

Principal's Newsletter

May/June 2012 Edition

Solar Eclipse

**Brookfield Students
Reach for the Stars!**



A group of Brookfield families gathered in a park in Willows, CA, to view the solar eclipse on May 20th. Families drove in from Sacramento, enjoyed a picnic dinner, then donned viewing glasses provided by Brookfield owner, Mr. Sittner.

The trip was the brainchild of our middle school Science teacher, Mrs. Farrell, who coordinated the event.

May was a celestial month for our school, as our 2nd grade class also visited the planetarium! Excursions like these make the studies of Earth Science and Astronomy lessons fun!



Brookfield School Comes Alive with The Sound of Music!

The Brookfield Spring Musical featured songs that celebrated our American heritage, such as "Clementine" and "Oh Susanna," as well as selections from Mexico, China, Japan, and Vietnam. Students sang beautifully, played the recorder and ukulele, and danced, too! The second half featured an abridged version of the musical, "The Sound of Music." Thank you to our directors, **Jeri and Richard Clinger**, for another wonderful production!

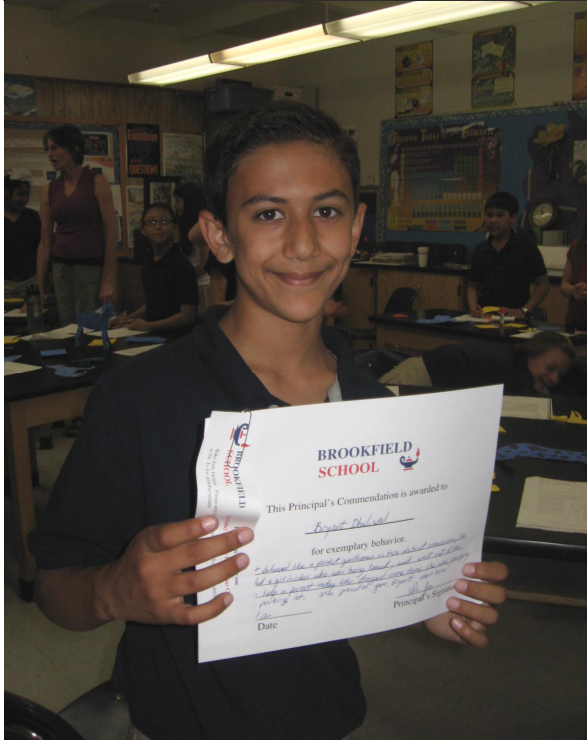
Each year, students in grades P1-8 have the opportunity to participate in free Music classes that are offered as elective classes before school. Experienced middle school students may earn community service hours as Music Helpers. Thank you to this year's Music Helpers: Erica Leiserowitz, Kenji Matsuno, Lisa Vollmann, Adam E. Wong, Adam W. Wong, Jennifer Roberts, Solenne Sinclair, and Elizabeth Sperring. A special thank you to our Music parents, for assisting with stage preparation, costumes, and the many details that go into this big annual production. Our program does a great job giving our students a wonderful foundation in music. Many Brookfield graduates go on to participate in the Arts in high school and beyond. Their experience in our school's excellent music and speech programs prepares them so well, that many Brookfield graduates land lead roles in plays and musicals their freshman year! It was great to see many of our Music Program Alumni back for the show. We've missed you!





On Guard!

The owner/instructors of Hristov-Csikany Fencers gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on the sport of fencing to an audience of 4-8th grade students. This presentation was part of a cross-curricular project centered around Alexander Dumas' novel, *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Our middle school students read a condensed version of the novel and read/translated portions of it in French.



Principal's Commendations

Pictured is 6th Grader, **Bryant Dhaliwal**, who earned a Principal's Commendation for coming to the defense of a classmate who was being teased. Thank you, Bryant, for being a gentleman!

8th Grade Student, **Jack Holzhauser**, was also recognized for being very polite to his teachers.

Congratulations to the thirty students in grades P1-8 who were recognized this school year for excellent effort, citizenship, and polite behavior. Recipients received a nice certificate of recognition and a coupon good for any item at the Friday Bake Sales.

That's what Brookfield Way is all about!



7th & 8th Grade
Ashland
Shakespeare
Festival Trip!



Twelve of our 7th and 8th Grade Students took off for Oregon on a whirlwind trip to the Ashland Shakespeare Festival. Students saw two plays, the classic *Romeo and Juliet*, and a new play, *Medea, Macbeth, and Cinderella*. They also participated in back stage tours of the three theatres, a prologue discussion, and an actor's workshop. In between these activities, the group had fun playing at Lithia Park, gagging at the taste of the famous medicinal Lithia Water, eating at local restaurants, and walking in the rain! Special thanks to Mr. Onodera and Ms. Munroe for a great job as chaperones, and to Dr. Tracy who was Dr. Jo's co-group leader.



Hanging Out with your Mentor is Helpful and Fun!

