

The Gazette

A Bracher PTA Publication

BRACHER ELEMENTARY

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The Leach Says

As long as you have any floor space at all, you have room for books! That is Principal Leach's motto. As a member of the Scholastics National Board of Directors, Mr. Leach is campaigning to get more books into the hands of our children. To assist this effort, a new survey will hit your email inbox. Please call the office to update your contact information, and keep an eye out for the email survey.

Research shows that the more books you have at home, the greater the benefit. When children read, or are read to at home, they enjoy a substantial advantage as well as a significant impact on their ascent to a higher level of education, said Leach at the November *Coffee with the Principal* session.

Mr. Leach encourages students to go through a "productive struggle" process, where they are given a task, in this case reading, slightly beyond their comfort zone. Guided support at home, and at school makes the challenge easier. The objective is not to get it perfect, but to engage them in the process.

"Whether you are traveling or staying close to home, having your children read and communicating daily will keep their skills sharp. As a parent you are your child's first teacher and your willingness to talk about what you are reading or what they are reading is very important. Have a wonderful time away from school and we will see you all back at Bracher on January 5, 2016," said Mr. Leach.

Do not forget that books make wonderful gifts for all special occasions!



Read to learn, to find something funny or to be inspired. Just Read Every Day!
Wayne Leach

Important Dates

- Dec 11 — PTA Movie Night, 5pm-8pm, Cafeteria
- Dec 14 — Dining for Dollars, 5pm-9pm, Armadillo Willy's
- Dec 15 — Fundraising Event, 11am-7pm, Illusive Comics & Games, SC
- Dec 15-17 — Book Fair, Portable G
- Dec 18 — Minimum Day
- Dec 21 — Jan 4th, No school
- Jan 12 — PTA Meeting, 6pm, Portable G

After School Spanish Reading Club

Flor Torres is organizing an after school program where students can read and hear books in Spanish. The group would likely begin meeting once a week starting in January. If you are interested in having your student participate, or volunteer to help run the program, please contact Flor at artistryft37@yahoo.com.

Bracher PTA is Parent Powered!



Movie Night Reminder!
December 11th from 5-8pm. \$15 gets you popcorn, drink, hotdog. Feature attractions: Minions and Big Hero 6. This is a drop-off event, chaperones needed!

Armadillo Willy's is our December Dining for Dollar location. Bring the family on Monday, December 14 from 5pm-9pm and our school will receive 20% of the total bill to help our fundraising efforts. You must bring in the flyer!!

Book Fair will be held from December 15-17, Location: Portable G. We will be open before and after school and during lunch as well. Support Bracher and encourage your child's love of reading.

Did You Know

The scores are in! In 2014, the California State Tests fundamentally changed to require students to show a greater depth of knowledge in solving problems. The old multiple-choice, fill-in-the-bubble paper tests has been replaced by a computerized version that requires students to think critically. Bracher tested 177 students since students do not start state mandated testing until they reach the 3rd grade. 36.7 percent of them were considered English Learners; and even though only 45 percent of our students met or exceeded the State Standard in Math, our school took the top spot among the District's Title I schools. In addition, we came in 7th place among the 16 SCUSD Elementary Schools. Obviously there is room for improvement, but preparing for success starts at home. Students who do well in school also do well on tests, therefore stay tuned for our next issue, which will include resources to help your child do well in school.

The return of the Snack Bar... Bracher PTA is looking to staff a small table after school for 30 minutes selling snacks. We are ready to start it up in January, but we need parents to commit to running it on a regular basis. If you are available and/or have ideas, please email mjgoodson@gmail.com.



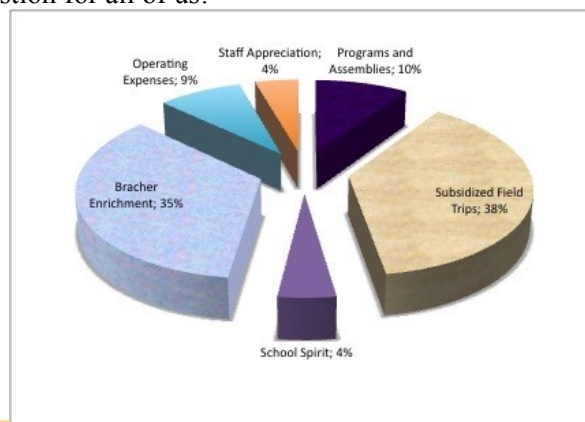
Name our newsletter contest. Please email your name suggestions to crowiecat@gmail.com, and win Bracher spirit wear for your student and bragging rights! Submission deadline is December 17.



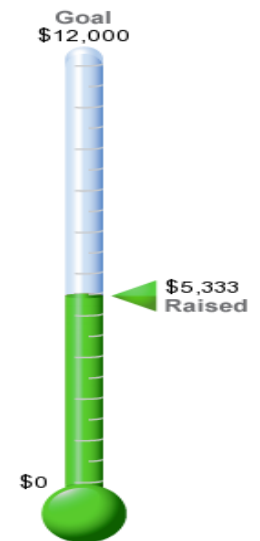
If you like our newsletter, let us know, and like us on Facebook at [BracherElementaryPTA](https://www.facebook.com/BracherElementaryPTA).

Where is my money going?

That is the question *Señora Alta* aka Sharon Goodson hears most often as the PTA Board Treasurer. And she hears us alright, because Sharon is a Doctor of Audiology (hearing) specializing in diagnostic testing, hearing aids and pediatric audiology. As a mother of two, [Grace (room 20) and Ella (room 2)] and wife to current PTA President Michael Goodson, she knows the importance of keeping tabs on expenses and making every penny count. So when Sharon is not busy pulling weeds in the Bracher Garden, or dancing at the Bop, or donating her time to field trips, or working in the classrooms, or serving as President of School Site Council (2014-2015), or serving on the PTA Board, she is answering the money question for all of us!



Fundraising Update



Ways to encourage reading...

Remember that comic books and magazines are a great way to teach children not only to read, but are a fun way to nurture the love for books. So visit **Illusive Comics & Games** in Santa Clara on **December 15**, and 20 % of total purchases comes back to the school! See flyer for details.

