Parent Participation:
Active parent participation at home and at school is an important part of our success as a bilingual community. We encourage parents to:
● Learn about the curriculum.
● Support their children with reading and homework.
● Volunteer and serve in parent leadership roles.
A bilingual parent liaison works with families to facilitate involvement in their child’s education.

How to Apply:
● Sign up to attend a tour of LeConte by calling 510-644-6290.
● Join us for LeConte’s Kindergarten Information Night on January 8th at 7:00 pm.
● Turn in your Parent Preference Form and proofs of Berkeley residency to Berkeley Admissions (510-644-6504) no later than Friday, February 6, 2015. Indicate LeConte TWI School as your first choice.
● Schedule a Spanish language assessment to determine qualification for placement (native Spanish-speaking students only).

Did you know...?
● Being bilingual improves cognitive skills even beyond language development
● Longfellow Middle School offers a continuation of the Two-Way Immersion program for students in grades 6–8.
● School buses provide transportation for students living more than 1.5 miles from LeConte.
● LeConte has the oldest farm and garden program in the Berkeley schools, and is also taught by a bilingual staff.

Questions about LeConte’s TWI program?
Veronica Valerio, LeConte Principal, veronicavalerio@berkeley.net
Michelle Gerster, LeConte ELD/TWI Coordinator, michellegerster@berkeley.net
Principal’s Message

Students come to school with a wealth of knowledge and experiences enriched by their home languages and cultures. Our talented team of teachers and staff use our students’ linguistic and cultural diversity as a bridge to engagement and excellence in academics. Our students learn to be critical thinkers, proficient in both Spanish and English, and go on to become confident and active global citizens.

I am thrilled to be the principal of LeConte Elementary and to continue my life’s work to provide each student and every family with equitable access to the highest quality education to achieve their fullest potential.

We pride ourselves on cultivating bilingualism and multiculturalism. Join us!

– Veronica Valerio

What is Two-Way Immersion (TWI)?

It is a research-based educational program that at LeConte brings native English-speaking and native Spanish-speaking students together. In the Two Way Immersion model students utilize their strong foundation in one language to master the second language. Our goals for students include:

- Bilingualism/Biliteracy – Academic proficiency in English and Spanish.
- Multicultural proficiency – Understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures; high self-esteem and pride in own cultural heritage.
- Full English Proficiency for English Learners.

Why do we offer a TWI program?

Two-Way Immersion programs are highly effective at serving English Learners. Studies demonstrate that by the time TWI students leave elementary school, they academically match or outperform their peers, and in addition are able to read and write in a second language.

The TWI program model used at LeConte begins in Kindergarten with instruction in Spanish 90% of the time and in English 10% of the time. With each school year, the instructional time in English gradually increases until fifth grade when students are taught 50% of the time in each language.

LeConte students experience:

- Classes composed of 50% native Spanish speakers and 50% native English speakers to the greatest extent possible.
- The Common Core State Standards, as in every other Berkeley public school, but in both Spanish and English.
- Strong research-based English Language Development (ELD) for our English Learners and Spanish Language Development for our Spanish Learners for 150 minutes weekly.
- A rigorous full inclusion education for special needs students.
- Enriching activities including nutrition & health, farm & garden and the arts.
- Teachers trained to teach students in both English and Spanish language acquisition and supported with on-going professional development.

“At a global climate, speaking multiple languages has obvious benefits...but to truly learn a second language requires you to become actively immersed in it. TWI provided that.”

–TWI alumnus

LeConte Two-Way Immersion Elementary School is a vibrant, community-focused teaching and learning center that produces bilingual and biliterate, multicultural individuals who continually learn, grow and contribute to their community.

At LeConte, you and your family will be a part of . . .

- A community where each learner is valued for his/her native language expertise.
- An environment where Spanish-speaking families have equal access to information.
- A community of families who value bilingualism and multiculturalism.
- A setting where parents are powerful partners and advocates for their children’s education.