



The Blast

Brittan Acres School | Weekly Messenger

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- January 16 - San Car-less Day
- January 16 - PTA Meeting

Monday, January 14, 2019

Principal's Message

Dear Brittan Acres Families,

Some of my earliest childhood memories are of my dad reading aloud to me and my siblings. We would all gather around him, my two brothers and myself almost every night. I loved listening to my father read aloud and tell us stories. Reading and storytelling was definitely a family favorite in our home!

But reading aloud isn't just a source of great memories. In an era of high-stakes testing and educational reforms, research has repeatedly proved that reading aloud is one of the most effective parenting practices. Reading aloud to your child is one of the most important things you can do to promote his or her future reading skills. Children who are read aloud to by parents get a head start in language and literacy skills. Reading aloud not only promotes emerging literacy and language development, but more importantly it fosters a lifelong love of books and reading.

Here are three tips for making the most of read-aloud time at home:

- January 17 - Danny G Performance
- January 21 - No School
- January 25 - Spirit Day (Pajama Day)
- January 25 - Movie Night

PTA Corner

Next PTA meeting, Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 7pm

Volunteer

[Volunteer at BA](#) to build community and support our students. There are lots of in class and at home roles to choose from.

Community Update

WWW.SANCARLOSLI.ORG

Easy Money Fundraising

Participate in our [Amazon](#) and [eScrip](#) rewards programs and a percentage of your purchases will automatically be donated to the Brittan Acres PTA - at no cost to you!

- Start early, read often. Reading to young children helps build bonds, vocabulary, and habits. If reading a story is part of the bedtime routine from infancy or toddlerhood, your child will take the lead in making sure this happens every night.
- Read the pictures. Illustrations are visual clues that can help kids build their vocabulary.
- Before reading a book, take a "picture walk" through the pages. Look at characters and the setting and make predictions about what might happen.

Over time, the benefits of family reading add up.

If you are looking for some good books to read to your kids, check out our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by our PTA from Monday, February 11th- Friday, February 15th. We also hope you can join us for our Book Fair Family night, February 13th from 5-7pm in the library. You'll have a chance to shop the fair, enjoy a pizza dinner and participate in family fun activities.

I've included some excellent read aloud book lists below.

<http://www.scholastic.com/100BestReadAloudBooks/>

<https://everyday-reading.com/category/book-lists/>

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/read-aloud-books>

Happy Reading,

Ms. Waslif

Earthquake Drill/ Safety Preparedness

This Wednesday, January 16 we will be holding our monthly safety drill; an earthquake drill will take place at 9:30 a.m. We help students prepare for emergency situations each month by practicing either a fire, earthquake or lockdown drill. Drills are conducted in a sensitive, non-frightening manner to teach behaviors that maximize safety. Students are told that lockdown drills are conducted to address what to do if something unsafe is outside of the school.

Preparation is key. Please take a few minutes to explain why earthquakes occur. Involve them in developing your disaster plan, prepare disaster supply kits, and practice "drop, cover, and hold on."



Follow BA on Social Media

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for up-to-date info on events and issues!



You can further prepare your family by:

- Keeping your emergency contact information up to date. Contact your school's main office to change your information.
- Creating your own [family emergency communication plan](#) (pdf).
- Assembling a [family disaster supply kit](#) (pdf).

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PTA News

PTA Meeting - THIS Wednesday, January 16 - 7pm in the Library

All are welcome to attend our BA PTA Meeting this Wednesday, January 16 at 7pm. There is a lot happening in our community! We hope to see you there! To view the Agenda, click [here](#).

It's a new year...and there's still opportunity to volunteer!

With the second half of the school year ahead of us, there are still opportunities to get involved. Please consider one of these key roles:

- **BA Spring Party (April 27)** - Looking for 2 co-chairs plus support volunteers. These 2 co-chairs will work together to plan this wonderful event for BA families. Jobs include: event planning and preparation with a committee of volunteers as well as help on the day of the event with making/donating refreshments, decorating, setup, cleanup, checkin, serving, etc. Estimated hours: ~5-10 hours
- **3rd Grade Celebration (June 10)** - Looking for 1 or 2 people to coordinate. Plan an end of the year celebration for the 3rd graders at BA: upper playground activities. Estimated hours: ~5 hours

To sign up for either of these roles and a list of ALL available roles, please visit the signup.com link [here](#) or contact ptapresident@brittanacres.org

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San Car-LESS Day Is Coming January 16th!

Walking, scootering, and biking to school is a great way to improve our community, our environment, and our bodies. In an effort to keep fewer cars on our roads and to encourage healthy habits, we celebrate San Car-LESS Days on the first Wednesday of every month. Please consider leaving enough time in your morning routine to walk, scooter, or bike to school with your child this week, or carpool if driving is required. Every child who participates earns a little "foot" token to wear on their backpack. Kids often express pride as their collection grows over the course of the year. Volunteers will be handing out the tokens to those kids who walk, scoot, bike, or carpool to school. Please contact tawnya.elrod@gmail.com if you have a student group that wants to participate. Thanks to everyone for helping to improve our school community, our natural environment, and our bodies!

