



BROOKVALE PTA NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR

November 9

1:15pm early release

November 12

Veteran's Day - school closed

November 13

PTA meeting, 7pm in the school library

November 19–23

Thanksgiving Break - school closed

November 28

Bronco Gallop Awards Ceremony

December 4

Family Fitness Night

December 11

PTA meeting, 7pm in the school library

Please join us at our monthly PTA meetings to find out more ways that you can get involved. You can make a difference! We meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm at the school library.

We are online! Visit

www.brookvalepta.com

to connect with us on

Yahoo! Groups

and **Facebook**

THANK YOU!

We had a very busy October with three major events at school: The Bronco Gallop, Red Ribbon Week, and finished with the first ever Fall Carnival. We could not have done any of these without the help of all the various volunteers. There are so many parents who dropped by and offered help, this newsletter would be too small to publish all the names!

1. **Bronco Gallop volunteers:** Thank you for helping with the Bronco Gallop: Brenda Godfrey, Michelle Soares, Robyn Taylor, Sonali Aulakh, Rebecca LeGates, Rebecca Christman, Namrata (Priya), Ellie, Linda, Dori, Chris, Kalida, Mylene, Ryan Santos' dad, Laura Dean.
2. **Red Ribbon Week:** Thank you to Ms Nikki Chug and the student council for handling the whole week's events.
3. **Fall Carnival:** The first one ever at Brookvale was a success thanks to the efforts of Sheryl Ashford and her family (including her brother and his family) and the entire Brookvale staff and teachers. We also had a lot of teen volunteers from American High who helped us. Of course we are thankful for the parents who pitched in as well—Kristin, Robyn, Brenda, Michelle, Wendy, Lesithia, Awa, Alisa, Megan, Rebecca, Aniketh—and other parents who donated baked goods, trinkets or helped the teacher run the booths. We are also thankful for the many kids who helped decorate. It is the efforts of a whole community that helped the Fall Carnival be a success.

COMPANY MATCH FOR FUNDS DONATED

As you turn in the pledges and funds collected for Bronco Gallop, check if your company or employer will do a "fund match." Brookvale PTA is a nonprofit with the Tax Id # 94-2931862. If Brookvale PTA is not on the company's list, please do sign us up (check with your HR department on the process as it varies by company). We can send any necessary information to them for financial purposes.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CONTEST

It's almost Thanksgiving so start gobbling up those Box Tops!

The top two classes in the primary grades (K-3) and the top two classes in the secondary grades (4-6) with the most Box Tops collected between now and December 1st will each win new playground balls for their classrooms.

So start clipping those Box Tops and hand them in to your teachers by the December 1st deadline. You can paste them to a collection sheet or just hand them in clipped and in a baggie. Good Luck!

Planning on doing your holiday shopping online? You can earn Brookvale Elementary e-Box Tops just for shopping through the Boxtops4education.com website. Look for the flyer in your Thursday folder on how to sign up to earn money for Brookvale just for shopping at your favorite online stores!

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE SCHOOL: TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

As we enter the last month of the first trimester, most of you would have noticed how our school lacks in technology in the classroom. We as parents can help. If you work in a technology company or if your company works with computers or laptops extensively, talk to your IT department head. Most of them e-cycle old laptops and desktops on a routine basis. Ask them if they would consider donating a few to our school. While laptops are ideal due to the ease of storage and transport, desktops are OK too. But here are a few things we have to check:

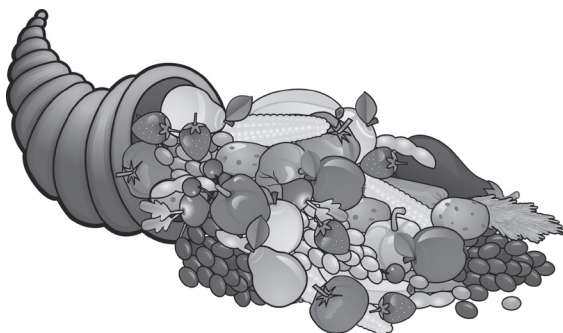
- computers have to be usable: keyboards work, screens are good, enough usb ports to support mouse or other devices
- computers have to have the basic Windows XP or above installed. Microsoft Office is not a requirement but a nice to have.
- if they have a wireless card, that is a plus. Since the PTA is working to fund the wireless installation at school, having a wireless card on these computers will help.
- the hard drive wiped of sensitive data (most will be if they are marked for e-cycle)

If you can get a few computers, please let me know at pri_mall@yahoo.com (include your child's teachers and room numbers).

In addition to computers, the classrooms can use projectors and other technology. We will send out a "needs and wishes" list as soon as we compile them from the different classrooms.

BROOKVALE SHIRT ORDERS ARE STARTING!

The PTA now taking orders for school shirts. This is done only once a year, so don't miss out! Look for the order forms coming home in today's Thursday folder.



Some parents have asked why computers in classes are needed. Here are some reasons why:

- Currently the teachers have to use the computer lab to have the kids take the tests. And with almost 16 classes sharing the computer lab, they have access to the lab just once a week. Having computers in the classroom helps the teachers and the kids.
- In the lower grades (K-3), the students take a computer-based test for each book they read—this is part of the STAR reading program (also called AR). This helps teachers identify the reading and comprehension levels of students, and teach accordingly.
- For the upper grades, in addition to the AR tests the teachers do a lot of projects that involve research. Computers in the classroom will allow kids to learn essential research skills much faster.

Rest assured, the computer activity time is monitored and limited by the teachers. Computers and technology in the classroom will enhance instruction and learning in a very productive manner, and help equip our kids with important knowledge and skills. If you have any concerns or questions please do contact us by email at pri_mall@yahoo.com. Thank you!

BE PART OF THE WINNING EQUATION...

Join the Brookvale PTA Today!

It's never too late to join the Brookvale Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Membership, only \$8.00 per person, entitles you to lots of great discounts. Funds raised by PTA through membership and other activities go towards purchasing classroom supplies, campus beautification, field trips and much more for our students. Membership envelopes are available in the school office. For more information, visit the Brookvale PTA web site at www.brookvalepta.com.

Happy Thanksgiving!