

The Bitney Express

December 2008

Newsletter of Bitney College Prep High School
11763 Ridge Road, Grass Valley CA 95945 (530) 477-1235 Fax (530)272-1091 www.bitneyprep.net
Bitney College Prep High School is now located next to Nevada Union High School campus!



From Our Editor

This issue reflects the dedication and creativity of Bitney parents and students. Shari Phillips (Parent Council Chair) organized Bitney's First Annual Wine Tasting Benefit, which was a great success! The Ultimate Frisbee team, aka Air Traffic Control, traveled to Pleasanton for a rigorous multi-game day. Student writing is showcased in this issue with beautifully written stories and poems. As with future issues, check out our Calendar for upcoming events. Enjoy!

Shana Lee Parker, editor

Working Together: Anything is Possible

Ultimate Frisbee

All in Good Time

Spotlight on a Teacher: Q & A with Jennifer Trujillo, English Instructor

Air Traffic Control
Learning to Fly
By Coach Chris Schneider

A Short Story
By Russ Hooper,
junior year student

Describe your experience at Bitney.

Bitney is a wonderfully accepting, close-knit community. The administrators work very closely with teachers to insure a positive and rewarding experience for everyone. Furthermore, the atmosphere of the school is non-threatening, warm, and upbeat.

What do you think the differences are with other schools?

The small class sizes and ease of availability in talking/working/problem-solving with administrators is what really sets Bitney apart in my eyes. These two areas are of critical importance in establishing a productive and positive environment for teaching and learning.

What is your teaching philosophy?

I believe that all students are capable of reaching their goals. Student success is built on relationships- with teachers, other students, administrators, parents, and even with themselves. When all of these people work together to build a strong platform for learning and success, anything is possible!

Why Bitney?

"I didn't know they had an **Ultimate Frisbee team** and I was excited about that!"
--Noel Mendoza, freshman

"Going through high school and teenage life is a lot less stressful when there are people around you who you can talk to, laugh with, and share concerns and experiences with."
--Brent Phillips, senior

"I appreciate the teachers the most because they care."
--Helena Alice MacKinlay, senior

"I actually like school, math seems fun, electives rock!!"
--Nate Rogers, freshman

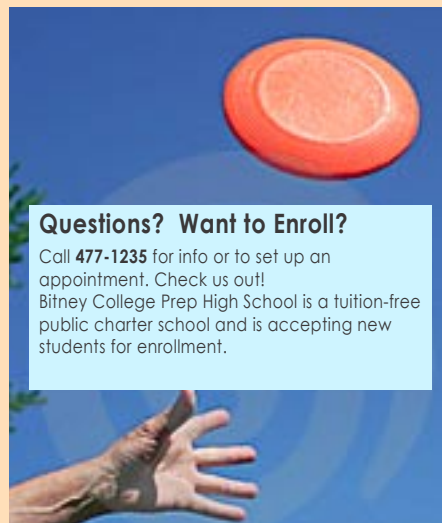
"I would really like people to know that this is not a school for troubled kids."
--Charlie Martin, senior

Bitney Prep's Ultimate (Frisbee) team, Air Traffic Control, ATC, traveled to Pleasanton on Saturday, November 8th to compete in a tournament hosted by the Foothill Falcons. 10 different high school teams, mostly from the Bay Area, were in attendance. ATC was unfortunately held scoreless in our first game, but as our opponents were the highly spirited Gymnosperms from Redwood High School, we almost enjoyed getting trounced (OK, not really).

Our next opponents, Alameda's Dark Meat, went to the High School National Championships last year, but we shook off our initial jitters and managed a slightly more respectable 11-2 loss against this stronger opponent.

We then faced the Granada High School Facebreakers, and won this game 10-8 despite a strong comeback by Granada after the time cap went on. Since we had to leave at 2pm, our hosts (Foothill Falcons) graciously agreed to have a short scrimmage with us during the lunch period. We fell behind early, but made a surprising comeback after putting on our Zone Defense. In the end, though, we had to leave while the Falcons were a few points ahead.

