



Tucson Unified School District  
**Augustus Brichta Elementary School**

2110 W. Brichta  
Tucson, AZ 85745  
(520) 225-1100/Fax: (520) 225-1101  
<http://www.brichtabears.com>

**September 2011**

## Principal's Letter

Dear Families of Brichta Students,  
 Thank you for helping us to have such a successful beginning to our school year!  
 We are excited to once again be able to offer after school classes through our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant. In order to meet the needs of our students and fulfill the requirements of our grant, targeted students will be given priority in these classes. Classes will begin on September 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a limited number of slots available for each club. Bus service will be available at 4:00 to take students who regularly ride the bus home. Adult classes and opportunities for families will begin soon. Free math tutoring for those families that qualify will also be available beginning September 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00. This tutoring is also available to families who do not qualify for free/reduced federal meals according to the independent contractor's fee scale. For more information, please call the front office. Please check our website, marquee and newsletter for more information. We are committed to making our school a center of learning for all of our community members!  
 New Arizona legislation requires that students entering kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade this year be able to read at grade-level as measured by a standardized test. Parents of students in these grade levels will be receiving additional information during parent-teacher conferences. Please know that it is imperative that your child be in school every day that they are not sick. As always, we appreciate your support. Together, we are accomplishing worthy, lofty goals!

Sincerely,  
Sabrina Cruz, Principal  
[Sabrina.Cruz@tusd1.org](mailto:Sabrina.Cruz@tusd1.org)

**Help send our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to FLY!**  
**Brichta 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash**  
**Saturday, September 24th**  
**8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
**Brichta Elementary South Parking Lot**  
 Suggested Donation: \$5.00 – Cars and \$7.00 – Trucks, SUV's & Large Vans  
 Bake Sale (Donations welcome!).



**We're happy you are here!**  
 Our campus is a closed campus. All visitors to Brichta **MUST** sign in at the office and wear a "Visitor" or "Volunteer" badge. **No one is allowed to enter in through any door but the front door during school hours.** This is a TUSD Governing Board Policy and is meant to ensure the safety of our students. We appreciate your cooperation!

### Brichta Calendar of Events

<b>Mon. 9/12</b>	<b>PTO Fundraiser Meeting 6:00 Library</b>
<b>Wed. 9/14, Thurs. 9/15 and Fri. 9/16</b>	<b>Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Dismissal 11:00</b>
<b>Fri. 9/16</b>	<b>School Pictures</b>
<b>Tues. 9/19</b>	<b>Site Council Meeting 5:30 P.M. PTO Meeting 6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Sat., 9/24</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade Car Wash</b>
<b>Mon., 9/26</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Classes and SES Tutoring Begin</b>
<b>Tues., 9/27</b>	<b>Star Party 6:30-8:00 Join the fun!</b>
<b>Thurs., 9/29</b>	<b>Volunteer Breakfast and Training 8:00 in Parent Room</b>

*Welcome to our new school personnel this year!*  
**1<sup>st</sup> Gr. Teacher** ~ Angelica Barajas  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Gr. Teacher**-Becky Peralta  
**5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Teacher**-Angelica Flores  
**Language Support Coordinator**-Jeanne Wager  
**Speech/Language Pathologist**-Stefanie Senior  
**Occupational Therapist**-Janice Houghland  
**Attendance Clerk**-Jennifer Schroeder  
**P.M. Custodian**-Jose Fuerte  
 Congratulations to Katie Eddleman, our new Math and Innovative Technology Specialist and Susan Astrene, our new Reading and Innovative Technology Specialist



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**ATTENTION BRICHTA FAMILIES**

**Brichta School Procedures**



**Re: PARENT PICK-UP, VANS, BUSES**

We need your help in ensuring that all of our students are safe! The following procedures have been established to keep students safe. Please model respectful behavior and good citizenship by observing these procedures.

**BUSES**

Buses leave 5 minutes after dismissal; please encourage your child to be prompt in getting to the bus bay. Students who miss the bus will need to be picked up by their parents or guardians.



**VAN (Daycare)**

Children have been instructed to go to the van area underneath of the south ramada immediately after dismissal. If your child will not be riding the van on a given day, please notify the school office and the daycare provider.



