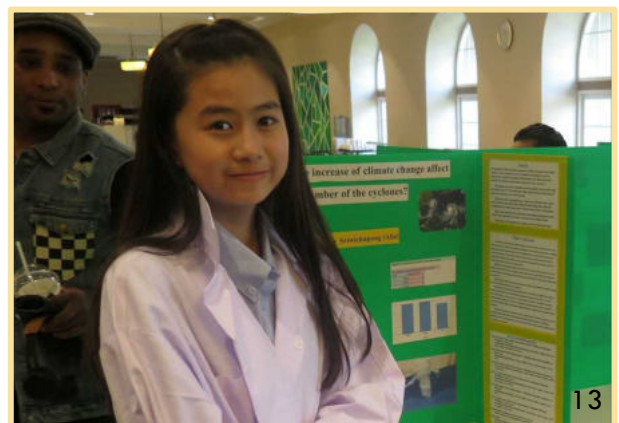
Everyone has played their part, In making so much beautiful art!



Halloween



Science Week



Grade 6

Building Up Skills

Quarter two just flew by! During this quarter, 6th grade practiced writing cuneiform in Ms. Jenna's class, learned about positive and negative numbers in math, and finalized their science fair projects! In Social Studies, 6th grade students have been learning about the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia. The first writing system was created here and it was called cuneiform! The 6th graders practiced their ancient writing skills at the end of the semester by creating their own cuneiform clay tablet. Mr. Chase also did art with this students! The 6th graders have been learning about positive and negative numbers and relating them to grids. The students put their skills to the test when they created a Harry Potter picture by only using a coordinate grid! It looks like there has been fun projects in middle school classrooms, but one project out did them all. Science fair!

The 6th grade students presented to multiple Berkeley staff members and parents who judged their presentation skills and their science fair board. Both parents and teachers, proudly watched students discuss their research topics. The research and experiment process developed students analytical, organizational, and research skills. And presenting at the science fair allowed students to build confidence, act professional, and practice public speaking. Not only did 6th grade do an AMAZING job with their science fair projects, but they also looked amazing; they were also voted BEST DRESS! Way to finish the quarter strong 6th grade.



Grade 7

Halfway Through

Have you ever felt like something would never end and then one day it was over? Grade 7 students just had that experience with Science Fair. Students were able to work through a pondering of a real life matter, find research to guide them, and then test out what they found. The students did an awesome job! If you were not able to make it for a viewing, you missed a real treat. Grade 7 students were voted "best presentation" overall. It was a long, hard road and for many it felt years away, but now they are left wondering what is next in Science. They are no strangers to this feeling, though, as Mr. Chase guided students through a Smoothie Project in which students were able to use both simple and complex math outside the context of academia and into the real world. Social Studies saw the students work from India developing their own Caste System to Mesoamericans, like the Incas and Aztec. Students close the quarter with a "Floating Garden" project, indicative of the culture. That "Floating Garden" will also be used in Science to explore the needs of plants and the sustainability of crops within a floating garden and will lead further into the third quarter. ELA also saw a tie to Social Studies this year while students read "The Outsiders." The divisions and social ranking in this book undoubtedly played a role when the students built their caste system in Social Studies. Grade 7 students, I hope you are ready as third quarter is just around the corner and you will be 75% of the way to Grade 8 expectations! You are doing great! Show your PRIDE!



Grade 8

The Pride of Middle School



This has been an exciting first semester for middle school, but especially the eighth graders. In Science of course, the students just completed the Science Fair, and all of the judges and visitors were in agreement that the science and information presented this year, most notably by grade 8, far exceeded all expectations. Middle school students demonstrated their leadership skills by planning and operating carnival games for the school-wide Loy Krathong event. Also, in grade 8 English Language Arts we are finishing up a novel study for the book The Misfits, during which, they formed political parties, and had an election. They campaigned for issues that they would like to address at Berkeley. Ms. Lisa and Mr. Ashley were in attendance at the campaign speeches to take note of all their suggestions. Our eighth grade students are not only becoming more responsible students, but learning to be global citizens who will use their voices to improve their community. We all look forward to watching these young leaders grow as they complete the last semester in middle school, and blossom into high schoolers.

Grade 9

Strong Challengers

Ninth graders are well into their transition to high school; early on they recognized the increased workload but, as they rise to these new challenges, they are discovering that they are learning more than they ever expected.

This year's 9th graders are a high-flying group, with over half already on the advanced math and English tracks and many are taking leadership roles throughout the high school: from participating in MUN and Math Olympiads to filming for Berkeley TV, from playing varsity sports to performing in the school musical.

Ninth grade geometry students recently used the four different centers of triangles to triangulate buried treasure on a pirate's map and will build on these skills next semester as they study the angle of elevation and bullet trajectory. They will replicate the job of "blood spatter analysts" as they use trigonometry to analyze crime scenes.

