



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>

January 2011

Principal's Letter

Dear Families of Brichta Students,

Our 50th Anniversary celebration is just two weeks away! We hope that you will join us for this event on Feb. 22nd. If you are interested in helping with this event, please call the front office.

With just two months before the AIMS test, we continue to talk with students about meeting their personal goals. Recently, 3rd-5th grade students who had made significant gains on the DIBELS reading test were invited to celebrate their achievements. We encourage all students to read or be read to for at least 30 minutes a day.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held this Wednesday, February 9th beginning at 11:00. Teachers will be contacting selected parents to schedule conferences. However, if you do not receive a phone call and would like to schedule a meeting to discuss your child's progress, please call the front office or your child's teacher.

Students will be released at 11:00 on Wednesday, February 9th for these Parent-Teacher Conferences.

This month, we began to discuss next year's budget. Unfortunately, with anticipated cuts between 6% and 10%, our school will not escape the impact of reduced funding. Your Site Council will be meeting regularly to help prioritize expenditures for next year. If you would like to make suggestions to Site Council about this or any other issue, please call the front office for contact information.

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

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

2/7	50 th Anniversary Committee Meeting 6:30
2/9	Early Release 11:00 Parent Teacher Conferences
2/9	Site Council Meeting 3:00 Library
2/14-2/18	Love of Reading Week and PTO Sponsored Scholastic Book Fair
2/14	5 th Grade Jump Rope for Heart
2/15	PTO Meeting 6:30 Library
2/21	SCPC Meeting at Catalina High School 6:30
2/22	3 rd Grade Field Trip to Kartchner Caverns
2/24 - 2/25	Rodeo Vacation No School
3/1	Fundraising Committee Meeting 6:30

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. If you choose to send in snacks or a celebration treat, please refer to the List of Acceptable Snack Foods in the front office or in the student handbook. We appreciate your help with promoting healthy eating at our school.

BRICHTA BEAR STUDENTS

FOLLOW THE 3 R'S:

Respect Yourself

Respect Others

Respect Property





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From the Health Office



Let's talk tardiness. **School starts promptly at 7:56am**

Students are expected to be in their classes at that time.

On average, there are 45 students tardy every day.

That's almost two classes worth of students. The majority of the tardiness results from students walking in right after the bell rings. Then they have to sign in at the front office, which delays them even more. Let's make the effort to give our students the full experience they deserve without any interruption to their learning.

February is American Heart Awareness month. Friday, Feb. 4th is National Wear Red Day. The first Friday in February has been set aside for Americans nationwide to wear red to show their support for heart disease awareness. Our fifth graders decided to raise money for the American Heart Association. They dedicated a "heart wall" to those whom have died from heart disease, survived heart disease, and to the healthy people in their lives. They will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart on Monday, Feb. 14th. They also went to The Halle Heart Center in Phoenix where they learned so much about the heart. Thank you Brichta 5th graders for bringing the awareness to us!

Our 5th graders challenge you to take the 2011 *Walk On!* Challenge for Teachers/Students. Currently one-third of all children in Arizona are either overweight or obese. As you well know, these children have an elevated risk for a range of health and emotional problems — now and well into the future. For the 2011 *Walk On!* Challenge, fifth-graders will be challenged to track not only their daily minutes of exercise, but how many fruits and vegetables they eat, how much screen time they get and how many sweetened drinks they have every day in the month of February.

Their goal every day is **5-2-1-0:**

- 5 - Eat five fruits and vegetables every day
- 2 - Limit screen time (TV, video games, computers) to two hours or less per day
- 1 - Get at least one hour of physical activity each day
- 0 - Avoid sweetened drinks, filling up on water instead

The *Walk On!* Challenge is a fun, educational program designed to motivate fifth-graders across Arizona to make healthy choices in the fight against obesity. It's available for free to fifth-grade teachers in schools across Arizona. The *Walk On!* Challenge is only for the month of February and kids can use all the support they can get the other 337 days of the year. Each school that qualifies will have a chance to win one of five \$5,000 grants for their school from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona. Ask a 5th grader about it today!