**PARENT DROP-OFF and PICK-UP**

Parent drop-off and pick-up is located at the north end of the school (circular drive near the cafeteria). We ask that all children be dropped off and picked up in this area. **The south parking lot is for daycare vans only! Please do not tell your child to meet you or wait for you in the south parking lot. We have had two near misses this year which involved students walking in the parking lot as cars drove through the south parking lot area.**

Students should be picked up by 2:25 p.m. unless they are in an after school club. You must come to the office and sign your child out if you arrive after 2:25.

In order to devote our attention to students during the day, much of our paperwork and managerial duties are postponed until 2:25. Please help us to keep the school running smoothly by picking your child up on time.

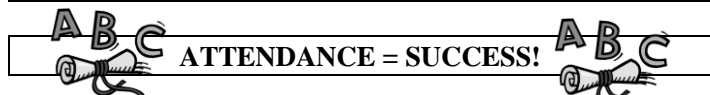
**Reminder- The area in front of the school is designated for school busses. Do not park your vehicles in front of the office doors between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Thank you!**

***Javelinas! Coyotes! Dogs! A Bobcat! These are all animals that we have found roaming around on our playground in the mornings. To help us keep your child safe, do not drop him/her off before 7:30 a.m. THERE IS NO SUPERVISION AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS BEFORE 7:30 A.M.***



**Re: CHANGE OF AFTER-SCHOOL PLANS**

If there is a change in plans with regards to how your child will get home, or who will pick up your child, you must provide written documentation or personal communication to school. Please call the school **before 12:00 p.m.** to ensure that your child knows where they are to go. The closer to dismissal time that you call, unfortunately, the greater the chance that your child may not receive the message regarding a change of plans. **For the safety of our students we will not release a child to go home with a person who is not authorized on the green emergency card.**



**ABSENCES & TARDIES**

- It is extremely important that you call the school office at 225-1100 when your child will be out to excuse his/her absence. The office will be keeping track of students with excessive unexcused absences.
- Our late bell rings at 7:56 a.m. If your child arrives to school after that time, he/she must check in with the office to get a late slip from Patsy.
- When your child arrives at 8:30 a.m. or later, an adult must walk the child in the building and sign the child in. We have several children that are tardy every day. Each time a child enters the classroom late, he or she misses out on part of the learning planned for the day. Please make an effort to get your children to school on time.
- Please avoid checking your child out before dismissal time. Although this may save you time, your child loses valuable learning each time they are checked out early.
- Thank you for your support!



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**SNACKS FOR CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS**

TUSD has established guidelines concerning snacks that can be brought to school for birthdays and other special events. Please see the List of Acceptable Snack Foods in the front office or in the student handbook. If you have any questions, please call the Brichta office.



**From the Health Office**

Welcome new and returning students and families! Please be sure to fill out and return your child's green emergency card to the Health Office. It is extremely important that we have updated information on all our students. If your child's health history needs to be updated and you have not filled out a new Health Registration form, please do so.



**CLOTHING BANK**



The Health Office is in need of used clothing for our Brichta students. If your child has outgrown some of their pants, t-shirts, socks, skirts, blouses, belts or shoes, please consider donating them to our school.



We are especially in need of clothing for our Kinder students (sizes 4, 5 & 6).

***Thank you for your support!***

***Speaking of clothes.....***

*Although we do not require our students to wear uniforms, we do have a dress code. Students should not wear spaghetti straps or "muscle" shirts. Dresses and shorts should be longer than the length of the student's fingers when their arms are at their sides. For further information on our dress code, please see the Student Handbook.*



Check out the new "Health and Fitness" page on our website, <http://edweb.tusd.k12.az.us/brichta/>. We ask that you do not bring in cupcakes, cakes, candies, etc. for your child's birthday. You can view a list of approved snacks for birthday celebrations on our web page. There are also ideas for celebrating in lieu of food. On our webpage, there are some other great website links you and your family can check out for physical activity, nutrition and time spent together. We will be posting a healthy recipe of the month so if you have any great family healthy recipes, email them to us! We are also highlighting what "healthy" means to your family. Send us a picture of your family doing something healthy and we will post it on our website. Emails should be directed to [cristina.furtado@tusd1.org](mailto:cristina.furtado@tusd1.org).

**BRICHTA BEAR STUDENTS**

**FOLLOW THE 3 R'S:**

**Respect Yourself**

**Respect Others**

**Respect Property**



**PTO Corner**



**Please support Brichta Elementary students by:**



- Bringing in Box tops for Education
- Bringing in empty ink cartridges
- Providing a "healthy" snack for classes
- Volunteering in a classroom

Save these dates:

Wellness Week #1 October 3-7

Wellness Week #2 December 5-9

Wellness Week #3 February 6-10

Wellness Week #4 April 23-27

If you're interested in volunteering during these weeks, please let Cristina or Michele know.

