

BERKELEY TIMES

Issue #25






TABLE of Contents

1

Administrator's Corner

2-3

Chinese New Year

4-5

Kindergarten

6-7

Kinder/Elem. Thai - G1 - G2

8-9

G3 - G4 - G5 - DJ Club

10-11

Drama - Art - IT - Military

12-13

Book Week-Wai Kru-Safety Week

14-15

G6 - G7 - G8 - G9

16-17

G10 - G11 - G12 - Counselor

18-19

MS/HS Thai - PE - Music - Chess

20-21

Former Students

It has been a fabulous three quarters at Berkeley and the fourth should round out really well with our Spring Visual Arts exhibit and our secondary musical, Guys and Dolls. I am very proud of the role the arts play in our school and cannot stress how important it is that all students have exposure to the arts. Those who have studied learning processes throughout the ages, beginning with Plato, have emphasized the importance of the arts in the education process.

Arts education refers to education in the disciplines of music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Study in the arts is important for our society and integral to what make us most human, most complete as people. The arts cannot be learned through occasional activities any more than math or science can which is why all students at Berkeley are required to have arts classes. Education and engagement in the fine arts are an essential part of the school curriculum for every student at Berkeley International School.

Furthermore, sufficient data exists to support the belief that study and participation in the fine arts is a key component in improving learning throughout all academic areas. Evidence suggests the arts improve student attendance, developing teamwork, and even improve math, science, and writing abilities. We are excited to offer a vibrant arts program at Berkeley and look forward to showcasing our student talents in the arts this spring!

For the Lions,
Lisa Johnson
Berkeley Head of School



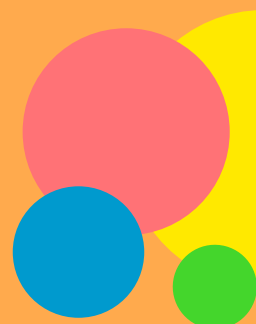
MS. LISA
Head of School

Motivate, Innovate, Challenge: this is the mission of Berkeley International School. These words encapsulate what the school stands for and what it is trying to achieve. In short, to Motivate, Innovate and Challenge is why the school exists. This goes beyond the walls of the classrooms to the whole school life. Berkeley strives to capture the passions of the community through the myriad of activities it provides its students.

So far in the second semester the students have celebrated their life at Berkeley through school activities ranging from Berkeley Carnival to book bonanza week and musical tryouts.

In addition to these school wide activities, student after school activities also bring the Berkeley Vision to life. This semester Berkeley students hosted our first Quiz Bowl competition, hosting a half dozen other schools. A group of students is currently planning on participating in our first Model United Nations competition at the end of March, student competed in the history competition at NIST, and through Grin Green students have been engaged in environmental causes throughout the year, some even being published in the local papers.

After school activities are key to bringing the school vision to life by motivating students to innovate and change the world and seek new challenges for themselves. Keep an eye out for all the activities at Berkeley and find a way to Motivate, Innovate and Challenge.



MR. PATRICK
Secondary Principal

"The future will belong to the nature-smart—those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need." These words come from Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder, which investigates the relationship between children and the natural world using current and historical contexts. It is a call to action for educators and parents to place greater emphasis on outdoor time for their children (and themselves)!

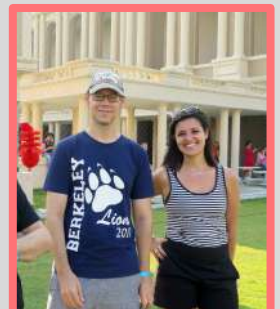
In the world of education and science, research and evidence is fast becoming prevalent and hard to ignore, demonstrating the importance of the restorative powers of the natural world and how it can boost mental acuity and creativity; promote health and wellness; build smarter and more sustainable businesses, communities, and economies; and strengthen human bonds.

In the coming weeks and months, you will notice the expansion of facilities, educational resources, and opportunities for the Berkeley community to get involved in being outdoors and living sustainable, healthy lives. Take the time to talk about these inspiring, and crucial experiences with your children, and do what you can to not only support Berkeley's exciting endeavors, but the continued holistic development of your child.



MR. JAKE
Primary Principal

Chinese New Year







Pre-K

On the farm



Pre-k has been exploring life on the farm! One of our favorite songs this quarter was 'Old MacDonald Had A Farm.' We love making all the different animal noises. We learned that dinosaurs are not on a farm; but pigs, cows, horses, and goats are all animals that live on a farm. We built and painted a barn, chicken coup, and tractor for our dramatic play area. We practiced counting spots on the cows and we even got to husk some corn and use it in our art center.

