

March 2016

Issue 7

**Special Points of**

**Interest:**

The San Benancio Oak Leaf is published monthly. For additional information about our district or a particular school, visit our website at <http://www.washingtonusd.org>

Please call the attendance line at 484-0972 when your student is absent.

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# The Oak Leaf

*San Benancio Middle School*

## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

With Spring around the corner, San Benancio is getting busy and active! The rain has quickly come and gone; warmer weather is already in the forecast, but we hope for a bit more rain to help ease the drought.

We recently held our Spelling Bee and had an exciting competition. For the second year in a row, Natalie Gibbs was our winner! Natalie will represent San Benancio in the Monterey County Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 13, at Hartnell College. Congratulations to all of the participants:

**6th grade:** Nina McCarthy, Nikolas Moret, Jacqueline Palshaw, Jackson Roberts

**7th grade:** Winston Chu, Natalie Gibbs, Olivia Liu, Keertana Nambiar

**8th grade:** Michelle Foley, Jessica Kunkle, Joseph Kuruvilla, Lizbeth Kuruvilla

WUEF held their annual Dinner Auction on February 20 and it was a terrific evening. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner at Corral de Tierra Country Club and had the opportunity to bid on a wide variety of silent and live auction items. Many thanks to Lisa Milburn, the WUEF board and all of the committee

members for a fantastic evening—and thank you to all of you who gave so generously in support of Music, Art, and Technology.

Our committee chairs are in place for the 8th grade end of year activities! Kori Lukasko is chairing the Graduation Ceremony; Jen Atteridge and Becki Ross have graciously taken the Dance Committee; and Tanya Reinhardt is heading up the Barbecue and Swim Party. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please let us know.

With warmer weather already in the forecast, please take some time to review the Dress Code. If your child is out of dress code, he or she will either need to change into PE clothes or call home for something more appropriate for school. Following the school rules will avoid disruptions to the classroom and help to maintain an orderly campus environment.

Have a wonderful month!

Sincerely,

*Gina Uccelli*



## ATTENDANCE

We rely on ADA (Average Daily Attendance) to fund our various school programs and support systems. The state allocates funding to the district based upon this ADA. The school receives \$55.55 per day for each student who is in school. The state does not give us the \$55.55 for student absences, even if the student was out for an illness or family emergency. **In the past month, we had 422 days of student absence, which translates to \$23, 442 in lost revenue to the district.**

Remember, it is important that your child's health be your primary concern. Please do not send your child to school if he or she is ill, has vomited in the past 24 hours, or has a fever. If your child is going to be out for 5 days or more, please call for a contract. Additionally, if you will be going on any extended vacations, it is important to notify the office to arrange for a contract so your child can complete schoolwork **and** get credit for attendance.

Please call the attendance office at 484-0972 for information.

## STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Thank you to everyone who sent in clothes for the clothing drive. We collected 19 huge boxes of clothes, bags and shoes. If you'd like to check out our clothing collection go to [www.schoola.com](http://www.schoola.com)

Our clothes should be appearing shortly. Thank you again!!

Dance 2.0 was a great night for the students who attended. Students danced and ate the evening away. They took photos in our photo booth and had a great time socializing with their friends.

Our Valentine Day's candy gram sale was successful. Candy grams were delivered during Activity period on Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Extra Candy Grams were signed by ASB and donated to Dorothy's Kitchen for them to distribute on Valentine's Day.

Our annual Leukemia/Lymphoma drive will begin on March 7 through the 11<sup>th</sup>. ASB will be holding a raffle instead of our usual collection of donations. Keep posted for the grand prize!

## NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

As spring quickly approaches, our ensembles are meticulously preparing for Spring Concerts, graduation, and the Music in the Parks competition at Disneyland. The Jazz Ensemble has also been invited to perform once again at the Big Sur Marathon on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Our young musicians will encourage the runners with music while they come running on by.



Cookie Dough -  
Just Like  
Homemade

This March our Music Program is delighted to participate in the *Harmony Resources Cookie Dough Fundraiser*. These funds will go directly towards Music in the Parks trips later in the year. Our award-winning music program is very active with concerts, CMEA honor events, and competitions. These highly enriching experiences largely rely on the donations and fundraising efforts from programs such as this. Thanks in advance for your help and support. This program would not be so successful if it weren't for the wonderful and supportive families in this district!

The WUEF Spring Fling took place on Saturday, February 20th. This fantastic fundraiser is vital to the continuance of our music and art programs as well as technology upgrades. Several piano students performed for the first part of the evening to demonstrate how your support directly benefits the students' education. Our district is very fortunate and grateful to WUEF for their efforts and for your donations and attendance at the event.



## Art News for March

In February, the Art Docent Program gave lessons in clay. Clay is always one of the highlights of our art program for our students. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade completed the popular Terracotta Warriors lesson, which becomes the centerpiece of our annual art show. In the beginning of February, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes in their Literature classes Boston Buildings.

### Printmaking Units in the Classroom

Printmaking is a fine arts medium as well as an important commercial process. It can be used for both practical and decorative purposes. In printing, a picture, design, or image is transferred to paper or fabric. The process can be repeated for identical prints changed to create hand printed variations, or used to only once to make a one of a kind monoprint. The student discovers that the printing process transforms the original image in surprising ways. Although making a print is a mechanical process, it is also highly creative because of all the choices that the artist makes. Printing allows the student to observe and utilize many of the art elements and principles: line, shape, color, texture, value, repetition, and pattern.

