



TUSD
Celebrate the US!

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>

November 2010

Dear Families of Brichta Students,

Students have begun wearing jackets to school each morning. Funny thing, here in Tucson the weather can warm up so quickly that the majority of students have shed their jackets by noon! In case you were wondering, all jackets that are found lying under the bars or left on the field have begun to change color and there is a definite chill to the early morning air. It's hard to believe that the end of the first quarter has come so quickly!

Already this year, we have accomplished quite a bit, thanks to the combined efforts of teachers and families working together on behalf of students. One area of growth has been in the reading progress of students. As Rhonda Smith and I administer the progress monitoring tests to students, we can tell that teachers have been addressing skills and that parents have been helping students to set aside time to practice these skills at home. Thank you. Research has shown that the rate at which a student can read a passage (oral reading fluency) has a direct correlation (in almost all instances) to their overall reading ability. By having a student practice reading fluently, we are encouraging them to "train their brain" to recognize and read words that they know with ease.

Our 21st CCLC classes are in full swing. It is such great fun to see students working in the garden or learning the first steps of a folklorico dance. The Cross Country team has also gotten off to a "running start". These students continue to make us proud on and off the field.

We do want to send out a small request from the office: Please refrain from checking your child out during the last ten minutes of class if at all possible. Just as a student's late arrival to class disrupts the learning process for that student and the rest of the class, a student leaving early has the same

impact. Students who are pulled during this time miss out on instruction as well as directions for homework and socialization time with their friends that may not happen during more structured times of the day. In addition, if a teacher has to stop to quickly explain an assignment to one student rather than the whole class, learning time is lost for the large group. Thanks for considering this before pulling your child out early.

This Friday there are no classes. Teachers will be discussing student progress with their colleagues, reflecting on how to continue to differentiate instruction during the next quarter as a result of this progress and preparing progress reports. These progress reports will go home on Tuesday, October 19th. If you have any questions once you receive your child's report, please don't hesitate to call your child's teacher.

Sincerely,
Sabrina Cruz, Principal
Sabrina.Cruz@tusd1.org

You can help them read more quickly and accurately. Schools call this reading fluency. Your kids will call it fun!

When kids can read fluently, it's easier for them to understand what they're reading. And they read aloud easily and with expression. Needless to say, this makes reading a lot more enjoyable.

Less fluent readers read more slowly and word by word. Their attention is focused on sounding out each word; so, they pay less attention to understanding what they've read. Their comprehension and their motivation can suffer. Of course, beginning readers aren't fluent yet, but by the end of first grade, kids should be reading books at their grade level with ease and expression.



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The summer months provide a great opportunity for you to help your child continue to develop reading fluency. Here are four things parents and caregivers can do to help:

Choose the right books

Help your child choose books that he can comfortably read. The "five-finger test" is a useful guideline for beginning readers. As your child reads, count the number of words he cannot read per page. In general, there should be five words or fewer that give him trouble on each page. If a book contains several pages on which you count more than five words that he can't read, consider reading that book to your child until he develops more reading skill.

Listen every day

Once you've found a collection of books that your child can read, listen to your child read every day. Be patient — new readers often read slowly! Offer help when your child gets stuck, and always give lots of praise and encouragement.

Read it again, Sam

Encourage your child to reread favorite books, and make it fun! Repeated readings improve children's fluency and comprehension. They also provide opportunities to practice reading with expression. Children will enjoy giving the wolf a scary growl or using a squeaky little voice for a mouse.

Read to your kids every day

Model your own fluent reading as you read and reread books with your child. Even though your child may be able to read on her own, continue to find time each day to read books to her that are just beyond her reading level. She will enjoy

listening to more advanced stories, and she will hear a great example of fluent reading.

Principal's Letter

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. 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

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 11/4 | GATE testing Grades 3-5 |
| 11/5 | Breakfast with the Principal 8:00 a.m. in the Lounge |
| 11/10 | No School-Veteran's Day |
| 11/11 | No School- TUSD Employee Exchange Day |
| Sat. 11/6 | 5 th Grade Wright Flight Fly Day |
| 11/8 | Cross Country @ Kennedy Park |
| 11/9 | Site Council Meeting 12:00-3:30 |
| Sat. 11/13 | 5 th Grade Wright Flight Fly Day |
| 11/16 | PTO Meeting 6:30 |

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 observe 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)



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Children have been instructed to go to the vans 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 PICK-UP

Parent pick-up is located at the north end of the school (circular drive near the cafeteria). We ask that all children be 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.

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 morning. 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.

SNACKS FOR CLASSROOM CELEBRATIONS

TUSD has established guidelines concerning snacks that can be brought to school for birthdays and other special events. This includes holidays. 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.

Brichta "Dress Code"

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.



BRICHTA BEAR STUDENTS

FOLLOW THE 3 R'S:

Respect Yourself

Respect Others

Respect Property



From the Health Office

Thank you to everyone who participated in International Walk to School Day! We couldn't have asked for better weather! Congratulations to 5th grader Desiree Gonzales for winning the scooter that Pima County donated for this event! Everyone who walked, rode, or scootered also received a cool stackable pencil. Don't wait for Walk to School Day! Take care of your heart and walk to school more often!





