



Brywood Bugle

Principal's Message



Dear Brywood Families,

It seems appropriate during this week of *Teacher Appreciation* and our *Volunteer Tea* that I say a few words about gratitude and saying *Thank you*. I have always felt that the words *thank you* had tremendous power. Not in a "good manners" kind of way, but in a way that can change the way we think and feel, our attitude and how we view the world. When we express gratitude or thanks, even for the smallest acts of kindness, we not only show appreciation, but we recognize the positive impact that good people and good relationships have in our lives.

A good friend recommended a book called *365 Thank Yous: The Year a Simple Act of Daily Gratitude Changed My Life* by John Kralik. He articulates so beautifully how being grateful changed his life. He was a man focused on the negative, everything that was wrong with his life. Until, one day, a simple *thank you* note from a friend changed his thinking. He was moved to write a *thank you* note of his own and quite suddenly his life began to turn around.

As I read his story, I felt as though I was reading my own story, realizing the important role gratitude had played in my own life. I remember a time when I felt just like the author. And even though it happened a long time ago, I remember in great detail the specific events that changed me for the better, a grateful human being with a positive attitude. I learned that being grateful was a choice, something in my control, something powerful. Believe me, I have my moments of feeling down, we all do. But, I recover much more quickly from these "down times" because I catch myself and begin to count my many blessings. Even during the toughest times this always lifts my spirits. I guess, in a way, being grateful is a little selfish. It always makes me feel so good.

Please indulge me, as I take some space in our monthly newsletter to express my gratitude to those who make Brywood a special place. First, I would like to thank our Brywood teachers and support staff. Every day, I hear or see a teacher digging deep to find the one strategy, the one trick that will help a student understand, or challenging students to think critically and ask why. Thanks to our instructional assistants. They are top notch, supporting our teachers and students, providing instructional support that improves learning. Thank you to our special education team, our special education teachers, speech and language teachers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, adapted P.E. teacher and school psychologist. Their expertise addresses very specific needs and increases student success. Thank you to our guidance technicians who provide social and emotional support to our students who require a little boost.

May
2011

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What is Success?

"To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty; To find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived; That is to have succeeded."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



A big thank you goes to our office staff, Mrs. Weyer and Mrs. Yun. They field many, many phone calls each day, greet parents and students who pass through our office, process reams of paper work, and support our entire staff AND they do it with a smile. Thank you to Nurse Vicki and Mrs. Razey, our health clerk. They take care of the wounded as well as the dispensing of daily meds, and conducting health assessments. Thank you to Mr. Manny, George and Rafael, they keep our campus clean and assist with the many events that our PTA provides for our students. Thanks also, to our child care providers, Kids Stuff. Steve and Jackie Damigella provide a safe and caring after school environment for many of our students. Everyone at Brywood believes our first priority is students and their needs. I thank all of them for their dedication to children.

I am grateful for all of you. Parents, you support your children and their learning by providing them with loving homes and balanced lives. Each family plays a role in the larger Brywood community. You are the community and Brywood School is a reflection of all of you. It's the collective work of all of you, teachers, support staff, and parents that contribute to our children's success. Your support makes the job I love even better. I am grateful for each and every one of you.

Of course, I am so thankful for our wonderful students. They bring me joy every single day. I always say, if I am EVER feeling down, all I have to do is visit a classroom. There is nothing better than having students smile at me, welcome my presence, share their good work or give me a hug. On my worst day, a kindergartner telling me I'm pretty can put things in perspective in an instant. I am here for kids. I love my job because children and their genuine little selves bring me joy. How lucky am I?

So . . . here is your assignment. Make a list of those special people for which you are most grateful. Then write each one a thank you note. Start with your children. You'll feel terrific.

Happy May!

Sincere, sincere thanks to all you.

