



Brywood Bugle

Keeping Brywood Parents Informed, Connected & Involved

Principal's Message



Dear Brywood Families,

School has been in session three short weeks and already we have accomplished so much. Our Back to School Night was well attended. We scheduled it a week early with the intention of getting our students, particularly so many new students, off to a great start. I received feedback from teachers and parents expressing the positive effects of getting everyone on the same page sooner rather than later.

If you were unable to attend Back to School Night, I suggest you meet with your child's teacher so that you are aware of classroom procedures and policies. If you are a new family to Brywood I am happy to meet with you as well.

We have already had our first Pizza Night and Can Day. Our Pizza Night was an extremely successful with a line out the door for most of the evening. Calling in your order ahead of time can save you from waiting in line. Don't forget to mention Brywood so that we get credit for the sale. I enjoyed meeting many of our new families and visiting with Brywood veterans as well. A percentage of sales for the evening go back to our PTA and straight to your child's classroom. Pizza Night typically brings in \$200 - \$300 a month.

The last Friday of each month Brywood collects recyclables on Can Day. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans with CRV value are collected at morning drop off and then taken to the recycling center by Brywood volunteers. All proceeds go to our PTA and again right to back to Brywood students. Can Day raises \$200 - \$300 a month. Currently Brywood is the leader, district wide, in its recycling efforts. We are most proud of this project as it is both educational and a community service. Look for Can Day flyers at the end of each month.

This year Brywood will be implementing Response to Instruction (RtI). Information was shared with parents on Back to School Night. This is not a program, but rather an instructional strategy that allows teachers to more effectively meet the learning needs of our students at every level. You will hear more about Rita during parent conferences (October 12-16) and also periodic progress updates throughout the year. The number one goal of Rita is to improve instruction and as a result increase student achievement for all learners.

Our first PTA meeting was this week. I am happy to report that many new families have joined the ranks. They will be led by our PTA president, Rob Wolf, a long time Brywood Parent, and his Executive Vice President, Liz Cooper, a newer Brywood parent. Rob's experience will be key to passing on Brywood's rich history and traditions, and Liz will encourage new volunteers to get involved. There is nothing that contributes more to your child's success than your involvement in their education. Volunteering is both rewarding and fun. Please consider becoming active in your PTA.

We have had a great start to the year and my expectation is that an excellent year will follow. Our success depends on a relationship between family and school that puts the needs of the child first. If you have any concerns (or praise) for what is happening at Brywood, please communicate those to your classroom teacher or me. Our goal is to do our very best for your child.

Let's have a great year!

Christine Amoroso, Principal



October 2009

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From Your PTA President

Dear Brywood Families and Staff,

Welcome back to school! My name is Rob Wolf, and I am your PTA President for the 2009-2010 school year. I hope everyone had a great, relaxing summer and are ready for an exciting new year. Your PTA has been working hard over the summer to plan some fun activities and programs for our children this year.

If you haven't done so already, please make sure you join the PTA. Joining the PTA has a lot of great benefits, the most important is the vote and voice you have in the PTA.

I started out at Brywood in 1991 with our older children Mark, Jamie and Joey. We were only gone a few years before we came back again with Samantha, Adam, Michael and Danny. We have two years left at Brywood which will give us a history here of nearly 20 years! In that time I served on the Irvine Unified Health Advisory Task Force for nearly 6 years, ran for a position as a School Board Member in 1998, and was on the Brywood School Site Council for two years. I've also been a baseball coach and Board Member with PONY baseball, and a soccer coach with AYSO. Probably what our family is most known for is our Halloween House that we have done every year since about 1993.

The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, at 7 pm in the multi-purpose room. Please join us to get more information on the PTA, our vision for the year, and learn how you can volunteer. I hope to see you there. Remember, the Brywood PTA is here for our children and families. In order for us to be successful, we need volunteers. You can make it as much or as little as you want it to be. You can volunteer in the classroom, at events after school, or even help with some small items in the evenings. If you have a lot of time, great! If you only have a little time, that's ok, as we have something for you too. There are many things that can be done in just one hour. The most effective way to know what's happening in the school is to volunteer and be involved. It is a great way to meet new people and get to know the school and the community.

Please take the time to look at our school marquee. We post monthly events, as well as other information. As usual, your PTA Board members will always welcome your comments. If you would like to help out with any of our activities, let us know. You do not need to have any special skills but simply the desire to help. We can always use your help.

