



# Brywood Bugle

## Principal's Message



Dear Brywood Families,

With the school year coming to a close and summer approaching thoughts turn to longer days, sunshine and relaxation. I know many of you have plans to enroll your children in summer school. There are many benefits to keeping a modified school routine. Consistent schedules help keep balance in a child's life, and make transitioning back to the regular school year in fall a bit easier. That being said, routines and schedules can be maintained even when they don't include summer school.

One of the greatest gifts my parents gave me, and my siblings, was the gift of life experiences. Many of our best experiences came during the summer months. Until we were in high school, we never attended summer school, but we learned many lessons each summer. My parents loved sharing their knowledge with us in so many creative, yet natural ways. We took many driving vacations as a family. Both of my parents were avid readers and loved the classics. I remember driving through California's central valley and then on Highway 1 to Monterey and San Francisco. My dad made so many connections to literature and California history, John Steinbeck and *Cannery Row*, Mark Twain and *The Celebrated Frog Jumping Contest of Calaveras County*, and of course the California Missions and the Gold Rush. I learned about the missions long before I got to fourth grade. When we visited the Golden Gate Bridge my dad insisted that we read all about it and then he would quiz us. It sounds silly, but it was really fun, like a game.

My mother loved Native American history. She could identify every tribe, their chiefs, their customs and their significance in American history. She also loved the outdoors and nature. She could name just about every plant, flower or bird that crossed our path. With five children there were endless questions, *What's this? What's that?* And of course, *How long 'til we get there?* I remember my parents discussing and conferring when they weren't sure of an answer. Between the two of them they would always figure it out, expressing satisfaction and even joy in the discovery. With regard to the estimated time of arrival, my dad would make us figure it out, telling us the number of miles to the destination and our rate of speed. There were lessons all along the way.

June  
2011

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Used Book Sale

Summer is a great time to start cleaning out those dusty bookcases looking for gently used books to donate to Brywoods Annual Used Book Sale. The Book Sale takes place in conjunction with the Pancake Breakfast in the Fall and the proceeds help fund 6th grade activities. Please bring your collection of books, CD's and DVD to the library and deposit them in the box labeled "Used Book Sale." The box will be available starting June 1st. Thank you for your donations.



As I grew older, the lovely pre-teen years, I would complain about missing weekends with my girlfriends. I know I caused my parents a lot of grief during this time. In the end, I was required to go. There was no choice. I usually spent the first hour or so of the drive pouting. With a not so subtle look, my parents made it clear that I would enjoy the trip. Period. The funny thing was, I got over it, and always had a wonderful time. The memory of these times with my families are truly the fondest memories I have. I cherish them.

My dad was an immigrant, a brilliant man, receiving his college education in the United States. My mother was a high school graduate, a civil servant and the most well-read, intelligent woman I have ever known. They weren't teachers by profession, but definitely by best and most favorite teachers.

In these terrible economic times, my hope is that that you can find the silver lining is a simple road trip that provides a life lesson and a lasting, loving memory for you and your children. Wishing you a wonderful summer.

Christine Amoroso  
Brywood Principal

## June Calendar

June 3

*Brywood Dads Campout  
5pm*

June 7

*PTA Meeting  
End of Year Social  
Location to be announced*

June 9

*Incoming 6th Grade  
Information Meeting  
7-8pm  
Library*

June 10

*Donuts with Dad  
7:45am Lunch Tables*

June 15

*Last Day of School*

## Brywood Dads

### Campout!

Friday June 3rd

Brywood Dads Campout is an annual opportunity for students at Brywood to spend an evening at Brywood in a camping-like atmosphere. Join your friends and classmates for our 2nd Annual Campout on the Brywood campus...the fun begins at 6pm. There will be our community services to visit with... Irvine Police, Fire Authority, SWAT vehicles; a Wiffle-Ball tournament, photos to take, BBQ Dinner, outdoor movie-night, ice-cream... and of course camping in a tent and breakfast in the morning. It will be a blast. Cost is \$25 per family. If you want dinner, cost will be \$5 per person and breakfast is included in the cost per family. You and your kids don't want to miss out on this great event. For more information, please contact Hiram Aviles at [Hiramaviles@yahoo.com](mailto:Hiramaviles@yahoo.com) if you have not signed up already. This will be our last Brywood Dads event of the year. **Please note:** All students participating in the Campout with Dads must have a parent or legally responsible ADULT at the event at all times. And all families are responsible for their own tent.

## Box Top Collection

Thank you for clipping and turning in the Box Tops labels this year, Brywood PTA has earned \$400 and counting!! The money would help fund school events and the benefits go to every student at Brywood. If you still have labels sitting in your kitchen drawers, now is a good time to drop them off at the bin labeled "BOX TOPS" at the front desk. Remember to keep saving the labels over the summer, they are worth 10 cents each and can be found on hundreds of participating products with the Box Tops logo on the package. It's never too late to start clipping! Questions? Contact Ada Lam at [adaslam@hotmail.com](mailto:adaslam@hotmail.com).