We also had a few new friends join our class this quarter and have had a great time making new friends and showing them around our classroom. We are becoming experts with our colors and shapes. We were brave when we had snakes and the firemen come to visit us at school, they taught us a lot of new things. We had a great time showing our parents around our classroom during student led conferences. The prek friends are excited for fourth quarter and to finish our first year of school!



K1

K1 to

the Rescue!



Quarter 3 started with a bang as we became superheroes and explored magical powers! We created costumes, played dressing up and loved using the dramatic play spaces in our classroom which looked like superhero cities! We also talked about everyday heroes; doctors, firefighters and police officers. We love talking about emergencies and rescues! Next, we took a journey into the deep ocean as we started our next topic, 'Under the Sea'. Our senses were titillated as we played with magic sand, created our own fish tank aquariums, enjoyed fingerpainting and even used coconut scented playdough. The quarter wrapped up with the fantastic Berkeley Book Bonanza! It was so lovely to have our parent readers join us and dressing up on character day was so much fun!





K2

On Safari



This quarter was a "roaring" great time for our little K2 explorers! We started our unit by having an in-depth look at our favorite animals that live in the Jungle and Safari. We especially took interest on the silky, slithery Snake! We learned about snake facts, patterns and snake safety. We were able to have a close-up interaction and learned about their habitat and even touched them! We believe that wildlife education is a very effective way to teach our K2 students about the importance of protecting animals, by capturing their interest and attention, and then leaving them with a positive long-lasting impression.

Our field trip to Safari World was the highlight of the quarter for many of our friends. Since the kids were more familiar with a lot of the animals that we discussed, it was a great way to culminate our topic. When we visited the zoo, we added a little fun by giving them a map and their binoculars. Some popular animals that they looked for were the crocodiles, lions, giraffe, hornbills, and lemurs just to name a few! We were incredibly lucky to have an opportunity to have a real life experience of what we have been learning about in the classroom!



K3

Digs for Dinosaurs



The K3 classes have been very busy with new units, exciting projects and informative field trips to support their learning! We started the new year with an author study about the wonderfully funny Mo Willems. Through these entertaining books, the students explored different writing and drawing skills! We learned about how using speech/thought bubbles, movement marks, punctuation and letter sizing can help show emotions. Next, we launched our Museum unit! After a visit to The National Geological Museum, the children voted on the topic they wanted to explore for our own museum. The majority wanted to study dinosaurs, so we very quickly split into research and creation groups. Everyone is using literacy and numeracy skills, drawing and painting skills and of course excellent creativity to produce homemade exhibits for our museum! The K3 students were so proud to show the finished museum to their parents during Student Led Conferences!



Step by Step

Kinder Thai

Sawadee! Everyone welcome to Thai class. Our goal for students is to promote Thai language 's learning skills and Thai experiences. Students will mainly learn about 44 Thai alphabets, Thai 32 vowels and Thai cultures through activities such as listening to Thai songs, Thai's children book, answering the question and share thoughts about what we learn in Thai, reading Thai alphabets and words and practice writing Thai alphabets and words. They will also do Thai traditional play and craft related to Thai alphabets and themes. Students will also experience Thai tales, Thai legends, Thai festivals and other Thai cultures through activities. They are going to have fun even though the students basic knowledge about Thai culture is different. They will learn to get better in Thai language skills step by step. Let's have fun with Thai language !



Elementary Thai



Learning Culture & Language



Here comes the third quarter of learning Thai. I felt very appreciative for all of the improvements my students made. In the third quarter, first graders learned some more difficult topics, including learning about "Rice." They learned about many kinds of rice and how to plant the rice. They also went on a field trip to Baan Kru Thani. The second graders learned about "Final Consonants." They learned about Thai desserts and Thai elephants too. The second graders seemed to love this topic! The third graders learned about popular Thai foods and Thai cats and dogs. The fourth graders learned about the famous Thai children's play. Lastly, the fifth graders Thai craving and puppet. This quarter was another quarter in which the students completed every topic in Thai class, such as the Thai language and Thai culture. I am looking forward to seeing my students learning new things in the last quarter.

