



# The Blast

Brittan Acres School | Weekly Messenger

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## This Week at a Glance

- **San Carless Day: December 5th**

Monday, December 3, 2018

## Principal's Message

### Season of Giving/Second Harvest Food Drive

The season of giving began early this year at Brittan Acres. Thanks to our very generous families for participating in our Great Kindness Challenge for the victims of the Paradise Camp Fire. Thank you to all who participated; we collected over \$2,000 in gift cards for Paradise school students.

Brittan Acres is now hosting a Second Harvest food drive. This is an opportunity to make a difference in our community. Please give what you can; one grocery bag of food can provide as many as 11 meals. Every single donation helps, and together we hope our combined donations will make a real difference for those in need. Last year our drive collected 450 pounds of food. This year we are hoping to exceed that amount with a goal of 500 pounds. Last week, every BA student was provided a bag and information about the Second Harvest program. Please fill the bag with non-perishable items and bring either to the main office or library where we will have collection bins.

Food items you may donate include, but are not limited to:

- Canned tuna, chicken, or salmon

## PTA Corner

[November PTA Minutes](#)

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## Volunteer

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

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## Community Update

[here.](#)

**Come See Arroyo Students in the Nutcracker**

[Friday Dec 7 and Sun Dec 9](#)

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## 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!



- Peanut butter
- Meals in a can (soup, stew, chili)
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Olive or canola oil
- Spices
- Canned food with pop-top lids
- Cereals
- Healthy snacks (granola bars, nuts, dried fruit)

\*Please avoid glass jars, candy, and sugar sweetened drinks.

The last day to donate will be Tuesday December 18. At that time Second Harvest will have collected all food donations; however, If you would like to make a financial donation you can go to [www.shfb.org/give](http://www.shfb.org/give).

Thank you for your support!

BA Staff

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## PTA News

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### PTA Membership Cards Are Ready

If you joined the Bruin Village, part of your donation covered your PTA membership. Last week, you should have received your PTA membership cards in your child's class folder. If you did not receive your membership, please contact [membership@brittanacres.org](mailto:membership@brittanacres.org)

Your PTA membership gives you some wonderful perks, including - Baskin Robbins coupon – buy one get one free - and savings and discounts offered at Aquarium of the Pacific, Legoland, California Academy of Sciences, Shipt, Urban Sitter, Panda Express, and others. Click here <https://capta.org/join/member-perks/> for a detailed list.

If you haven't joined the PTA, it's not too late! The PTA is the largest children's advocacy organization in the country. We encourage each family to join our PTA through a \$20 annual membership.



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## Follow BA on Social Media

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



Check out the BA PTA's [Fundraising page](#) to see a list of your PTA donations at work, and click here to [join the PTA](#).

### **Still looking for a Parliamentarian for the PTA Board**

Are you feeling like you want to get involved but don't know what to do? Please consider joining the PTA Board. As we kick off the new year, we are looking for a Parliamentarian. Not only does this role make sure our PTA is following the correct meeting procedures, but it is most critical in helping with new Board elections through creating a nominating committee and managing the election process. The busiest time for this role is January through April.

Please consider if this might be of interest to you. In addition to adding your voice as we seek to make a positive impact on each child's experience at school, it's a great way to get connected and build community. It takes a Village! Jump on in!

Contact [ptapresident@brittanacres.org](mailto:ptapresident@brittanacres.org)

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## Thank You From the Boutique Team

We would like to thank the over **100** BA faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents and grandparents who volunteered their time at this year's Holiday Boutique. We would also like to send a special thanks to our Brittan Acres PTA for sponsoring this event, and to our local Starbucks for their donation. [Find our list of incredible volunteers here](#).

An extra special thanks also goes out to the Holiday Boutique Committee members who worked on the details of this event for the past several months: Alin Gedikian, Jenny Goines, Deana Hawkins, Alison Lansing, Kristi Martinez and Stephanie McLoughlin.

If you are interested in getting involved with this wonderful BA tradition for next year or if you have any specific feedback on this year's event, please e-mail [BAHolidayBoutique@gmail.com](mailto:BAHolidayBoutique@gmail.com).

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## Nature Park is Now Open

The PTA is excited to support BA's Nature Park! What's the Nature Park? It's the natural area with trees, sticks and stumps in the back part of the upper playground. Students are now able to venture in

and be creative! It's a fabulous opportunity for our kids to innovate and use their imagination by building forts and fairy houses while working together and sharpening their social emotional skills.