If you have any issues or concerns regarding PTA, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone has a great year! I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Rob Wolf, PTA President



October 4

Pancake Breakfast

October 12-16

*Conference Week
Minimum Days All Week*

October 13

*Student Holiday
No School*

October 15

The Great Shake Out

October 19

*Student Holiday
No School*

October 20

CELDT Testing in MPR

October 23

Walk to School Day

October 26-30

Red Ribbon Week

October 27

PTA Meeting 7pm

October 27-30

*6th Grade
Outdoor Education Trip*

October 30

*Brywood Dad's
Halloween Family Night
and Costume Contest*

Brywood Bugle is published monthly by the Brywood PTA. If you have information you would like to share with other Brywood families regarding PTA, District or School activities, please send your articles for consideration to Denise Riches (driches@heartwarestore.com) no later than the 25th of the month prior to publication.

**Fun and Learning Go Together
During Red Ribbon Week**

October 26-30, 2009

Red Ribbon Week is a National Campaign to promote healthy, drug free lifestyles throughout schools and communities. Red Ribbon Week is about encouraging kids to be drug, alcohol and tobacco free while making positive decisions. There is fun for everyone during this week. Start collecting your pennies. Each day your child is asked to participate in "Pennies for Prevention." Whether they bring in 1 penny or 100 they will have the opportunity to win fun prizes. All of the pennies collected by Brywood will be weighed at the end of the week and the City of Irvine will give Brywood \$1.00 for each pound.

News You Can Use



**Upcoming Events
at Brywood**

Walk to School Day

Don't Miss the Fun!

Friday, October 23rd

Northwood Community Park

7:30am

Set your alarm clock just a bit earlier on Friday, October 23 and join your child and their friends for our annual "**Walk to School Day.**" Look for more details to follow in a backpack flier that will outline our morning schedule at Northwood Park, at the corner of Bryan and Yale. Don't forget to wear your Brywood Spirit Shirt and feel free to make a "**Brywood**" sign to hold high showing our spirit and participation while walking to school. Please contact Diane Aviles if you have any questions (949)981-0788 Avilesmom@yahoo.com.

**Brywood Dad's Family
Halloween Night
Friday, October 30**

Come and enjoy a family fun night with Brywood and dress in your Halloween Costume! We will have a Costume Contest for each grade, prizes, a movie, some devilish treats to enjoy and more surprises. Fun night put on by Brywood Dads. 6:00pm in the Multi Purpose Room, \$10 per family with funds going to Brywood PTA. For question contact HiramAviles@yahoo.com.

October PTA Meeting

Topic: Internet Safety

Tuesday, October 27

7-8:30pm MPR

Parents, please do not miss this opportunity to hear one of the most important topic's and challenges we as parents face today, regardless of how old our children are. There is no doubt, you will leave this presentation with the most current and complete information on Internet safety. This informative evening will include:

- Blogging
- Chat Rooms
- Cyber Bullying
- Online Dangers
- Instant Messaging, Text Messaging
- Social Networking Sites such as MySpace and Facebook

Childcare offered for school age

Calling All Artists!

PTA Reflections Contest—The theme for this year will be "Beauty is....."

- All entries must be turned into the office by October 23rd
- Questions? Call Ali Wolf at (949) 400-7177
- Entry forms are available in the front office

The Yearbook Needs You!

Greetings! I'm Virginia McBride and I have been co-editing the Brywood Yearbook for the past three years and I am this year's Yearbook Coordinator/Editor. As you can imagine, putting together the yearbook is a very large task and it takes several months to collect all the pictures for the various class pages, all school activity pages and special 6th grade pages. In order to make our yearbook a reality, I am going to need your help. Having three kids of my own, I am totally aware of how busy a family can get. **Therefore, I have done my best to make the volunteer needs specific. Here's what I need:**

Classroom Page Picture Coordinator

(one person per class) – Someone who can take digital photos of the students in class, during field trips and/or organize others in the class to do so. Once the photos have been selected they will be passed onto the Yearbook Committee to be reproduced in this year's book. More details will be provided to the classroom volunteer once that person has been chosen.

Yearbook Committee Bookkeeper

(one person) – Responsible for the yearbook orders (collecting envelopes, logging orders, depositing payments, etc)

Yearbook Committee 6th Grade Parent(s)

(two parents) – To coordinate the photographs for all 6th grade pages (Pancake Breakfast, Outdoor Ed., etc)

Yearbook Committee Volunteers

(two to three people) – Help to coordinate the collection of class pages for lower and upper grades, all-school event pictures and distribution of yearbook at the end of the year.

