



Brywood Bugle

News to Keep Brywood Parents Informed, Connected & Involved

Principal's Message



Dear Brywood Families,

As I visit classrooms, observing teaching and learning, and chatting with students, I am amazed at how quickly our students returned to the rigor of daily instruction and extra-curricular activities after the long winter break. The holidays seem so long ago, especially since we have enjoyed so many beautiful summer-like days in winter. I love living in Southern California.

It's these sunny days that get me thinking about enjoying the outdoors with my family growing up in Huntington Beach. Year round we spent many, many evenings after dinner walking on the beach. With five children it was cheap entertainment. As my parents walked, my siblings and I would race one another to lifeguard towers. My dad would sometimes challenge us to running long jump contests in the hard sand near the water. My mom often took photographs of us during these times. The evening often ended at Thrifty, having an ice cream cone, a nickel a scoop, Mocha Almond Fudge or Rocky Road were my favorites. Every once in a blue moon, my dad would allow us to have two scoops and that was a real treat. I so enjoyed those times.

Both my parents worked full time and they worked hard. As kids, my siblings and I were expected to maintain good grades, complete daily chores, attend religious instruction, go to church, watch our younger siblings and pitch in whenever we were asked, without complaining. Somehow, even with our busy schedules we managed to spend a lot of time together as a family. We even watched a lot of television, mostly as a family. My dad loved TV. My mom usually read or did crossword puzzles. She wasn't a big TV fan, but she loved our company so she sat with us while we watched.

When I raised my kids I tried hard to follow in my parents footsteps. It wasn't easy. Why was it that I struggled to make time or find time for family the way my parents did? I was raising my children in a time of rapid changes in technology. They were more interested in Pac Man and Frogger (ancient computer games). I could have never imagined then that that was only the beginning. The idea of my children's beepers being the height of technology is laughable now, as many, many children in elementary school have cell phones. It's funny how all of this technology was supposed to make our lives easier and somehow our lives have just become more complex.

Now and again, I have these kinds of conversations with some of you. You tell me about similar struggles, trying to get your children to this activity or that activity, getting homework completed, and maybe if there is time left in the day, spending "quality" time together. I know many of you relate to my family's story. I'm sure the same is true of trying to find the time to just enjoy your family. Frankly, I don't know how you do it. How did our parents do it?

February 2011

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Did You Know...

The Disaster Preparedness Committee has completed updating emergency supplies for all classroom and support staff backpacks. In the event of an emergency teachers and staff will be well prepared. Each month our school holds fire and earthquake drills, recently we have been adding more detail to the drills and look forward to having a mock disaster drill in the near future.



Sometimes, I think my parents' secret was tuning out the world, not giving in to the pressures of being the cool parent or EVER keeping up with the Jones. They always kept their eye on the prize, us, their children. Our well being, our future, looking as far as they could see, was the single most important thing to them. I wish I could say that I was as diligent or dedicated a parent. Fortunately, my mom and dad also taught me that it was never too late to learn, share your learning and make changes. I was so lucky to have them as parents.

My wish for you and your family this year is, for just one night, to take a long walk after dinner, and then enjoy one scoop of Thrifty's ice cream. Of course, it isn't Thrifty any more—it's Rite Aid. And, it certainly isn't five cents a scoop. However, for my money, it's still the best deal in town. It gave me one of my fondest childhood memories. I smile every time I think about it

Christine Amoroso, Principal

February Calendar

February 8

PTA Meeting 7pm MPR

February 11

*Team Kids Carnival
Lunchtime*

February 14

*Lincoln Day Observance
No School*

February 15

Blood Drive 8 to 2 pm

February 21

*Washington Day Observance
No School*

February 25

CAN Day

Brywood Brags

Congratulations to all of our students who earned Brywood Brags in December and January. Keep up the good work!

