

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

January 2011



January at a Glance

- **January 3**
School Resumes
- **January 3 (NV)**
Priority Enrollment Begins
- **January 10 (CA, ID, and UT)**
Priority Enrollment Begins
- **January 17**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—
No School
- **January 24**
Open Enrollment Begins
- **January 27–28 (PS–K)**
Small World Days



CHALLENGER
S C H O O L

At Challenger, we are committed to empowering children with an understanding of the values necessary for true happiness. Our third essential value is productivity.

Challenger Value: Productivity

Productivity is more than work. Productivity is the means of obtaining that which we need for a full life without taking something from another's effort (property). One can choose either to be productive or to be dependent upon others. Challenger students learn to create life-enhancing property through their own diligent efforts.

It is common for people to rationalize by saying that no one survives by the work of his own mind, because we are all interdependent. This is not correct, however; individuals **do** survive on their own. They voluntarily **trade** their productive effort (work) with others for things they do not produce themselves, but need or want.

As long as individuals produce the property necessary to obtain what they need by exchanging their production with others, they are living by their own productivity.

Note the effects of productivity vs. dependency in these examples:

- Fifth-grader James behaves well at school and home, but he wishes he could be Amil. Unwilling to expend the effort necessary to achieve as Amil does, he recedes into self-pity. By living in unreality, James develops debilitating habits that will undermine possibilities of future productivity.
- Mrs. Chou pays the grocer \$2.00 for a gallon of milk, creating a fair trade of their production (property). She gets what she wants, because she wants milk for her family, and the grocer gets what he wants, because he wants money more than milk.
- The Drapers trade their future earnings with the mortgage company for a home that they cannot fully pay for. The Drapers get the house, and the mortgage company gets the interest. If the Drapers fail to make payments, the trade is no longer fair; the company will take the house back.
- Mr. Young receives a modest salary but lives beyond his income, so he cannot trade sufficiently. His "creation of property" dissipates, and he goes into debt and failure, becoming non-productive.



Academic diligence in youth builds Challenger students' capability to produce in the future. When productivity is entwined with independence (which we'll discuss next month), children realize self-worth and happiness.

Challenger School Expands to Texas



Artist's rendition of the Avery Ranch campus architectural plan

We are pleased to announce our first Texas campus! The Avery Ranch campus, currently under construction at 15101 Avery Ranch Boulevard in Austin, will offer preschool and kindergarten programs. The 8-classroom campus will open in summer 2011 and will start accepting applications in February.

"I am excited to bring Challenger to Texas," says Barbara B. Baker, CEO and founder of Challenger School. "Texans love independence, and so does Challenger School. We look forward to helping more children become productive, self-reliant individuals."

Challenger now has 22 campuses in California, Idaho, Nevada, Texas, and Utah. For more information, visit ChallengerSchool.com.

In the Spotlight—

Anirudh K. of Ardenwood (CA)

This past August, eighth grader Anirudh K. of Challenger School Ardenwood (CA) won first place (which included a handsome trophy and a \$1,000 scholarship) in the North South Foundation's National Senior Geography Bee, winning over 57 other finalists from 22 U.S. states.

Anirudh's passion to understand the world motivates his study of geography. He has won Ardenwood's school Geographic Bee for three years running.



Anirudh K. of Ardenwood (CA) has a passion for geography.

"I have to think clearly, assimilate facts, and use logic to deduce the right answers," notes Anirudh. "I researched all the U.S. states and countries of the world . . . and studied extensively from [resources like] Google Earth, the *National Geographic Atlas*, and the book *Afghanistan to Zimbabwe*."

Congratulations on your achievement, Anirudh!

Open Houses for Prospective Parents

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.



Previews for Challenger Students and Parents (PS-7)

This month, both students and parents will have opportunities to sit in on classes to get a peek into what the next grade level will be like. Come meet teachers and observe class activities.

You'll receive an invitation containing details about times, dates, and locations. We hope you will attend!

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 2011–2012 school year before enrollment opens to the public. An application packet will be sent home with your child this month.



Challenger preschoolers enjoy learning about the customs of other cultures.

Small World Day (PS-K)

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

On Small World Day, parents may send preschool students to school wearing 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 accessory 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 for this in-class curriculum event. 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 treats with your child. Remember, this is an in-class curriculum activity, not a program for parents.

Science Fair (K-8)

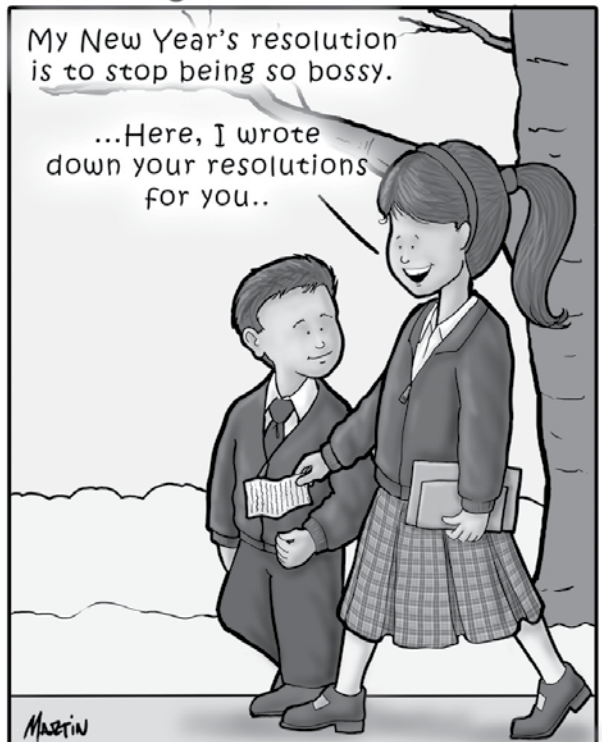
In preparation for next month's Science Fair, your child will be conducting an experiment using the scientific method. A few short weeks from now, we'll be displaying the results of our investigations. Our clever Challenger students would love to have you join us to peruse their exhibits and discuss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



Prerita P., Berryessa (CA) fourth grader, experimented by growing a lima bean plant for science class.

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 save the date.

Learning Curve



Preschool

Kindergarten Previews

To prepare parents for the transition from preschool to kindergarten, classroom previews occur 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

Are morning classes always better for preschoolers? Some studies, including Challenger studies, actually indicate that preschool and kindergarten children who attend afternoon classes perform better academically, on average, than those who attend morning classes!

Some children are full of energy in the morning and can amuse themselves, but by afternoon they become bored. Thus, by afternoon they are quite receptive to settling down to “learn, sing, and play” with friends and teachers. This also leaves parents free for afternoon activities of their own, such as shopping or working out. Traffic is often more friendly in the afternoons, too.

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!



Heard It in the Halls

Berryessa (CA) campus—As a three-year-old preschool class prepared to set out the food items for their Thanksgiving Feast, the teacher asked, “Who brought carrots?”

One student explained, “I brought baby carrots.”

Another student chimed in, “I brought baby carrots, too!”

“Me, too!” announced a third.

A fourth child proclaimed, “I brought Daddy carrots!”

Everest (ID) campus—In December, three-year-old Maeve and her mom were admiring the Christmas tree in the school entryway.

“That reminds me,” said Maeve’s mother, “we should send our *letter* to Santa.”

“Let’s send Santa the letter A!” declared Maeve.



Baby **a** says
aaa



Challenger’s preschool programs set the foundation for children to develop reasoning skills and intellectual independence.