

H L Brockett Elementary
School Board Communications
January 2016



Around the School:

January 11 – Six Flags Reading Race

Students who read at least 6 hours during the six-week period and turn in their reading log by the deadline will receive a free ticket to Six Flags to be used this summer.

January 15 – Attendance Review Meetings

Mrs. Abrams met with select parents about their child's attendance.

January 20 – Big Kahuna Limo Lunch

Students who sold at least 15 items during our fall fundraiser were treated to lunch at Pizza Hut in Pilot Point and a ride on the party bus. Thank you to everyone who purchased items this year.

January 21 & 22 - Captain's Crew Celebration

Mrs. Lott hosted our Semester and 2nd 9-Week Spirit Stick awards. Parents and family members are invited to join in our celebrations.

Popcorn Parties

This month Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade & 3rd grade enjoyed their treat.



Testing:

January 13 & 14 – Benchmark Testing for 3rd & 4th grade students

January 27 – After-school Tutoring begins for 2nd, 3rd & 4th grade students



In the month of January we will be studying the character trait of “Self-Control.” The Counselor’s guidance lessons for Kindergarten and First Grade will include a video about Cookie Monster exhibiting self-control when faced with cookies and a football themed game for the Promethean Boards to teach the students self-discipline. From our Drug Free Initiative, we will also discuss the concept that alcohol is not healthy for our bodies and how and why to say “No” and use self-control when someone offers alcohol. As usual, the guidance lesson will end with the students learning a song about “Using Self-Control” with Mrs. Milacek and her ukulele.

For a whole school activity, we are participating in “The Great Kindness Challenge”. We will challenge each student to do Random Acts of Kindness and to turn them in for the Counselor to count how many acts of kindness we perform. We will then allow students to submit handprints to the “Kindness Challenge” organizers in order to receive a Kind Bar from the sponsors of the activity. We can’t wait to see how many acts of kindness the students perform. Last year we had 2,000 acts of kindness and it is our hope to “beat” last year’s amount and to celebrate being KIND!!!



Professional Development

Our teachers are enjoying “Teach Me Tuesdays” professional development. Teachers stay after school and enjoy different topics to enhance their teaching.

Topics for January included:

- Kahoot & Plickers – Technology for the Classroom by Mrs. Larman & Ms. Forester
- Anchor Charts by Mrs. Abrams
- DMAC Reports for Teachers by Mrs. Lott



Library:

The BES library is a busy place in January. We kicked off the Six Flags Reading Race on January 5. Students who track their reading and accumulate 6 hours by February 19 will receive a free Six Flags ticket.

Students in grades 3 & 4 who read at least 5 Bluebonnet Award nominees will get to vote for the winner at the end of January. Students in grades K-2 who read at least five Texas 2x2 award winners will get to vote for their favorite, too.



Technology:

Our students are excited because we have a new incentive program. It's called A MINUTE TO WIN IT. We are encouraging our students to track the number of minutes that they are using ISTATION, our reading program. Each student will have a weekly goal that they will be trying to meet. Our campus will have a yearly goal for each student to try to reach. Those who are IN it, will WIN IT big at the end of the year when we throw our 1st Annual A MINUTE TO WIN IT party.

On January 19th, we are starting our Breakfast Club. Mr. Cox's computer lab will be open before school and after school to help meet the needs of our students. Some will be there for additional tutoring time. Some are there because they have limited or no internet access at home. We have found that the extra 30 minutes each day can really make a difference for some of our students.



In the Classrooms:



Gifted & Talented:

GT classes are off and running with brain teasers and puzzles. New students are getting acclimated to the groups. Now that testing is complete, students that qualified will now be served. Brockett had 29 students 2nd - 4th grades test and 12 qualified for services.

