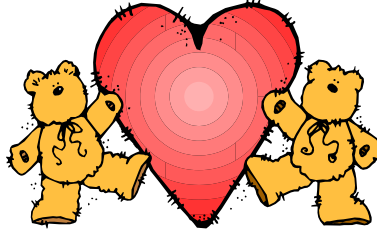


# H L Brockett Elementary School Board Communications February 2015



Parent & Community Involvement at the School:

Every Friday – Popcorn Friday!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who help each week with Popcorn Friday. This month kindergarten, 1st grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, & 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy their treat.

February 5 & 6 – Captain’s Crew Celebration

Parents and family members joined us as we celebrated our students’ achievements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-weeks and the 1<sup>st</sup> semester. Great job students!

February 13 – PTO Teacher Luncheon

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

February 18 – Classroom Group Pictures

Monte B stopped by Brockett Elementary to take group pictures of each classroom.

February 20 – 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 23 – 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 26 – Math & Science Night

This year we will have a focus on H<sub>2</sub>O. We are looking forward to seeing all of the creative projects for our Science Fair. We are also reaching out to vendors in the community for our Health Fair.



Counselor's Corner:

February 2 – 6 Counselor Appreciation Week

To celebrate this special week, students decorated hearts for a special wall in our hallway for Mrs. Milacek. Teachers ended the week with a surprise luncheon in her honor. Thank you Mrs. Milacek for all that you do for the teachers and students of Brockett Elementary!



In the Library:

The BES Library has been busy! For the first time, 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. We had 82 students participate in all!

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. Last year, only 17 students qualified to attend the celebration. This year, we celebrated with 73 students!

The Brockett Library is gearing up for their Spring Book Fair the last week in February.



In the Classrooms:



## Kindergarten

February is a busy month for kindergarten. In social studies, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, ground hog activities, President's Day, Valentine's Day and look forward to our field trip on March 6th. 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. Our second semester is well under way. Our kindergarteners are looking more and more like first graders every day!



## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

In ELAR, students will be studying "bossy" r vowel patterns. We will also be continuing guided reading groups and literacy workstations. In writer's workshop, we will be writing poetry and friendly letters. In math, we will continue learning addition and subtraction facts and continue our unit on numbers to 120. In science, we will study day and night and objects in the sky. In social studies, we will be studying presidents and U.S. symbols.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second grade is very busy as we soon welcome spring. In math, we are discussing patterns and fractions. We are continuing to write narratives and also do an expository paper on presidents. In reading, we are pressing on with our reading groups and Chaps strategies. Science brings great discussions and projects on seasons and weather. In social studies, we are learning about our first and sixteen presidents and about the job of our president.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

In math for this month of February, we have just finished a unit on spending and saving and now are 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*. They will be celebrating the ending 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! Third graders are excited about Science Night at Brockett. After the solar system, third graders will move on to learning about

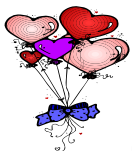
the characteristics of living things. Students continue to use their science journal for science vocabulary.

In social studies, third graders continue to learn about leaders in our community and around the world and how they have affected change. In a few weeks, we will begin learning about goods and services in everyday life. We will continue to strive for excellence in character and education!



4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Cattle drives were an important part of Texas history. The railroad changed the future of cattle drives and Texas. Students will learn how these factors changed Texas. Fractions will be wrapping up and we will dive into geometry. Science is really busy since we are about to begin working on science projects for our spring open house. We are also using cross curricular instruction as we integrate measurement into our science lessons and labs. Friendship is our theme for our expository compositions. Students will explain how to be a good friend. We will honor Black History Month by looking at men and women who made a difference. We will begin by looking at MLK Jr.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade

In reading, students will be working on summary, inferences, and making connections between texts with similar ideas. The students are writing fiction and nonfiction papers. They are taking their writings through the writing process. We are continuing to work on context clues, analogies, idioms, and vocabulary.

In math, we will be finishing our unit on geometry and measurement the first week of February. Our next unit will be over analyzing data from graphs and tables. New graphs such

as stem and leaf plots, dot plots and scatterplots will be introduced and students will be expected to read these, as well as create them. Following this unit, we will begin several weeks of reviewing all TEKS covered up to this point as we prepare for our STAAR administration on April 20. Fifth graders needing more review and re-teaching time are being tutored before school, during school, and after school. All fifth graders are working very hard on reaching “royalty level” on ALL three Study Island subjects. We are hoping to reach an all-time high percentage of those reaching this level!

We are completing our Earth Science explorations by studying weather, climate and the water cycle. Life Science is where we are going next. The students are also currently working on science projects. Last year one of our students won the prestigious “Best in Show” award at the TWU science fair.

The American Revolution is the fifth grade social studies unit of learning. We just completed the bloody Battle of Bunker Hill. (Really fought on Breed's Hill.) Next we will discuss Ethan Allen and Fort Ticonderoga.