

# **H L Brockett Elementary School Board Communications February 2016**



Around the School:

February 1 – 5            Counselor Appreciation Week

To celebrate this special week, students decorated “Kind-Hearted Hands” for a special bulletin board in our hallway for Mrs. Milacek. Teachers, staff and students treated Mrs. Milacek to a variety of special gifts throughout the week. Thank you Mrs. Milacek for all that you do for the teachers and students of Brockett Elementary!

February 3                100<sup>th</sup> Day of School!

Students and staff in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade dressed up as if they turned 100 years old. They also celebrated with special snacks, games and crafts throughout the day. You can view some of the pictures at <https://goo.gl/photos/K2TsMSRmmy1X16jE9>

February 5                PTO Teacher Luncheon

Thank you to all of the PTO members for providing us with such a delicious meal.

February 18              Principal Award Lunch

Mrs. Lott and Mrs. Abrams hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Principal’s Award Lunch of the school year. Students were taken to Pizza Hut in Pilot Point to enjoy a special meal. 53 students were honored for their awards.

February 19              1<sup>st</sup> Semester Perfect Attendance Breakfast

Students who earned perfect attendance during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester were invited to attend a special breakfast with Mrs. Lott and Mrs. Abrams.

February 19              Dental Awareness

Thank you to Dr. Smith for coming to visit with our Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students about dental hygiene.

February 19                      Six Flags Reading Race Ends

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

February 22 – 26              Book Fair

Don't forget to stop by the Book Fair. They will have lots of good books to purchase. Remember a portion of the proceeds help fund the BES Library activities throughout the year!

February 25                      Spring Open House

This year Professor Brainius will be entertaining us with a variety of science experiments. <http://www.professorbrainius.com/index.htm> Students in kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be preparing art exhibits. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be doing a wax museum for all to enjoy. The computer lab will be open for visitors to learn about iStation, Study Island and to participate in our annual parent survey. The Book Fair will also be open to visitors.

Every Friday - Popcorn Friday!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who help each week with Popcorn Friday. This month kindergarten, 1st grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 4<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy their treat.



Counselor's Corner:

In the month of February our guidance is centered on "Self Control" which means doing the right thing, even when it is difficult. For 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades, guidance lessons include an activity on the Promethean Board which uses the game of football to explain how to make a touchdown and have self-control. For Pre-K through 1<sup>st</sup> grade we watch the Cookie Monster learn how to use "restraint" to keep from eating something he really wants, and read a book called "Think Before You Act" to help us learn to "Stop-Think then Do" to practice our self-control. We end the lessons with the students helping the counselor write a song on the ukulele with the ways they can show self-control.

Did you know that Brockett Elementary is a Kindness Certified School for 2016? In the week of January 25-29, Brockett Students performed over 2,114 random acts of kindness for the Great Kindness Challenge. They helped us become a Kindness Certified school for the second year in a row!



#### Library:

The BES Library has been busy! Students in grades K-2 participated in the Texas 2x2 Reading Program. Students who read at least five books from the list got to celebrate their successes with games and prizes. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades celebrated their participation in the Bluebonnet Award reading program with games and prizes as well. The Brockett Library is gearing up for their Spring Book Fair the last week in February.



#### Technology:

Brockett Elementary is utilizing its resources to meet the needs of our students. In addition to our after school tutoring, we are also offering additional time in the morning to work on Study Island and Istation reading. We call it the 'Breakfast Club'. Students can bring their breakfast down to either one of our computer labs to work from 7:15-7:45 to work on their weekly goals. This additional time is really helping our students who need the recommended 90 minutes a week of Istation reading. On top of that, we are now opening Mr. Cox's computer lab on Monday and Tuesday afternoons from 3:00-3:45 to provide additional internet access to our students who may not have internet access at home.

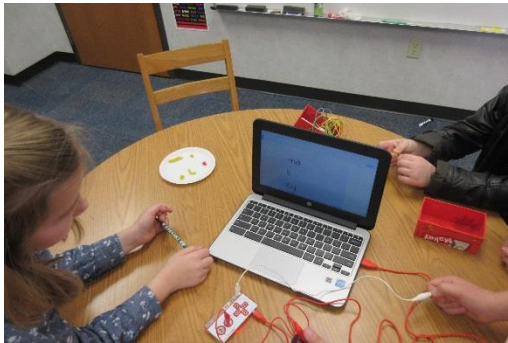


In the Classrooms:



Gifted & Talented:

The Gifted and Talented students will create projects using Makey Makey sets. Each group will create their own presentation using the items they bring to hook up to their own Makey Makey kit. Their projects will be hooked to the computers to create different sounds and reactions. They will be making music and sounds using items that do not normally make sounds. Come see the demonstration at Open House.