Over all, this was a very strong showing for the ATC team with so many young and inexperienced players. I think we're all inspired to work hard over the coming months to see if we can take it to a "whole 'nutha level".



Questions? Want to Enroll?

Call **477-1235** for info or to set up an appointment. Check us out! Bitney College Prep High School is a tuition-free public charter school and is accepting new students for enrollment.

Ferdinand Magellan's ship, the Victoria, glided smoothly as it entered the orbit of Jupiter's moon Europa. A breakthrough in shipbuilding 27 years earlier—1492—had let craftsmen construct an airtight vessel capable of navigating the heavens. Equipped with sails that caught solar winds, the bullet-shaped Victoria was looking for life under the ice of Europa, and would institute a colony to do so. In the process, Magellan and his crew of 63 others would become the first humans to set foot on another planet's moon. With Jupiter looming above, their landing coordinates became visible on the smooth, frozen, barren surface. The Victoria slowly made her way through the diaphanous atmosphere.

"Maneuver her in without haste" Magellan said on the bridge. His first mate, Sebastian del Cano, twisted the large wooden wheel at the helm, and the Victoria turned so she was coming in at a parallel to the surface. He pulled a lever, and the ship retracted her sails. With a rumble, she touched down and skidded across the ice. When she finally stopped, a gangplank was lowered. Magellan opened the hatch and treaded down to the moon in sealed iron armor.

He honored Christopher Columbus by saying: "That is one minute step for a man, another leviathan leap for mankind," and planted a flag with the crest of Spain on the ground. The cargo bay doors were opened, and mechanical chariots drove out carrying supplies. Roughly a third of a league north of the ship was to be EuropaOne. It would be the third non-Earth colony, after Thoth on the moon and Ares on Mars.

About an Earth week later, EuropaOne was completed enough to maintain life support. It consisted of two large domes for growing food, a cargo hold, a central base of operations, living quarters, and a room with equipment for air and water purification. Separate from these connected chambers was a science station in which the two large drills for breaking through Europa's ice were housed. But arguably the most important room was at the center of the complex. In this was the genius that powered the colony, and could for millennia. Designed by the great Leonardo da Vinci himself, the temporal reactor drew from the near infinite energy of time. Magellan had brought along a prototype.

"All in Good Time" continued on p.2

All in Good Time A Short Story, cont.

Another week later, the crew started drilling through Europa's thick ice, looking for life. After several commands from Magellan and del Cano, as well as some from the scientists, one of the gargantuan drills was poised above the ground half a league from the science station. Feeding hungrily on power from the temporal reactor, it began boring through the surface. After it had delved its length, the ice rumbled and a large crack appeared.

"Halt the bore" ordered Magellan, and the drill slowed. However, another large rift in the ground soon became visible. There was a rumble, and suddenly, the ice around the cracks buckled upward. Something white and scaly grabbed one of the scientists, and pulled him under, sealed armor and all. "Deploy the cannons!" roared del Cano, and a few of the remaining crew drove toward the ship in chariots.

"What foul beast was that?" Magellan asked his first mate.

"I know not, sir. Shall we follow it?"

"...Nay. That would speak suicide, among other foul atrocities." The ground was calm, only pierced by a few small rumblings. The cannons soon arrived, and were set up around the hole in the ice. Both Magellan and del Cano were issued with pistols and grenades. Most of the crew present were armed, either with muskets or pistols, all of which had to have chambers of air so the gunpowder could ignite. Magellan and del Cano cautiously walked to the edge, and saw a deep abyss recessed into the ice. At the bottom, a dark ocean swirled and convulsed, veiling the wonders of the deep. A huge, quaking rumble emanated from the dark chasm. The crew jumped back, which was magnified by the low gravity. They aimed their firearms more heartily at the hole, and out leaped a colossal, scaly white dragon, its huge translucent wings pumping at the tenuous atmosphere. It had teeth as long as a human arm, which jutted out of its mouth, and slightly smaller claws. Multiple hard plates covered its head and back, with smaller, more mobile ones protecting the gills. The dragon added to its intimidation by roaring and spraying an unnecessary amount of saliva, which promptly froze and fell to the ground.

