

Challenger News

Keeping Parents and Campuses Connected

February 2011

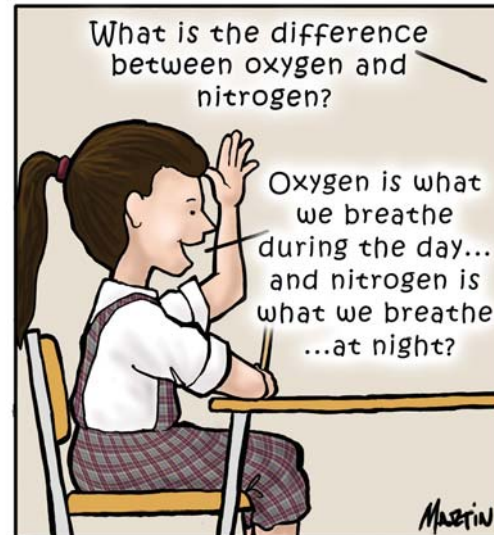
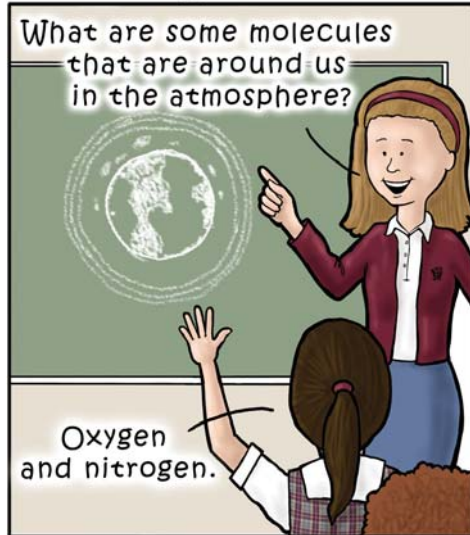


Heard It in the Halls

West Jordan (UT) campus—During the Veterans Day assembly in November, Headmaster Mrs. Winter asked the students if anyone could tell her what it means to be a veteran.

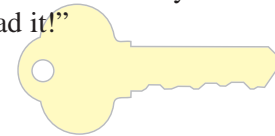
Kindergartner Loftin T. raised his hand and responded, “A veteran is a soldier who doesn’t fight in wars anymore, but he is a soldier in his heart.” Well said, Loftin!

Learning Curve



Boise Bloom (ID) campus—Because he had mastered his blends, digraphs, irregular vowels, consonant blends, and one- and two- vowel rules, kindergartner Enzo B. earned his Golden Key.

As his teacher presented the key to him, she asked if he knew what the Golden Key was for. Enzo replied confidently, “It’s the key that unlocks every book so I can read it!”



February at a Glance

- **February 3**
Managing Child Behavior Workshop *
- **February 14–15 (PS–5)**
Valentine Parties
- **February 18**
Presidents’ Day Assembly
- **February 21**
Presidents’ Day—No School
- **February 22 (K–8)**
Science Fairs Begin *
- **February 24–25 (PS)**
Reports of Progress Sent Home



CHALLENGER
SCHOOL

* Parents may attend

At Challenger, we are committed to empowering children with an understanding of the values necessary for true happiness. Our fourth essential value is self-reliance (independence).

Challenger Value: Self-Reliance

The value of self-reliance—*independence*—underpins everything Challenger does for students. As stated, our mission—in part—is:

“ . . . to prepare children to become self-reliant, productive individuals; to teach them to think, speak, and write with clarity, precision, and independence; to lead them to recognize and value their individuality and unalienable rights . . . ”

Our educational philosophy encompasses the teaching of independence in our curriculum content and in our teaching techniques. We want our students to develop self-reliance by thinking independently and learning to provide for themselves.

Thinking Independently

All thinking is individual. There is no collective mind. We don’t think together with the same brain. We can build upon someone else’s thoughts, but our thoughts are our own. People who accept blindly what others tell them will wander hither and thither throughout life. Our students are learning to take responsibility for themselves and to make decisions based on their own thinking.

In a Challenger third grade class, the students were stumped by an “if...then...” logic exercise. Several students had answers and suggestions, but many could not choose from among the variety of answers given. A few wanted the teacher to intercede in their discussion and give them a definitive answer.

Then one of the students quietly noted, “The best answer key is the one between your ears.” Grinning, the students got back to discovering their own solutions.



Providing for Ourselves

Some people look to others for ideas and creativity. We often see someone profiting from the work of another. These “second-handers” use an idea, a composition, or a project of another’s and claim that it was their own. When one profits from an unfair trade of property—even intellectual property (by taking from another what is really his)—one is not self-reliant but is dependent upon the other person’s productivity.

Jake, who was struggling in composition, persuaded Molly to let him read her essay. He then included many of Molly’s ideas in his essay and turned it in as his own. Jake saved time and work, but he didn’t learn the skill himself, setting a life pattern that may prevent him from becoming independent.

