



# Brywood Bugle

News to Keep Brywood Parents Informed, Connected & Involved

## Principal's Message



Dear Brywood Families,

In just three weeks our winter break begins. First trimester report cards will go home on December 17. Teachers will have conversations with students, reminding them that report cards are personal and a measure of one's personal strengths and challenges. Parents, remember to first celebrate all of your child's successes, praise them on all that they have accomplished. Then talk about the areas where improvement might be needed. Depending on your child's personality, learning style or skill level, these discussions can be difficult. If a child is underachieving, he or she can become defensive or blame others. If there are challenges in a specific subject area, a child can feel sad or disappointed about poor performance even after putting forth their best effort. Helping your child set realistic behavior or academic goals for the next trimester can be very empowering for your child. Posting goals in their bedroom, family bulletin board or on the refrigerator provide visible reminders to help keep them on track. If you need assistance with developing goals or strategies for improving performance, the classroom teacher is happy to help.

I enjoyed seeing all of our students and many Brywood families join the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to honor our Veterans. A big thank you goes out to Traci Maynard for organizing this community event and our scouts for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We are planning a similar event in observance of Presidents' Day early next year.

Even with the Veterans' Day weekend and Thanksgiving break, our students and teachers packed in a lot of instruction. As I visited classrooms, I saw a variety of teaching models. In Mrs. Gillette's class, a hands-on science experiment involved mixing baking soda with water and creating a gas. Third grade students shared ideas about mass, evaporation and why or how the baking soda disappeared. Fourth graders in Miss Young's class, presented Kids of Character reports orally to their classmates, sharing their favorite kids of character and the qualities they admire and even possess themselves. Response to Instruction (RtI) is now in full swing in all grade levels. For an hour each day students are grouped and taught at their instructional level for English Language Arts.

In December, in addition to classroom instruction, our 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be visiting the Irvine Ranch Water District, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will visit the California Science Center. All field strips are aligned to state standards and teachers provide pre-teaching or follow-up instruction depending on the field trip. Thanks to our PTA, all Brywood students will attend the Character Counts Magic Show assemblies. This highly acclaimed assembly teaches character using a little fun and magic.

## December 2010

### In this Issue...

Page 2

December Calendar  
Team Kids Challenge

Page 3

President's Message  
Walk to School  
Wednesday



## Visit Brywood's Book Fair

Monday  
November 29th  
through  
Friday  
December 3rd

Family Night  
Tuesday  
November 30th  
6:30 - 8:00 pm

**See You There!**



This week we are having our annual Book Fair, and we have extended our Pledge Drive for an additional week. With the limited school days in November and of course the continued economic issues that are plaguing California, Brywood fundraising events has taken a hit. Please consider buying holiday gifts at our Book Fair. They are educational, lasting, and all proceeds go directly back to our library for the purchase of new books. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so, any amount is greatly appreciated. This fund raising event replaces the previous gift wrap sales, saving you time and insuring that all of the dollars you donate go directly to Brywood PTA and our students.

As we close up the calendar year and head toward the holiday season, I want to thank all of you for your continued support. I continue to be impressed by your willingness to volunteer in classrooms, the media center, the workroom, and give your hard earned dollars to support your children. And of course, there is the work you do with them each day, supporting homework requirements and a loving home environment. Your dedication to parenting and your involvement in your children's school tells your children that you value their education and the work they do each day.

Thanks for all you do. I couldn't do my job without your support.

Christine Amoroso  
Principal

## **December Calendar**

**Nov 29 to Dec 3**

*Brywood Book Fair*

**November 30**

*Book Fair Family Night  
6:30 to 8 pm*

**December 3**

*CAN Day*

**December 14**

*PTA Holiday Party  
7pm MPR*

**December 17**

*Minimum Day  
Report Cards Home*

**December 20**

*Winter Recess Begins*

**January 4**

*Return from Winter Break*

## **Team Kids Challenge Program Comes to Brywood**

Team Kids along with Brywood's 5th grade APAAS teacher, Mrs. Mary Thomas-Vallens and parent Diane Aviles plus the Staff of Team Kids, Irvine Police and Firefighters will soon introduce the Team Kids Challenge program to Brywood students.



