

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

January 2010

Challenger School
wishes you a



January at a Glance

January 4

Classes Resume

January 4–22

NV Priority Enrollment

January 11–29

CA, ID, and UT
Priority Enrollment

January 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School

January 27–28

Preschool and Kindergarten
Small World Days



CHALLENGER
S C H O O L

How to Live with Your Children and Like Them Love and Limits

A young woman once recounted this story to a therapist:

In her early teens, she had become involved with an unsavory group of friends. She wanted to break away from them but lacked the necessary courage, so she decided to bring her friends home, trusting that her parents would see how destructive they were and forbid her from hanging out with them. Soon, the friends began cursing, smoking, and drinking, but the mother and father simply got their coats and left the house. Dismayed, the daughter lamented, "If they really loved me, they would have stopped me and made me drop those friends." Later, the young woman ended up in serious trouble. Talking to her therapist, she came to understand firsthand how damaging permissiveness can be.

As parents, it is natural to want to give freely to our children. But if we want our children to develop into *successful, self-reliant* individuals, we must love them enough to provide clear and consistent guidelines.

A driver traveling at night over a bridge without guide rails would be extremely frightened. Without walls or yellow lines to mark the road's edge, he could never be sure how close he was to the rim. Similarly, a child who receives varying messages at different times is in constant uncertainty of what is or is not allowed.

Challenger students excel in large part because of the security of the Challenger system. The road on which they're traveling has clearly marked lanes, so they do not have to worry about trying to determine where the shoulder is, and instead they are free to concentrate on advancing confidently toward their destinations. Our students achieve because they know we care enough about them to set boundaries, even when it's difficult to do. The young woman's parents took the easier way and left their daughter to work it out by herself, but she couldn't do it alone.

One of the greatest gifts parents and educators can give children is the gift of structure. When children resist the rules, they are seeking the security of limits. By giving our children a clear behavioral framework, we provide an atmosphere in which they can flourish and achieve, and that's the most loving gesture of all.



For more on this topic, see *How to Live with Your Children and Like Them* by Clyde F. Boyle, Michael C. Boyle, and David E. Boyle.

Student Showcase

Geometry and Ornaments

Students from two 8th grade geometry classes at the Berryessa (CA) campus were asked to design and build a three-dimensional ornament demonstrating ten geometric concepts, such as polygons, tangents, arcs, dihedral angles, and the like. The ornaments were inspired by winter or a holiday celebrated during winter. Students said that while incorporating the concepts was difficult at first, they now notice the different concepts in structures in their daily lives. They especially enjoyed building their ornament and seeing their work on display in the math classroom. Clockwise from right: Ajay Rajan, Toni Lantin, and Ankur Gupta.



Tax Identification Number

For those who need it for their tax returns, Challenger's tax ID is 94-1709563.



Open Houses

In the coming weeks, prospective Challenger parents will have several opportunities to visit Challenger campuses to learn more about our powerful programs. Consult our website at ChallengerSchool.com for specific dates and times in your area, and spread the word to your friends who are interested in enrolling their children at Challenger.

I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy.

—John Adams

Priority Enrollment This Month

Current students must reapply every year before open enrollment begins to ensure priority placement.

Current Challenger students and their siblings have an opportunity to enroll for the 2010–2011 school year before enrollment opens to the public. An application packet will be sent to you via your child this month.



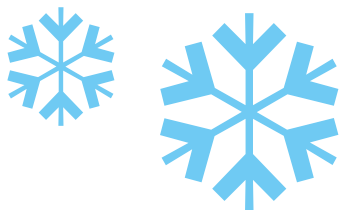
Science Fair K–8

In preparation for next month’s science fair, your child will be conducting experiments using the scientific method. A few short weeks from now we’ll be displaying the results of our investigations. Our clever Challenger students would love to have you join us to peruse their exhibits and discuss their projects with them.

The fair will feature ingenious and thought-provoking demonstrations, experiments, and inventions. Be sure to check the calendar on the back of January’s *Classroom News* and reserve the date.



Last year’s Everest (ID) second graders and their teacher pose proudly with their science fair project.



Heard It in the Halls

Shawnee (California) Campus—After studying the geographical directions north, south, east, and west, first grader Minh accidentally bumped his head while getting out of his parents’ car. “Where does it hurt?” asked his concerned father. Minh replied, “On the northeast side of my head!”

Almaden (California) Campus—When Mrs. Mondal asked her second graders to write a synonym for “rock” on their whiteboards, most students wrote “stone.” Except Joshua. He held up his whiteboard to reveal his answer: “heavy metal.”



Small World Day PS–K

This month Challenger preschoolers and kindergartners will be learning about other lands and peoples. Then they will explore and share the traditions, songs, dances, and stories of their heritage from many countries.

We invite preschool students to wear clothing that is representative of their family’s heritage or country of origin. Kindergarten students will wear the Challenger uniform, but they may add a scarf, vest, pendant or other item representing their ancestry or one of the nations they have studied. (Please be sure to consider safety when planning attire.)