Now the numbers at Brockett Elementary are:

2nd - 8 students

3rd - 4 students

4th - 12 students



Music

Music classes at Brockett have new instruments to play! Thanks to the generosity of our parents and inspiration from Mrs. Milacek, our 3rd and 4th graders are learning to play the ukulele. In the fall, our parents donated money so we could start ukulele club - Mrs. Milacek is in charge of this - and have enough ukuleles for a classroom set in music.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten is back and ready to roll! In language arts, we will pick back up with reading groups and sight words. Next week is our middle-of-year TPRI assessments so we are diligently working on getting our students ready for deleting beg / final sounds, rhyming, blending, etc. There is always great excitement in seeing how much our little ones have learned since the first of the year assessment. It also helps us see what needs to be worked on for the remainder of the year. Making predictions as we read and understanding what we read will be a big topic in January along with compound words, verbs, and nouns. We will continue to make word families and to journal daily. Our students are writing sentences each day and working hard on making them complete with all of the proper conventions of writing. We will kick off math continuing our number counting and recognition to 20. We are currently comparing sets of numbers to 20 to determine which group has more or fewer. Along with that, we will discuss 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and how they may look the same but are different. We are beginning science with the study of winter and weather in general. Social studies topics will be Martin Luther King and what he stood for along with local community and the state of Texas. We will finish up this unit with our Texas themed week of fun! This is one of our favorite things to do in social studies! While all of the above is going on, we will continue counting down to our 100th day of school and be getting ready to turn in our first writing samples in March. January tutoring is in the works and kindergarten teachers will be assisting second grade teachers tutor students this year. For our kinder babies, we are setting goals for i-station and hoping this encourages parents to utilize this tool as well at home. If a student makes his goal, he/she will be invited to a minute to win it party! Lots of positive things going on this month at BES.



1st Grade

In language arts, first grade will be writing both expository and narrative stories. They will be describing their favorite Christmas present and also writing a narrative story set during a snowy day. The reading skills for this month will include comparing and contrasting stories, and asking questions and confirming predictions. For phonics, they will begin learning about more complex vowel patterns, such as two vowels walking. In math, we will be exploring numbers from 100-120. They will be counting forward, counting backward, skip counting, comparing, and sequencing numbers. In science, we are learning about seasons, weather, and climate. In social studies we will be learning how climate affects how people live and work and different landforms around the world.



2nd Grade

Second grade is super busy in the new year. In reading, we are working on our CHAPS strategies. We are working on multiplication using arrays. We are also studying commas and their proper use in language arts. Science is exciting as we are learning about natural resources and in social studies, we are learning about maps and directions.



3rd Grade

In math for this month of January, third graders have just finished their first benchmark! We are pleased with our student's effort. Third graders worked very hard. For the remainder of the month, we will be learning algebraic reasoning using all operations. We will be focusing on word problems with division and multiplication. We are continuing to work with all third graders on memorizing their multiplication facts.

We are continuing to teach and practice good reader strategies. This month, students will begin a novel study. We will be reading the book, Because of Winn Dixie. During this novel study, we will explore and review important TEKS associated with reading realistic fiction. In writing, students will be writing a narrative, expository, and persuasive essay. Students continue to study words, word parts, and word patterns in order to support the development of oral and written communication. We will continue modeling passion while reading and encourage each child to fall in love with reading. We continue to teach and review Writer's Workshop each day!

In science, we are excited to begin our unit on the solar system! This is always one of our students' favorite subjects to learn about. Brockett third graders will be watching informative videos on United Streaming and will select a planet to research, which supports our reading unit this month on research. We are also looking forward to our unit on rocks and minerals. Students continue to use their science journal for science vocabulary.

In social studies, third graders are learning about leaders in our community and world and how they have effected change. We will continue to strive for excellence in character and education!



4th Grade

Fourth Graders will be learning about the water cycle and weather patterns as we approach this nine weeks. They will continue writing expository papers and improving their revising and editing techniques. Literary non-fiction will be enjoyed as we read various literature. We will also be celebrating men and women who were leaders of the civil rights movement. We are reading a book called, A Paradise Called Texas which is historical fiction based on a family from Germany who immigrated to Texas when we received our freedom years ago. The events in the book align with real Texas history. The students are really enjoying it. Geometry will be our focus in math. Students will enjoy hands on activities to help them achieve a rich understanding of geometric concepts. We will also be learning about data representation. Students will learn how data representations can be applied to everyday real life situations. Our school has begun POWER HOUR which stands for Positive Outcome with Excellent Results. This will be the theme of our tutoring and enrichment this semester. We are working hard to show progress with each student. The students are working hard and giving their best in true Aubrey fashion. We know great results will happen because of their determination and work ethic.