



Brightwood News



Natalie Gaither, Principal

Monica Solórzano, Asst. Principal

Principal's Message

On behalf of the entire Brightwood School family, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2016-17 school year. I hope everyone is looking forward to a fun, exciting, and productive year.

We are excited to announce several new staff members: **Melissa Laidlaw** (school psychologist), **Leticia Reynoso** (school nurse), **Melissa Vu** (fifth-grade teacher; was previously an intervention specialist), and **Francine Lam** (kindergarten teacher; was previously here in 2014-15). We are also in the process of hiring two new intervention specialists and a two new noon duty aides. We will announce their names in the next issue of the school newsletter.

Our new staff members are looking forward to working with Brightwood students and their families.

The "Brightwood News" newsletter is published every month and is one of our primary communication tools. Please read it carefully and make note of important information.

Our school also utilizes the "Connect-Ed" system to send phone and/or email announcements to Brightwood families. If you receive a "missed call" from the school, please listen to your voicemail before calling us back in order to keep the phone lines open, especially during emergencies. Make sure to keep your contact information up-to-date on the Parent Portal to ensure you receive these messages.

August 2017

Dates to Remember

AUGUST

- 11: Minimum Day
- 14: PTA Membership Drive (through 9/1)
- 25: Non-Uniform Day (Hawaiian/Tropical)
- 28: T-Shirt Fundraiser Begins (though 9/1)
- 30: K-4 Back-to-School Night
Kindergarten
5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
Grades 1-4
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 01: Minimum Day
- 04: Labor Day Holiday
- 07: Back-to-School Night
Grades 5-8
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 13: PTA Board Meeting
6:30 p.m. Cafetorium

Non-Uniform Days

Each month, we have a non-uniform day as part of a student incentive plan to encourage students to be on their best behavior. Students will earn the privilege of participating by following school and classroom rules and by adhering to the district's mandatory school uniform policy on all other days.

Non-uniform days are usually on the last Friday of the month. There is a theme designated for each non-uniform day. Students are encouraged to dress according to the theme, but are NOT required to do so as long as they still conform to the district's dress code (i.e. nothing too tight/short/baggy/revealing, no spaghetti straps, no bare midriffs, no open-toed shoes, no inappropriate logos/words/graphics).

Our monthly non-uniform themes are as follows:

- August 25: Hawaiian/Tropical
- September 29: Sports
- October 27: Fall Colors
- November 17: College/University
- December 21 (Thursday): Winter/Holidays
- January 26: Pajamas
- February 23: Comics/Cartoons
- March 23: Twins Day
- April 27: Spring Colors
- May 31 (Thursday): Summer/Vacation

We hope all individuals and grade levels will be able to participate in the monthly non-uniform days.

Important Announcements and Reminders:

- ☞ **On-Line Emergency Cards:** As soon as possible, please log-on to the district's Parent Portal (<http://family.ausd.us>) to complete your child's online emergency card. Even if there have been no changes, you must check and verify all information EVERY year. If you need assistance, call the office (626-570-6200) with your questions or to make an appointment to use a school computer.
- ☞ **Kindergarten C.A.R.D.S Dismissal:** The Alhambra Unified School District has established C.A.R.D.S (Careful And Rapid Dismissal System) for all students in TK and kindergarten. You should have received your C.A.R.D.S. cards on the first day of school. Parents (or the person designated to pick-up your child) must bring the card and a photo ID to pick up your child.
- ☞ **Parking & Traffic:** Please do NOT use the staff parking lot or neighbors' driveways to drop off and/or pick up your children. Please drive carefully, do not make illegal U-turns in the middle of the street or double-park, and make sure your child uses the crosswalks. This will help us keep our students safe and will help you avoid a citation from the Monterey Park Police.
- ☞ **Class Leveling/Reorganization:** It may be necessary to move some students into different classes to balance enrollment across the grade level and/or to stay under maximum class sizes. In some cases, students may be "overflowed" to another school in the district. You will be notified if your child will be affected.
- ☞ **PTA Membership Drive:** Please support our PTA by becoming a member by September 1st. It only costs \$10 per person to join.
- ☞ **Limited Campus Supervision Hours:** Students may not arrive at school before 7:30am, and should also be picked up immediately after dismissal unless they are in an authorized on-site program.
- ☞ **Cafeteria Meals:** Students purchasing meals from the cafeteria should bring money each day or be able to enter/recite their ID number (if they have funds in their pre-paid account). You can monitor and add funds to your child's account through the district website: www.ausd.us. The full meal prices are \$1.50 for breakfast and \$3.00 for lunch. For students who qualify for reduced meals, breakfast is free and lunch is 40¢.
- ☞ **No Food Drop Off Policy:** For the health and safety of all students, the Alhambra Unified School District has implemented a "No Food Drop Off" policy. The office staff will no longer be able to accept food to be dropped off for students. Parents are also not allowed to pass food through the gates to their child.
- ☞ **Volunteer Requirements:** The district requires ALL volunteers to be fingerprinted and cleared through a Department of Justice background check. If you plan to volunteer, please come to the office to obtain the required form and details about the process. There is a \$47 fee for the background check, along with a \$10 fee for the Livescan fingerprinting. If you were cleared to volunteer last school year, you need to submit a new volunteer application form for 2017-18, but will not need to be fingerprinted again.
- ☞ **Valet Volunteers Needed:** If you have time in the morning to help with our valet drop-off lanes, please contact Dr. Solórzano.

Please Visit the Brightwood School Website: www.BrightwoodElementary.org
and the Brightwood PTA Website: www.BrightwoodSchool.Weebly.com.