

PARENT MEETING, THURSDAY
MAY 20TH - 7 P.M.
SAC, BSAC, SSC

SITE ADVISORY COUNCIL
PARENT BILINGUAL SITE COMMITTEE
SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Jefferson School

May 13, 1993

NO SCHOOL
5/14, STAFF DAY
5/17, MALCOLM X DAY
5/31, MEMORIAL DAY

Dear Parent,

At a meeting with the Superintendent last week, Dr. Steele updated the administrators on school re-organization and Measure A. She asked that I inform staff and parents that the District is working with Fern Tiger Associates, a highly respected Community Relation firms. This firm has discovered, from talking to people in the Berkeley community, that there is considerable frustration and disappointment around the issues of re-organization and the implementation of Measure A. Some people think we are moving too fast. Some think we are going too slow. Others know nothing about what is happening.

There are many issues that are complex and interrelated. The re-organization task force (SOTF) did an excellent job and did make some recommendations. The Task Force asked for further community-wide input.

So, on May 19th, Dr. Steele will go to the Board of Education with information that will include a process to get further input and facilitate community wide dialogue. On June 2nd there will be some recommendations forthcoming and they will be substantial but will not address re-organization at this particular time.

Berkeley Unified School District has embarked on a long term process to bring our schools up-to-date, up-to-code and up-to-the expectations of the entire community. Your ideas, good-will and participation are welcome.

Each year, as we enter the "home-stretch", parents begin to think about student placement for the coming year. I am repeating a paragraph from past years that will answer some questions you are asking.

"To the parents who want to choose their child's teacher, I think your instincts to protect your child's interest are appropriate. If our selection of classes was broader it might work differently so that you could make a teacher selection. However, I must support the policies of the Board of Education when placing the children in their classes and that placement is a principal/staff decision. I have opened up an avenue for you by asking you to let me know if there is a reason why your student must have a certain teacher or has adjustment problems. Many parents know I phone them if I think a student has a special need and together we talk things over.

Sending your children out into the world, as you do when they enter public school, evokes both elements of risk and trust. We take risks to have life's richest experiences and trust each other to assist along the way. This is a wonderful school. Your children will be fine next year". **REMINDER:** If you have a current K - 2 student NOT returning to Jefferson, please NOTIFY the office now. 644-6298.

Malcolm X incoming 4th grader parents will have a chance to request teachers starting May 18. The request must be back in their office by June 1st. Request forms are at Malcolm X office.