

PANDA PAPERS

Panda by Lila M.

New Benchley Weinberger Principal

By Maegan S. and Sophia S.

Everyone's excited for the new principal! Everybody wants to know who it is, and we bet you're excited to hear the information you need to know.

Interim Principals Mrs. Philips and Mrs. Gonzalez, who are kindly helping our school until we have a new principal, spoke to us about the process of hiring a new principal.

There was a posting on the SDUSD website advertising for candidates for a new principal. The qualifications you have to have to be a principal are a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and an administrative credential.

The next step was choosing the candidates for this position. The Area Superintendent chose candidates that they thought would be the right fit. The successful candidates were invited to the Community Panel Interview. They were asked specific questions and the best candidate will be hired by the School Board.

If everything goes well, we should be expecting a new principal in two weeks!



Interim Principal Kathy Phillips (Top) & Interim Principal Sylvia Gonzalez (Bottom)



Student Council News

By Lila M. and Olevia K.

The people have voted! Not so long ago, the Student Council was assembled. Everyone agrees that this year's speeches were fantastic!

Student Council

2019/2020

PRESIDENT

Grace C.

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Alex M.

FIRE MARSHAL

Hollace L.

VICE PRESIDENT

Lila M.

SECRETARY

Kayla B.

PLAYGROUND COMMISSIONER

Olivia H.



Grace C., Kayla B., Olivia H., Lila M., Alex M. & Hollace L.

If you did not already know, idea boxes have been placed in the library and the media lab. If you have an opinion or idea about the school, the ASB would love to know! We have talked to our school president, Grace, and she says "We need more creative and imaginative ideas for our school, that only you can come up with!" She says she "can't wait to hear more ideas!" Lila agrees and says "A full idea box can make anyone smile!"

Believe it or not, dodgeball may be coming back! Olivia will talk to the principal about bringing our beloved game back into play. Olivia says "I will try my best to convince our principal to bring back dodgeball!"

The Student Council is filled with exciting news!

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Armstrong

By Lukas W. and Mac S.



Mrs. Armstrong

Did you know that Mrs. Armstrong, one of our 5th grade teachers, has been teaching at BW for 15 years? That's right, not only has she taught at BW, but she has taught at two other schools as well.

We interviewed Mrs. Armstrong asking a couple of questions and learned quite a bit. Her favorite subject to teach is math. She loves to spend time with kids and that's why she became a teacher. Mrs. Armstrong has taught grades 2 - 5. Mrs. Armstrong loves helping with the ASB because they are the leaders of the school. If she wasn't a teacher, she would have been a children's book writer. Mrs. Armstrong thought about being a teacher in her second year of college at SDSU and the first school that she taught at was Knox Elementary.

A little bit of information about Mrs. Armstrong is that both of her children are teachers, her biggest class was 36 students and her smallest class had 27 students (this year). Her birthday is January 17. Mrs. Armstrong doesn't have any pets, and she loves to see old students.

In conclusion, Mrs. Armstrong is a really great teacher and works very hard. If you get her as a teacher, you will love her!

5th Grade Music Program

by Mia O. and Sophie A.

The fifth grade music program is found in Bungalow B. Our music teacher, Mrs. Dye, is teaching us all about music. We started with the recorder, moved onto bucket drumming for percussion, and then we moved on to choir. The recorder was very fun and we mostly focused on simple songs progressing to more difficult songs.

Our teacher, Mrs. Dye, decided she wanted to be a music teacher in college, where she took many classes on music. Mrs. Dye knows how to play many instruments, including the piano, guitar and flute, but one of her favorites is the ukulele. One of her favorite songs to play is "Stand by Me" by Ben E. King. Her favorite note is B flat. She also loves to learn the history of music. Mrs. Dye wants to teach us how to play the violin and the clarinet.

We really appreciate how our music teacher is teaching us many instruments and about many different types of music.

Traveling Through Benchley

A Poem by Edward B. and Chad S.