Kindergarten:

February is a busy month for kindergarten. In social studies alone, we are celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, ground hog activities, celebrating President's Day, and preparing for our Valentine parties and our kinder field trip in early March. In science, we will finish up our sun and stars unit and begin to learn about foods and the right nutrition for our bodies. In math we are finishing subtraction and addition sentences and beginning shapes and graphs. Along with that, we are further investigating numbers above 20 and working on counting to 100. In language arts, we will continue our 5 word spelling tests each Friday. Kindergarten is rocking those tests. In addition, we are working on word families, reading in small groups to increase our fluency and comprehension; learning the diagraph sounds and when to use them. We continue to focus on ending sounds, writing independently 1-2 sentences, poetry, compound words, and story elements. Tutoring has begun and the kindergarten team is working with the upper grades to assist where needed. Open house will be at the end of the month and kinder will be having an art

walk this year. We will be researching famous artists. We will put our own twist into art pieces inspired by these famous artists. Our second semester is well under way. Our kindergarteners are looking more and more like first graders every day!



1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

This month first grade will be preparing for open house on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The first graders will be creating their own artwork inspired by Van Gogh's "Starry Night." They will also be studying objects in the sky during science. They will explore which objects can be found in the daytime and nighttime sky. They will also be able to describe the phases of the moon and describe the cause of day and night. In reading/language arts, the students will be studying "r" controlled vowel patterns such as er, ir, ur, ar, along with reading "Kittens First Full Moon." We will also be continuing guided reading groups and literacy workstations. In writer's workshop we will begin our poetry unit. Students will be writing poetry that includes the components of a poem, including rhyme, repetition, rhythm, and sensory language. In math, we will be studying coins and geometry. This will include plane shapes and 3-D figures. In social studies, we will be studying famous inventors and holiday traditions such as Valentine's Day.



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Second grade has Spring Fever but we are still working hard!! We will continue discussing Main Idea and CHAPS Strategies. In math, we are discussing time and elapsed time. In social studies, we are discussing citizenship and our country. Science takes us to new adventures with the water cycle. In writing, we are continuing working on narratives and editing.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Third grade at Brockett is excited about learning!

In math for this month of February, we have just finished a unit on Algebraic Reasoning and are now moving into Geometry! Third graders love studying shapes. We will be doing a lot of hands on activities. Third graders will also be working on word problems and showing strategies. We continue to review all math objectives taught up to this point. Students are also using their math journals for vocabulary.

In reading, third graders at Brockett are finishing up their first novel study, Because of Winn Dixie, and will be celebrating the ending this Friday by watching the movie. We are continuing

to teach and practice good reader strategies. Also this month, students will use text structure and features to understand the procedure in a procedural text. Students will ask questions, determine main idea, draw conclusions, and consider cause and effect relationships. In writing, students have just finished their second narrative and are now well into their second expository essay. 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 have been busy learning about the solar system! After the solar system, third graders will move on to learning about the characteristics of living things. Students continue to use their science journal for science vocabulary.

In social studies, third graders continue to learn about leaders in our community and world and how they have affected change. Third graders at Brockett have started a research project on a historical figure and will display their reports at Open House. We will continue to strive for excellence in character and education!



4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Fourth Grade is working hard in the "Minute to Win It" club and trying to earn our Study Island Royalty this semester. Students will be studying famous Texans and doing a research project on their favorite famous Texan and creating a poster to display their findings. They will also be dressing up as their famous Texan and hosting a wax museum for our guests at Open House. How are phases of the moon and tides connected to our weather patterns? Fourth grade students want to know! Geometry and measurement are our next units in math. Students are learning about angles and lines and how to measure angles. We are learning about connections across literary texts in reading and looking at different genres. We are also taking some time to observe Black History Month and learn about great men and women who helped bring positive changes to our country. Students have been working hard in tutoring. There are several options for tutoring this year and we are trying to maximize those to the benefit of each student. Students will celebrate Bluebonnet books by joining the library for a Bluebonnet Brunch this month. They are also reading for Six Flags Minutes to win a Six Flags ticket. Students just wrapped up Acts of Kindness and impressed us by generously giving of themselves.