Grade 1

Service Learning



Service learning is an important part of the Berkeley culture and at Berkeley it begins early. As part of our service learning, we teamed up with Home of Praise and Immanuel Day Nursery. In January, the students from the daycare came to Berkeley for a morning of fun. The first graders were paired with visiting children and spent the morning guiding our guests through craft stations and outdoor play. The nursery kids had lunch in the canteen as the first graders helped them with their food. Before leaving, they had a nice ice cream treat, which was a lovely ending to a fun morning.

Planning for the visit began in December, the grade one classes made rainbow crayons along with homemade notebooks to give to the children. The students made posters to collect old crayons and posted them around the school. Then they cleaned and sorted the donated crayons by color to melt them into new rainbow crayons. The first graders also decorated covers for notebooks of recycled paper, making gifts from the heart.

Global Citizens!

Grade 2

The third quarter has gone by so fast and the Berkeley second graders have been very busy both in and outside the classroom. In Language Arts we have been reading folktales and talking about stories that teach a lesson and working on writing our opinions. In Math we have been learning about different 2D shapes, equal parts of shapes, as well as identifying and counting American and Thai money. In Science we discovered how plants and animals help with pollination and life cycles and in Soc. Studies we learned all about the marketplace and even had our own 2nd Grade Business Fair.

This quarter the Berkeley second graders also went on a field trip of the year to visit the Sampran Riverside Thai Village. We had a blast participating in Thai inspired activities such as, clay sculpting, making coconut milk, flower arranging, and making silk and tie-dye. We loved visiting lush green village along the Chao Praya River and we were so excited to bring home all our souvenirs.

We are looking forward to a fantastic end of the school year and getting ready to become 3rd graders!



Grade 3

Around the World

Grade 3 has continued learning in quarter 3. In science, we charted the climates of cities all over the world and then we compared and contrasted the climates of various cities. The students also learned about extreme weather and created solutions to protect people from various natural disasters. In Social Studies, we learned about Ancient Rome. We even began our unit with a field trip to Peppina to learn how to make fresh pasta! They sculpted a model of Italy out of clay as well as built various buildings from Ancient Rome out of clay. They performed plays for legends of Ancient Rome and so much more! In Language Arts, the students became poets as they learned about the fundamentals of poetry, figurative language, and different types of poems. Our blossoming writers let their creative juices flow as they wrote adapted fairy tales. They took fairy tales they already knew well and changed the characters, setting and other aspects of the fairy tale to create their own story! They really enjoyed this activity as they enhanced their ability to write descriptively and use figurative language. We always stay busy in Grade 3, but we also have a lot of fun learning!



Grade 4

Safety First

This quarter, fourth grade has been working hard at their school work and also very involved and excited about the many community activities. During safety week, students held long, slinky snakes and learnt about their dangers and what to do in an emergency situation. They also learnt about the dangers of fire and gas and the importance of personal safety.

In January, students visited the Immanuel Day Nursery. They played with the children and shared lunch before it was bedtime for the children. The fourth grade students now know where the money that they will raise later in the year, will go and help those less fortunate than themselves. During class time, students have been learning how to write persuasive arguments. They have been developing their reason and strong conclusions. Math has been exciting with our Geometry unit. We have been learning around angles and the degrees in full turns and lines of symmetry. The students also enjoyed science as they experimented with making waves.



Grade 5

Busy with Projects

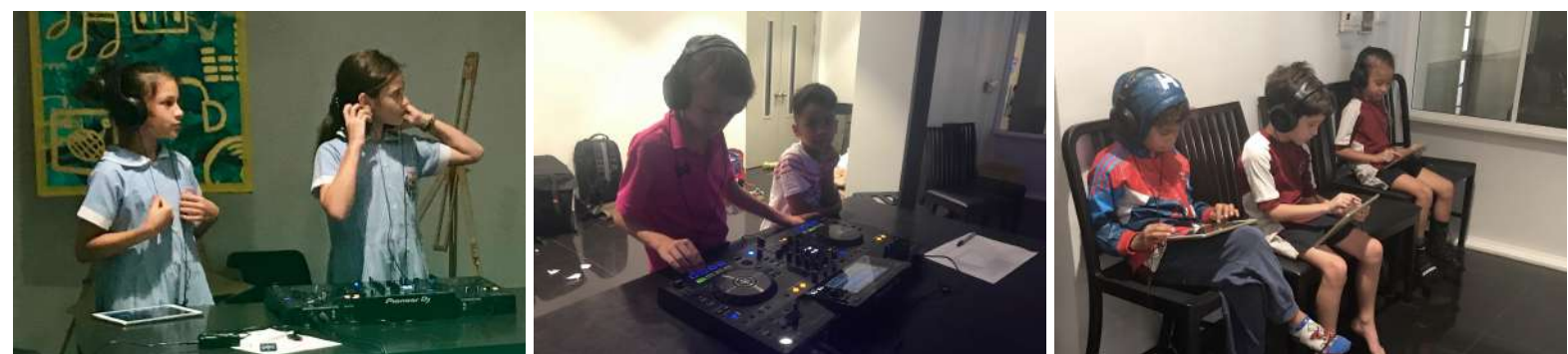
Grade Five has been very busy this quarter! We started the quarter off with an amazing trip to the Sema Thai Puppet House, where we watched a show, learned how to use puppets, and even made our own! We were busy readers for the Berkeley Book Bonanza and we have even made our own non-fiction books. We are finishing off this quarter with a Wax Museum exhibit in the library and an Arts showcase in the drama room. For the wax museum, we will be dressed up like a famous person from our culture and we will be telling visitors all about these famous people. The Arts showcase will feature monologues, music, and art that the students have created, all based on the same theme; migration.