December 2010

Dhylan Garcia	Joshua Chiu
Claire Chung	Jun Ham
Jordan Volk	Austin Leung
Julian Tucker	Shan Yu
Mihir Kulkarni	Samantha Wolf
Allsion Pelonis	Jennifer Oh
Mia Del Rosario	Aaron Chao
Jordan Arca	Nathan Eyre
Matthew Kim	Max Mahler
Benjamin Zietz	Michael Ortega
Christine Chu	Sebastian Beltran
Rod Ferdows	Derek Huynh
Julia Pan	Warisha Azhar
Laura Park	Daniel Yang
David Chang	Emmersen Orozco
Kristine Nguyen	Ayden Mateo
William Nguyen	Nelly Safi
Hrag Barelian	Anton Semerdjiev
Brandon Frias	Katelyn Muniz
Steven Head	Laura Fleming
Emma Shelton	Helena Zhou
Austin Leung	Victoria Quin
Zoya Ansari	Daniel Yang
Chrystal Webb	Kathleen Pan
Chloe Cho	

January 2011

Scott Riches	Eugene Kim
Brooke Kong	Alysa Chen
Renee Barnes	Paul Bae
Sasaiya Robles	Sachin Kumar
Emily Hu	Joseph Slim
Lillian Zhu	Sophie Nguyen
Ivan Castillo	Ana Cortes
Yenna Choi	Alexandra Ibarra
Imari Hall	Cody Byers
Adam Wolf	Parisha Babuta
Danielle Young	Grant Sloane
Oliver Walton	Austin Kenyon
Abraham Joo	Secret Smith
Adam Potasiak	Destiny Lameko
Claire Choi	Andy Ho
Shalini Rao	Nitya Swaminath
Michelle Kim	Sarah Kosoy
Zak Labus	Julia Muniz
Eric Cho	

Astounding Invention Finalists

Michelle Kim
Maddy Zhang
Pranati Kuppala
Zak Labus
Angelique Besnard
Tyler Maynard
Shalini Rao
Lisa Xu
Rod Ferdows
David Park
Yebin Kwon
Megan Norman



News You Can Use



Events @ Brywood

Brywood Dads 4th Annual Talent Show 2011... Friday night, March 11th at Sierra Vista Middle School. 1st Show/Group will be K-3rd Graders and will start at 5pm. 2nd Show/Group will be 4th-6th Graders starting at approx. 7pm. This event is a FUN time with Brywood students displaying their talents. Everyone is invited to support the students. Cost is \$3 per person (adult or child), food will be available. Sign up forms and more info will be sent home via email and will also be at the front desk. Any questions or more information needed, please email HiramAviles@yahoo.com. All entries due by 2/25/11.

Astronomy Night

Brywood Dads "Astronomy Night" is Wednesday, March 2nd @ 7pm on the Brywood basketball courts. Join us for Family Time and Star Gazing presented by the Orange County Astronomers Association. This is a great event - no cost, dress appropriately, no food will be served so plan accordingly. Look for a flier to come home. Any question, please email HiramAviles@yahoo.com.

**Give The
GIFT OF LOVE
This Month**

The Brywood PTA voted to do a yearly **Red Cross Blood Drive/ National Bone Marrow Registry** event. It will be held on **Tuesday, February 15th** in Brywood's MPR from 8 am to 2 pm. **Please donate** blood and do a cheek swab while your kids are in school. Last year was a success and I was proud of our school for making a difference in someone else's life. Brywood was recognized at a Red Cross banquet and received a certificate which is displayed in the MPR.

To reserve an appointment time, please contact Susan Lips at susanlips@hotmail.com to donate or ask questions. Thanks so much!

**Wanted:
6th Grader's
Baby Pictures**
For the 2010-2011 Yearbook

If you would like to participate, please submit your picture one of two ways:

via Email
McBride100@hotmail.com
(jpeg format only)

OR

Place your child's baby picture in an envelope and put it in the folder labeled "6th Grade Baby Pictures" located in the front office.

Please make sure when sending pictures via email or in the envelope to include the following information with your picture:

Students Full Name & Teacher's Name

**DEADLINE:
Feb 9th**

If you have questions, please contact:
Virginia McBride (949)208-2918
McBride100@hotmail.com
Please Note
If you submit an actual picture in the envelope it will be returned to you through your child's teacher

HeartSaver CPR Course
March 25th, 6-9 pm in the MPR — Cost: \$20

The American Heart Association is changing the format of their course materials and instruction on April 1st and the fee will be increased. If you have been considering becoming CPR certified or need to renew your certification now is the time to sign-up. To sign-up send an e-mail to mikeandtraci@sbcglobal.net with your name, phone number, address and e-mail.



From Your PTA President



January was the month for resolutions. During the holidays, many Brywood parents sought out opportunities to volunteer their time and, finding it rewarding, resolved to give more back to their community. There are so many places where you can volunteer to make a difference, but I would suggest that your child's school is one where you can make a very large impact on the community, as well as help your child. Recently, I have talked to a number of parents about what makes Brywood so special.

