

# Benchley-Weinberger Elementary

"Achievement through Communication Magnet"

*California Distinguished School*



# FAMILY HANDBOOK

2009-2010

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*Benchley-Weinberger*

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# A Message from the Principal

Welcome to Benchley-Weinberger Elementary School. We are very proud of both our excellent staff and our wonderful students who continuously strive to be high achievers as well as outstanding citizens. We are a California Distinguished School which honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools. We are one of the only two magnet school in SDUSD with this distinction.

Our school culture is permeated by high staff expectations for all students creating optimum conditions for students' academic and social development. It has been observed that students at this school continue to excel when they progress to middle school and high school. Our students are offered a high quality educational program which meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of every student through a nurturing partnership between parents and the school. Benchley-Weinberger views parents as partners and welcomes their involvement in various ways. Parents and teachers work side by side in the classrooms every day to provide a rich learning environment for all students. Our students have, once again, won awards in math competitions, PTA Reflections, and essay contests. The Multi-Cultural Fair which celebrates the rich diversity at our school is held in the Spring. Our magnet emphasis, "Achievement through Communication" revolves around the following three themes:

**Interpersonal Communication** - class lessons are provided by teachers, District Counselor and the guidance assistant.

**Global-Media Communication** - provided by the computer lab, KRBW weekly TV news, and the Panda Press.

**Artistic-Alternative Communication** - provided by music and art teachers plus assemblies.

We would like to stress to parents the importance of good attendance. Please schedule vacations on non-school days and take vacations when school is on scheduled breaks during Thanksgiving, Winter, Holidays, Spring and Summer. The California Standards Test (CST) window is April 28 through May 19. Please be sure your students are at school during this time.

The staff at Benchley-Weinberger urges all parents, family members, and community members to become involved in the educational experience of our students. By volunteering time and expertise, parents and volunteers can truly make a difference! I invite you to visit our school often in order to become an active part of our learning community. Please join the PTA and the Benchley-Weinberger Foundation. Our Foundation raised over \$25,000.00 this year.

Please keep this informative handbook accessible for reference as questions arise. If you have further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call our office. My door is always open, please come and introduce yourself to me.

Sincerely,  
Marian K. Jacobs  
Principal

**Benchley-Weinberger Staff**  
**Principal: Marian Jacobs**

GRADE LEVEL	TEACHER	ROOM
K	Linda Harrison	K1
K	Sue Sward	K2
K	Emily Kilgore	K3
K	Denise Gleaves	K4
1	Chris Glaze	3
1	Jill Kindron	7
1	Nancy Paznokas	1
1	<b>Bill Patterson</b>	9
1/2	Michelle Trujillo	2
2	Deborah Bardin	B-6
2	Miranda Davis	6
2	Janet Schroeder	8
3	Fran Harvey	10
3	Michele Janette	B-9
3	Janet Manen	11
3	Linda Sheeler	B-5
4	Kathy Aufsesser	B-1
4	Shauna Shelley	4
4/5	Kimberly Filner	B-10
5	Jan Armstrong	B-2
5	Carolyn Hasselbar	B-8
<i>This information is tentative and can change with enrollment.</i>		

**Benchley-Weinberger Elementary**  
**SUPPORT STAFF**

**Magnet Elementary School Assistant**  
**Elementary School Assistant**  
**School Clerk I/Attendance**  
**District Counselor**  
**Psychologist**  
**School Nurse**  
**Health Tech**  
**Resource Specialist**  
**Resource Specialist Assistant**  
**Speech Therapist**  
**P.E. Teacher**  
**Adaptive P.E.**  
**Library Instructional Assistant**  
**Computer Lab Instructional Assistant**  
**Classroom Instructional Assistants**

**Kathy Bouman**  
**Tammy Cerney**  
**Any Vindel**

**Barbara Cleland**  
**Renee Carlos-Ruiz (Monday Only)**  
**Terry Wenham**  
**Michael Eulitt**  
**Angie Adams**  
**Mary Anderka**  
**Steve Tucker**  
**Luann Stroik**  
**Shelly Griswold**  
**Barbara Jenkins**  
**Katherine Cagan, Maebelle Haslim,**  
**Enid Stein**

**Building Services Supervisor**  
**Evening Custodian**  
**Cafeteria Supervisor**  
**Cafeteria Assistant**  
**YMCA Supervisor**