DJ Club Fire Beats

Berkeley's first ever DJ Club! We started already during the Chinese New Year carnival with an appearance by Josh and continued as an ASA, open for all grade levels. It's a fun club where you get to use real DJ equipment and DJ apps on iPads. Mr. Alistair's art students created amazing art pieces to decorate our club. With the help of Josh I try to teach them a bit about what it takes to be a real DJ. For now we do 10 ASA and are thinking about a way to continue this club as another fun asset to the Berkeley community.

We plan to do DJ sets at all Berkeley's events whenever there is a place for some music (and according to us there is always a place for music!). We would like to encourage students who have some DJ skills and would like to play at events in school to contact us and see how we can grow as the school entertainment crew.



Drama

Guys and Dolls



This school year, the High School Performing Arts class joined by our middle school dancers have been working hard on their production of Guys and Dolls! Students have been singing, dancing, and acting in preparation for three major performances. With classics such as, "Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat", "A Bushel and a Peck," and "Luck Be a Lady", this show will be a hit and we are so proud of the work everyone has been putting in!

Thursday, March 22nd at 1pm
Friday, May 24th at 3pm



Art

Booming Art Room

The organised chaos of the Art room has continued to be a hub of creativity this semester, particularly in terms of turning balsa wood into all kinds of wondrous - occasionally terrifying - sculptures, from the Grade One satellites currently suspended in the stairwell, through to sword installations inspired by Pat Benatar (ask Sasha) and the beautiful Songkran sculptures, reminiscent of lotus flowers, splashing water or simply bed hair first thing in the morning. Our obsession with leather has continued to produce axolotls (go to Alice for that one), elephants (thanks Emma) and darkly devious flying sheep-type things (the artist formerly known as Jacob will help you there). We've also dived into the world of paint pouring, the results of which you have no doubt seen around the school.



In The Lion's Den

IT

Recently, three of our more experienced Multimedia Production students were set a new assignment - shake up Berkeley TV by coming up with an exciting new feature. However, being Berkeley students, they went one better - and came up with an entirely new show!

Turning our theater into a multi-camera TV studio and using it to produce a fully-fledged entertainment show seemed like an ambitious challenge, but Gab, Josh and Riley proved they were up to it, and the result - In the Lion's Den - has proved a hit with Berkeley TV's viewers. Taking inspiration from some of their favourite shows, they came up with a 'panel' style game show format where two teams battle it out through questions and challenges to become the rulers of the Lion's Den. After a successful pilot episode before Christmas, they have now gone into full production, with a series featuring teams from our

Berkeley houses competing to see who has the most pride. Normally, a show like this would involve a crew of dozens of people - so for three students (with a little help from one teacher) to pull it off is a remarkable achievement. Well done guys!



For The Country

Military



Book Week



This year's Berkeley Book Bonanza was a success with our students. Kindergarten students had parents visit as guest readers to share Dr. Seuss stories to celebrate his birthday on March 2. Elementary students set reading goals for their classes. If they reached those goals they were able to participate in the ice cream party that was held during school on Friday, March 1. Middle School students wrote reading reviews for literature that they enjoy. They were awarded points which counted toward the ice cream party. All four classes won their parties! High School Students illustrated passages from some of their favorite works of literature. They also read non-fiction articles from *Time* magazine and submitted reflections to Mr. Shobhit. Many Elementary, Middle and High School students showed up to enjoy the coconut ice cream that they like so much. We also had fun as a whole school when we dressed up as our favorite literary character on Friday. Let's hope that students will continue to celebrate the joy of reading at home with their parents.





