

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

September 2009

Do You Know?



Why did Barbara Baker leave the public schools to start Challenger in 1963?

(Hint: Check out our website to find the answer.)

The answer to this month's question will appear in the next issue of Challenger News.

September at a Glance

- **September 7**
Labor Day (No School)
- **September 8–17**
Evenings for Parents
(Kindergarten–Grade 8)
- **September 11**
Patriot Day and Constitution Day
Assembly (Kindergarten–Grade 8)
- **September 15–17**
Parent Workshops (Preschool)
- **September 24–25**
Western Days (Preschool)
- **September 25**
Student Council Elections and
Western Day (Kindergarten)



CHALLENGER
S C H O O L

Welcome to Challenger School's 2009–2010 School Year!

We are excited to begin another school year of learning and fun.

New Visor Card Holder

We have given parents a holder for visor cards, which can display one or more cards on the passenger-side visor for the drive-through line. Please go to the school office to get your holder if you were unable to attend orientation or Visor Card Day.



Just for fun, the visor card holder also features CD storage.

If you have two or more children in your vehicle, please ask the school office about getting drop-down windows to attach to the holder. The drop-down windows easily fold up behind the visor.

Website Changes

We have added schedules, maps, and event information to our campus web pages. To navigate to your campus page, go to ChallengerSchool.com, select Contact a Campus from the top right, and choose your campus. Once at your campus page, you can read or download important information. A list of available PDFs is shown at the bottom of each page.

(Try bookmarking your campus page in your internet browser because we regularly update campus information.)

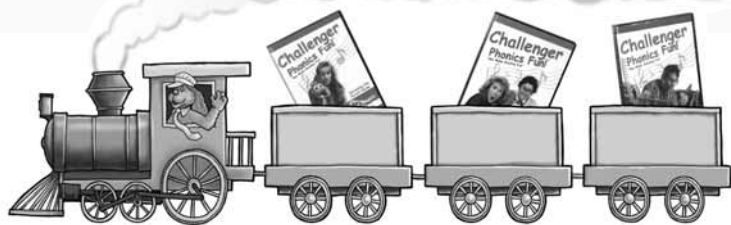
Flu Season Precautions

We advise all of Challenger's parents and employees to research for themselves the issues surrounding the H1N1 "Swine Flu" virus and to continue to take all precautions that you would for any contagious infection.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published guidelines "designed to decrease exposure to regular seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 while limiting the disruption of day-to-day activities and the vital learning that goes on in schools." Some important guidelines to remember include the following:

1. Wash hands frequently with soap and water and prompt children to do so.
2. Cough and sneeze into your elbow or sleeve. Teach children to do the same.
3. If you have an abnormal, elevated temperature, stay home until you are free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Be vigilant in identifying students who should stay at home or be sent home.
4. Report any contagious diseases or infections to school office personnel.

Rest assured that Challenger will continue to coordinate with state and local health officials to ensure a healthy school year.



Challenger Phonics Fun!

You will know your **preschool or kindergarten** child is moving “full steam ahead” when you receive a Challenger notice with a train on it (with Conductor Gugenheimer).

Our youngest students now have the opportunity to earn the Challenger Phonics Fun! DVDs by completing the first stages of the reading curriculum.

More Academic Contest Winners

Since last June’s newsletter, we have received exciting news of even more academic contest winners on both the state and national levels. Congratulations to the following students!

A team of eighth grade students from the Sunnyvale (California) campus won the Regional Middle School Science Bowl held in San Jose, giving them the opportunity to compete at the National Science Bowl in Washington DC. There, they placed third in the nation. The team members were Kshithij Shrinath, Kai Xiao, Tanay Nandgaonkar, Prayuj Pushkarna, and Debnil Sur.

An Ardenwood (California) team won the Bay Area Science Olympiad Regional and advanced to the state competition, where they finished fourth and medaled in thirteen of twenty-three events. Team members were Aditya Mukund, Ajay Krish, Aniket Saoji, Arjun Desai, Ignatious Hoh, Jonathan Wang, Mark Chen, Meghana Srivatsa, Mira Partha, Rahul Joshi, Rohan Ramakrishnan, Sanjana Prasad, Shravan Grandhi, Srishti Jain, and Supriya Kazi.

Anika Ruby Baker, as a first grade student at the Traverse Mountain campus, submitted a composition to Utah’s 2009 Freedom Festival Essay Contest. Anika won first place for the first through third grade category.

For the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee, fourth grade student Marissa Mission was the school champion at Challenger’s Lone Mountain (Nevada) campus. We apologize for omitting her name from the June issue.



Ardenwood's olympiad team

Culottes for Girls in Grades 5–8

Challenger School has revised its uniform policy regarding the full uniform of girls in fifth grade and middle school. Starting this school year, they may wear either the plaid culotte *or* plaid skirt available from ScholarWear to be in full uniform.

The full uniform must be worn at school Monday through Wednesday and on special-function days (such as a Winter Sing performance day).

For a copy of the revised Student Uniform Policy, visit Challenger’s website and navigate to your campus’s page. It is available for download as a PDF.



Girls' pleated skirt (left) and culotte (right) for grades 5–8

In the Spotlight—Anin Sayana



Anin Sayana

Congratulations to Sunnyvale (California) sixth grader Anin Sayana for being the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge semi-finalist for the state of California!

The challenge is open to US students in the fifth through eighth grades, and thousands apply annually. To be picked as one of fifty semi-finalists is outstanding.