**Jon Freyer**  
**Jack Trogdon**  
**Paula Fearce**  
**Elizabeth Kishaba**  
**Christene Sledge**

*Benchley-Weinberger*  
**ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH COMMUNICATION MAGNET**  
**California Distinguished School**

**Our Vision is to empower every child to be a successful life long learner, by providing a challenging curriculum and teaching high-level communication skills in a supportive learning environment with the collaboration of the entire home/school community.**

**Benchley-Weinberger Elementary is located in San Carlos, near Lake Murray, in a safe, quiet neighborhood and strives to provide an environment in which each child is made to feel special. Transportation to the school is provided from most areas of San Diego through the San Diego City Schools magnet program.**

**Benchley-Weinberger provides:**

- a quality educational experience. On standardized tests our students traditionally score well above the District average;
- standards based teaching and learning for all students, K-5;
- a high level of parent involvement, including an active Parent Teacher Association and the Benchley-Weinberger Foundation which raises funds for the school;
- a diverse student population and many multi-cultural activities for students and parents;
- learning opportunities for highly capable students in a program that meets the needs of identified Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) and high achieving students; All third through fifth grade classes are GATE classes.
- teaching which focuses on the strength of each individual student and challenges them to their fullest potential with high expectations.

**Through our Achievement Through Communication magnet our students will participate in activities, projects, assemblies, and field trips designed around three themes throughout the year. Instruction will focus upon the language arts skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and observing. The three themes are:**

**INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION  
GLOBAL-MEDIA COMMUNICATION  
ARTISTIC-ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION**

**Through our magnet focus students will also:**

- learn to use video, digital cameras, document cameras and computer equipment as instructional tools in the classroom as well as the computer lab;
- learn to appreciate literature and traditions from many cultures;
- visit newspaper, television and radio stations to learn about communications;
- participate in school wide news broadcasts and newspaper publishing.



# *Benchley-Weinberger Elementary School*

## *DAILY SCHEDULE*

**Office Hours:** Monday -Friday 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Buses Arrive:** 7:25 a.m.

**Breakfast Program:** 7:20 – 7:45 a.m.

**Running Program:** 7:25 a.m. – 7:40 a.m.

**RECESS:** 9:45-\*10:05

**LUNCH:** Gr. K 11:15-\*12:05  
Gr. 1-2 11:25-\*12:05  
Gr. 3-5 11:45-\*12:25

(Please note: Students not eating breakfast should arrive after 7:35 a.m.)

### **Bell Schedule**

#### **MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY**

Grades: Kinder – 5<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Bell-7:40 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell-7:45 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY (minimum day)**

Grades: Kinder – 5<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Bell-7:40 2<sup>nd</sup> Bell-7:45 a.m. –11:45 a.m.

*On-site day care is provided by the East County YMCA*

**YMCA HOURS:** 6:30a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and 2:20p.m.to 6:30p.m. Wednesdays: 6:30 a.m to 7:45a.m. and 11:30a.m. to 6:30p.m. For more information please call the YMCA – (619) 464-1323 or (619) 589-9541.