With a commitment from everyone, we can easily accomplish what we set out to do and that's to create a yearbook full of wonderful memories. I look forward to working with all who decide to volunteer. The best way to reach me is by email:

McBride100@hotmail.com.

California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS)

The Irvine Unified School District will be administering the California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) in November, 2009 to all 5th, 7th, 9th and 11th grade students. The survey gathers information on behaviors such as physical activity and nutritional habits; school safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; as well as environmental and individual strengths and assets. The survey is anonymous. No names or other personal identifying information is connected to the answers. Participation in the survey is voluntary and will take approximately 30 minutes of classroom time. In October, 5th grade parents will be asked to sign and return a survey consent form. We hope you will give permission so that your child's opinion and knowledge can be part of the results that are used to improve district prevention programs and services.

For Further Information: The statewide survey was developed by WestEd, a public, non-profit educational institution. If you have any questions about this survey, or about your rights, call the district at 949-936-7980. You may examine the questionnaire at the district's website www.iusd.org/guidance_resources.



Hold On To Your Hats...

The Great Southern California Shake-Out Earthquake Drill is on October 15 at 10:15am. Brywood will be holding an earthquake drill that same day. It would be a great time for you to discuss safety with your children and also re-stock your earthquake supplies and first-aid kits.

Do You Like the Bee Gee's? Come Learn How To "Stay Alive"

A CPR class from the American Heart Association teaches an easy to remember CPR technique to the beat of "Staying Alive." The class will be held Tuesday, November 17 from 6-9pm. The cost is \$20 per person. Adults and students over 12 are encouraged to attend. Please contact Traci Maynard or Suzy Brunn for more information about these events. They can be reached by email: mikeandtraci@sbcglobal.net suzy97@cox.net

Your Family Benefits When You Become a PTA Member

Brywood Families please look for your PTA Membership that will be arriving in your PTA packet shortly. Please take the time to understand how your \$20.00 fee is used.

By becoming a PTA member you are supporting the many programs that Brywood offers, such as technology, class enrichment, supplies and the list goes on. Your \$20.00 membership is broken down in the following way:

4.25 is split between supporting Irvine District PTA, 4th Annual PTA the State of California and the National PTA Board. The remaining \$15.75 goes right back to Brywood and into your child's classroom. Additionally your membership card includes:

- 5% on-line orders with Barnes & Noble
- Libery Mutual Group discounts on auto, home and renters insurance
- Sharp Electronics special discounts for on-line shopping
- Southwest Airlines exclusive discounts on vacation packages
- T-Mobile discounts on wireless service and equipment

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The New Family Pledge Drive... Your children need Your Support!

We are kicking off our new Family Pledge Drive. This one time gift eliminates all other fall fundraising efforts. Your dollars will provide your children with enrichment opportunities, new computers and programs, new books for the Library, Brywood's Health Clerk, classroom supplies and school improvements. Help fund these items by donating a gift of \$100 per family. Look in the PTA packet for the family pledge drive donation form. Please fill it out promptly and return it to your classroom teacher. Help us reach our goal of \$15,000! Together we can make a difference in our children's education.



6th Grade News....

Important Dates for Everyone at Brywood

Before October 4th: Bring your used books, cd's, and dvd's to the multipurpose room to be sold at the Used Book Sale!

October 4th: Come to the Pancake Breakfast and Used Book Sale from 8 to 11:30 am at the Brywood lunch tables. Enjoy a delicious breakfast with other Brywood families and support 6th graders earning their way to Outdoor Education Camp. Tickets are \$4 each, available at the door. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. Bring extra money to purchase items from the book sale.

We are proud to share that our 6th grade class will be participating with Team Kids, IUSD and PTA in a city-wide gently used book drive to benefit children who are at-risk readers. Their goal is to have each family donate a gently used book from their book sale to benefit these children. They will have a table set up so stop by and ask how you can help. Team Kids is a local nonprofit organization that inspires young people to become future leaders.

Important Dates for 6th Graders

October 4th: 8-11:30 am Pancake Breakfast and Used Book Sale. Make sure you show up on time for your volunteer shift (assignments went home in late Sept. for students and parents). Thanks for all your help!

Mid to Late October: 6th Grade Sweatshirts will be distributed when the 6th Grade Class Panoramic Photo is taken.

October 26 Red Ribbon Week; 6th graders bring in all their pennies on Monday!

