

**H L Brockett Elementary
Board Communications
January 2013**



Around the School:

Dog Tag Mania - January 24 & 25

Students will receive their "Dog Tags" for their achievements during the 3rd six-week grading period and the 1st semester.

TPRI Testing - January 10 to 17

Teachers in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grades will be doing the TPRI testing with students.

Tutoring Begins - January 30

Teachers are preparing their lists of students, so we can begin after-school tutoring.

Watch D.O.G.S. -

Dads are signing up daily to be a Watch D.O.G. We love our dads coming as they offer another layer of security.

Emergency Drills -

Teachers and staff conducted the monthly *Fire, Tornado* and *Lock-down* drills with students. Teachers and staff have also reviewed our emergency procedures and suggested improvements.



In the Classrooms:



Kindergarten

Kindergarten is back and ready to "Rock it at Brockett!" We are going to pick back up in language arts with reading groups and sight words. We will begin our first spelling/sight word test next week. Making predictions as we read and understanding what we read will be a big topic in January. We will continue to make word families and to journal daily! Middle of the year TPRI will begin for us as well. We are anxious to see what our students have retained since our prior assessment was given! We will kick off math continuing our number counting and recognition to 20. Along with that we will discuss 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and how they may look the same but are different. Most of the month in science we will discuss space and in social studies our topics will be local community and the state of Texas. We will finish up this unit with our Texas themed week of fun! We will do all of this while counting down to our 100th day of school!



1st Grade

In reading/language arts, students will continue listening and reading comprehension, making words with short and long vowels, decoding strategies, guided reading, literacy workstations, and responding to literature in Reading Response Journals. We are also introducing reading passages to increase decoding skills and fluency. In writing, we will continue Morning Message, A Sentence a Day, and Writer's Workshop. Students will be planning, drafting, editing, revising, and publishing personal narratives. In math, we will be working on measurements including temperature, height, length, and weight. In science, we will be learning

about characteristics of matter, how matter changes form due to changes in temperature and weather. In social studies, we will be learning about bodies of water, landforms, and the difference between natural environment and man-made objects in the environment.



2nd Grade

Second grade is up and running in the year 2013!! In math, we will be studying about patterns and relationships. Then we will study multiplication and division. In science, we will study the different types of precipitation as we experiment with weather. In writing, we are learning to put commas in our writing and continuing our narratives. In reading, we are learning our CHAPS strategies in order to read passages and answer questions effectively. In social studies, we are learning to work together with our new unit titled *Working Together*.



3rd Grade

Brockett Third Graders are increasingly engaged in learning through our new Promethean Boards that allow hands on and active learning across all subject areas. They are studying expository text and text features and structures along with procedural text. In math, they are learning to work through word problems and decide which operation to use. In science, they are learning about rocks and minerals, natural and manufactured resources.



4th Grade

A wonderful winter break was enjoyed by all and we all came back refreshed and ready to continue learning. We will be gathering and interpreting data in math and learning how to read different graphs and charts. We will also enjoy looking at real world situations and figuring out possible combinations. Texas will become independent of Mexico and join the United States as we continue to learn about

our state's history. Students are excited to research different sources about animals and write an expository paper to share what they have learned with classmates. As we head into spring we will be learning about natural resources and how to take care of our earth. We are excited to see the progress our students have made and look forward to even more progress!!

On January 14th, fourth grade began a *Writing Blitz* with students on conference writing.



The fifth graders have completed their benchmark test and we are working on getting ready for the STAAR reading test. We are using the skills/TEKS from CSCOPE. The concepts that will be taught are: point of view, author's perspective, story elements, plot, characters, theme, & text to self. The students will write a nonfiction newspaper that will be linked to what they are learning in social studies. We will also review idioms and adages, analogies, Greek & Latin root, prefixes & suffixes, dictionary skills, drama, & poetry.

It is time for fifth grade science to get out there. We will be going to make observations, acquire data, and make comparisons on the earth, sun, and moon. We will watch shadows and observe phases and cycles. Reviewing the planets seems to be a worthwhile endeavor also.