## 2009—2010 SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 10	Book Fair thru 9/17
September 15	Volunteer Orientation—7:45 am—Auditorium
September 15	Foundation Meeting—6:30—Staff Lounge
September 16	Fall Open House / Curriculum Night % Book Fair
September 22	Signature PTA Fundraiser Kick Off thru 10-/06
September 25	PTA Back-to-School Night
October 6	School Pictures
October 13	PTA/Foundation Meeting/Ice Cream Social 6:00– 8:30 pm
October 19-23	Red Ribbon Week
October 24	Halloween Happening 3 :00- 7 :00 pm
October 30	Books and Beyond Kick Off Assembly 7:45 am
November 4	Reflections Art Show- 6:30 - 8:00 pm ( <b>Corrected Date</b> )
November 10	PTA Meeting 7:45 am / Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm-Staff Lounge
November 11	Veterans' Day Observance - HOLIDAY
November 12	Picture Make Ups
November 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	Parent Conferences - Minimum Days - Dismissal 11 :45 am
November 23-27	Thanksgiving Vacation (5 days)
December 4	"Night at the Bench"- movie night-6:30 pm-Auditorium
December 10	PTA/Foundation Holiday Party-Location TBA
December 21- January 1	Winter Vacation - School Closed
January 11-15	4th Grade to Old Town
January 11-15	5th Grade to Balboa Park
January 12	PTA Meeting 7:45 am /Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm-Staff Lounge
January 18	Martin Luther King Day Observance - HOLIDAY
February 5	Multi Cultural Fair
February 9	PTA/Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm - Lounge
February 10	Jog-a-Thon
February 12	Lincoln Day Observance - HOLIDAY
February 15	President's Day Observance - HOLIDAY
March 13	Variety Show
March 9	PTA Meeting 7:45 am/Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm-Staff Lounge
March 24, 25, 26	Parent Conferences - Minimum Day - Dismissal 11 :45 am
March 29-April 2	Spring Vacation
April 13	PTA/Foundation meeting 6:30 pm - Lounge
April 28 thru May 19	STAR Testing Window-check with teachers for class schedule
May 11	PTA Meeting 7:45 am/Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm-Staff Lounge
May 17– 21	Staff Appreciation Week
May 19	PT A Luncheon for B- W Staff Appreciation
May 20	4th/5th Grade Career Day -7:45 am
May 26	Volunteer Brunch 10:30-11: 15 Auditorium
May 27	Book Fair thru 6/3
May 31	Memorial Day- HOLIDAY
June 2	Open House/Music & Me Concert 5:30-7:30 pm
June 4	Books & Beyond and Gold Medal Ceremony
June 8	Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm - Lounge
June 21	5th Grade Promotion - 11 :00 am - Auditorium
June 21	<b>Last day of student attendance</b>

### **Spirit Assemblies:**

**9/25, 10/30, 12/4, 1/29, 2/26, 3/26, 4/30, 5/28**

# SCHOOL PROCEDURES

**Before School:** The playground and classrooms will open at 7:40 a.m. Students can join the morning running program. At 7:45 a.m. the bell rings and students should be in their classrooms. Students who arrive after the 7:45 a.m. bell must go to the office to receive a late pass before being admitted to class. Students in grades 4 and 5 may ride bicycles to school. No scooters, skateboards or wheelies (skate shoes)!

**Classroom Visitation Policy:** We welcome your visit to your child's classroom. ALL parents and visitors must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's pass. If you plan to observe a classroom, please make arrangements with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance.

To continue to improve the academic achievement of our students, please note that all classes observe the "Literacy Block" between the hours of 7:45 -11:00. Before entering the room, we would like you to remember that classroom visits are:

To observe your child at work in the classroom

To better understand how your child is relating to his/her classroom activities and other pupils

To learn more about curriculum

We request that you avoid interrupting a lesson. If you feel you have specific questions about your child, please make arrangements with the teacher for a conference to be held after school or by telephone.

**Registration:** An updated registration/enrollment card is required for each student in September. Also a current proof-of-residency dated August/September is required by state law **each** September; i.e.: SDG&E, Water, Cable, or Land-Line Phone Bill.

**Attendance:** In order for a student to achieve his or her potential, it is very important that your child arrive on time and attend school each day. If your student is sick or has a doctor's appointment, it is necessary for you to call the school at 463-9271 to report your child's absence. Please ask for the school attendance coordinator. If your child must be absent for personal reasons, for more than two days, please contact the school office at least 1 week before the absence and request a **Contract for Independent Study**. Your child will receive class work that he or she would miss and receive credit for attending school. Please try to schedule vacations on non-school attendance days especially during the testing window in the spring.

## **Parent Phone Calls**

We ask that no phone calls be placed to the classrooms during the Literacy Block (7:45 to 11:00), unless there is an emergency.

## **Student Cell Phones**

Cell phones should be turned off during school hours and left in the student's backpack. Calls can be made before and after school only. Cell phones will be confiscated if they are used during school hours. Confiscated phones may be picked up by parents **only**.

## Telephone Auto Re-Dial

Our school telephones are a switchboard type system which means we have separate outgoing and incoming phone lines. If you receive a phone call from the office or the nurse and you use your auto redial button to call back you will get a continual ringing or busy signal because you are dialing an outgoing only line. To call us you must enter the school phone number 463-9271 and go through the office each time.