Please note that we are a drug free campus. All medication needs to be checked in at the Health Office and a permission slip needs to be signed.

If you have any medical concerns regarding your child, please don't hesitate to call us at

Thank you,  
Michele Bennett, RN  
Cristina Furtado, Health Assistant



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**FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT**



Brichta Families,

If you qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch, we need you to complete an application and return it to Brichta by **September 24th**. If possible, please send the application sooner, so that our Food Manager can input the information into the system. Brichta Food Service will begin charging students for their lunch if their application has not been returned by September 24th. **Breakfast is \$1.25 and lunch is \$1.75.**

Please send lunch money with your child at the beginning of the week. Send the money in an envelope with your child's name printed on the front. The teacher will send the money to the cafeteria. Children that forget their money will be given 2 credits (2 days) for lunch. If the child does not pay on the third day, he/she will be given a peanut butter sandwich. We would like for your child to have a positive experience and your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please free to call us at 225-1123.

Thank you,  
 Brichta Food Service Staff

***For Your Information***

***Child Custody***

In most cases when parents are divorced, both mother and father continue to have equal rights where their children are concerned. **If you have a court order limiting the custody or visitation rights of one parent, please bring a copy to the school office.** Unless the court order is on file in our office, we must provide equal rights and equal access to both parents.

**Legal Name**

Your child may be referred to by any name you choose. However, registration papers, progress reports, testing materials, health information, etc., must contain the child's legal name as recorded on the birth certificate. If the student's name has been changed through adoption or a court order, a copy of the legal document must be on file in the school office prior to records reflecting that change.

**Around Our School**

Mrs. Wager has begun restorative circles and conferences with many of our classes. These conferences are designed to give students a voice and

to pre-empt behavioral issues including behaviors which may be perceived as bullying.

**The Benefits of Eating Together**

**The Family Who Eats Together Stays Together**

-- By Becky Hand, Licensed & Registered Dietician

**Reason #4: Nourish**

Meals prepared and eaten at home are usually more nutritious and healthy. They contain more fruits, vegetables, and dairy products along with additional nutrients such as fiber, calcium, vitamins A and C, and folate. Home cooked meals are usually not fried or highly salted, plus soda and sweetened beverage consumption is usually lower at the dinner table.

**Reason #7: Improve Grades**

Children do better in school when they eat more meals with their parents and family. Teenagers who eat dinner four or more times per week with their families have higher academic performance compared with teenagers who eat with their families two or fewer times per week. [http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/nutrition\\_articles.asp?id=439](http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/nutrition_articles.asp?id=439)

**Volunteer Training**

Can you spare 30 minutes? 1 hour? 1 day a week? We need volunteers to assist at dismissal during lunch in the, library and classrooms. Please join us for fun, food and training at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>.

*Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month:  
 Irene Peterson and (Payten's step-dad) Tony Ramos?*

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Grant Information**

21st CCLC and SES after school classes will begin on September 26. Class sessions are offered from 2:00-3:00 (SES and 21st CCLC) and 3:00-4:00 (21st CCLC only). Both programs are free of charge. Free snack is provided during the 3:00-4:00 session, and bus transportation will be available at 4:00.

Classes this year will place a heavy focus on math remediation in order to address our school's current goals for improvement. Children qualify for the SES program based on economic need. Children are placed



**TUSD**  
*Celebrate the US!*

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in the 21st CCLC program based on academic need and space availability.

Limited spaces are available in our 21st CCLC enrichment program, which will include sports (such as soccer and basketball), Student Council, Safety Patrols (for students in grades 3-5), Health and Nutrition, Science Enrichment, Journalism, Photography, Homework Help, and Folklorico. If you are interested in your child participating in an after school class this year, please call the front office to have your child put on our wish list. Please specify your child's name, grade, teacher, and any classes that he/she is interested in taking.

Questions regarding the 21st CCLC after school program may be directed to Adelle McNiece ([adelle.mcniece@tusd1.org](mailto:adelle.mcniece@tusd1.org)).

Questions regarding the SES after school program may be directed to Karen May ([karen.may@tusd1.org](mailto:karen.may@tusd1.org)).