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Thank you,
Cristina Furtado, Health Assistant

Student Council

Student Council will be raising money for this year's projects by selling Cookie Dough! The fundraiser begins on 10/13 and ends on 10/25.

Class pictures are still available for \$8.00!



Around Our School

Mrs. Arvayo's and Ms. Altamirano's classes took a field trip to Camp Cooper. They learned about conserving water, recycling, and about desert plants. Did you know that a saguaro cactus stores water in its stem?

5th Grade Wright Flight

Brichta 5th graders have been working hard to reach the goals that they set at the beginning of the school year, and Fly Days are approaching fast: November 6 or November 13.

They have been learning the history of aviation, learning **boldface** (ask a 5th grader what this is), and working towards a goal that they set in math. It is a lot of work, but if they achieve their goals, they get to actually fly an airplane!

Wright Flight History Test: October 26, 2010
Wright Flight Boldface Test: October 28, 2010

From the Family and Student Support Liaison Attention 4th & 5th Grade Families: During the beginning of November, we were very fortunate to have a representative from the Arizona Department

*of Education at Brichta Elementary. Ms. Barb Iverson, from ADE, presented a program regarding **Talking About Sensitive Issues With Your Child**. We had an overwhelming response from our 4th and 5th grade families. However, the number of participants was limited to 30 adults. Needless to say, not all families were able to attend. Because of the large number of families who are still interested in this program, but were not able to attend the first one, it is our hope that we will be able to have an additional visit from the Arizona Department of Education and a repeat of the program in the spring.*

Hello Brichta Families!

There are parts of two articles included below. The first is another portion of the article regarding the benefits of eating together as a family. I've included the link so that you to have the opportunity to read the entire article. The second article lists one way you can promote reading at home. The original article has 8 ways to promote reading, but there is only room to include a portion of the article. I'll include more of the article in other newsletters.

The Benefits of Eating Together
The Family Who Eats Together Stays Together
-- By Becky Hand, Licensed & Registered Dietician

Reason #1: Communication and Well-Being

Conversations during the meal provide opportunities for the family to bond, plan, connect, and learn from one another. It's a chance to share information and news of the day, as well as give extra attention to your children and teens. Family meals foster warmth, security and love, as well as feelings of belonging. It can be a unifying experience for all.

<http://www.sparkpeople.com/resource/nutrition/articles.asp?id=439>



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8 WAYS PARENTS CAN PROMOTE READING AT HOME

Marilyn Lopes
Extension Specialist, Family Life Education
Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
University of Massachusetts

1. Read yourself. Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.

Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. (1993). Eight ways parents can promote reading at home. In M. Lopes (Ed.) CareGiver News (April, insert). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension.

Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month: Maryann Estrada and Angelica Robles!

Cross Country

The cross country season is off to a great start! The Brichta boys and girls are awesome. Each child on the team runs their heart out; it is amazing to see them running so hard.

At our first meet at Reid Park the boys' team came in third out of 16 schools. The girls' team also came in third out of 16 schools.

The boys and girls are all working hard at improving their times by running after school, at home, at lunch time, at PE, at practice, and whenever else they get a chance to run. We are all so proud of them!

We would like to thank the wonderful families that are doing so much to support their young athletes! We and they couldn't do it without you! Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Bruce Burke, Judy Burns, Adelita Grijalva, Joel Ireland, Alex Rodriguez
Tucson Unified School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in educational programs or activities.

The School Community Partnership Council (SCPC) invites all parents, educators, and community members to attend the November 15th *Restorative Practices in our K-12 Schools* presentation to be held at **Catalina Magnet High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.** Mr. Jim Fish, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools will be the guest speaker. TUSD updates will also be shared and learn how to submit your input on upcoming policy revisions. If you will need either babysitting or interpreter services, please advise your principal **by November 12th** of the number and ages of your children for babysitting, and the language for which interpretation is needed in order that adequate arrangements can be made in the most efficient manner financially.

El Concejo de la Sociedad de la Comunidad Escolar (SCPC) invita a todos los padres, educadores, y miembros de la comunidad a asistir a la presentación de *Prácticas Restaurativas en nuestras escuelas de kinder al grado 12* que se llevará a cabo el 15 de noviembre **a las 6:30 p.m. en el auditorio de Catalina Magnet High School.** El Sr. Jim Fish, Superintendente Asistente de las escuelas intermedias será el orador invitado.



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Información actualizada de las actividades de TUSD será compartida y se aprenderá como someter su opinión sobre las revisiones a la política próximas. Si ustedes necesitarán cualquiera de los dos servicios, el de cuidado de niños o el de intérprete, por favor infórmenle a su director **para el 12 de noviembre** el número y las edades de sus niños que necesitarán cuidado, y el idioma para el que necesitan traducción para poder hacer los arreglos pertinentes y de manera más eficiente financieramente.

You can apply to have your child attend any district school through open enrollment. As long as there is room, your child will be accepted.

To be eligible for first-round selection for the 2011-2012 school year, you must apply between **Oct. 1 and Dec. 10, 2010**.

Applications can be found online at <http://tusd1.org/contents/distinfo/enroll.html> or are available from our office upon request.

Dolch words and phrases

http://np.harlan.k12.ia.us/reading_center.htm