We started Benchley as a little K
We were so surprised that we had to do
more than play
We moved on to grade one
And really had some great fun
We jumped over to grade two
And by then we knew how to tie our shoe
We happily skipped over to grade three
And even got an otter pop for free
We jogged over to grade four
And danced on the auditorium floor
We sprinted around to grade five
It took us a long time to arrive!

Lunch Time Reminders

- **Once the bell rings**, line up for lunch with your class
- Walk to the cafeteria in an **orderly fashion**
- **Walk to a table** if you brought your lunch, or **walk to line up in the lunch line**
- If you are getting your lunch from the cafeteria, **choose your entree**
- **Choose your beverage** (chocolate or plain milk)
- **Pick delicious vegetables** to go with your entree
- Get your **utensils and condiments**
- **Sit down and enjoy your meal**
- **When the bell rings**, look for any trash around you and **sit quietly** while waiting to be dismissed.
- **Always walk to the playground**



Music Teacher, Mrs. Dye

Kalos Chu's Musical Return



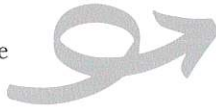
Former Benchley student, Kalos Chu

by Raja S. and Shane S.

On January 14th, several classes came to see former Benchley student, Kalos Chu's quartet performance. If you're wondering what a quartet is, it's a group of four people who play orchestra music together.

Kalos attends Harvard now. He brought his friends Saghi, Miles and Dana to play along with him. They all attend Patrick Henry now. They played several songs including: "Hello" by Adele; "All of Me" by John Legend; and "Believer" by Imagine Dragons.

Kalos was kind enough to answer some of our nagging questions!



Kalos' performance was absolutely awesome!



Kalos Chu's Quartet: Saghi, Miles, Dana and Kalos

Q: Why did you come to Benchley and play with your friends?

A: "I want to inspire kids to play an instrument."

Q: What was the first song you ever played?

A: "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star."

Q: Do you play any other instruments?:

A: "The drums."

Q: What is your biggest accomplishment as a musician?

A: "Performing in a symphony hall."

Q: When did you start playing the violin?

A: "In fifth grade."

A Step Forward

by Madison L. and Olivia K.

In January, Benchley's fifth graders walked over to Pershing Middle School. We were able to visit classrooms, meet some of the staff, and watch a powerpoint presentation about what to expect next year as sixth graders. The 7th and 8th grade students took the fifth graders around the school. We learned many things about what we will need, what we will learn, and what we will do.

We were able to interview the principal, Mrs. Levy. She has been the principal at Pershing since 2013. She gave us some wonderful answers about first day expectations.



Mrs. Levy, Pershing Principal

"They (6th grade students) may feel a little nervous, but we are going to help them do everything that they need to do. The teachers are going to come to the auditorium and pick up the students who are in their class," said Mrs. Levy.

Mrs. Levy also mentioned what sets Pershing apart from other middle schools:

"Pershing is a smaller school and that means that we get to know the kids a lot better. The most important thing is that we care so much about the students that we will do anything for them to help them succeed. The last thing is we have great parents who participate and help out in all kinds of activities."

The fifth graders are so excited to be Pershing Panthers but will always be Pandas with Heart!

Technology Use and Internet Safety

by Jake B. and Dylan T.

Students from Benchley use technology every day or several times per week. Students are protected from any bad sites on the internet at Benchley.

Students in every classroom are provided with a Chromebook for individual use. The classrooms also have either a Promethean board or a Boxlight.

Students use technology everyday for writing essays and research. They also go to websites such as Raz Kids, Read Works, ST Math, Sumdog, and Epic. Students also access Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, Google Classroom, and Google Draw. Teachers and students can electronically share important assignments and do group projects through Google Classroom and Google Drive.

In January, we had an assembly about safety and protection on computers. The presenter reminded students about the safety of using any device and to keep all personal information to yourself. Apps or games should never ask you about your personal information because it could lead to scams. Although some students have them, many social media sites are not allowed until the age of 13, which is a good thing. The assembly was a great reminder about security and safety.

Benchley Weinberger's Counselor

By Bella A. and Alyx N.