October 27-30: Outdoor Education Camp.

Brywood Book

Fair is Coming!

Save the Date!

The Brywood Scholastic Book Fair will be here November 16th -20th. This is always an exciting week for our kids. In order for it to be a success, we need your help. Keep a lookout for more information in the coming weeks.



BRYWOOD



Recycles

Everyone Can at CAN Day!

Each month, Brywood Elementary PTA collects CRV beverage containers on CAN DAY, usually the last Friday of each month (September—May), and recycles them as a fundraiser to support our school's educational programs, staff, technology, and enrichment activities. Through this recycling program, Brywood is trying to do its part to help the environment by reducing the number of beverage containers that go into landfills while teaching students that we all need to do our share to care for the earth. We could really use your help!

What: Save plastic and glass beverage containers and aluminum cans (CRV ONLY) each month and bring them on CAN DAY.

When: October 30, December 4, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 30, & June 4

Time: 7:45am - 8:15am

Where: On Westwood in front of Brywood Park or on Adams near the valet area

CRV only, please! Read the labels for "California Redemption Value," "CA Redemption Value," and "California Cash Refund" or "CA CRV."

Please empty & sort the beverage containers at home.

Attach a CAN Day form to the bag of CRV's (coming home the week of CAN Day).

Each child will receive a small thank you gift for participating on CAN Day and the class with the best participation each month will win a prize.

Volunteers to assist on CAN Day are greatly needed. Please contact Committee Chair, Kathy Brook-Wong at kbwong90@yahoo.com or call (949) 653-6790 to volunteer or provide suggestions.

Cool Facts About Recycling

Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV for three hours.

It takes 500 years for an aluminum can to decompose and up to 1000 years before plastic bottles begin to decompose once buried.

A used aluminum can is recycled and back on the grocery shelf as a new can, in as little as 60 days. That's closed loop recycling at its finest!

It Pays to Recycle!



September CAN Day Brings Cash to Brywood!

Our first Can Day of the school year was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who brought in bottles and cans that morning. With Girl Scouts Troop 473 led by Amy Jensen and Gigi Labus at the drop-off point on Westwood and Cub Scouts Bear Den led by Scott and Sue Lips on Adams, CAN Day went very smoothly. Thank you also to the Brywood parents for sorting and transporting the recyclables after the children went to class and to Carol Ko and her family for tallying the CAN Day forms and reporting the number of CAN Day participants in each class. Last, congratulations to Mrs. Gillette's class for having the highest percentage of participants on CAN Day with 68% participation. The students get to keep the CAN Day Award globe for a month and won a small class party and Mrs. Gillette receives a small thank you gift. Congratulations to the other members of this month's CAN Day "50% and Over" Club: Ms. Kelly Young's class (55%) and Ms. Raths' class (52%). Way to go Brywood!!



CAN Day volunteers in Troop 473

IUSD Truck full of recyclables



Team Brywood #1 in District Recycling Program

With IUSD budget cuts threatening to reduce programs, staff, and technology at our school and an increasing concern for protecting our natural environment, there is no better time to recycle at Brywood. Did you that last year Brywood raised \$1367 from recycling plastic and glass bottles, aluminum cans, and paper? During the first 3 months of the 2008-2009 school year, before we implemented our CAN Day program, we made an average of \$50 per month from recycling. However, because of CAN Day, we earned an average of \$235 per month from January to May. What if we increased that amount to \$300 a month with more people bringing CRV bottles and cans to school on CAN Days and more students recycling their water and juice bottles from snacks and lunches at school? Together we could earn \$2400 for Brywood! That would mean not only more money to support the education of our children, but also more energy, clean air and water, and landfill space would be saved and more precious natural resources would be conserved as a result of Brywood's recycling.

Please save your plastic and glass beverage containers and aluminum cans (CRVs only) throughout the month and bring them to school on CAN Days (see page 6 for dates and details) or place them in a recycling bin at the lunch tables during school hours any weekday. Why not ask your neighbors, relatives, and sports team members to save their recyclables for you and bring those on CAN Day as well!

Last year Brywood was #1 in recycling for the entire school district. Let's continue to stay at the top and surpass our own expectations of how much we can raise money through our recycling efforts. Thank you for doing your share to recycle and make Brywood one of the greenest places on earth!!

If you want to volunteer or have any questions or suggestions for the Team Brywood Recycling Program, please contact Committee Chair, Kathy Brook-Wong at (949) 653-6790 or kbwong90@yahoo.com.