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Danny G - 1st and 2nd Grade Lunch Club - PERFORMANCE - Thursday, January 17th

If your 1st or 2nd grader has been participating in the Fall Dance (aka Danny G) Lunch Club, please plan to attend their final performance on THURSDAY, January 17. First grade is from 8:45-9:15. Second grade is 9:30 - 10:00. Both in the MUR. Your child has been working hard each week with our Artist in Residence, Danny Giray, in preparation for this event. This program is being paid for by your PTA - thank you for donating to the Bruin Village fundraising program and helping to provide fantastic opportunities for our students! We hope to see you there! Questions: contact Sally at sally.vuong@gmail.com.

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BUGS Volunteer Trainings: Calling all BUGS Volunteers for Grades 2 and 3!

New volunteers are required to attend one training session for BUGS to learn how to work with students, safety policies, and of course, how to teach gardening! Returning volunteers are encouraged but not required to attend.

Sessions will be held Thursday, Jan. 17 and Sun. Jan 20 8:30-10 am at the BUGS Garden. Enter via the Tamarack gate on Sunday.

Please RSVP at <http://signup.com/go/TQYU7N> for a training session and to sign up for classroom volunteering dates.

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Brittan Acres MOVIE NIGHT - Friday, January 25th!

The Brittan Acres PTA-sponsored movie night is coming soon. Please watch the Blast in the coming weeks for information on which movie we will be showing and all the information you need to join in on the fun!

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Author Visit (Second and Third Grades), Mac Barnett - February 1st

We are very excited to announce that Mac Barnett, author of Triangle, Square, Sam and Dave Dig a Hole and countless others, will be visiting BA on February 1st to read and debut his newest Mac B Kid Spy: The Impossible Crime. He is an amazing author and an even greater speaker. You can order Mac B Kid Spy Undercover and/or Mac B Kid Spy The Impossible Crime via the Reading Bug Web site until January 25 at: <https://www.thereadingbug.com/visit/mbarnett21>

Paper order forms will be available in the library but if you order by paper, the deadline is Jan. 18. While this assembly is only for 2/3, he has written some great picture books, be sure to look him up at the library and the Reading Bug.

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Kindness Week - February 4th-8th - Volunteers Needed!

Kindness week is coming up February 4th-8th. There will be various activities throughout the week and BA students will get an opportunity to visit our Kindness Station on Tuesday and Friday of that week. Kindness Week is a fun way to help our students learn about the rewards of treating others with kindness. Parents can also join in on the fun, please watch for more information in next week's Blast to find out how you can volunteer your time for this very special week at BA.

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District News

ROPES Presentations Are Coming And Judges Are Needed!

There are 3 opportunities to judge:

- Monday, February 4th, 6:00PM – 8:30PM (arrive at 5:30PM)
- Tuesday, February 5th, 6:00PM – 8:30PM (arrive at 5:30PM)
- Wednesday, February 6th, 6:00PM – 8:30PM (arrive at 5:30PM)

We would not be able to maintain this valuable program without the support of our community. We are asking for you to join district staff and other community members by volunteering to serve as a judge on one of our judges panels. Typically we have two to three judges per room and they judge four to six student presentations in an evening.

I hope that you will be able to join us in this worthwhile event. If you are able to judge on any of those times, please contact Christina Carrier either via email at ROPES@scsdk8.org or by phone at 650-590-5935.

Great Parent Education Opportunities for YOU!

Another great event on January 29 will feature UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital pediatrician, Jane Anderson, M.D.. Dr. Anderson will host more of a workshop-style event where parents can try out tools and discuss habits for building healthy teens. She will also reference the book, Voice Lessons for Parents: What to Say, When to Say It, and How to Listen by Wendy Mogel. Some of you may have heard Ms. Mogel speak at the Challenge Success event last fall, and we think it's a book/topic that applies to parents of children of all ages.

We hope you can join us for those events plus the other events a little later in the year!

Healthy Cities

<http://evite.me/tXrJqfZUur>

Looking for tips to work with your child/student on a particular school subject? Join Healthy Cities Tutoring for our "Tutor Tips" workshop led by SCSD teachers Laurie Bishop and Tracey Mitchell-Ardwan. This workshop is open to both volunteer tutors and parents and will answer questions about working with students across all grade levels, share math games and strategies to help the reluctant writer, and discuss other aspects of tutoring. We guarantee you will come away with some new ideas. Interested in being a volunteer tutor for a K-8th grade student in SCSD or RWC, arrive at 6:15 for an overview of our program.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

6:15 - 6:50 pm New Tutor Orientation

7:00 – 8:15 pm Tutor Tips

Arroyo/Central Middle School Library

Additional workshops on Tuesday, February 12 and March 19, 2019. Visit our website for more information

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SCEF News

You are Invited to the Party of the Year!

Join parents across the district and support the amazing programs that SCEF funds! SCEF Starlight Gala is a fabulous night of dinner and dancing on March 9, 2019 at the Sharon Heights Country Club.

Tickets are available now! Don't miss out, get yours at: www.scefkids.org/events

Thank You Dr. Hsu!

A BIG shout out to Dr. Frank Hsu, DDS who has joined SCEF to support our schools as our exclusive general dentistry sponsor.

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