**Release of Children:** When you wish to take your child from school during the school day, it is required that you go to the office and sign a permit to leave the school grounds. For your protection, children are released to the parents, guardian, or other authorized person only. Identification is necessary and in the case of a person acting for a parent, they must be listed on the registration card. A TEACHER WILL NOT RELEASE A STUDENT WITHOUT THE PERMIT.

**Lunch and Breakfast Programs:** Lunch and breakfast are available each day. The cost for lunch is \$1.75, breakfast is \$1.00. Milk may be purchased for \$.50. Depending on your income level, your child may be eligible for free or reduced price lunch and breakfast.

If interested, please inquire at the school office. Parents will be notified that their child's account is low or needs to be replenished. There are no lunch loans. Students without a lunch will receive a snack of crackers and milk or juice.

### **Dress Code:**

In order to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment for all students it is important that all students follow B-W's dress code. Students are to wear clothing that is appropriate for both studying and playing. The following are appropriate recommendations:

**CLOSED-TOED shoes are required at all times (no sandals, high platform shoes, flip-flops, or shoes with wheels)**

**Tennis shoes are highly recommended for physical education activities;**

**Long pants, mid-thigh shorts, skirts, dresses and shirts that cover the stomach, back, shoulders and chest**

**No spaghetti straps**

**Hats may be worn only outside of school buildings, bills forward please (with appropriate logos)**

**Clothing with appropriate sayings and/or pictures**

**No colored hair**

**Administrative discretion may be used to determine appropriate school attire**

We appreciate the efforts of our parents in helping their students make appropriate clothing choices.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Please mark coats, sweaters, lunch boxes, etc. with child's name and ask him/her to check the lost and found box occasionally to see if any belongings are there. Unclaimed items will be dropped off at a donation center once a month.

Small articles and money are kept in the office.

**EMERGENCY DRILL AND INSTRUCTION:** Regular drills are held throughout the year to enable students to react to any emergency situation which might occur. Fire drills are held monthly, while earthquake drills are held each semester.

In the event of a disaster, students will be evacuated to the upper field. Parents are asked to pick up their students at the reunion gate, which will be located on Gloria Lake Avenue, on the upper field. Parents will need to show a picture identification card to the staff members in charge in order to pick up their child. All other gates will be locked at the time of the disaster.

**MAGNET EXIT PROCEDURE:** The Board of Education has established a policy which established cut-off dates for the enrollment and exit of students from magnet programs. A student enrolled in a magnet program must remain in that program for at least one semester. Non-resident students who desire to transfer should contact the school or magnet office for information regarding this transfer policy.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:** Each and every elementary school in our district must abide by a formula consideration that allocates the teachers assigned to our school. If enrollment is up or down we could either gain or lose a teacher. Any change in the total number of teachers assigned means a re-organization of present classes. Changes will be made only when absolutely necessary. (See placement policy in the office for more information.)

**TRANSPORTATION:**

Children are to report to their bus stop ten minutes before the published pick-up time. Drivers have been instructed not to wait for late students.

Know the letter of the bus your child rides. If your child's bus is late in the morning please contact the District Transportation Department number (858) 496-8460 and then notify the school as to the reason and time of delay.

Our school Transportation Coordinator, must be kept informed about any changes in your child's bus schedule.

If there is any change in a child's riding schedule a note needs to be sent to the school. If your child is visiting another child and needs to ride a bus other than their own, we need to have notes from both parents.

**If you know that your child will not ride the bus home, make sure to notify the school office by 12:00pm**

Student discipline problems are reported in the form of "Reports of Unacceptable Student Behavior," commonly called "Bus Referrals." These are reported by the driver. Guidelines dictate that the first two **may** be considered warnings, depending on the severity of the infraction; the third may result in a one day bus suspension; fourth, a 3 day bus suspension; fifth, 1 week bus suspension; sixth, 2 week bus suspension; seventh, no bus service for the remainder of the year. Let's work closely to ensure that the daily bus rides are a safe, positive part of our children's day.

## GENERAL SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

### Students will:

1. Be on time and behave in a way that does not disrupt the teaching and learning environment.
2. Be courteous, cooperative, and respectful towards staff and other students.
3. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
4. Be prepared to work, stay on task, and return homework.
5. Refrain from bringing candy, gum, soda, toys, video games to school.