**To All 5th Grade Parents:** Please come for a 6th Grade informational meeting on Thursday, June 9th, 7-8pm in the library. This meeting is regarding all the fun events that will happen in 6th grade, including Outdoor Education, Pancake Breakfast, and Promotion Events. This evening is for parents; no childcare will be provided. Contact Teresa Vejsicky with questions: [tvejsicky@yahoo.com](mailto:tvejsicky@yahoo.com)



## From Your PTA President

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While writing this, my final, PTA President's note, I am more aware than ever of the contributions made by previous PTA presidents here at Brywood Elementary School. I know this, because I have turned to PTA presidents' from the past to gain inspiration for my own notes, and to make sure I don't forget anything important. When I look back over my two years as your PTA President, it seems to have gone very smoothly, with no earth-shaking changes, aside from the normal changes that our school has undergone. Mine will be known as the year when we spent lots of funds on stuff our school really needed!

We have had a truly amazing PTA Board where everyone respected each other and not only got along amazingly well, but it really felt more like an extended family, at least to me. Actually, Brywood has always felt like an extended family to me and it will be sad indeed when in June I have to say good-bye to a school that I have been a part of since 1991. I can say that I have an understanding and respect for how much previous boards have gone through in order to create an amazingly, highly functional board with the most wonderful volunteers that any school could ever ask for.

I am grateful for the support of my awesome board: Gigi Labus; Jenna Byers; Melissa Crout; Nikhila Srirangpatna; Sheila Mallough; Sue Lips; Lori Song; Jacquie Damigella, Maybel Quagliarini and Teresa Vejisicky. Two additional people who need special attention are: Diane and Hiram Aviles. There are many, many more and I want to thank each and every one of you for all of your support and work for Brywood.

I am maybe one of the only parents who can say that they have experienced 3 principals while having children at Brywood. Starting with Stu, then Pat, and now Christine. Each person had their own special qualities that they brought to and made Brywood the school that it is today. It is (in my opinion) vital that a PTA connects with its school faculty and staff, and most importantly with its principal. I have always felt a strong connection to Brywood, to Stu and Pat, and especially with Christine. I can say to all of you that you have a very special principal and I hope you realize it, and if not, then start today. I have often been amazed when I get back in the morning from working out at 6:30 am and see Christine's car in the parking lot, or find it there as late as 9:30 pm at night. She does not have to do that, but she really cares about your kids. I also want to give a fond thank you to Pat Weyer. Pat is/was always there for me, for all of us and she will be equally missed by me (and Cord and Nike).

Brywood is a caring school. From the principal, to the staff, to the faculty, to the parents to the students. You feel a sense of warmth and connectedness from when you first walk in the door. After being involved with many schools, I can say this is not a common experience....I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your President; I remember my first PTA Meeting as President in the Fall of 2009, when I wondered what I had gotten myself into. I would encourage any of you to consider participating at whatever level feels comfortable. Parents should always be encouraged to get involved. It really is a great and supportive group and you should all be proud of your PTA. Get involved now, because before you know it, you'll be gone too.

Brywood – I'm really going to miss you!

Rob Wolf  
PTA President  
2009-2011



# BryWorld Culture Festival



On Friday, May 6th Brywood's blacktop was transformed into a festival of food tastings, face-painting, culturally diverse performances, and community sponsored raffles. The festival is Brywood's way of opening our minds to the beauty and treasures each culture has to offer. Many cultures make up Brywood, and the festival is the chance to take part while traveling locally within our school community.

The festival served over 10,000 food samples represented by 19 different cultures. Old World Kettle Korn and Ray's Hawaiian Lil' Shavers donated a percentage of their sales to Brywood PTA. The annual event also included crafts, a cake walk, and obstacle-course games.

Stage performances were kicked off with a Flag Ceremony by the Boy Scouts and Webelos 1 Cub Scouts and 2nd-grader Whitney Maynard singing the National Anthem. The Parade of Nations Show featured 47 of Brywood's very own students dressed in traditional costumes. Performances featured music and dancing that showcased cultures from China/Taiwan, Hawaii/Tahiti, India, Europe, Philippines, and USA. ATA Taekwondo did a martial arts demo and invited eager students to break boards. The stage show culminated in the Brywood staff production of an African-themed dance choreographed and performed by Natalie Glassford-Edwards with Christine Amoroso (Principal), Laurene Swancoat and Freddi Siegel, dedicated to Brywood's 6th Grade Class of 2011 for their generous donation of the sound system.

The event was made possible by Brywood PTA and parent and student volunteers. Irvine High Comedy Sportz club assisted on stage, while students from Northwood High volunteered at various booths. Enjoyed by Brywood community, friends, and families, all festival proceeds directly benefit Brywood students.

A collection of wonderful photos from this spectacular event can be enjoyed on the following two pages.



