

Hello, Bret Harte community members,

Our principal, Ms. Williams, School Site Council Chair, Brenda Hansen, and our PTA president, Shawna Brekke-Read, have coordinated on the following announcements:

- The most pressing issue: Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) staff is recommending an attendance boundary adjustment that affects ten middle schools. You may have read about proposed changes at Hillcrest School in the newspaper. These articles do not discuss the implications for other schools, including Bret Harte. While the maps are difficult to read, it appears OUSD staff recommends the following, relative to Bret Harte:
  - Removing Maxwell Park from Frick's attendance area, adding the area to Bret Harte;
- Removing the Redwood Heights neighborhood from Bret Harte, adding the area to Montera;
- Removing a portion of the Sequoia attendance area from Bret Harte, adding it to Edna Brewer;
- Total loss of students amounts to about 120.

There are other schools affected, too, with Montera and Edna Brewer gaining significantly more students that live above MacArthur Boulevard.

A few other notes about the proposal:

- Bret Harte School Site Council members and PTA Board members learned about this proposal Friday, from feeder school parents;
- SSC and PTA Board members also learned on Friday that School Board member Gary Yee held a community meeting at Bret Harte the previous night (Thursday night) PTA Board members have been unsuccessful in their attempts to contact Gary Yee over the weekend to get further information. (Please note that Gary Yee typically provides ample notice and invitations to his community meetings, so this is quite out of the norm for him.)
- A number of Bret Harte PTA board members and SSC members are concerned about this proposal.
- The School Board is scheduled to make a decision about this proposed attendance boundary adjustment at its meeting **Wednesday, December 19 at 7pm.**
- Please send an email to Shawna Brekke-Read ([brekkeread@california.com](mailto:brekkeread@california.com)) if you would like further information and if you would be willing to help the school address this issue.
- You will soon be able to view information at the school's website ([www.brethartepta.org](http://www.brethartepta.org)), since it is difficult to find the information on the District's website.
- This proposal has significant implications for Bret Harte Middle School, as well as other schools.

Other Announcements:

- The "Red School" visit from OUSD officials went well. Thank you to Brenda Hansen and Celia Davis for coming as parent representatives. Parents got the impression their presence had a positive impact on school district officials. The school learned that Bret Harte is not on anyone's radar for closure or restructuring.
- The teachers beat the honor roll students in the basketball game Friday.
- A reminder that the Holiday Lunch for teachers and staff is being held after school,

**Wednesday, December 19.** Parents who would like to contribute a dish are encouraged to contact Tricie Evans ([tricie.evans@sf.ddb.com](mailto:tricie.evans@sf.ddb.com)).

- Last day of school before the Holiday Break is Friday, December 21. Please make sure your child knows what homework or special projects must be done during the holiday break.
- The PTA is still offering its "IMAGINE" bags for sale, and they remind you that the law banning plastic bags will soon become effective. The bags are \$10 and make great holiday gifts. Contact Shawna Brekke-Read if you would like one or more. She can deliver them to the school or make other arrangements.
- If you would like an announcement included next week, please send an email to [bretharteoaklandpta@yahoo.com](mailto:bretharteoaklandpta@yahoo.com).