### Consequences:

(May include one or more of the following):

#### Positive

Parent contact  
Recognition  
Privileges  
Rewards

#### Corrective

Verbal warnin  
Time out  
Parent Contact  
Administrative involvement

## *SAFE SCHOOL PLAN 2006-2007*

### **BENCHLEY-WEINBERGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

#### **CRITERION 9 a: SAFE AND ORDERLY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT**

##### **b: RULES & PROCEDURES ON SCHOOL DISCIPLINE ADOPTED PURSUANT TO EC 35291 & 35291.5**

- (a) Safe and orderly school environment. Reference Administrative Procedure No. 6270.
- (1) Teachers shall be responsible for classroom discipline that will ensure a proper learning environment for all students. Every teacher in the public schools shall hold pupils to a strict account for their conduct on the way to and from school, on the playgrounds, or during recess.
  - (2) “All pupils shall comply with regulations, pursue the required course of study, and submit to the authority of the teachers of the schools.” (Education Code section 48908)
  - (3) Students are to be under the direct supervision of a staff member at all times while in school, or while attending a school-directed activity.

- (b) Safe and orderly school environment.

(1) Student Discipline Code

It takes all of us to teach children how to successfully communicate in a complex, multicultural society. The most important way we teach this is by modeling excellent behavior. It is the responsibility of every adult on this campus to model the four basic rules that we expect our students to follow:

We will be on time, prepared to work and learn.

We will show respect for all people at all times.

We will respect school property and the property of others.

We will accept responsibility for our actions.

The policy of the Board of Education states that all employees are responsible for the control of students who are legally under the supervision of the school. District-wide policies relating to student behavior say that:

Students have a right to an environment that promotes learning and success.

Students have a right to due process.

Students have a right to equitable treatment.

Students have a right to a safe and clean school.

The State Education code says that parents shall be held responsible for the misconduct of their children.

(2) Dress Code

What students wear to school is determined by parents, within the limits of good taste and safety. Parents will be contacted and asked to bring a change of clothing if students come to school wearing questionable garments. It is very helpful to label jackets, sweaters, backpacks, lunch boxes, snack bags, and other items with the student's name.

(3) Guidelines for Students

Clothing with slogans that endorse or advertise tobacco, drugs, alcohol, etc., are not allowed.

Functional hats, caps and visors may be worn only outside of school buildings.

Shoes must be worn at all times. Sandals, flip-flops, and shoes that limit freedom of movement should not be worn.

Do not wear "short-shorts", tight shorts, half-shirts, or see-through items.

Make-up may not be worn by students.

Bright coloring of the hair is not allowed.

There is no need to wear gloves at school.

Hair brushes and combs should be kept in backpacks, purses, or pockets, and used only in the restroom.

Administrative discretion may be used in determining appropriate school attire.

(4) Physical Education Considerations

Students will be engaged in vigorous physical activity during their physical education classes. Therefore, it is important that students wear clothes and shoes that allow them free movement. We suggest that young ladies wear shorts underneath skirts and dresses.

(5) Recess/Lunch/Cafeteria Rules and Procedures

1st Lunch – Gr. K      11:15 – 12:05

2<sup>nd</sup> Lunch – Gr. 1-2      11:25 – 12:05

3<sup>rd</sup> Lunch – Gr. 3-5      11:45- 12:25

Recess: (9:45 – 10:05)

Students will walk to the blacktop.

Student must choose a game to play or eat their snack quietly in the lunch area.

Lunch:

Students will be walked to the cafeteria by the teacher.

The student who is eating a sack lunch will be seated.

Milk must be bought before being seated.

Students buying lunch will remain in a single file line while waiting to go through the cafeteria line.

Please memorize your lunch number and be ready to put it into the computer and press enter when you get to the end of the line.

Once seated, no one is to get up without permission from an adult.

Eat quietly and politely.

Raise your hand when you are finished eating. Wait to be dismissed before leaving. Make certain you have all of your trash with you before you take your tray to the trash can.

Put all leftover food and trash into the trash can. Stack your tray neatly with the other trays.

Walk to the playground and choose a game to play. First lunch plays on the lower playground and second lunch plays on the upper and lower fields.

Walk in when the whistle is blown, then walk to your line up area.

Wait quietly in line until your teacher comes to meet you.