The PTA supports this along with parent volunteers to oversee this special environment on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunch recess. TK/K and 2nd grade on Tuesdays and 1st grade and 3rd grade on Thursdays. Make sure your student knows about it and checks it out! The PTA welcomes all volunteers. Please contact John Moretti for more information or to volunteer: [jmoretti@gmail.com](mailto:jmoretti@gmail.com)

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## San Car-less Day is Coming December 5th

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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](mailto: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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## December Staff Lunch Sign-Ups

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We love BA teachers and staff! Please help us treat them to a lovely lunch buffet on Wednesday, December 12. The staff appreciation team will provide rotisserie chicken, roasted potatoes, salad, and veggie pasta from Pasta Pronto. Sign-up to bring dessert and beverages!

<http://signup.com/go/XkWioSV>

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## District News

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**[SMART-E Survey and Parent Engagement Night](#)**

Please take a few moments to complete a short survey about the SMART-E extended day (before and after school care) and enrichment programs. SCSO is interested in the perspectives of all families, regardless of whether or not the family has participated in either of the programs.

Please complete the survey by Monday, December 3rd at midnight. Results from the survey will be shared at the SMART-E Parent Engagement Night, which will be held on Wednesday, December 5, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, in the Heather School MUR.

Screen reader support enabled.

### **Parent Education Event: My Digital Tat2**

My Digital Tat2  
Wednesday, 12/4 @ 6:30-8:00 PM  
San Carlos School District Office, 1200 Industrial, Unit 9B

Sign up here: <http://evite.me/xwCj94nKpM>

#### Event Details:

SCSO PTA Coordinating Council is funding a special presentation of My Digital Tat2 with Gloria Moskowitz-Sweet PPSC, LCSW. Gloria was a university lecturer for 20 years and has over 30 years of experience as a school social worker, specializing in the social-emotional well being of children and teens.

Topics include:

Evolving digital landscape and current trends

Emotional and psychological responses

Technology and social media

Responding to challenging issues, such as techno-perfection, digital distraction, sleep, and sexting

Strategies to engage your child with constructive conversation and promote media balance for the entire family

My Digital TAT2 has worked with over 20,000 Bay Area students, parents, and educators, facilitating discussions about the role of social media in their lives.

My Digital TAT2 is a non-profit organization. Learn about our mission and how to support our work: [www.mydigitaltat2.org](http://www.mydigitaltat2.org)

### **Safe Route to School Transportation Survey**

Please take 5 minutes to complete the linked survey. Your feedback allows us to adjust Safe Routes to School (SRTS) education and encouragement program features to best meet the needs of each individual school. Results will also be shared with decision makers throughout the county who can

address infrastructure issues regarding safe walking and biking.

English Link: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1819\\_English](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1819_English)

Spanish Link: <https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/1819Spanish>

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## **SCEF News**

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### **Honey Bear Trees**

Buy your Christmas tree and wreath at Honey Bear Trees and SCEF will receive 15% of your purchase price! Bring a copy of the flyer to take advantage of this offer.

Tree lot locations and flyer can be found at: [www.scefkids.org/hbt](http://www.scefkids.org/hbt)

### **End of Year Giving**

**\*Donate Early**

As we enter the last weeks of 2018, we invite you to consider making your SCEF Annual Fund donation earlier than usual. Take advantage of possible 2018 tax deductions by making a gift of cash or stock to SCEF before December 31st. As our district faces challenging budget issues, SCEF would like to be able to provide a good estimate of our grant to Superintendent Harmeier and her team by March 30, 2019 . Donate now at: [www.scefkids.org/donate](http://www.scefkids.org/donate)

### **\*Double your Donation**

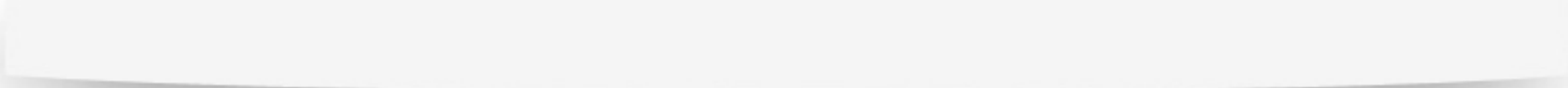
Many employers will match your gift to SCEF. Our handy Double the Donation tool will help you determine if your company has a matching program. Go to [www.scefkids.org/donate](http://www.scefkids.org/donate) to learn more.

### **\*Appreciated Stock**

A gift of appreciated stock you've held for more than a year is better than giving cash. If you donate stock that has increased in value since you've owned it - and if you itemize deductions - you can take a charitable deduction for the stock's fair market value on the day you give it away. You'll also avoid capital gains taxes on the increase in value over time.

Go to [www.scefkids.org/stock](http://www.scefkids.org/stock) to learn how.

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