The Team Kids Challenge Program will inspire students to help others and will help them discover the power they have to make a difference in someone else's life as well as in their communities. They will develop the values and skills that enable them to make positive choices in their lives, while making a difference in the lives of others.

Our entire team will work alongside students to enhance community health and safety. In the process, students learn the value and strength generated through collaborative efforts and mutually support community relationships.

In early 2011, the Team Kids Challenge will present a month long direct service-learning experience which challenges them to meet participation and fund-raising goals to benefit other nonprofit agencies. Team Kids will bring representatives from our local police and fire department along with local college athletes who serve as role models to Brywood.

We will begin the week with a school-wide "Kick Off Assembly" that will inspire students to become agents of change as they embark on a four-week program. This program also allows them to take action to improve issues such as homelessness and hunger, tolerance and violence prevention, animals and environment and health issues such as pediatric cancer prevention.

While all students participate in service projects, our Brywood 5th & 6th graders will spend their lunch time once per week with Mrs. Thomas-Vallens and Mrs. Aviles preparing for the "Grand Finale Lunch Time Carnival." The money they earn will be donated to the agency of their choice. More detail to follow. Any questions contact Diane Aviles at 949.981.0788 or Avilesmom@yahoo.com.



# From Your PTA President



**Happy Holidays!** 'Tis the season to enjoy family and friends, give thanks, and take time to be a kid again...perfect tie in to PTA. I hope that everyone enjoyed a fun Thanksgiving break and didn't eat too much turkey.

Well, just one month left in 2010, I can hardly believe it! My time as PTA president is flying by. I look forward to all of the fun activities planned for December.

With the holidays approaching and everybody so busy, I'd like to thank everyone who has taken the time to volunteer and support the Brywood PTA this year. If you haven't had a chance to volunteer yet, the perfect opportunities will be here shortly! The Book Fair will be here and we need many volunteers. Please look for further information as the time approaches. Thank you to everyone who attended our November PTA meeting with our guest speaker: Sandy McDaniel. It was a great success with a wonderful turnout. It was very nice to see so many new faces there. The 2010-2011 Brywood Directory was delivered last week. Thank you to everyone who worked on that. It looks really great. If you are interested in serving in an elected position on the Brywood PTA next year, please let me know. We are looking for an Executive V.P. from January through June to learn our 'stuff' to become the next PTA President starting in August 2011. Is there something that you would really like to talk about at a general PTA meeting? If you have any topics that you would like us to dedicate an evening to, please let me know! We are always looking for new ideas and as always you are invited to attend any meetings! Please plan to join us for the PTA Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 pm.

As we get ready to close 2010 and start fresh in 2011 – add a resolution to the top of your list: I will get involved in PTA!

Best Wishes for the Happiest Holiday Season yet,

Rob Wolf  
PTA President  
brywoodpta@cox.net

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## Walk to School Wednesday

Walk to school Wednesday's is a new program aimed at strengthening health and fitness in elementary & middle schools. Our goal is to walk to school each Wednesday to increase the number of students walking or biking and to decrease the use of automobiles. The benefits of achieving this goal are realized in the improved health of students and the positive environmental impact.

We are into our fall quarter and will continue through Winter and Spring. Each Wednesday when students walk or bike to school they will check off their name on a chart posted in their classroom. At the end of the quarter, the staff of Northwood Community Park will tally up the amount of students who participated and they will be awarding incentives based on individuals, grade level and school wide. So you can win by yourself, your class or your school.

Our goal at Brywood is to earn the largest School Wide Incentive and that is \$1,500.00 in sports and fitness equipment for our school. So do your best to wake up 5-10 minutes earlier each Wednesday, walk or ride to school with your friends, parents or family members and when you get to class don't forget to check off your name on your classroom chart and please not forget that safety always comes first and wear your helmet.

If you have any question please contact Diane Aviles at Avilesmom@yahoo.com or 949.981.0788.