Wai Kru



Safety Week



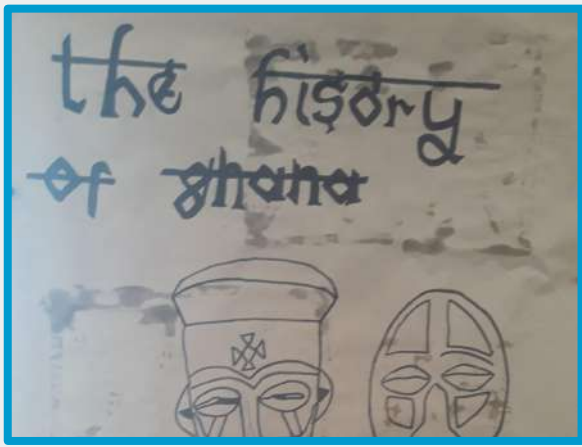
Grade 6 Exploring the Science in Fiction

This semester is an adventure already in Grade 6! Our students have moved from realistic and historical fiction to Fantasy! We started with a close look at the classic "Tale of Peter Rabbit," after which students wrote some fantastic original tales of their own, about lizards, cats, fish, horses, and dogs. Now we have been reading the novel Poppy by Avi, in which a ruthless owl lords over a family of mice. To really bring the events of the story to life, Miss Sarah brought Science teacher Miss Lindsey into our Language Arts class to join us for some owl pellet dissection! Together everyone learned a lot about owls, what they eat, and how they digest food (primarily mice). So much fun! We also recently participated in the annual Berkeley Book Bonanza during which all the students and teachers Dropped Everything And Read several times per day throughout the week! Every homeroom class met their reading goal, and won an ice cream party! We are so proud of the young men and women these Lions have become since entering middle school, and look forward to ending the year with a ROAR!



Grade 7 Young Adults Taking Shape

In the 3rd quarter, the 7th graders have moved from Algebra into Geometry. They have learned to find area of composite figures, surface area and volume of 3D figures. As a group, the students needed to figure out the measurements for a bike ramp. In Language Arts, the students have been reading The Giver. The classes worked together to write job descriptions for specific jobs from the book, and then created a resume and interviewed for those jobs at a "Job Fair." This project did more than just help the students work on their interviewing skills, but it brought the book to life.



Grade 8 Historians

Students in Grade 8 social studies analyzed African folklore and explained its importance in the African culture of the Ancient Empires of Ghana, Mali and Songhai. Students examined the major physical features that influenced the rise of the West African Kingdoms. At the end of the unit, students were able to answer and discuss essential questions on the topic and relate this information to make modern connections to current events in the region. Students enjoyed traditional music, song and dance, as well as art from the region. How did geography influence the rise of the West African Kingdoms of Ghana, Mali and Songhai? Who were the leaders and what were the major cities of the time? How and where were trade routes developed? And now?



Grade 9 Challenged

It's been a very productive and fun year where all students were involved during class. They have had many different methods to adopt and study and it's been a strong performance by most of students. Students have worked every week on ALEKS and their annual progress is showing good performance on all standards. Students also chose to do performance tasks that link real life math to the unit they complete. This included: analysing weather data, estimating incomes for hours worked, comparing heights and bone lengths. I am looking forward to finishing the year stronger than where we started.

Below are comments from two students:

"In Algebra 1 class. We learned a lot during class. A lot of material seems to be quite beneficial towards life outside as well as inside school. There are many things to learn in maths and the possibilities are nearly endless to the situations where maths is present. Maths isn't only but crunching out numbers. There are also fun things you could do in maths as well. Though it can often seem hard, often times, it gives out a massive reward. No one said it's going to be easy, they say it's going to be worth it!"

"Math class is a fun class Even though I'm not very good at it. One of the main highlights of math class is that ALEKS a online math teacher. Is way better than IXL or others like it."



Grade 10

Inspiration

During Berkeley Book Bonanza, our school's yearly celebration of the printed word, we joined the elementary students, reading age-appropriate works to our younger Lion classmates. We enjoyed meeting new friends in the lower grades and hope see them around the school.