Tania Ramirez is our school counselor and you might already know her and her dog, Ferdinand. Ferdinand was named after the famous children's book, "The Story of Ferdinand." We asked her about her job:



Ms. Ramirez

Q: What do you do as a counselor?

A: A counselor is a person who students can come talk to about anything in a safe environment without feeling judged.

Q: Is your job hard?

A: I love my job, so it doesn't feel like it's hard. There are some days that are very emotional.

Q: Why do you bring your dog to school?

A: Dogs are very therapeutic, and they help with things like anxiety, anger and many other emotions that make it difficult to focus on schoolwork.

Q: When did you start as a counselor?

A: I was a teacher for 10 years and then became a counselor in 2013.

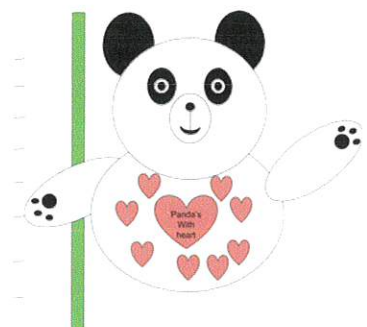
We are thankful for having Mrs. Ramirez at this school and it brings a smile to our faces when we see Ferdinand!



Panda by Maegan S.



Panda by Madison L. and Olevia K.



Panda by Raja S. and Shane S.

Echo Book Review

by Nolan R. and Zander C.

Mrs. Armstrong's class read *Echo* by Pam Munoz Ryan as a class. *Echo* is a really good book and we think everyone should get a chance to read it. *Echo* won the Newberry Award, which is given to the author with the most distinguished contribution to children's literature the previous year.

The book has four separate stories about children that each end with cliffhangers. The final chapters resume the cliffhangers and tell us what happened. The settings of all the stories are during WWII, but each story is in a different year or a different place during the war.

You should really read *Echo* so you can see what happened to Friedrich, Mike and Ivy, who are all memorable characters. You will have an adventurous time!



Weird Facts

by Dylan T. and Jake. B



The smallest school has one teacher and one student.



Slugs have four noses.



Did you know that Flamingos bend their legs at the ankles instead of the knees?



Didaskaleinophobia is the fear of school.



Ostriches eyes are bigger than their brains!



Snails can sleep for three years.



The first ice pops were made by accident by an 11 year old.



Turtles can hold their breath longer than Dolphins, which is more than 10 minutes!



The rhino's horn is made of keratin, the same type of protein that makes up human hair and fingernails.



A Shrimp's heart is in it's head.



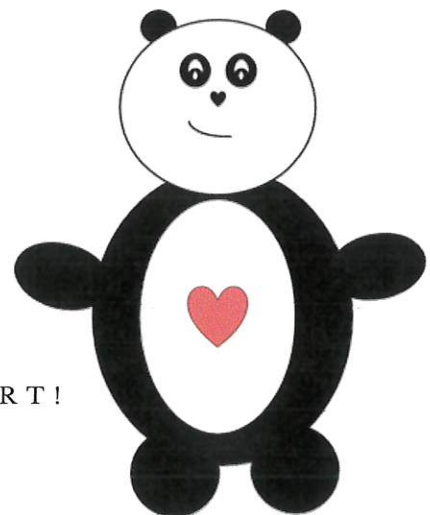
Russian kids all start school on September 1, even if it's a Sunday!



Panda by Lukas W.

ALWAYS BE
KIND

WE ARE PANDAS WITH HEART!



Panda by Olivia K.

Fun & Games

By Josie P. and Grace C.

