

# The B.E.S.T. NEWS

401 Jones Avenue, Oakland, CA 9603 (510)639-3310

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## HOME OF THE LIONS

### Welcome Back to School

#### Principal's Message:

Be Present, Be Prepared

Welcome Back to School! We are off to a great start and looking forward to an exciting year. I want everyone to know that **September is Attendance Awareness Month**. During the 2015 - 16 school year, there were 22 students with perfect attendance and 71 students with good attendance. We were able to celebrate these attendance achievements with special fieldtrips and award certificates. However, this year, it is an honor to announce that earlier this month the Brookfield Village Elementary School attendance plan won the **Bonta Attendance Challenge** hosted by **Oakland Natives Give Back**. Of the 12 schools that submitted a proposal, Brookfield was the one to receive a \$25,000 award. In addition, we have partnered with the **Rotary Club** to also support attendance. These awards will allow us to implement a plan that provides more incentives to students with good attendance and perfect attendance. Included in the plan are field trips, a poster contest with prizes, literacy tutors, family dinners with homework support, and \$5 to \$25 gift cards.

Arriving daily and on time matters.

- Research supports that students who are present in school are more prepared for the future.
- Students with regular attendance achieve at higher levels than students with inconsistent attendance.
- Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- One in 10 kindergarten and first grade students are chronically absent.
- Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or are held back.
- By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.
- When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.

Last year's attendance rate was 20.7%. Our goal for this year is 10%. Let's all work together to make Brookfield's attendance record the best in the Oakland Unified School District for September and the entire year.

Remember: Be Present, Be Prepared!

Go Brookfield Lions!

**Marie Roberts, Principal**



The principal receiving a \$25,000 check from Oakland Natives Give Back during their annual Back to School Rally.

### SEPTEMBER IS ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH!

We'll be kicking off the school year with a poster contest. Every student is welcome to enter. Twenty winning entries will receive prizes! Read the last page of the newsletter for more information. **The deadline for entries will be September 14, 2016.**

At the end of September, students with perfect attendance and zero tardies the entire month will go on a special field trip.

Perfect Attendance means that a student is present every day. They cannot be absent for any reason. Zero tardies means that the child is at school on time every day.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**  
**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**  
**TITLE 1 MEETING**  
**5:00PM TO 6:30PM**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2016**  
**PARENT CENTER OPENING**  
**9:00AM TO 11:00AM**

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**  
**HOMWORK DINER**  
**5:30PM**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**  
**KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**

### Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

All TK-5<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to attend breakfast. Breakfast begins at 8:15 a.m. each morning in the cafeteria.

TK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students enter the school yard at the back gate.

The first bell rings at 8:43. Students line up on their classroom numbers in the yard. At 8:45, teachers take students in. Monday morning is Pledge Day

Students arriving more than 15 minutes late must go to the office for a tardy slip. They will not be allowed in class without one.

Dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. on regular school days and at 1:30 on minimum days and Wednesday. Students are released from the left and right sides of the cafeteria.

Students being picked up early must be signed out in the office. No child will be dismissed to an adult that is not listed on their emergency information.

### Parent Involvement:

Thank you for completing so many parent surveys during registration. We're using the information to create our programming for parent engagement and involvement for the 2016-17 school year. We'll begin Homework and Enrichment Workshops for parents in October. We'll hold our first Homework Diner on September 27 at 5:30pm. It will be an opportunity to share a meal with teachers and staff and do homework together. We'll have monthly Homework Dinners on the last Tuesday of every month.

If you are interested in volunteering at Brookfield, stop by the office anytime to pick up a volunteer application and information packet. In order to begin volunteering at Brookfield, you need to complete a volunteer application, TB test and attend a volunteer training.

The parent center opening will be on Friday, September 23 from 9:00am to 11:00am. All parents are welcome to attend.

### Oakland Unified Volunteer Recognition Ceremonies



### Brookfield Parents Celebrating the completion of Nutrition Classes



### Perfect attendance field trip to the Exploratorium



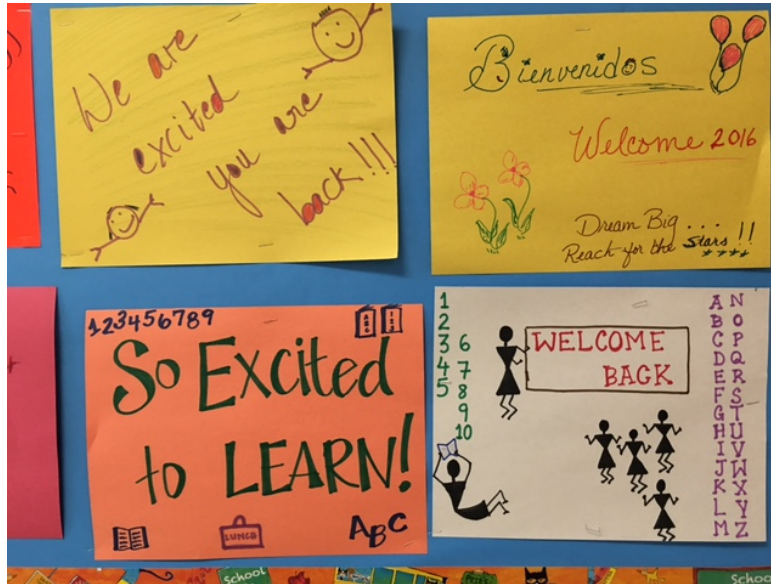
### Good attendance field trip to the Oakland Zoo



## Thanks to Partners:

Volunteers and the Oakland Public Education Fund for helping us get our school ready for students and BeneSys for holding a Back to School Supply Drive for Brookfield!

Abbott Diabetes Care for donating school supplies, backpacks, and words of encouragement (take a look at the bulletin board near the auditorium).



## Help Your Child Succeed in School

### Build the Habit of Good Attendance

School success goes hand in hand with good attendance!

#### Did you know?

- Missing just 10% of school days can make it harder to learn. This is just a couple days every month and can happen before you know it.
- Children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years and often are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade.

#### What you can do:

- Don't let your child stay home unless she/he is truly sick.
- Avoid medical appointments when school is in session. Make appointment after school or on a minimum day.

#### School Pledge:

Every Monday Morning during the line up at 8:45am (Tuesday if Monday it's a Holiday) where student line up we will be receding the school pledge. We encourage student and parents to learn the pledge in order to recite the pledge with us.

*I am a Brookfield Lion!  
I come to school every day,  
on time, ready to learn.  
I will respect myself,  
my teachers and my school mates.  
I will take care of my school.  
I am a great thinker and I will be a great leader.  
I honor my ancestry and that of others.  
I will do my best at everything I do.  
And that I promise!*