Wednesday Lunch:

Students may walk down to the lunch area without the teacher.

Students will line up in a single file line while waiting to be lead down to the bus lines.

(6) Rules and procedures on school discipline adopted pursuant to Education code

Sections 35291 and 35291.5.

It is the principal's responsibility to maintain good discipline in the school in accordance with Education code, California Administrative code, and district-wide regulations and procedures promulgated by the superintendent for measurement of citizenship and development of good discipline. A principal may delegate to the vice-principal or to any teacher those duties necessary for maintenance of good student conduct.

Parents are expected to cooperate with school authorities in maintaining and encouraging proper standards of behavior for children.

## PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents, you are the single most important influence in your child's life. Your child's success in school is benefited by and directly related to your participation. *How can you help your child?*

- Check and discuss classwork. Ask: What did you learn today at school?
- Enforce a daily homework time. Turn off the TV/radio during homework time and monitor TV/radio at other times of the day.
- **Ask, on a daily basis, to see any notices that have been handed out at school.**
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about his or her progress at school (619) 463-9271.
- Visit Benchley-Weinberger and visit/volunteer in your child's classroom.
- Attend school meetings and events (Open House, School Site Council/Site Governance Team, Parent-Teacher Association, B-W Foundation).

If you can help in the classroom, develop teaching materials, or help in any way, please volunteer!!! Become an active member of the Benchley-Weinberger community.

All visitors on campus must sign in at the office and obtain a Visitor's badge. This rule is strictly enforced for the safety of your children.

***Benchley-Weinberger's success has been based on a close relationship between all involved parties. We pride ourselves in our feeling of FAMILY, CHILD CENTERED EDUCATION, WARMTH, CARING, CONCERN and COMMITMENT to the children.***

# BENCHLEY-WEINBERGER PTA

President: Derby Pattengill (619) 284-9471



The Benchley-Weinberger PTA supports the school's "**Achievement Through Communication**" magnet focus and its three themes: Interpersonal Communication; Media and Global Communication; and Artistic/Alternative Communication, by offering over 20 programs/events that enhance the existing curriculum and create opportunities for families to deepen their connection to their children's school. PTA programs provide . . .

**Opportunities for Helping Families Support Student Learning:** The PTA hosts educational workshops, including math skills workshops for parents and seminars on various parenting topics.

**Opportunities for Building Reading Skills and Enjoyment:** PTA programs include: *Reading is Fundamental*, the *Books and Beyond* reading challenge, *Everyone A Reader* tutors for struggling readers, and two *Scholastic Book Fairs*. PTA also provides *stipends* for library staff and teachers to use in purchasing classroom enrichment materials.

**Opportunities for Artistic Expression:** The PTA funds *art instruction* by district-approved consultants. It sponsors the *Reflections Program*, an arts program in which students express themselves through visual arts, photography, literature, dance, video, and/or music composition. Another chance for students to showcase their talent is the student *Spring Musical and Variety Show* in April. In May, our *Benchley Bash* picnic, choral review and art walk takes place.

**Opportunities for Community Outreach:** The PTA *Community Service Committee* participates in a *Holiday Teddy Bear Drive* and *Community Clean up Days*. . The PTA also rewards individual student's acts of goodness at its *Green Card Store*.

**Opportunities for Intercultural Communication:** The PTA funds *multi-cultural assemblies* throughout the year and hosts a *Multi-Cultural Fair* to celebrate our ethnically diverse student body.

**Opportunities for Connecting with Families and Building School Spirit:** The PTA rings in the new school year with *Back-to-School Night* for families in September. Be sure to wear your *BW t-shirt* to this event. It hosts a fun-filled *Halloween Happening* in late October. Our *Hospitality Committee* welcomes parents and teachers back to school and celebrates their work throughout the school year. The PTA helps families connect throughout the year through a monthly newsletter called *Paw Prints*, a school-wide *directory*, monthly PTA meetings, an annual PTA *membership* drive to welcome new families, a *kindergarten ,room parent*, and *volunteer orientation*, and a bulletin board outside the front office with news of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities. New this year is our PTA E-Blast. Sign up for E-Blast and we will remind you via email of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

**The PTA funds its work with a few key fundraisers.** These include the gift wrap sale in September, book fairs, cereal box tops, E-script, cartridge recycling, and membership dues. **By becoming a member of PTA,** you help support our programs.