"Wyrml!" bellowed Magellan, as it swooped down on him. All the cannons fired, as well as the crew's weapons. Even though the fire managed to inflict damage, the dragon had already grabbed Magellan, who stuffed a grenade in its mouth. They both careened back down the hole. A boom, roar, and a splash followed.

The dragon wasn't seen again, but neither was Magellan or the other member of the crew. The loss of their captain had its effect, and del Cano decided that maybe their expedition should stop looking for life, as, after all, they'd found it. The crew was to stay at EuropaOne for six more Earth months, until another ship was supposed to arrive. However, the chronometers started malfunctioning. The colonists' other method of measuring time was in Europa's orbit of Jupiter. The clocks were fast, saying that multiple Earth days had passed, when the moon's revolutions showed that they hadn't.

Jupiter also seemed to be somehow speeding up, having more violent weather than ever before, as its swirling cloud-tops now raced across the planet. A few days later (according to the chronometers), Jupiter's clouds were a hazy blur.

A celestial galleon, captained by Giovanni da Verrazzano, glided around Europa. Far below the ship, through the void of space, into the thin atmosphere, nestled on the streaked ice, the only moving thing was the temporal reactor, dutifully drawing on the energy of time to power the colony. The power wasn't needed, though. Europa One's inhabitants were immortalized, frozen in time on a frozen world.



All in Good Time -- Graphic by Russ Hooper

Individuality is Key

Poem by grace galloway

If you want a place to express yourself this is the place to be,

I've become a Bitney bulldog, and now I can be me.

I'm not the best at writing poems, or doing my math,

But they help me with all my needs, and I am on the right path.

So if you're feeling out of place, and just need a sign,

Come and join us here at Bitney, and your smile can be as big as mine.



Dena Valin photo, The Union Newspaper

This mystery student was recently reported rocking out on an autographed guitar donated by the famous band 'Chicago,' auctioned at a recent fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nevada County. www.bigsofnc.org

From the Dean's Desk:

PSAT/SAT Info

By Heather Lee,
Counseling Intern

On October 15, juniors and some sophomores took the PSAT. Simultaneously, the rest of the sophomores shared the joy by taking a practice PSAT in order to know what to expect next year. Great job to all who endured the long testing! Those who took the actual PSAT can expect scores to return in December. Scores not only give students a sense of what the SAT is like, but they are also entered into the National Merit Scholarship Corporation program. See www.collegeboard.com for more details.

The Late Registration deadline for the December SAT administration has been extended to November 19. The SAT is coming up on January 24th for juniors and seniors. Register by 12/26 or you will have to pay a late fee (\$23). The last day to register is 1/06/08. The SAT is \$65 and up. Register at www.collegeboard.com. Colleges use student grades (yes, all throughout high school) and SAT scores as a projection of how well they will do in college. Students often retake the SAT to get better scores.

If you have any questions about any of this, please contact Dave Peterson, Bitney College Prep's Dean of Academic Affairs at dpeterson@bitneyprep.net or (530) 477-1235

Q for Bitney Parents:

Does anyone have experience hosting foreign students? Please call Dave Peterson: 477-1235 or Dominique Parducci @ 272-3991

Calendar

- Dec 1 Parent Council Meeting 6pm
T-Shirt Sales Pending
- Dec 8 Staff Appreciation Gifts
- Dec 9 Charter Council Meeting 6pm
- Dec 6 SAT exam. www.collegeboard.com
- Dec 13 ACT exam www.actstudent.org
- Dec 13 Food & Toy Run @ Fairgrounds
From 11 - 5pm. **Students get Community Service Hours for helping with this benefit**
- Dec Senior Class Holiday Wreath Sales
Cornish Christmas
11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/19
- Dec. 22-Jan. 3 Winter Break
- Feb 7
2009 Third Annual Brain Buster Challenge
12:30p-4:30p Nevada County 7th / 8th graders invited to participate and showcase their skills, knowledge and team spirit.
Need volunteers to help contact donors!
- March 2009 Talent Show and Silent Auction
Date/Location TBD
- March 9 Staff Appreciation Lunch
- March 19-20 Community Building Activities
- May 5-8 STAR Testing Breakfast
- May Roadside Clean-up

