

## Student Petition on Bathrooms Works

By Emani Dequair

Students have discovered that working together on an issue can make a big difference. Last May as school was ending, then-5<sup>th</sup> graders Katherine Carey and Sadie Barnard wrote a bathroom petition because they were deeply concerned about the maintenance and cleanliness of the restrooms. This August, they and the other students who signed it returned to school to find their concerns had been addressed and the bathrooms improved.

Katherine said she helped put together the petition because the bathrooms were in bad shape. "It was so disgusting in the bathrooms that I didn't want to go in there. There were spit balls on the ceiling, toilet paper on the floor, the middle toilet leaked, and on more than one occasion people got locked in the third stall."

Others apparently agreed. Out of the whole school,



about 75 to 80 people signed the petition, including some parents.

Sadie, the other author of the petition, said, "I feel that I was not only doing a favor for myself but also for the rest of Brookfield students to get cleaner bathrooms. I am happy with the idea that I came up with and glad that it got this far."

When Mrs. Ashizawa received the bathroom petition, she took it to the head director of the Temple, who acknowledged the petition. The Temple had new locks installed, the one toilet that didn't flush was fixed, the hole in the wall was fixed, and a deodorizer was added to help with odor problems. The wallpaper is one thing that has not been fixed yet but Mrs. Ashizawa said that it will be fixed soon.

Mrs. Ashizawa said she is pleased with the outcome and credited it to the students, who put together what she called a well-organized and very respectful petition.

## ATS Classes Let Students Enjoy College Campus

By Kate Johnson

Academic Talent Search (ATS) classes were very popular last summer with current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. These classes take place at the University of California, Sacramento campus.

To qualify for the classes, students were able to take a test last spring when it was offered at Brookfield. Their test scores enabled them to take certain classes, depending on how high or low their score was. The classes are open for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades.

Alex Darwish, from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, says that he felt that he improved in both algebra and typing classes, the two classes he took. Alex's favorite class was alge-

bra because they played games. He wasn't worried about being on such a huge campus, thinking of it as "a really big school."

His mother, Dagmar Darwish thinks that the classes gave Alex a good introduction to the next level of math and now Brookfield can follow through. Having students on a real college campus "is a good way to plant seeds for the future," she says.

Lauren Mackey, in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, says that she is now better at art because of the techniques she learned. Lauren enjoyed being on the campus and being able to walk around during the 10-minute breaks.

Her father, Scott Mackey, also thinks that Lauren's artwork improved and he thought that the exposure to the campus made it less intimidating to students for the future.

Rebekah Lucien, in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, says that she improved in both Power Vocabulary and Painting classes. Her favorite class was painting because they got to work with watercolors and acrylics. She liked going to the different food places on the campus.

Lauren, Alex, and Rebekah all thought that the classes were not hard to qualify for. Nine current Brookfield students in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades took ATS classes.

*Going to a real college campus at a young age "is a good way to plant seeds for the future."*