**PTA meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month.** Check your child's backpack on a regular basis for flyers about meeting times and other PTA events. You do not need to be a PTA member to attend meetings, although you must be a member to vote. There are lots of opportunities to join committees or volunteer at events.

**The school year starts off with a bang at Benchley-Weinberger.** Our hospitality committee welcomes new parents on the **first day of school, September 8, 2009 at 7:45 am** with refreshments. **Our Back-to-School Night Family Social takes place on September 25th,** We welcome you to the school and invite you to join our PTA in helping to make the B/W educational experience a truly exceptional one for students and families alike!

# Benchley-Weinberger Foundation

Let us introduce ourselves...

**What is the Benchley-Weinberger Foundation?** The Benchley-Weinberger Foundation is a registered non-profit foundation, operated by B-W parents. The objective of the Foundation is to fund present and future programs or projects designed to benefit the children enrolled at Benchley-Weinberger. We are the only fund-raising program at Benchley-Weinberger that gives 100% of all donations back to the school.

**Why was the Foundation created?** You are probably already familiar with some of our activities!! The Foundation sponsors several family-oriented fund-raising activities throughout the year including the Benchley-Weinberger Auction, the Jog-a-thon, Donor Wall Program and Movie Night.

**What has the Foundation accomplished over the years?** The Foundation has been an active support system for many of the critical elements that make our school a superior learning environment. Computers with software and printers, the PE storage shed, trees near the classrooms, student lunch tables, air conditioning for classrooms and the new library, sponsorship of the Robotics Program, and the emergency backpacks in all classrooms and offices were all funded by the Foundation.

**How do I become involved with the Foundation?** The Foundation is entirely made up of parents of B-W children. They volunteer their time to support programs and activities that benefit all our children. Every year current Foundation board members solicit new members to participate on the Foundation. If you are interested in becoming involved or have questions about the Foundation, please contact the school office or our current president Drew Smith at 465-1221.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you the best this new year! Thank you for your past and continued support of your children's educational well-being.

# *Benchley-Weinberger Elementary School*

## *SUGGESTED LIST OF STUDENT SUPPLIES*

*Purchase of these items is strictly voluntary.*

### **ITEM**

### **QUANTITY**

#### **Grades K – 1:**

Backpack (labeled with name) 1

**\*Kindergarten and first grade teachers will notify parents of classroom needs.\***

#### **Grade 2:**

Backpack (labeled with name)	1
Number 2 pencils	3-5
Large eraser	1
Glue sticks	2
Colored pencils (24 count)	1 set
Post Its (size 3x3)	1 stack
Ruler -inch and centimeter (for home use)	1

#### **Grade 3:**

Backpack (labeled with name)	1
Number 2 pencils with erasers	1 box of 12
Glue sticks-large	2
Student scissors (labeled with name)	1 pair
Highlighter	1
Colored pencils (optional)	1 set
Post-its	2 pks
Gum eraser	1
Sharpie Marker – Fine, black	1

### **Grades 4-5:**

3 ring binder- no larger than 1 inch wide, NO large padded binders	1
3 hole punch paper	1 pkg
Dividers for binder	1 pkg
Number 2 pencils (3 everyday)	3
Sharpie Marker –regular and fine	1
Highlighter	1
Glue sticks	2
Calculator	1
Post Its— small preferred	1 stack per month
Plastic zippered 3 hole pouch for pencils etc. ( <u>no</u> boxes)	1
Compass/protractor	1
Colored pencils	1 set
Rulers- inch and centimeter scale	1
Scissors	1 pair

### **5<sup>th</sup> grade only:**

1 1/2” white, clear, view cover for compilation of 5<sup>th</sup> grade work (kept in room) (no plastic cases or boxes)

### **Room B8 only:**

Index card box (3 x 5) with a packet of index cards every few months (as needed).

These supplies are necessary on a daily basis. Please bring only the items on this list. Any other supplies are not necessary and should be kept at home. At school, they become distractions.

Backpacks will be left outside during the day.

*Other items to have on hand at home for use on projects at home or to bring for special circumstances are: Colored pens and pencils, markers, rulers (centimeter and inch), crayons, paint and notebook paper.*