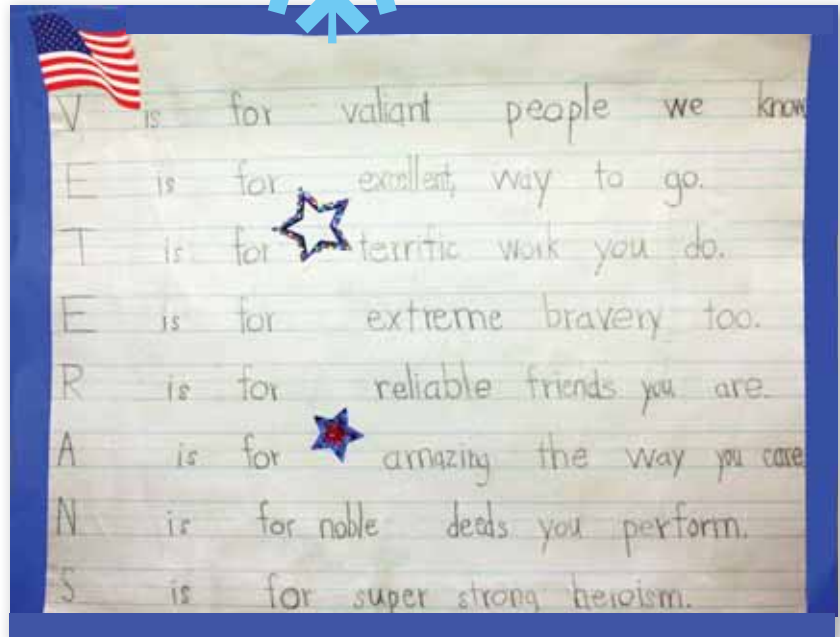
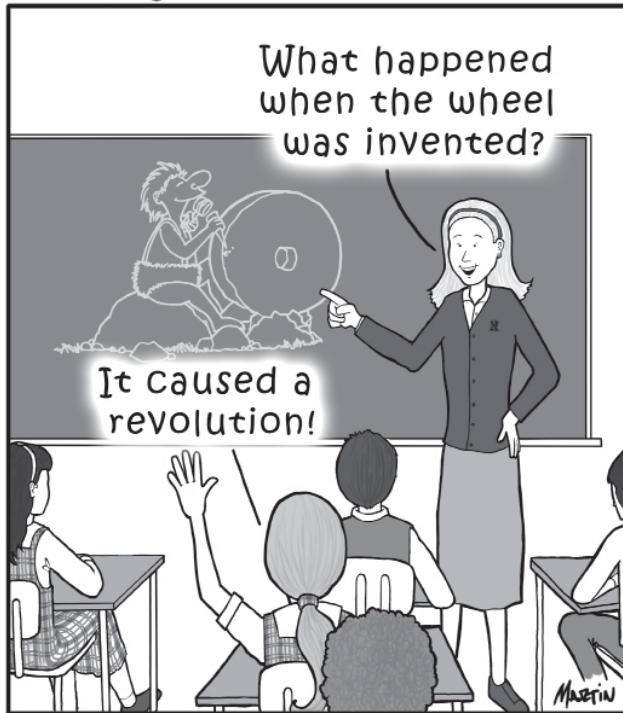
We encourage children to bring photographs, books, or other items about their ancestry or heritage. Please mark pieces carefully with your name and phone number so we can make sure they are returned to you afterward.

Note: We will provide a snack for the festivities, so please do not send a snack with your child.



A Challenger preschooler models cultural clothing as part of Small World Day.

Learning Curve



Strawberry Park (California) kindergartner Adhithi Fernandez was so inspired by the Veterans Day observances at her campus that she penned this touching acrostic.

Preschool



Sandy Preschool (Utah) students glowed with holiday spirit at last month's Christmas Sing. Thanks to all of our audiences!

Kindergarten Previews

To prepare parents for the transition from preschool to kindergarten, classroom previews continue this month. Please come meet our kindergarten teachers and watch the kindergarten activities.

Look for invitations containing details regarding specific times, dates, and locations.



Enrollment Considerations

It could be a mistaken belief that morning classes are always better for preschoolers. Some studies, including Challenger studies, show that preschool and kindergarten children who attend afternoon classes perform better academically, on average, than those attending morning classes!

Some children are full of energy in the mornings and can amuse themselves, but by afternoon they become bored. Thus, by afternoon they are quite receptive to activities, ending up even more excited about taming down to “learn, sing, and play” with friends and teachers. This also leaves parents free for afternoon activities of their own, such as workouts at the gym or shopping. Commute traffic is often more friendly in the afternoons, also.



Children who may be accustomed to napping in the afternoon can easily adjust to an afternoon schedule by going to bed earlier or rising later in the morning.

Regardless of which you choose—morning or afternoon—we will make school wonderful for your child!