Our 4th graders have been working with the delightful Amanda K. Lindquist, Chef De Cuisine from The Westin La Paloma Azul Restaurant/Lounge learning how to make some healthy and yummy dishes. She continues to teach them about the food pyramid, healthy choices, and trying new foods. They are studying the effects on soda in their bodies. They found that soda has tons of sugar and have decided to challenge each other and their families to stop drinking it. Can you take that challenge too?

Brichta's fabulous 4th grade teachers Katie Anderson and Karen May are starting a Brichta walking team for the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure on Sunday, April 10th. They are inviting all Brichta families, teachers and staff to participate. Stay tuned for more information.

SCPC News

The School Community Partnership Council (SCPC) invites all parents, educators, and community members to attend the February 21st meeting to be held at **Catalina Magnet High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.** TUSD Superintendent Dr. John Pedicone will present *The State of the District*. Budget information and other relevant updates will also be shared. If you will need babysitting or interpreter services, please advise your principal **by February 17th** of the number and ages of your children for babysitting, and the language for which interpretation is needed so those arrangements can be made for you in advance.

El Consejo de la Sociedad de las Escuelas y la Comunidad (SCPC) extiende invitación a todos los padres, educadores, y miembros de la comunidad a asistir a la reunión a realizarse el 21 de febrero en Catalina Magnet High School, a partir de las 6:30 p.m.,



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en el auditorio. El Superintendente de TUSD, John Pedicone, presentará el Estado del Distrito. Información acerca del presupuesto y otra información actualizada relevante será compartida. Si ustedes necesitarán cuidado de niños o los servicios de un intérprete, por favor informen a su director antes del 17 de febrero el número y las edades de sus niños que necesitarán cuidado, y el idioma en el que requieran la interpretación, para poder hacer los arreglos adecuados de la manera más eficiente económicamente.

From Your PTO

PTO would like to thank everyone who participated in the PTO's See's Candy Fundraiser for the benefit of the students here at Brichta. Orders will be coming in later this week.

New Brichta Retro t-shirts are now on sale - They are \$8.00 for adult sizes and \$7.00 for youth sizes.

Anyone and everyone can help with the 10% Goes Back to School to Program at Safeway. When customers purchased selected items at Safeway using their Club Card from Jan. 2 to Jan. 25, 10% of the purchase price became eligible for donation to the school or group of their choice. From now until February 28, a message about the 10% promo will print on the bottom of the Safeway receipts. Some of the receipts contain redemption codes that can be entered online to help that money go to Brichta. We are collecting the bottom portion of Safeway receipts. Receipts can be dropped off at the front office or sent in with your child and given to your child's teacher.

The fund raising committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. Our meetings are held in the library and the start time is 6:30 pm. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1st. We would love to see you there.

One of the ways to fund raise for our school is through the Arizona Tax Credit donations. The

fund raising committee is looking for one or two dedicated persons who would be willing to fund raise for our school by getting tax credit dollars. Please let the PTO know if you are interested in helping.

From the Family and Student Support Liaison

Hello, Brichta Families!

This month I'm including a portion of some information compiled by the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Education titled **Reading Tips for Parents**. I hope you will find these tips useful and easy to implement.

- ★ Choose a quiet spot for you and your child.
- ★ Read aloud at least 15 minutes a day to your child.
- ★ Establish a routine time and place to read to your child (not just at bedtime).
- ★ Visit the library/bookstore with your child to attend storytime, choose books to read at home, etc.

Have a fabulous February!
Rhonda Smith

Special Thanks to our Volunteers of the Month

Dr. Albert Gonzalez and Jennifer Schroder

TUSD Governing Board:
Bruce Burke, Judy Burns, Adelita Grijalva, Miguel Cuevas, and, Dr. Mark Stegeman
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.



TUSD
Celebrate the US!

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