Anin has been a Challenger student since he was a three-year-old preschooler, and he created his entry as a fifth grader. He entered a video showing an alternative strategy for bringing light to a darkened room.

Kindergarten–Grade 8

Evening for Parents



This is a special event for parents, designed to promote a pleasant working relationship between you, your child’s teacher, and, by extension, your child. We’ll send you a notice with specific dates and times.

During the evening, you will visit your child’s classroom. Teachers will present very important class schedules, homework guidelines, subject assessment practices, and goals for your child’s class.

Please attend. There will be an embroidered Challenger cap or visor as a gift.



DAR Essay Contest Begins

Students in fifth through eighth grade will enter the national American History Essay Contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

This annual contest provides Challenger students the opportunity to refine their writing, research, and creativity skills and then match those skills on a national level with excellent results.

In the past, Challenger students have won numerous times at the chapter, district, and state levels of the competition. We’ve even had a few national winners.

The prompt for this year’s essays is “Describe how you felt on May 10, 1869, when the golden spike was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, to celebrate the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad.”

Students may write from the perspectives of settlers traveling through Utah or workers who helped build the line. We encourage Challenger students and parents in Utah to take a family field trip to the actual site! (There are also virtual tours of the historic site online.)

Student Council Elections

Students in third through eighth grade will vote to select the 2009–2010 student council. Those who wish to run for student council offices should request candidate applications from their teachers.

Fitness Challenge



Students in first through eighth grade will participate this school year in the President’s Challenge Physical Fitness Awards Program.

Physical fitness training will start this month in five areas: curl-ups or partial curl-ups, shuttle run, endurance run/walk, pull-ups or right angle push-ups, and V-sit or sit and reach.

Students who score at or above the 85th percentile in all five areas by the final testing in April will receive the Presidential Physical Fitness Award.

Students who score at or above the 50th percentile in all five events will receive the National Physical Fitness Award.

Kindergarten Western Day

On Western Day, we encourage kindergartners to wear Western duds—such as cowboy hats and boots, bandanas, and belts—with their uniforms. (No six-shooters, please.)

They will toast marshmallows around a pretend campfire after their long day on the trail. Western Day is a fun way to “get chock full” (as they say out West) of Western American history.

Constitution Day and Patriot Day



The Foundation of American Government by Henry Hintermeister

Challenger elementary students will commemorate these two September holidays with an assembly on Friday, September 11.

Heard It in the Halls

Ms. Pankratz at the Sandy (Utah) campus explained to her seventh grade students that a provision in the United States Constitution provides that some statutes in one state are honored in all other states. “For example, if you’re married in Utah, your marriage is recognized in Nevada so you get the same benefits there as you would in Utah.” One student interrupted, “There are benefits to being married?”

Preschool

Parent Workshops

Join us as we demonstrate our curriculum and share Challenger's philosophy at the upcoming Parent Workshops. We will send a notice with specific dates and times to you.

Subjects are reading techniques, our behavior management methods, and how to develop your child's self-reliance.

Please don't miss this informative, parents-only event! We have embroidered Challenger caps and visors there for you.



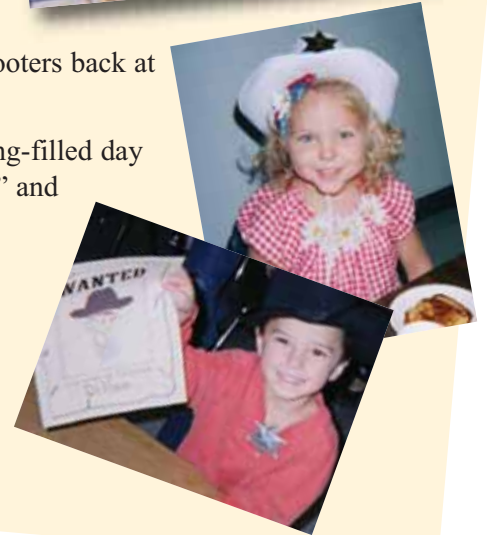
Western Day

We're very excited about this historic celebration that starts off our year.

Preschool students may come to school dressed as cowboys and cowgirls with bandanas, belts, cowboy boots and hats, and sheriff badges! (But leave the six-shooters back at the ranch, please.)

Our young cowpokes will spend a learning-filled day singing campfire songs, "spinning yarns," and doing other activities that are centered around Western America.

Last year, students had a boot-stompin' good time as they ate flapjacks from the chuckwagon and drew self-portraits for their "Wanted...and loved at Challenger School" posters.



Heard It in the Halls

In Summer Adventureland, Challenger preschool students kept learning and laughing. They made us smile too.

A parent called the Everest (Idaho) office to find out about a field trip her three-year-old daughter had gone on. The preschooler had described her day at school so vividly—with raccoons, frogs, and ducks—that her mom thought they had gone to the zoo! (Actually, they had an imaginative adventure in the classroom.)

A preschooler at the West Jordan (Utah) campus told his dad, "I love you plural. That means more than one."

When Ms. Chaya told her Sunnyvale (California) class that she wouldn't be their teacher next year, one three-year-old girl asked her mother, "Are you going to be my mom next year?"



Summer school was great fun, and students received T-shirts.

A Challenger mom was proud when her three-year-old daughter, attending the Sandy (Utah) campus, led the entire congregation at her church in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Not only did she remember every word, she first instructed everyone to "put your hearts on."

