



# Brightwood News

Natalie Gaither, Principal

Monica Solórzano, Asst. Principal



## Principal's Message

Right before we left for winter break, we received some wonderful news: Brightwood School has been named a 2020 California Distinguished School.

We are one of 42 schools in the San Gabriel Valley, and 323 schools statewide, to receive this honor. We became eligible to apply for this award based on multiple measures, including standardized test scores, suspension rates, and learning environment conditions as indicated on the California School Dashboard (<https://www.caschooldashboard.org>).

Schools must demonstrate "exceptional student performance" or "closure of the achievement gap." Eligible schools must then complete a lengthy application process before the California Department of Education makes the final determination of the award recipients.

This is Brightwood's second time as a California Distinguished School, which is only given to about 5% of schools. Five other Alhambra Unified School District elementary schools were also named as 2020 California Distinguished Schools. All schools will receive their plaques at a special ceremony in February. Congratulations to our entire Brightwood community for this recognition!

## January 2020

### Dates to Remember

#### JANUARY

- 06: School Resumes
- 06: *Imagination Machine*
- 08: PTA Board Meeting  
6:30pm Cafetorium
- 15: School Site Council  
3:00pm Room A-5
- 15: Gr. 6-8 Progress Reports
- 20: M.L. King, Jr. Day  
Holiday – No School
- 21: S.T.A.R. Spirit Day
- 22: Gr. 7-8 Career Night  
6:30pm Cafetorium
- 31: Non-Uniform Day  
(Theme: Pajamas)
- 31: PTA Magic Night  
6:00pm Cafetorium

#### FEBRUARY

- 03: ELAC Parent Meeting  
8:15am Room A-8

## Playground Equipment Changes

Brightwood has been implementing the *Playworks* program as part of our plan to build a culture of play that helps kids feel a sense of belonging and have an opportunity to contribute on the playground during recess play. *Playworks* targets physical activity for ALL students with greater feelings of school safety and less bullying behaviors. Staff and student Junior Coaches have been trained in learning and facilitating games.

Beginning January 13<sup>th</sup>, the trained Junior Coaches will begin checking out school equipment during lunch for students. To ensure inclusion for all, students will no longer be allowed to bring their own play equipment from home. Instead, they will check-out equipment using their school IDs, and all students will be able to join in any game/activity. (*Students will need to keep their IDs in a safe place as lost IDs cannot be replaced.*) More details and information will be shared with students soon.

### FAMILY MAGIC NIGHT:

### MAGIC OF RAFAEL & KATIA

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> in the Cafetorium

6:00 p.m. – Concession Stand Opens

7:00 p.m. – Magic Show Starts

*Proceeds from the concession stand benefit 6<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## Important Announcements and Reminders:

- \* **Happy New Year!** This month (on January 17<sup>th</sup>), we will reach the half-way mark of the 2019-20 school year. Let's finish the year strong and on a positive note!
- \* **Thank you!** The staff appreciates all the lovely gifts and tasty treats received from Brightwood families last month.
- \* **Good-Bye & Good Luck:** We are saddened to announce that our senior custodian, Carmen Marquez, has been transferred to another school in our district. During winter break, she started her new position as the senior custodian at Granada School. Ms. Carmen first worked as a crossing guard for our school in 1992, so she has been part of the Brightwood family for more than 27 years. We will miss her, but wish her well in her new position. Ms. Carmen appreciated the cards, letters, and posters she received on her last day at Brightwood. Any additional cards or letters for her may be dropped off in the office and we will make sure they get to her.
- \* **Additional Staff Changes:** You will soon be seeing some new and some familiar faces at Brightwood. Beginning January 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have two new yard supervisors: Derek Daza and Daniel Murga. Last month, instructional aide Gabriela Valdez returned from her leave of absence

and will continue to support some of our seventh-grade classes. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, we will also have a new library aide, Deanna Sato. Deanna previously served as a yard supervisor at Brightwood, and has been the library aide at Ramona School for the last few years. Welcome and welcome back to our new staff members.

- \* **Late Students:** If your child arrives late (after the gate and front office door are already closed), please make sure you see them enter the office before you drive away. There are times we are in a lockdown drill or students don't realize they need to ring the bell to notify staff to let them in. We want to ensure our students are safe and are not waiting outside unsupervised. Thank you for your assistance.
- \* **Congratulations, *Imagination Machine* Authors!** Each year, PTA sponsors a special assembly in which performers take selected students' writing pieces and transforms them into exciting and entertaining skits. Congratulations to this year's group of talented writers: Camilla Chan, Kevin Ching, Max Duong, Daniel Heredia, Venice Jithavech, Dyanne Lee, Jonathan Liem, Collin Luu, Isaiah Mohri, Kalani Okura, Brendon Zhang, and Allyson Zhong. We are looking forward to seeing their stories brought to life.

Please Visit the Brightwood School Website: [www.BrightwoodElementary.org](http://www.BrightwoodElementary.org)  
and the Brightwood PTA Website: [www.BrightwoodSchool.Weebly.com](http://www.BrightwoodSchool.Weebly.com).