

H L Brockett Elementary

Board Communications

February 2012



Jan 30 - Feb 24 Six Flags Reading Race

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.

Feb 2 100th Day of School

Kindergarten students celebrated their first 100 days of school.

Feb 3 Principal's Luncheon

Students who received the *Principal's Award* for the 3rd six-weeks enjoyed lunch with Mrs. Lott.

Feb 7 Accelerated Reading Night

Parents of students in 1st grade through 5th grade are invited to learn more about the Accelerated Reading program. 1st grade students may participate in AR during the spring semester.

Feb 8 Tutoring Begins

Teachers began tutoring select students after school.

Feb 10 1st Grade Field Trip

1st grade students visited Casa Manana in Fort Worth. They watched *Charlotte's Web*. After the performance they enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Feb 14 Valentine's Day

The PTO delivered Valentine's Day candy grams to students. The candy grams were available for parents and friends to purchase earlier in the month.

Feb 23 Kindergarten Field Trip

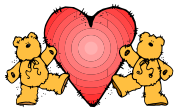
Kindergarten students will be visiting Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas.

Feb 28 – Mar 2 Book Fair

The library will be hosting its annual spring book fair. Students and their parents will again have two nights to shop.



In the Classrooms:



Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners of Brockett Elementary are working hard and doing their best!

Thursday, February 2nd they celebrated the 100th day of school, and learned the meaning of Groundhog Day. As they wrapped up their unit on Texas, they participated in Rodeo Day on Friday, February 3rd. Our Kindergarteners are working hard on their reading skills, including learning as many sight words as possible to increase their reading fluency. Language arts has them working with word families, ending sounds, and making complete sentences.

Kindergarten is working on counting to 100, sequencing, and numerals to 30.

February is going to be a great learning month at Brockett Elementary.



1st Grade

In reading/language arts, students are learning about spelling patterns including ow, ou, and oo. They are also working on their listening comprehension in the chapter book “Charlotte’s Web.” They will analyze the story elements, characters, setting, details, and main idea of this classic, and compare it to the movie and to the play for our field trip in February. In writing, they are learning to add time-order words (sequence words) to our stories. They will also be writing friendly letters with correct parts of a letter.

In math, they are learning how to use a number line to help us add and subtract, as well as using doubles to help us add and subtract. In science, they are learning all about animals...how baby animals look similar to their parents, and how body coverings and teeth help them to adapt to their environments. The students are also studying dental health.

In social studies, they are studying citizens who make a difference in their community by taking care of the environment. Students will also begin their unit on jobs, careers, and why people work.



2nd Grade

Second Grade is very busy during the month of February. In math, students are focusing on patterns and fractions, as well as word problems. In reading, they are still in *Daily 5* with focus on the author's purpose and questioning during reading. In science, they are completing our unit in weather. In language arts, the focus is on synonyms and antonyms, as well as practicing narratives. In social studies, students are focusing on Unit 5: Our Country Long Ago. In writing, they are learning about researching with a focus on research on Abe Lincoln and George Washington.



3rd Grade

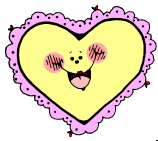
Third graders are moving along nicely and blooming with new knowledge! As we move into February third graders are learning about fractions, multiplication, and division in math, while continuing to review estimating, rounding, adding compatible numbers, and regrouping in subtraction. In ELAR (English, language arts, and reading), third graders are enjoying the novel, *Because of Winn Dixie*. As they read, they are making connections with the characters in the book and using comprehension strategies to make sure they are following the plot of the story. Third graders have been using their CHAPS strategies. Third graders are also learning how to write a persuasive paper with an introduction, body and conclusion and learning how to write a friendly letter. The students are learning figurative language and the important role it plays in reading and writing. In science, they have been studying the solar system. In social studies they will continue learning about important historical people who have made an impact on our society. Throughout our instruction, students are incorporating words into their vocabulary journal for each subject.



4th Grade

The month of February will be a busy exciting time for fourth grade! We have enjoyed watching our students grow and learn. It is a new year and we are up for the challenge of the new STAAR test. The students have been working hard since the first day of school reviewing what they have learned from previous years and learning new skills. They are comparing and ordering fractions, learning about mixed numbers and improper fractions in math. Students are also reviewing decimals and how they are related to fractions. The students have learned a new form of writing this year and will be wrapping up a fun animal research project. Each student has been gathering information on an animal of their choice and using critical thinking skills to create an imaginative story, expository on habitat, describe where their

animal lives, design a crossword, and a variety of other activities related to their animal. They are studying our earth and the importance of soil and natural resources. Students will be analyzing ways to make choices for our environment. In social studies, they have been learning about the Civil War and President Lincoln has signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This will bring about great changes to Texas. The students are continuing to read our novel, *The Legend of Thunderfoot*, in reading. They are also examining our friendships as they read and making good choices to build each other up. The story takes place in the desert so they are learning lots of cool facts about desert animals and plants. Students are also using reading skills such as inference, summarization, cause and effect, and main idea.



5th Grade

During science, students are learning about the water cycle and climate and they will soon be the topics for investigations. The next topic will be life sciences.

In reading, students will begin working on examining a variety of forms of texts. They will compare and contrast and make connections to what they are reading. Students will be using context clues, analogies, and idioms/adages. They will also use a dictionary as a resource for learning new words.

During writing class, each student is preparing a “mini” documentary. Students were given free choice about their topic. First they will prepare a script and type and print it out. Then, they will go to the computer lab and prepare the slides or video to go along with it! The students are very excited about this project, and they are doing expository writing and not even realizing it (shhhhhh!). They will be presenting the documentaries to the class.

In math, students are busy learning a variety of measurement concepts. They have learned how to convert between different units of measurement. They are also learning how to measure perimeter, area, and volume of an object. The students are having a great time using their rulers to measure a

variety of shapes and objects. With the new STAAR test only seven weeks away, we are also spending time reviewing those concepts that were taught earlier in the year. This group of Fifth grade students is doing very well. I know they will make us proud.