The theme for their English classes is an apropos "Coming of Age", as they examine how writers use stylistic choices to create the voices of characters who are going through life-changing experiences. As they delve further into "writer's craft", they're enjoying analyzing the three types of irony and experimenting with figurative language. The classic American novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" are focal points, as are short stories by authors such as Alice Walker, Edgar Allan Poe, Luis Rodriguez, Eugenia Collier, and non-fiction investigations into the Great Depression and Jim Crow laws.



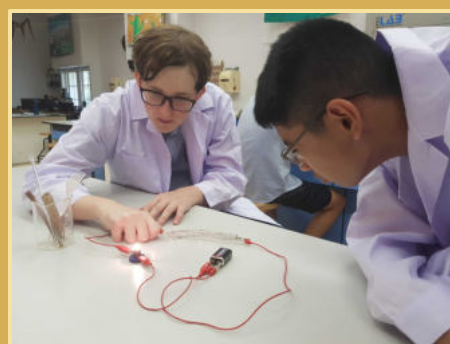
Grade 10

All About Atoms

Q. Why can you never trust an atom?
A. Because they make up everything.

Semester 1 has been very busy in Chemistry as Grade 10 grappled with the fundamentals of particle theory and atomic structure and bonding. The year commenced with a grounding in particle theory in order to be able to explain why substances have particular properties such as boiling points, melting points and solubility to name a few. This knowledge was then applied to various forms of separating techniques, such as chromatography and making copper sulphate crystals as seen in the photos. The structure of the atom was then studied before learning about the different kinds of bonding between atoms and how this relates to the properties of various compounds.

The semester has concluded with learning how to write chemical formulae, balance chemical equations and the concept of the mole, which hopefully hasn't blinded them so that they want to hide under ground! We look forward to next semester where we will have many experiments to enjoy as we learn about the rates of reactions, acids and bases, the reactivity series of metals, electrochemistry and organic chemistry.



Grade 11

Involved Students

It's been a busy quarter for this year's grade 11's! Senior year is just around the corner and academic life is starting to take a priority; many of our grade 11's are starting to feel the pressure with their finals coming up, the challenges of their AP classes and SAT's to think about. But it's not all doom and gloom! In preparation for university, our students have been attending college fairs, like the one at Regents:

They have really enjoyed going on their field trips, like the Thai Field trip and going to the Science Museum with Mr Shobhit. Grin Green is a social enterprise that many grade 11's have been involved in, and through their work and efforts our students have had some great days out, the beach clean up as well as taking part in conferences like the Service conference at ICS. They also spoke at the UN on plastic pollution and how we should be doing more for the planet and our futures!

While they are spending so much time outside of school on projects and thinking about university, they are still able to enjoy their time in school. International day was a great opportunity for students to connect with each other, share their culture and experience foods from all over the world. Berkeley placed third for the first time ever in Varsity Boys Football, which the whole team are really proud of! So all in all, it's been a great first semester! Well done guys!





Quarter two was very busy for our secondary here at Berkeley. From college fairs to field trips, sporting events to musical ventures, the weeks came and went leaving us feeling very productive. Our middle school students did an amazing job in their science fair week, we are so proud of their hard work and dedication to very well thought out experiments and research. Sixth graders are growing and learning what it is like to be in middle school. Seventh graders are feeling a bit more adjusted to the middle school life and doing a very good job staying on track in their classes. The eighth graders are learning that very soon they will be in high school and it is time to take things a bit more serious. With the 2019-2020 school year half-way over, we have only begun to scratch the surface of what is to come.

In high school, our seniors have been working hard on their college applications. Not only are they trying to figure out where and what it is they want to study, but they must also work hard to keep their grades up. Juniors have been able to get a taste of what they will be working on next year with multiple college fairs and workshop experiences, tagging along with our seniors. We've really been encouraging all of our grades 9-11 to start their college thought process by discussing this during parent/teacher conferences week and the various fairs and university talks we've had. High school is more than just hard work in class and good grades, students have been encouraged to get involved in extracurriculars such as sports, bands/music and volunteer work. We are so blessed here at Berkeley to have such a supportive family. I can not wait to see what the second half of the year brings.

Grade 12

College Prep

As the semester comes to a close, the Seniors are in the last leg of their school life and about to begin life on their own. Busy with all college applications, multiple subjects assignments and projects, we had time to make a trip to the science museum and have many activities in the microeconomics class.

This semester students have completed their study of demand and supply and now understand why there is a high supply of assignments but low supply of grades! Our Physics champs continue to work hard in order to take head-on the AP exams challenge around the corner in May, 2020.

Off the academics, students continue to evolve participating in social projects, sports and events. Students have launched a new website weswear.org and have designed merchandise and are actively creating awareness about the environment and its preservation. Seniors also organised a Barbecue, attended multiple college fairs and took a field trip to Baan Silapin in Thonburi.

With some of our Seniors starting to get their confirmations at Universities, we all wish them good luck for the last semester of their high school and success with their college applications.