Obviously, the quality of our teachers, our principal, and our support staff are a big part of it, as is the caliber of our students (which amazes me every year!). I think that parental involvement is a huge part of it, though. Everytime I go into Brywood, I see parents throughout the school, volunteering their time. We have volunteers doing everything from assisting with recess and lunchtime to helping students learn to read and many other things. So, as you think about what you can do to give back to the community this year, I would strongly encourage you to think about volunteering at Brywood.

My position as President ends in just a few months. We still need someone, or two, to take over my job. We are going to be seeking out many new positions very soon.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to seeing you in the school!

Rob Wolf

Brywood Elementary School PTA President

brywoodpta@cox.net

2011 Jog-A-Thon is Coming Plus... Enter Brywood's T-shirt Design Contest

Brywood Students! If you are not already in shape you better begin today because our annual Jog-a-thon is coming on Friday, March 4th. This is our biggest Fundraiser of the year so call up all your family & friends and ask them to support you as you run for your school.

Look out for your T-shirt Design Contest flier that will be going home soon. You will have the opportunity enter your artwork based on this years theme and the entire school will be honoring you and your talent.

I am also in need of many parent volunteers to help me put this day together so please contact me AS SOON AS YOU CAN. Thank you. Diane Aviles (949) 981 0788 or Avilesmom@yahoo.com



Walk to School Update & Changes in Walking Rules

Brywood Families, I would sincerely like to thank you for your support in our City Wide Walk to School Program. Your role in walking more, riding your bikes or parking and walking has made an impact on our traffic which reduces the risk of any pedestrian accidents.

Please encourage your students to walk to school especially on "Wednesdays" in honor of "Walk to School Wednesdays". Each Wednesday your student walks or rides their bike they enter 3 chances to win either as an individual, classroom or school. Our city successfully won a grant and many fabulous prizes are being distributed on a quarterly basis.

Congratulations to class winners: Ferguson 1st grade — Weie 1st Grade — Harris 5th Grade — Koss 5th Grade — Thomas-Vallens 5th Grade

Our **Grand Prize Winner** of a new bike was 5th grader Noor Yasseen.

We realize that all students do not have the capability to walk to school especially those students in APAAS classes. Because we need so desperately to reduce traffic near Brywood, parents are allowed to drop their student off 1 block from the school as long as the drop off is safe and stopping is permitted. They can enjoy that short walk with a fellow student and still have time to get in a small amount of exercise.

If you have any questions please contact Diane Aviles (949) 981 0788 or Avilesmom@yahoo.com



Team Kids A Success with Brywood Students

Team Kids is a HUGE success because of the support of Brywood Students. We have broken both records for the last two weeks. To recap, the first week was dedicated to The Literacy Program of Santa Ana which provides books to underprivileged children and adults. Our goal was to reach 500 books and we tripled our number by donating 1,686 books. Last week, students were asked to bring in warm clothing for Homeless Orange County families. Our goal was to fill up one van and we filled up two vans. Our students were not asked to spend any money on these items just to share what they had and were no longer using. The response is so impressive. This week, January 31-February 4th, our theme is Health & Fitness. We are asking students to bring in their gently use sporting equipment including: old cleats, uniforms, tennis shoes, balls, anything that will give another child or adult the opportunity to get outside and have fun playing with their family and friends while getting healthy and fit. Our 5th & 6th grade students will meet again this Tuesday, February 1st to put together posters and carnival games. Our lunch time carnival for the entire school will be during lunch on Friday, February 11th. **All families are welcome.**



Cell Phones Guidelines for School and Beyond

Many of our students have cell phones. Cell phones are allowed in school, but are to be kept in backpacks, turned off, during the school day. Cell phones used during instructional time, recess or lunch will be taken by adult supervision and kept at the front office for pick-up by the parent.

I have received complaints from parents and students that they receive multiple phone calls and texts at all hours of the night from other students who have exchanged numbers or who have retrieved cell numbers from our school directory. If your child has a cell phone, I'd like to suggest the following guidelines.

- Turn off cell phones during meals
- Turn off cell phones and remove from your child's bedroom at bedtime
- Know your child's pass code
- Check their texts and phone logs randomly and regularly
- Many older students text while doing homework. This constant stream of communication is a part of life with this generation. Monitor your child's use to determine if this is a deterrent to the completion of quality work
- Know the families of the children with whom your child is communicating