

Brockett Elementary Board Communications September 2012

*"Brockett Elementary ... We are wildly learning today, so we can
"ROCK" the future tomorrow!" - "ROCK IT AT BROCKETT!"*



September 3 - Labor Day, No school

September 4 - 2nd Grade Parent Orientation Night

Parents learned about Title 1, the dress code, and the 2nd grade curriculum.

September 6 - Joe Corbi's Fundraiser Kick-off

Students began selling cookie dough and gifts. Profit from the fundraiser will help us for student rewards and incentives.

September 6 - 1st Grade Parent Orientation Night

Parents learned about Title 1, the dress code, and the 1st grade curriculum.

September 6 - 4th Grade Parent Orientation Night

Parents learned about Title 1, the dress code, and the 4th grade curriculum.

September 11 – Patriot's Day

During Morning Assembly at Brockett, Mrs. Milacek read the book, *September 12th, We Knew Everything Would Be All Right*. Today in writing, students are answering the question "What does "Freedom" means to me?"

September 14 – Grandparent’s Day Spaghetti Dinner

Students were able to treat their grandparents to a special meal. The event was hosted by the PTO. Thank you to everyone who attended.

September 20 – Family Volunteer Night

Parents are invited to come learn about the different volunteer opportunities available at Brockett. Dads can learn more about how to become a “Watch DOG” and moms can learn about the different activities our PTO has to offer. They will be treated to pizza and a short musical performance by our S.W.A.T. and Black Belt Record ensembles.

September 26 – 5th Grade Field Trip at Camp Goddard

Students will be headed to Camp Goddard again this year. They will be experiencing: hiking, boating, archery, team building, fossil digging, fishing, science, and much more.



Music

We're off to a fast start in music at Brockett Elementary. Our All-Star Choir will begin rehearsals this month. The Blue S.W.A.T. team (Students With Amazing Talent - percussion ensemble) and the Black Belt recorder ensemble have already begun practicing and will perform for our parent volunteers at Family Volunteer Night on September 20. Our 1st graders have begun working on their October program, Bugz.



Explore GT

The Gifted and Talented classes at Monaco and Brockett are being faced with challenges. The challenges range from getting ice cream across the desert to creating devices that help messy pets. All of these challenges must be solved by using limited resources such as popsicle sticks, coffee filters, index cards, rubber bands, and raw spaghetti. Puff machines were constructed out of “life savers” and straws to race to see whose puff machine could go at least 6 feet. Then they created towers out of newspaper (that’s all) to see who could have the tallest free standing tower that would stand on its own for at least 30 seconds. All of these challenges dig into their problem solving and critical thinking skills.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten is off to a great start this year! We are learning routines and procedures for school and about our school community. In language arts, we have already explored the letters A, M, P and S and are continuing to learn all letters and sounds. We have added the sight words *I*, *a*, *am*, *at* and *can* to our word walls and are learning to write our letters as well. In math, we are learning about the numbers 1-5. In science, we have discussed recycling and matter. The beginning of Kindergarten is an exciting time!



1st Grade

We have had a great start to the new school year in first grade! Here's what our new first graders have been learning:

Reading/Language Arts - Listening and reading comprehension, making words with short "a" and "i" vowel sounds, decoding strategies, and beginning guided reading and literacy workstations.

Writing – Morning message, "A Sentence A Day", and Writer's Workshop – personal narratives and Student of the Week interviews.

Math – Number recognition and ordering 1-30, graphs and organizing data.

Science – Safe practices at school, animal characteristics and habitats.

Social Studies – School, friends, I am special, citizenship, and Johnny Appleseed-an historical figure and good citizen.



2nd Grade

In second grade, we have been off to a very busy start! In math, we have been memorizing our basic math and getting faster by playing fun and exciting games. We have been building our reading stamina by doing *Daily 5* and practicing all the different parts that go along with our reading block. We are becoming experts at writing a good sentence and in science we are learning that we are scientists!



3rd Grade

A lot of great things are already happening at Brockett Elementary this fall school year! Third graders are wild about learning! In math this first six weeks we are focusing on place value, writing numbers in standard, word, and expanded form. In ELAR (English, language arts, and reading), third graders are learning what a synonym and antonym are and how they can help them figure out the meaning of a word in a sentence. Students are reading different kinds of texts and discovering the author's purpose for writing. Students are enjoying making connections and following "Good Reader Strategies" while reading. In language arts, third graders are learning how to write about different emotions, while reviewing phonic skills, nouns, and verbs. Third graders started science this year by learning the Scientific Method and how to be safe while doing a science experiment. We will spend the next couple of weeks learning about the three states of matter. Many of the classes have already had class time in the outdoor classroom! We started social studies this year by learning about communities and the roles that people play in the community. We will also be studying important historical figures, such as Christopher Columbus. Throughout our instruction, students are incorporating words into their vocabulary journal for each subject. We are excited about the upcoming year and look forward to being with the students each day, teaching them and influencing their lives 😊



4th Grade

Swing by the fourth grade to see AMAZING students! They have been reviewing place value and mastering decimal place value. We have been very impressed with their magnificent math skills. They are gearing up to write their first narrative and expository papers, but first we are reviewing some basic English skills to help them become wonderful writers. You will be impressed by our poetry unit. We are learning about the different types of poems, understanding the theme of a poem, and writing poetry. Tonya Tumbleweed was our imaginary tour bus guide as she taught us about the

different regions of Texas. We will be doing several activities over the next few weeks about the regions of Texas. In science, we are learning about the different states of matter! We are excited to see lower outdoor temperatures because that means we can utilize B.E.L.L.A.!



5th Grade

Reading & LA

We have talked about ways to choose a book, and books that are just right for them to read. They have all gone to the library. They made schema folders to make them aware of their prior knowledge. The skills we have worked on have been fluency, connections in reading, and story elements. We are working on context clues and vocabulary.

We are writing personal narratives, and will be moving on to poetry. We also, have been working on parts of speech.

Math

In math, we have been reviewing and working on basic math operations such as place value and adding and subtracting whole numbers and decimals. We will be starting our unit on multiplication and division in the next couple of weeks. The students have been doing a great job and working extremely hard. I am very proud of the progress they have been making and their hard work.