Challenger students, once they experience an achievable challenge, would rather have the joy of achievement than circumvent the work.

Preschool

Use Your Coupon

For those of you with students enrolled at one of our California or Utah schools, don’t forget to redeem your coupon for the free Challenger polo shirt at either of our ScholarWear stores!



Enrollment Considerations

In Challenger’s all-day preschool, your children are in a stimulating learning environment. Our program is fun-filled, with more phonics, math, science, activities, music, and thinking skills than in half-day programs.

Both teachers and students are excited to come to school each day. Consider our all-day program to maximize your child’s preschool experience!



Be sure that your child comes to school in clothing appropriate for the weather. He needs a coat, hat, gloves, and boots to play outside on wintry days.

Challenger Develops California Region Office



Artist's rendition of the Region Office

Construction is currently underway on the grounds of the Berryessa (CA) campus. The new building will house the Challenger California Region Office. The office is tentatively scheduled for completion in spring 2011.



Region Office site plan on the grounds of the Berryessa (CA) campus

Managing Child Behavior Workshop (PS–8)

We have been receiving many positive responses from parents regarding our Managing Child Behavior workshop series. Our next workshop is Thursday, February 3.

Whether you've attended any of the earlier sessions or not, you are welcome to come and discover answers to questions like these:

- "How should I react to a tantrum?"
- "How can I get my child to tell me what is going on at school?"
- "My child refuses to do homework unless I sit with him. How can I fix this problem?"
- "How do I assert my authority at home?"
- "How do I get my child to sleep in her own bed?"
- "How can I help my child to be less of a picky eater?"

Our final workshop of this school year is scheduled for March. Be sure to take advantage of these valuable, no-cost seminars.

Tax Number

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

Open Houses for Prospective Parents

Prospective Challenger parents will continue to have opportunities to visit Challenger campuses this month. Please tell your friends who may be interested in enrolling their children at Challenger about upcoming Open Houses. Our website, ChallengerSchool.com, lists specific dates and times for your area.

In the Spotlight—Everest Chess Champions (ID)

Challenger School Everest (ID) continues to produce top-notch chess players. This past November, a team of first and second graders from Challenger brought home



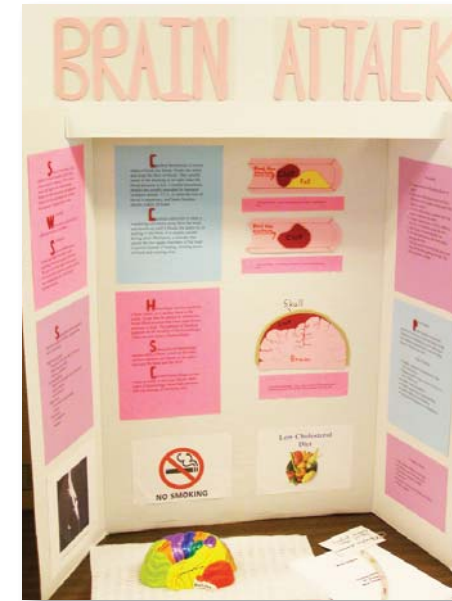
L to R: Charlie I., Elliot I., and Levi H., Everest chess champions.

the top trophy in their division at the Western Idaho Scholastic Chess League Tournament by using their excellent logical thinking skills. Each boy also earned an individual ribbon for his accomplishment. Way to go, team!

Science Fair (K–8)

Students have been using the scientific method to conduct experiments and complete projects for the Science Fair to be held during the last week of February. Students will be explaining their knowledge and discoveries to visitors.

In years past, many Challenger students have gone on to win regional and state awards for their intriguing and innovative projects.



The Science Fair will feature student displays and demonstrations explaining the projects.

Check with your school for the specific dates and times the Science Fair exhibits will be on display. Challenger students will be pleased to show you what they've learned.

FREE SHIPPING!

ScholarWear.com is offering free shipping for all online customers during the week of January 31–February 5. It's a great time to stock up on uniforms!



Challenger students will take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills the last week of March.

Standardized Testing (K–8)

Challenger School will be conducting standardized testing the week of March 28–April 1.

Our students have a history of performing very well on national tests, and we are confident that this year they will continue to prove the benefit of a Challenger education!

Valentine Parties (PS–5)

Valentine's Day is recognized as a day to send tokens of appreciation to meaningful friends. At Challenger, we have Valentine parties with activities to celebrate the day. Students may bring valentines for their classmates if they wish.

Note: Please do not send food or toys with your child. Treats will be furnished by Challenger.



Presidents' Day

There will be no school on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 21. To commemorate the occasion, Challenger campuses will hold spirit assemblies the previous week to remember American heritage, and our nation's founders.



"George Washington" speaks to Challenger students at the Sandy (UT) campus.



Challenger students will learn about the origin of Valentine's Day customs this month.