

# THE BERKELEY TIMES

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## WE ARE UNITED!

Last week, Berkeley International School celebrated "We Are United" week. It was a week in celebration of our wonderful students and teachers who come to school every day and make Berkeley a positive community to be a part of. Each day kicked off with a team-building or other fun activity, to get the day started on the right note. From daily challenges such as sitting with a new person at lunch, to fun activities like a Gangnam-style dance party and parachute games, it was a nice interruption to the normal routines.

The week culminated in students and teachers wearing the "We Are United" shirt as a symbol of their part on Berkeley's team. The kinder classes played games together in the field and ate Thanksgiving lunch together. The elementary classes put on some excellent puppet shows about helping others and working together and showed off their creative puppets they had been working on all week. The middle school classes worked with students from other grades to put together a Public Service Announcement on the theme of "We Are United".

This event brought us together with schools around the globe who are celebrating anti-bullying throughout the month of November. Thank you to all of the wonderful students who make coming to school every day fun and rewarding. Thank you to all of the teachers who gave up their time and energy to be positive role models for the students in working together and being united. Berkeley students are invited to wear their "We Are United" shirts on the last day of every month to celebrate this positive message.



### QUASIMODOS OF SCIENCE

The Grade 8 Students at Berkeley international School ascended the forbidden bell tower to test their own hypotheses. Their goal was to investigate whether mass or circumference makes a ball fall faster from a certain height just by the force of gravity, just as Galileo did over 300 years ago. So with this in mind and with the cooperation of the PE department, the students measured the different balls' mass and circumference. Then trekking up the staircase steps, they let the array of balls go. As the balls fell, the students measured the time it took for each ball to hit the ground 14 meters below. Then they graphed their results, and analyzed them to make their conclusions. Did mass and circumference affect the time to fall? The conclusions remain with the budding young scientists, so to know more, you must ask them.

## INDIRECT MEASUREMENT

These students here are using something called "indirect measurement" to measure very tall objects (like the flag pole or a palm tree) that would be hard to measure with the measuring tape. This measurement uses similar triangles created by the angle of the sun. It is actually not very complicated, the 7th graders have it mastered.

All triangles have three angles that add up to 180 degrees. Since all of the objects we are measuring form a 90 degree angle with the ground and the angle formed by the sun is the same, we have two of the three angles. We then know that the third angle must also be the same. When triangles are the same shape (having the same angles) but are different size, we call them similar. Similar triangles side lengths are always proportional, so by measuring two of the sides, we can write a proportion and solve for the missing height. Right now, we are measuring three of our four variables, the height of our students, the length of their shadow, and the length of the objects shadow. The proportion would then look like this: height of student/shadow length of student = height of object/shadow length of object. Once your proportion is written, just cross multiply and solve.

Please try this at home on a sunny day and see how close you get to the real height of any object.

## OWL BUTTERFLIES



by Mook

Owl Butterflies are insects. They live in the forest, and they eat nectar from flowers and rotting fruit. Their wings are beautiful to

look at. Their wings are useful too. Before they can be butterflies, they are caterpillars.

An adaptation that Owl Butterflies have is the pattern on their wings. The pattern on their wings looks like an owl's eyes. Because they have wings that look like an owl's eyes, they are able to scare away predators. One kind of predator for the Owl Butterflies is the lizard.

Owl Butterflies are interesting, because they have a pattern that looks like an owl's eyes. It is useful because the pattern helps it avoid predators and survive. Their wings are beautiful too.



## A LETTER FROM CHARLOTTE

Wow November was certainly a busy month in K1B! The children were all busy learning, playing and growing while also taking part in a few special activities at Berkeley and on their fantastic field trip. K1B Brilliant Beavers were all absolutely amazed by the hundreds of different fish they saw at Siam Ocean World. A highlight for everyone was watching the otters play and the sharks being fed. All of the children in kindergarten felt 'United' when they took part in playing together

with Berkeley's giant parachute followed by eating a delicious Thanksgiving feast altogether. K1B Brilliant Beavers certainly looked lovely for the Loy Krathong celebration wearing their traditional clothing from the south of Thailand and of course they made their parents and teachers proud as they did a beautiful dance to celebrate the south of Thailand.

Charlotte



# KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES THANKSGIVING



## Anti-Bullying Week

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Each year Kindergarten celebrates Thanksgiving with a Native American themed feast. Before lunch we gathered for parachute games on the soccer field, to celebrate this year's Anti-Bullying Week theme, **"We Are United!"** The kitchen staff prepared a delicious meal of turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, Brussels sprouts and cranberry sauce in the Kindergarten Main Hall! Pre-K through K3 made their own Native American vests and head pieces in honor of the Wampanoag Native Americans who shared the first Thanksgiving meal with Pilgrim settlers from England. While Native Americans and early European settlers have a long history of not getting along, the first Thanksgiving represents a time to put bad feelings aside and appreciate all of the good things in our lives. This year the K2 Giraffes were most thankful for our wonderful families!

## HAPPY SNAPS



## FUN FACTS: TURKEYS



**Benjamin Franklin** wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.

In the US, about **280 million turkeys** are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations.

Turkeys will have **3,500 feathers** at maturity.

The heaviest turkey ever raised was **86 pounds**, about the size of a large dog.

Turkeys have **heart attacks**. The United States Air Force was doing test runs and breaking the sound barrier. Nearby turkeys dropped dead with heart attacks.

Commercially raised turkeys cannot **fly**.