- June 5 Graduation
- July 4 Nevada City July 4 Parade
- July Roadside Clean-up

From Our Parent Council
Chair, Shari Phillips

Wine Tasting Benefit
A Great Success



David Luce presents great wines

Bitney College Prep Parent Council sponsored our **First Annual Wine Tasting** benefit on Saturday, November 8. During the event, Rob Spencer, talented pianist and Bitney alumnus, dazzled the crowd, while wine expert Dave Luce entertained guests with interesting facts about each of the wines offered by a variety of vintners including Hope and Hahn Vineyards. Guests sipped wine and enjoyed delicious appetizers and desserts late into the evening, which concluded with a raffle of wine baskets. As a very special treat, local recording artist and former Bitney drama teacher Maggie McKaig and her partner Luke Wilson performed for the crowd. Despite the heavy rain, over sixty guests attended the fundraiser which generated just over \$2600 for Bitney College Prep.

This benefit was a HUGE success due to the efforts of everyone involved. Thank you to those of you who helped with advertisement, donated appetizers, poured wine, helped with the ticket and raffle sales at the door, and helped with set-up and clean-up. Thank you to Dave Luce for your very interesting and humorous presentation!

I was so thrilled to see everyone smiling and enjoying themselves at the benefit. It is such a pleasure to know you all!

A few timely reminders:

***Online Auction donations** Online Auction is Up and Running! Internet Shoppers: Check out the Bitney College Prep On-line Auction at www.proxibid.com/atthey. Many unique items for holiday gifts are available. The on-line auction will run through **Sunday, December 7**. Shipping is worldwide! Proceeds benefit the students of Bitney College Prep High School.

Send in your \$ gift: For Staff Appreciation Day by **December 8**; send to the Office or charge it, call Lisa Hooper, P.C. Treasurer @ 272-1182

Food & Toy Drive, Sat. Dec. 13, Nevada County Fairgrounds: Help your student get community service hours volunteering at this annual event that helps families in need. Hour: from 11 am - 5 pm. Contact Shari Phillips for more information: 265-6290 shari-phillips@sbcglobal.net

***Brain Buster Challenge** - February 7, 2009 We urgently need help contacting sponsors /seeking donations for refreshments and gift bag items. A professional packet with reasons

why our donors want to support Brain Buster Challenge is available. Contact Lora Willis @ lora@atthey.com or call 477-7881

Outreach at Cornish Christmas, Grass Valley: Parents needed! Come to our Bitney Booth on 12/5, 12/12, 12/18; pick one Friday or more! And/or help out with Wreath Making, have fun. We have supervision from our Spanish teacher, Laurel Phillips. Contact her: LPhillips@BitneyPrep.net Holidays are just around the corner!

Plan ahead for SAT and ACT exams: (See Heather Lee's article, p.2)
Online info: SAT exam. www.collegeboard.com
ACT exam www.actstudent.org
Register by Dec 26 for SAT exam Jan 24, 2009
ACT exam on Dec 13 may still be available; late registration fee would be required.
Next ACT exam: February 7, 2009; register by January 6, 2009. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Peterson, Bitney College Prep's Dean of Academic Affairs at dpeterson@bitneyprep.net or (530) 477-1235.

What is the Brain Buster Challenge?

The 3rd Annual Brain Buster Challenge is an opportunity to promote your business and support local schools

Brain Buster Challenge is an exciting, annual event for 8th grade students living in Nevada County. Organized and hosted Bitney College Prep High School and sponsored by local businesses, the event brings together teams to compete in various categories for prizes, awards, and ultimately a trophy for their school.