Counselor

Corner



Exploring Thai Culture

Ms/HS Thai

In this quarter, Middle and High school students had done a lot of work. In Thai class, all of the secondary Thai native class studied about Thai grammar to practiced and improved their communication skills. Non-native Thai class learned about “My family” unit that They need to know how to pronounce Thai words and some conversations in Thai.

For Thai culture, this quarter has a lot of Thai field trips went out. Grade 9 went to the Bank of Thailand museum and Pipit Bang Lampu museum to learn about Thailand's history. Grade 10 students had a field trip at Koh Kret to learned about Thai art and made their own Hanuman mask. Grade 11 students went to Thai wax museum and Siriraj museum.

Moreover, Seniors already had two Thai field trips at Thai Boat Museum, Wat Chai Wattanaram, Taling Chan floating market and artist's house.

This second-quarter run very fast. It almost the New Year's holidays. Wish you all have a wonderful holiday!



Shopping, Jobs & Pets

Mandarin

Our Mandarin students have been busy with learning Mandarin language and experiencing Chinese culture in this quarter.

G6 has finished the first unit of self-introduction, and are in the second unit of introducing their family. They have made many colorful family boards with popsicle sticks. Now they're on the “pet” lesson and working on making cute pet books.

G7 also finished their first unit about jobs. Now they are in the middle of unit 2, talking about hobbies. They've learned many new words about sports, and had a lot of fun when we play class games, like Gimkit and Peardeck, to practice using vocabulary and sentence structures.

G8 finished the “shopping” unit, which is closely related to their life. Now the new unit about weather has started. They will learn words and sentences to describe seasons and weather, and will do a research about China and Thailand's year-round climate.

HS Mandarin 1 class have learned how to write a simple resume in Chinese, HS Mandarin 2 classes are now learning the topic of health, which will cover seeing a doctor, traditional Chinese medicine, healthy and unhealthy food, and nutrition. In the HS Mandarin 3 class students use a textbook which will prepare them for the HSK test level 3, and watch a modern Chinese series about traditional Chinese families regularly. Besides classroom studies, HS Mandarin classes also have made delicious dumplings together in the school kitchen, from mixing the pork filling, to wrapping their own dumplings and pan-frying.

All elementary and secondary Mandarin students have started to prepare a performance for the Chinese new year carnival. We're very excited to see them highly participated in all the classroom learning and extracurricular activities.



Music

Strumming Away

It's been another fantastically musical time in quarter 2. We've had so many performances going on. Middle School students represented Berkeley at the Patana Orchestra Festival and both Middle and High School students played in the AISAA Orchestra day. Closer to home, Middle School joined together to present a festive Winter Concert in which they all played their instruments and sang together as one large choir. The High Schoolers weren't going to be out done though, and they put on the third annual Battle of the Bands show. Thank you to everyone who came to watch and congratulations to all our performers! You never cease to amaze me with your talents and commitment.



Fitness Fun

PE

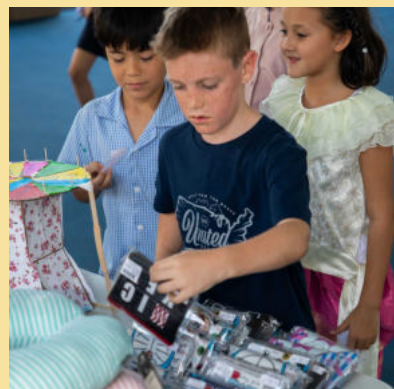


Middle school students have been working hard to reach a high fitness level this semester. They have been building stamina and endurance through aerobic activities such as swimming and running. These exercises strengthen your heart and lungs, making it easier for your body to move blood and oxygen and exercise for longer periods of time.

They have also been building muscles through anaerobic exercises such as jumping and sprinting. The best way to build muscles at this age is to use your own body resistance with exercises such as push-ups and stomach crunches. This will help increase your core strength which in turn takes pressure off your joints and gives you better freedom of movement.

Berkeley students always take pride in being in great shape and it shows on and off the field.

Loy Krathong





Academic Team

Berkeley has ventured on participating in academic competitions in various subject areas and have identified five events for this year. We are already done with two and preparing for the next one coming up in December.



All students that participate in one or more of these competitions are a part of the Berkeley Academic Team and have an academic team t-shirt they can wear every Wednesday to school, so you will see our champs around the campus, GO LIONS!!!

Model UN (Oct'19):

The Berkeley Team undertook it's first organised overseas trip to Singapore in October where 9 students took part at the Oxford Model United Nations organised by the current and former students of Oxford University UK. The event had discussions and debates along with some Q&A sessions for students to identify pathways to Oxford and other major universities. Ennio, Erina & James got awards at this conference that had about 300 students from all over South East Asia.



Upcoming Events

Dec 14-Jan 6 - No School

Feb 10 - No School - Makha Bucha

Jan 9 - Wai Kru Day

Feb 11-14 - Wellness Week

Jan 18 - Chinese New Year Carnival

March 2-6 Berkeley Book Bonanza

Jan 27-28 No School - Lunar New Year

March 16-18 - Student Led Conferences