Christine Amoroso
Brywood Principal

May Calendar

May 6

Muffins with Mom 7:30 am
Culture Festival 5-8 pm

May 2-13

STAR Testing

May 10

PTA Meeting 7 pm MPR

May 13

International Coffee/Tea
8 am MPR
Minimum Day

May 16-18

STAR Testing Make-ups

May 18

Pizza Night 5-7:30 pm
Northwood Pizza

May 20

International Coffee/Tea
8 am MPR

May 25

Open House 6 pm

May 27

International Coffee/Tea
8 am MPR
Minimum Day

May 30

Memorial Day Holiday
No School

Brywood Brags

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

Julia Chubb	Emily Hu	Edson Lim	Michaela Moon
Gabriel Dela Cruz	Shireen Turner	Paige Press	Josiah Jocson
Kathryn Lau	Andrew Millsap	Anthony Lu	MaiLy Nguyen
Hayley Luevano	Steven Head	Vritika Patni	Katelyn Steele
Secret Smith	Hrag Barelian	Rahul Mohankumar	Tyler Maynard
Lauren Lee	Greg Kimble	Sasha Cooper	Maia Lee
Alexis Yan	Lisa Xu	Shivani Kulkarni	Samad Afzal
Christopher Mitchell	Ryan Kelson	Ashlyn Shahin	Tristan Belsby
Sriragavi Ukeshkumar	Mehul Sonowal	Josephine Cheung	Katie Jun
Cindy Chen	David Park	Faris Obagi	Hyewon Kim
			Yalda Assemi



From Your PTA President



As I come to the end of my term as PTA President, I would like to thank the board, teachers, and faculty for its countless volunteer hours, dedication and determination. I could not have fulfilled my role without your tremendous support. I would also like to thank the many volunteers that supported PTA at its events. Brywood Elementary School truly is a wonderful school because of all of you! This past year, PTA membership was at nearly 100%, a clear indication of our Brywood families' dedication to making a difference and getting involved in our children's education! PTA-sponsored events and activities are open to every Brywood family, and as we get closer to the end of this school year, we again encourage you

to participate and support your student in any way you are able for the upcoming year and your new PTA President and Board.

Please keep in mind that feedback regarding PTA programs is an important way for us to gauge your interest in the events and activities we provide for students and families. We encourage you to communicate with Brywood's teaching staff to exchange both positive feedback and concerns you may have with your child's learning experience at Brywood.

Remember, "Every Child. One Voice."

Sincerely,

Rob Wolf
PTA President
Brywood Elementary School

Brywood Dads Campout 2011!

Mark your calendars. The Campout will be held Friday, June 3rd overnight to Saturday, June 4th on the Brywood Campus. Exciting stuff with a large screen movie, dinner, possible fire and SWAT trucks, police cars... and camping out over night in tents!

Look for more details to follow. If you have any questions, please e-mail Hiram Aviles at HiramAviles@yahoo.com.

Quotes Worth Remembering

We do not choose to be born.

We do not choose our parents,

Or our times or country of birth,

Or the circumstances of our upbringing.

We do not—most of us—choose to die

But within all this realm of choicelessness We do choose how we shall live— Courageously or in cowardice, Honorably or dishonorably, With purpose or adrift.

**We decide what is important and what is trivial
What makes us significant is what we do, Or refuse to do.**

We decide and we choose.

And so we give definition to ourselves.

— Joseph Epstein



BryWorld Culture Festival

The 7th Annual BryWorld Culture Festival and the Raffle/Auction Fundraiser is only a few days away. Plan to bring your whole family and invite friends and neighbors to spend a fun-filled evening. It's guaranteed to be a feast for your eyes, ears and taste buds. The Brywood 6th grade class of 2011 will especially not want to miss out on the festival this year. Find out what the surprise performance turns out to be that will be dedicated to the class. Many of our students have also been rehearsing and are very eager to share their talents and culture.

Several Brywood families have offered to donate their culinary talents to the cultural booths. We welcome more food donations and your assistance at these booths:

Cake Walk — China — France — Germany

India — Indonesia — Iran — Italy — Japan — Korea — Lebanon

Mexico — Norway — Philippines — Poland — Spain

Sweden — Taiwan — USA — Vietnam

Kettle Korn will be back and, new this year, will be Ray's Lil Shavers offering shaved ice.

Be sure to try your luck at winning the raffles—there's something in it for everyone! This event is not only fun but all proceeds from the festival and raffles will directly benefit all Brywood students.

Festival Contacts:

VP, Multicultural Committee: Teresa Vejsicky (tvejsicky@yahoo.com)

Booths Coordinator: Chetana Rao (raochetanu@yahoo.com)

Raffle/Auction Fundraiser: Liz Cooper (liz.leah.cooper@gmail.com)

Entertainment Coordinator: Maybel Quaglierini (qmaybel@gmail.com)

Volunteer Coordinator: Nicole Chang (nicyvette@gmail.com)