This semester in 10th grade, we've been studying poetry. We started by acquainting ourselves with the many features of the artistic verbal medium, learning poetry terms by using an online trivia site Sporcle, to test our knowledge and understanding of key elements. As we practiced, we kept getting better and faster at recalling items from our vocabulary list. After building our knowledge of the basic elements of the genre, 10th graders progressed to studying the works of one poet, deepening our knowledge of individual poems by studying a group of related works. In the on-level 10th grade class, we became familiar with the poetic vision of English Romantic poet William Blake's Songs of Innocence and Experience. In the honors 10th grade class, we enjoyed studying the socially-conscious works of Canadian Margaret Atwood. As we have continued reading, our understandings of poetry and of our poet have progressed, and we will apply this knowledge by presenting to the class our understanding of poem studied individually. At the end of this unit, we will write an analysis essay of a poem from our unit, exhibiting our growth in poetic understanding through our written critiques of our poet's work.



Grade 11

Soon to be Seniors

Wow, where does the time go? Our 11th graders are now in the final quarter before their senior year of high school! Many of these students have taken the SAT's at least once and are starting to think about life after high school. Some have narrowed down their search to universities abroad while others are still deep in contemplation about life and where they want to be in ten years. They are a great group of kids and I'm confident will be extremely successful wherever they land.

These assiduous students have been extremely active during the third quarter here at Berkeley. In high school, our students are given choices on their class schedules and this year have chosen to be in one of two math classes, Algebra II or Precalculus. In the past few months, these young men and women have studied topics such as Matrices, Rational Functions, Trigonometry, and Logarithms. When studying matrices, students connected these mathematical skills to the art of solving or writing codes, cryptography. From the ancient Egyptians to World War II, code breaking, cryptography, and ciphers have been used during different times in history to protect secrets. Our classes got to practice first-hand how matrices can help to write or break all kinds of codes.



12th Grade is taking on the battle of mastering research, preparation, and speaking in Public Speaking this year! This unit asks the question: Who are we as public speakers? Through research based projects and classroom community building activities, we aim to craft a safe learning environment where mistakes are welcomed and successes are celebrated! We have written extensively about areas that we would like to see ourselves grow, as well as the facets at which we feel we are proficient. Our major project this quarter required students to find old photos of themselves and use them to symbolize 8 defining moments of their lives. Our presentations were filled with many laughs, smiles, and even tears... We quickly realized that there are so many stories our classmates have that haven't been told, and that we all have much more in common with one another than maybe we thought initially. This quarter has helped us grow as a class community, and the skills gained throughout the lessons will be carried on through the rest of our educational and professional journeys.



Counselor's Corner

Berkeley's Class of 2019, have been busy this quarter learning life skills and different techniques for surviving college life. As we head into their fourth and final quarter of high school, my hopes are that they will have not only learned various skills, but that they will be best prepared to handle anything life sends them. The whole year I have challenged them to maintain high standards, always pushing themselves to do their best in everything they do. I hope that the lessons they have learned this year will carry on into university. I am so proud of our high school students that volunteered for the soccer tournament and helped the 3rd graders host the amazing event. It is this kind of selfless behavior that truly stands out, sacrificing one's own time to help others, thank you guys! Middle school students, keep up the good work and working hard on those grades. Before you know it, you will be in high school. We are truly blessed to have such amazing students here at Berkeley. I would like to say a special "Good Job" to our hard working AP students. There are several students who will be taking AP exams during the fourth quarter. Advanced Placement courses are actually college level courses that will transfer to university upon graduation. Similarly to how there are required courses in high school, universities have a required number of credits for one to obtain a Bachelor's degree. AP courses will replace certain college credits and, in some countries or for certain degrees, a certain number of AP courses are required for a student to be accepted. It is very important for our students to be thinking now where they want to go and what they want to study so that they might best be prepared. All students and parents are free to check-out my website for further information, just go to berkeley.ac.th and you will find it under the high school section.



MS/HS Thai Bilinguals

Let's go to the Thai class! This quarter, our secondary students start with the Literature unit. They have learned about Thai literature which influences Thai beliefs and culture. We discussed many stories since Sukhothai kingdom until present; Rattanakosin kingdom for instant G.6 has studied with Sang Thong, Phra Apai Manee in G.7 and Suphasit Phraroung in G.8. Students developed their language skills and expanded Thai vocabularies through learning activities such as reading comprehension, sharing ideas and opinions related to the story, writing the summary, etc.

For high school kids, the extra curriculum is a good opportunity for them to learn and study the Thai language and also Thai culture. In this part, G.9 had a chance to go out of class at Bang Pu in Samutprakan to do the activity with eco-organization. G.10 went to Bangkok museum to explore with Thai wisdom before World War II in Thailand. We really had a good trip there!