Each middle school student was assigned a teacher mentor and joined a mentoring group as part of a pilot program to help support our students through the challenges of middle school. Pictured are Madame Stiehr's mentees who visited her home for dinner and fun at the park near her home. Each mentor planned lunches and activities with his or her group, and is available to counsel students on academic and social issues.



“Reflections of a Middle School Mentor” by Madame Stiehr

Several months ago, Brookfield started a mentoring program for Middle School students. Teachers selected students to be in their respective mentoring group. The purpose of these small groups is to develop a closer relationship between teacher and student. There may be times and situations when a student could benefit from being able to talk to an adult while at school, and the mentor can provide this resource.

For me, developing such a relationship beyond the classroom has been special and really fun. I have six girls and one boy (who is a very good sport!). We have gotten together for a pizza lunch and spent a Friday afternoon and evening socializing, going on a nature walk, having a putting contest, and playing games after dinner. This social mixing has provided an opportunity for students from different grades to get to know one another better and has given me the opportunity to interact on different levels with the students. And no French is required!

I am really looking forward to next year. The *M & M's* (Madame and the Mentees) enjoy being a part of a special group, and I can't wait to do more group activities to strengthen our relationships.



Community Service!

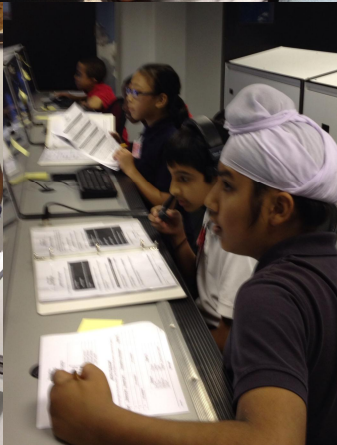
The Third Grade Class has been collecting aluminum pull tops all year long to donate to Ronald McDonald House, a place where the families of hospitalized children can stay. The pull tops are recycled and earn needed income for the center's continuing operation.

The students visited the Ronald McDonald House to personally deliver their pull-top bounty, and had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Ronald McDonald. Thank you to our parent drivers, Mrs. Roberson, Mrs. Luong, Mrs. Assagi, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Wang, and Mr. Decker, who generously contributed to RMDH so our class will have its own brick on the walkway entrance.

5th & 6th Grade Math/Science Challenger Project 3...2...1...Blast Off!

This cross-curricular Math, Science, and Technology project allowed students to combine their skills to serve as ground control and crew members in a mock space shuttle mission.

It looks like they all came back to Earth safe and sound! Thanks to our Math Teacher, Mrs. Brandt, and our Science Teacher, Mrs. Farrell, for preparing our students for a fun and creative learning experience.





Creative Teaching!



Fourth Grade Vocabulary Hat Parade

When Art and Vocabulary studies mix!
 The fourth grade class had fun creating original hats that illustrated their vocabulary words. Find these words in their crazy hat creations: Mammoth, monarch, cram, and resolve.

National French Contest Winners!

Congratulations to the four 7th Grader Students pictured right who ranked very high in their grade division in the National French Contest! Over 100,000 students entered, competing in levels from grades 1-12. Our school is unique and very proud to have 4 students stand out among so many throughout the country!

- Isabella Isidro** 3rd Place
- Cameron Onodera** 6th Place
- Jessica Cooper** 10th Place
- Kenji Matsuno** 10th Place

Not pictured is 8th Grader, **Joel Lieberman**, who placed 9th Nationally for his division. Special thanks to Madame Betancourt and Madame Stiehr for preparing our students so well through our outstanding French Program!



Congratulations to 4th Grade Student, **Shree Madan**, who qualified for State Awards through the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Talent Search! Shree has been invited to attend a special awards ceremony in spring of 2013.

Congratulations to Brookfield Alumna, **Rebeka Lucien**, who is graduating from Stanford University with a degree in Human Biology. Rebeka will attend the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in the fall.



We also heard from Christian Brothers High School Graduate and member of the Brookfield Class of 2008, **Jonathan Limhengco**, who received top subject-area awards in TWO subjects: Biology and French! Wow! Great job, Jonathan!

We love to share the latest news about our alumni. Alums, send us your news for publication in this newsletter!



Year End Fun! Anxious and excited spectators cheered for their favorite side in the Annual Faculty vs. 8th Grade Basketball Game. According to Mr. Flolo's completely unbiased opinion, the faculty won, but they will pay for their victory with lots of aches and pains! Other year end activities included yearbook signing and a field day at Land Park.



Best Wishes to the Class of 2012, who graduated June 6th! We are very proud of this class of high achievers. Each one was accepted to his/her first choice high school: [Alisha Ahmed](#), St. Francis; [Lisa Vollmann](#) and [Joel Lieberman](#), Mira Loma IB; [McKenna Decker](#) and [Adam E. Wong](#), Christian Brothers Scholars; [Jag Lally](#), SCDS; [Adam W. Wong](#), Rio Americano Civitas; [Musa Sultan](#), Jesuit; [Erica Leiserowitz](#) and [Jack Holzhauser](#), McClatchy HISP.

**We will miss you!
Good luck in high school!**