PURPOSE
The purpose of the event is to create a competition with community-wide appeal where teams of 8th grade students from local schools have an opportunity to showcase their skills, knowledge, and spirit. Success at this event involves sportsmanship and teamwork as well as knowledge in the areas of core 8th grade subjects (mathematics, English, science, history, the United States Constitution, geography, and current events), as well as other subjects (art, music, pop culture, problem-solving, technology, and food).

TEAMS
Each team consists of five students from participating middle schools. Like any spectator event, there is no limit to the number of supporters that can participate in the festivities. Teams are encouraged to create and wear costumes, compose cheers or team songs, and provide a team mascot. Schools will be recognized for their creativity and sportsmanship. The teacher representative will be provided with sample questions. Bitney students and a faculty member will come to the school for an orientation and practice session several weeks before the event.

ATMOSPHERE
All the teams, advisors, and supporters will gather for a welcome orientation and Round One of the Challenge. Rounds Two through Seven will take place in smaller groups in the classrooms. Round Eight brings everyone back together for the final questions, announcement of the results and presentation of awards. Challenges will range in format from paper and pencil questions to group problem solving to physical tests. A Bitney student will mentor each team.

GRAND PRIZE
The grand prize—an engraved trophy—will be awarded to the team that accumulates the

Kudos to Our Magnificent Parent Council Chair, Shari Phillips

Want a truly great fundraiser that speaks to the high character of Bitney? The First Annual Wine Tasting Event held November 8th was such an event. The care in executing the fine detail including obtaining beautiful wine gift baskets to raffle, advertising, arrangements for appetizers, all the set-up of the event was orchestrated by Shari, with her effervescent zest! Shari provided some of the tastiest appetizers there, and a truckload of equipment. It is true that there were many hands besides Shari's involved, but her effective, diligent hard work really won the day! As a result Bitney has ~\$2600 more than before, plus the community-building outreach that was intended, all in a memorable, beautifully executed event that was truly enjoyable. And elegant!

Bitney is also indebted to, and would like to thank, David Luce. Although David has no direct connection to Bitney (at least not yet), he generously donated his time to give us his informative and humorous presentation of the twelve specially selected wines."

most points during the event. The prize will be presented by the Superintendent of Schools Holly Hermansen. The winning school will have the honor of displaying the trophy until the following year's event at which time they will be invited to compete again.

OTHER PRIZES
Currently, Bitney parent volunteers are seeking donations from various community businesses so that all participants leave with a gift bag consisting of items such as movie and bowling passes and gift certificates. A plaque will also be awarded to the team exhibiting the all around best creativity and sportsmanship.



The Other "L"

excerpt from Chapter 1

by Cassie Pellerin, freshman

Lone (well that's the name she was called) stepped out onto the street at the New York International Airport. A car was sitting by the "pick up" curb, an old man walked out and came up to her.

"Hello Lone," he said. Lone jumped slightly. "I am Watari," he said to her. "I will take you to your brother now," he said while opening a door for her to get in. Lone hesitated but entered the car, her luggage was loaded up in the back and the car door closed as Watari climbed in and they began their descent to the hotel that her brother was currently staying at.

"Does he know I'm coming?" she asked in a quiet voice.

"He only knows he's having a guest, he at least knows it is someone important, he doesn't have lots of houseguests, you might say," he said.

"What do you mean?" asked Lone. She had only been given a single phone call, plane tickets to New York, and knowledge that she had a sibling that was currently alive. The tickets had been given to her in person, by someone who sounded a lot like this man named Watari. But she did not get the answer for she was too distracted by the outside world.

"Be warned your brother is very, lets say witty. Well more than that really," Watari began. "Just don't be alarmed, he is not some supernatural creature or anything, just stay calm."