Elementary PE

Passionate athleticism, resilience, and fun!



After having finished the second quarter as a great success with Sports Day where our students had a competitive day of passionate athleticism, resilience and fun! This third quarter has been filled with many exciting learning experiences for our students. We started this quarter with the soccer unit. This unit is focused on improving coordination and gross motor skills. The next unit, also focused on these skills was was flag football. Recently, we have started the introduction to the volleyball unit. A large focus of this unit is to help students strengthen eye-hand coordination skills. Students are doing their best, laughing and encouraging each other, they are enjoying their Physical Education very much!

Soon grade 1 & 2 will have a chance to show off their soccer skills in a tournament during their lunch recess. This is exciting for grade 5 because they have a chance to demonstrate leadership skills by being their coaches. It will be fantastic!



Music

Collaborative Performances

This semester at Berkeley, the elementary students have been collaborating in their music, art, drama and homeroom classes. They have been learning about a certain world culture depending on their grade; 1st grade is Egypt, 2nd is Greece, 3rd is Rome, 4th is China and 5th is migrants. The students will present and perform what they have learned over the course of the semester through skits, brief lectures and musical performances. For their musical contribution, the students will be performing a song based on the theme and an instrumental piece. For example, Grade 3K's vocal performance, Spin That Coin, illustrates what one may see in a Roman marketplace. The students will also display their growing confidence and skill with their violins, xylophones, flutes, clarinets and recorders. We are all eager to celebrate their knowledge and artistic progression.



Chess Tournament

Chess without Borders Competition

On Saturday 9th March 2019 Mr Guy took eight students from Berkeley to participate in our first ever chess tournament at the second annual Chess without Borders Competition (presented by the Australian International School).

There were over 140 students from about 22 different schools taking part with 7 rounds of play within different age categories. Players score a 1 for a win, a $\frac{1}{2}$ for a draw and a 0 for a loss.

Congratulations to the following students for taking part, although we didn't win any trophies everyone scored some points!

Tar Lapisatepan (Grade 2)
Ariella Lynton (Grade 5)
Nathan Guillosoy (Grade 6)
Alan Guillosoy (Grade 6)
Cheetah Sriwanichpoom (Grade 6)
Eva Medyarova (Grade 6)
Shuhei Kihara (Grade 11)
OT Saenglam (Grade 12)



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former Berkeley Students

I moved to Thailand when I was only 10. We left our old life in the quiet town of Calgary and traveled to the busy city of Bangkok. Moving to a new school and country was difficult, but Berkeley welcomed my family with open arms. Berkeley looked like a castle! No schools in Calgary looked like that! My life in Thailand was an amazing experience. We ate all kinds of new foods and saw and learned things we would have never experienced if we had never moved. City life was difficult at first, but we got used to it. We didn't have a car so we had to take a different cab every day. There was a wet market near our house where we got our fruit and veggies from and a small convenience store where we got everything else.

Berkeley, on the other hand, was interesting. I had to get up for school way earlier than I do now and had a lot more freedom in school than I do now. I had the freedom to use my own laptop in school and the school elevator (Thanks to my parents being teachers)! I liked the addition of learning Thai as it helped me communicate with the Thai people. Thailand had a bunch of different holidays. Songkran and international day were probably the most exciting. International day celebrated our school's diversity and Songkran was the water festival where you got to spray people with water guns! At my current school we celebrate more generic holidays. One thing I remember about Thailand was how polluted it was! Recently the air got so bad that schools across Thailand had to shutdown for a week. Glad my family never experienced that bad of air when we were there! The most memorable part of Thailand for me was the people. Thai people were always patient and polite even in the worst of traffic. Pretty much everyone I met left a good impression and made me think of Thailand as the land of the people.