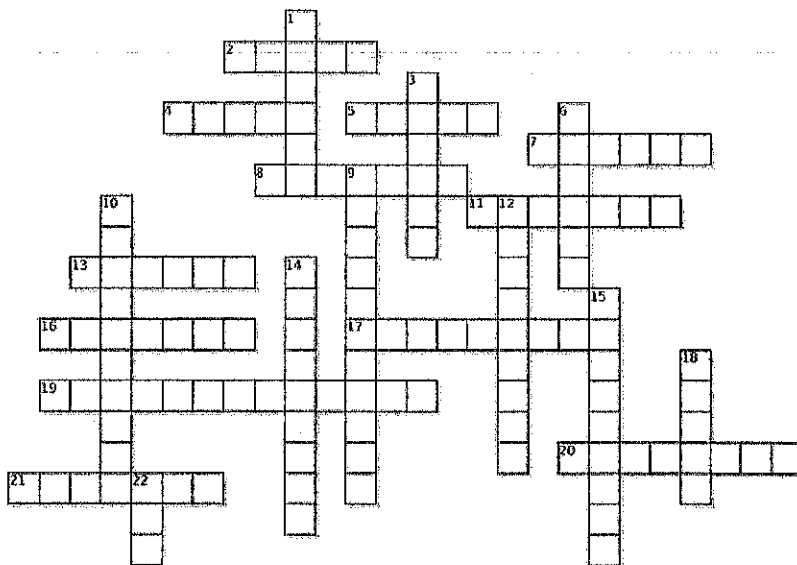
Crossword Puzzle*

Across

2. K has a son in kindergarten
4. 1st everyone's favorite donut
5. K longest kindergarten teacher at BW
7. 4th taught 4th and 5th grade
8. 3rd began in October
11. K computer wiz
13. 1st just had a baby girl
16. 3rd has a baby boy named Grayson
17. 2nd loves the Padres
19. 4th loves wonder woman
20. 1st loves cats and dogs
21. 2nd lucky number 7

Down

1. 1st loves sparkle
3. 2nd loves art
6. 1st daughter graduated last year from BW
9. 3rd has a daughter in kindergarten
10. K has kids in 3rd and 5th grade
12. 4th loves purple
14. 5th loves Harry Potter
15. 5th ASB advisor
18. 5th fosters dogs and cats
22. 3rd loves dogs and dog beach



***HINT! The grade the teacher teaches is listed before the clue.**

Word Search

Y	H	N	Y	A	Y	N	D	H	E	O	N	N	J	T	W	V	A
Z	G	I	N	Y	H	S	I	B	B	E	T	B	R	L	I	E	E
N	W	D	E	M	E	X	P	A	H	Z	B	W	C	Y	D	V	O
J	G	R	G	N	O	R	T	S	M	R	A	W	P	N	X	Q	P
H	G	A	R	D	R	A	W	S	X	B	M	U	O	M	B	S	A
D	G	B	O	H	T	U	C	V	W	W	W	M	B	L	W	I	P
L	C	U	S	A	R	R	I	T	G	Y	R	G	Y	U	P	N	C
E	F	R	R	W	V	P	U	Z	M	O	K	N	E	R	U	A	V
I	L	E	E	B	A	A	K	J	G	C	N	L	Z	C	Y	M	T
F	I	S	N	B	S	Z	E	H	I	U	P	W	A	H	E	D	H
S	X	S	H	E	Q	K	S	B	A	L	T	P	L	T	A	S	H
N	K	E	O	A	U	I	A	C	B	S	L	I	G	Q	R	Q	H
A	C	S	D	M	E	N	F	F	L	A	S	O	E	S	Y	X	S
T	E	F	S	Q	Z	D	O	V	T	K	P	E	F	R	E	U	F
S	B	U	M	R	Q	R	N	L	O	H	L	X	L	R	R	H	Y
O	N	A	N	M	M	O	T	V	P	O	N	F	W	B	V	E	G
N	A	L	I	L	R	N	F	I	L	N	E	R	J	K	A	D	Z
F	V	K	G	B	V	N	J	S	C	H	R	O	E	D	E	R	I

Can you find all the words?

1. BRUGH
2. SAFONT
3. ORMONDE
4. FILNER
5. SWARD
6. PUYEAR
7. OHNERSORGEN
8. VAN BECK
9. GLAZE
10. VASQUEZ
11. MANIS
12. STANSFIELD
13. RYE
14. HASSELBAR
15. SIBBET
16. SCHROEDER
17. ARMSTRONG
18. KINDRON
19. AUFSESSER
20. RUIZ-GUTIERREZ
21. BARDIN
22. TRUJILLO