What was he saying? That her brother was freakish and looked like a monster from outer space, or something? Everything was so confusing now. Lone instead turned her attention to the lights outside instead of pondering the thought. Lone watched the lights outside of the heavily tinted windows, she watched as people stared; dumbfounded for some weird reason at the old limo she currently rode in. They circled around an old hotel once then parked around the back in a private garage-like place. Watari opened the door and let Lone out. He then went to the back of the limo and took out her single suitcase; he nodded towards the old elevator. Lone felt glued to the spot, but she forced her feet forward in a slow motion like movement. She then quickened her pace as the doors of the elevator opened. She moved in and looked around, Watari set the bags on the floor and took a cell phone out of his pocket and opened it. An "L" glowed brightly on the screen; Watari cleared his throat and shut the cell phone. The doors opened to a floor with only one door on the long hall; old theater lights and portraits of various people Lone didn't know decorated the hall.

"You will wait in the front room and I will get your brother, do you understand?" he asked. Lone nodded anxiously.



Pledges, Painless Fundraising

By Shari Phillips,
Parent Council Chair

Support Bitney College Prep!

Parent Council is working hard to ensure that we meet our Local Income goal for the year.

There are a variety of ways parents can help.

- **Use SPD and BriarPatch coupons and register your Safeway and Raleys club cards. Turn in SaveMart receipts to the school.** We have the ability to generate \$2,000 - \$3,000 if the entire Bitney community participates in this free and easy fundraising effort. Please contact Lisa Hooper @ 272-1182 if you need SPD or BriarPatch coupons or have questions about registering your club cards.
- **Purchase Bitney t-shirts and sweatshirts!** Our very own junior student Russ Hooper designed our shirts. Students are bringing home order forms; please get the form (extras in office) and order today!
- **Solicit donations to support Bitney's Brain Buster Challenge** on February 7, 2009. Do you own a business or work for a company that might sponsor this event? Can you spare a couple of hours to contact local merchants who might be interested in sponsorship? We need parents to solicit cash donations as well as donations of refreshments and goodie bag items. Parent Council will have an information packet for distribution to potential donors ready early next week. Please contact Shari Phillips @ 265-6290 or Lora Willis at 312-1151, if you can help.

We truly appreciate those of you who are already making financial donations and volunteering your efforts. Those of you who are unable to pledge a cash donation or volunteer on a regular basis, please know that you can still make a difference and help us to reach our Local Income goal by spending a couple of hours soliciting donations or simply registering grocery market club cards and using SPD and BriarPatch coupons. Support from the entire parent body is necessary if we are to meet our Local Income goal. Please give what time you can.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,
Shari Phillips :-)
Contact: 265-6290 shari-phillips@sbcglobal.net

The Bitney Express staff wishes you a great holiday season

Shana Parker, editor; sparker@foothill.net
Dominique Parducci, production artist;
dominique@fsgrassvalley.com

This Is Just to Say

by Nick Tippner, 9th grade

This is just to say

I have eaten your popcorn
that was your Christmas present,

and which
you were probably going to share with
everyone
for a salty delicious snack.

Forgive me.
They were addicting,
So salty

And full of MSG.



We are very grateful to our Faculty and Staff at Bitney. Parent Council invites everyone to send a monetary gift that will be given to them jointly on **Staff Appreciation Day**. Please send in your contribution by December 8th. You can also charge it to your credit card: call Lisa Hooper, P.C. Treasurer, @ 272-1182. Please do it today!

Bitney Parents: Plans for an all school dance for Friday Dec. 19 require chaperones. Please contact Laurel Phillips @ 477-1235 if you will chaperone. Thank you!

Winter Holiday: Dec. 22 - Jan. 3

Winter Poem

by Daniel Freehling, 9th grade

Gossamer dreams drift
Through the seams
Of the night, til dawn,

As snow builds in the silent air
Leaving the world unthawed

Carrying silent grace of calm,
Everything sleeping and
Only willows are weeping;

Cold brings warmth together,
As animals snuggle,
They are cozy, but
The world is wrapped
In a white sheet
Til the morning may come.

Mostly silver spirits of light
Drift on, through the night,
But everything waits til dawn,

No noise or sound,
No voice or hound,
Only silent grace.