Sawyer Bobrosky

Joe Leone



Moving to a completely new country on a different continent, halfway across the earth was a bit intimidating. That's exactly what I did, two times actually and in the span of one month. I could never feel more welcomed and at home than while I was at Berkeley. Things are tough here in America. I also use this analogy a lot: I'm basically Peter Parker just without the awesome spider powers. Moving here made me realize three crucial rules needed in order to survive. Rule number 1: Expect the unexpected. By expecting the worst that could happen you have your guards up, protecting yourself from any threat and harm coming your way. I expected the best on my first day of school, meeting new people will be exciting! Studying new classes and making new friends! The result of my first day was...traumatizing. Rule number 2: Motivation. Berkeley is like a safe haven for students since it's such a small school everyone is family. I have admitted that I wasn't near the best student and would like to apologize to every teacher/coach/mentor who has taught me for causing them some challenging times. Being in a new school with 1,500 other kids, there isn't exactly a spotlight shining on you. In order to do something, I would have to work my butt off, whether it'd be getting on a sports team (I made it on the football team!), insanely difficult classes (such as physics), and especially fitting in! The final rule, rule number 3: Life may not always be your friend, but it's also not your enemy. Picture yourself in a ring against Muhammad Ali. He represents life and he will beat you up, and if you don't at least try to fight back you won't come out of that ring alive. I've been left out, rejected, made fun of more times than I could count, that if I had a dollar for every time something like that occurred I'd be able to go back to Thailand tomorrow. My three rules could easily be summed up Bear Grylls and his "improvise, adapt and overcome" rule. Being here is the biggest challenge so far, but I WILL survive. This has been your one and only, Joe Leone reporting from New York, USA, wishing YOU a wonderful day.

Hey, Berkeley community (or specifically people who actually read the Berkeley Times), It's me, Flora! I left Berkeley last year and I now live in suburb of Berlin where I go to John F. Kennedy School. The school was founded during the Cold War to host all the kids of American soldiers stationed in Berlin. The school in itself is a weird concept because it's paid for both by the American and German government.

The school is a lot larger than what I was used to at Berkeley. I think the school has around 1800 kids which has its ups and downs. On the one hand, there are a lot more activities and classes to choose from. In terms of classes, there are around 25 different AP classes to choose from. Most kids here take an average of 5 or 6 a year, which was very intimidating at first. However, that obviously varies as you also have the kids that don't take any AP's :) Because it's a bigger school, it's a lot more competitive so I have to do a lot more work than what I was used to at Berkeley. There are tons of assignments, tests and deadlines to keep up with. The class sizes are also a lot bigger meaning some teachers barely even know your name. That took some time to get used to. There is no leeway on what the teacher says, a deadline is a deadline and a grade is a grade. Re-tests or re-doing of assignments are not allowed. All in all, the school is a big machine and one has to make sure to not get squished by it. I miss that strong feeling of community that there is at Berkeley, where you know everyone at school and people always smile at each other in the hallway. All these kids have known each other since the 1st grade so it was very weird to be the new kid.

So yeah that's about all I have to say about how my life has changed. Sending my best wishes over to you guys (that, and some clean air that y'all are in dire need of)! P.S. Shoutout to you, Ms. K, for keeping Berkeley Times alive! I guess Terry White inspired you after all.

Flora Roy



Pear Kitosot

It has been almost two years since I left Berkeley. I never forget the friendship and the teachers there; we were like a family. First, when I moved to New Zealand, I got homesick not just missing the family but also my friends in Thailand. It was tough as I didn't know anyone and had to start from the beginning. As time goes by, I get to know my host family better and make friends along the way. Auckland is completely different from Bangkok. I would say that Bangkok is more urbanized than in Auckland. Friends here are different; they don't really go out like the teenagers in Bangkok do. My daily life here is so different from when I was in Thailand. In Thailand, I didn't have to do those chores or walk to school, but this is very beneficial in a way. Living in New Zealand alone as an international student has taught me a lot of lessons; it taught me how to live by myself, to have responsibilities for my work and chores, and especially helped me to develop life skills.

Hi, Berkeley! It's great to have an opportunity to write to you all. I left Berkeley last year and moved to Barrie, a small city in southern Ontario. The best word to describe my new life here is simply *different*. Everything is different here - the school, the culture, the social conventions, the climate (yes, I'm freezing to death, send help). Adjusting to the sudden change was the hardest part. I'm now at a public school with a Canadian curriculum, which is surprisingly complicated. The school has around 1500 students, belonging only to high school. It feels so weird to be surrounded by so many faces every day and not even recognize most of them, and I don't think it's a feeling I'll ever get used to. The main problem I faced was trying to get to know people and make friends because most people have been together since they started school. It's quite an impersonal atmosphere. I miss knowing everyone in your class and being friends with even your teachers. I have been able to quickly adapt to the academic aspect of school and I think I'm doing quite well in that area. It's still harder than Berkeley with very strict grading regulations. It has all been difficult, but I am slowly getting used to how everything works here.

My time at Berkeley has been truly amazing, and I'd like to say thanks to everyone who made it that way! I don't think there will ever be a school as unique and fun as Berkeley. We're the Berkeley Lions!

Mehr Sagar