In March students from **Grade 6** will make Relief Print Insects. They will start with a photograph of an insect and take the image through all the stages of printmaking: sketching from the photo, transferring the sketch to a printing plate, cutting the printing plate, applying colors, and finally making a numbered series of prints. Ask your student to tell you the steps in the printmaking process that he or she has learned.

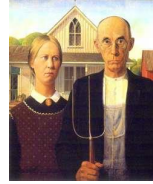
**Grade 8** will be doing Amate Mexican folk art painting in their History classes.



### Picture of the Month

In March, the Picture of the Month selections moves into American Realism, Modern Art, Abstract Art and Pop Art.

American Realism art was an attempt to describe human behavior and surroundings more accurately. This period of art occurred the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Realist Artists attempted to portray lives, appearances, problems, customs of the middle and lower classes. Focusing on the unexceptional, the ordinary, and the humble.



Modern Art mostly refers to art of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Europe and the Americas, as well as in other regions under Western influence. The modern period has been a particularly innovative one. Introducing a wide range of new artistic techniques and materials.



Abstract Art is defined as art that has no reference to any figurative reality. One cannot associate it with any real natural form.



Pop Art was introduced in the 1950's to 1970's. This form of art depicts objects or scenes from everyday life and uses techniques from commercial art and popular illustration.



## Calendar Reminder

**Annual Art Show**

**May 17-19**

**Mark your calendars!**

## Parents' Club

Hello from Parents' Club!

Please join us on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March for this month's meeting. We will meet at 6:00 in Room 10 at San Benancio. This is an important meeting as we are going to finalize the menu for the Staff luncheon and discuss options for the Open House dinners. **Also on the agenda is to pick a date for the HARVEST CARNIVAL, begin to find our chair people and talk about any changes or additions to the carnival!** Please remember this event, along with other Parents' Club events, will not be possible without parent volunteers!!

Upcoming events:

- Staff Appreciation Luncheon: May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Toro Open House Dinner: May 12<sup>th</sup> (this event needs volunteers in order for it to happen)
- Washington Open House Dinner: May 17<sup>th</sup> (this event needs volunteers in order for it to happen)

Thank you so much for all your support!!

WUSD Parents' Club



**WUEF** would like to thank all those that attended our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser!! The event was a great success and we would like to thank all the businesses and sponsors who so generously donated to the event.

**If you did not get a chance to attend, here is a glimpse of the event:**

A beautiful February evening. Jazz music in the air. Colorful beads and masks. It must have been Mardi Gras!

Corral de Tierra Country Club served as the backdrop for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual WUEF Fundraiser. The musical stylings of the San Benancio Middle School Jazz Band, the creative talents of our students' artwork was showcased on display, and served as an intentional reminder of the event's purpose to raise the money necessary to keep curriculum based art and music programs alive in our public school district.

Passed hors d'oeuvre fueled event attendees as they battled over coveted silent auction items. The chance for students to serve as 'Principal of the Day', nab box seats to watch our SF Giants in action, and 'Class baskets' were but a few of the items available. After the silent auction closed down, guests moved into the ballroom for a delicious sit down dinner. Bidding during the live auction was quite competitive. Hosted parties, braces, a pig hunt, vacations, and more were some of the live auction packages! The evening wrapped up with everyone on the dance floor. Smiles and laughter made it clear that it was a fun night out by all!

For those of you who were not able to attend, we appreciated your donations. If you have not had a chance to donate we are still receiving donations.

**Donations can continue to be made through the organization's secure website:**

[wuef.ejoinme.org/donate](http://wuef.ejoinme.org/donate) or via mail at 820 Park Row #473, Salinas, California 93901

Like us on Facebook. Go to Washington Union Educational Foundation. We will keep you updated on Facebook!

***The WUEF Board Meeting will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00p.m., Toro MPR room. Please feel free to attend.***

Sincerely,

Lisa Milburn  
WUEF President 2015-16



## *Mountain Bike Mondays*

**WHAT?** Weekly mountain bike ride for San Benancio Middle Schoolers (4th and 5th Graders allowed with parents present).

**WHEN?** Mondays after school: 3:30 until about 5:00. Rain cancels.

**WHERE?** From the parking area to the right and behind the 7-Eleven in Toro Park. Carpooling from school is encouraged (let us know if your child needs a ride), or ride the school bus.

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Mountain bike with gears
- Helmet
- Water bottle or camelback
- Spare tube and chainlube
- Lots of energy
- Good attitude

**RIDE PHILOSOPHY:** This is not a competitive ride. We have several groups of different abilities. Anyone able to ride about 6 miles in 1 hour and 15 minutes is welcome to attend. Terrain is a mix of fire road and single track of mild to moderate difficulty; the advanced group will ride more challenging trails and will participate in races. We do not leave anyone behind. We take frequent breaks to regroup.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteer ride leaders of all levels are needed! Regular leaders for the C group (beginners) are most needed. Shared leader positions are available. This year we will also need a volunteer communications person (non-riding). Call or email Gretta Williams if interested: (831) 214-0978 / [ganddwilliams@razzolink.com](mailto:ganddwilliams@razzolink.com).

### **Next sign-up and bike check for all new riders:**

Monday, March 7th , at 3:30 p.m. at the Creekside Trailhead. (Bring your bike and helmet!) New riders will do a “placement ride.” In case of rain the sign-up event will be moved to the following week.