

**Brockett Elementary**  
**October 2015**  
**School Board Communications**



- October 2                      National Custodial Worker Day  
The PTO recognized our custodians and maintenance employees during Morning Assembly to show our appreciation for their hard work each and every day of the year.
- October 5                      World Teacher's Day  
Teachers and staff were given a treat in honor of the special day.
- October 5 & 6                Student Pictures  
Monte B took pictures of our students again this year for our memory book.
- October 6                      BES Site Base Meeting  
Mrs. Lott hosted her first Site Base meeting of the new school year. Thank you to all of the parents, community members and teachers who will be on the team this year. The District goals were discussed and the team reviewed and revised Brockett's campus plan. Refreshments were served. We would also like to welcome our 2015 201 Community, Business and Parent Members: Haven Smith (Parent), Kim Huschke (DATCU), Robbie Reid (Community), Heather Shearer (Cashion Custom Homes), Jana Temple (Parent), and Liz Lahmann (Parent).
- October 13                    GT Parent Information Night  
Mrs. Turner hosted a question and answer session for the parents new to the Gifted & Talented program. GT nominations are due on Friday, October 23.
- October 15                    Fire Safety Visit  
The Aubrey Fire Department visited students during PE. They talked with them about fire safety. Thank you Aubrey Firemen for all that you do to keep Aubrey safe!
- October 20                    1<sup>st</sup> Grade Musical  
Our 1<sup>st</sup> graders will be performing "Agents of Change" for friends and family. The students will be dressing up as super heroes with the power of Character! They will sing about honesty, truth, kindness, etc.

October 26 – 30 Parent Conference Week

Parents will attend short conferences with their child's teacher to discuss how their child is progressing this year.

October 26 – 30 Red Ribbon Week

Students will be participating in various activities this week to promote our theme: "Drug Free is the Way to Be".

Monday – "Wear Red" to kick off "Red Ribbon Week"

Tuesday – I "Mustache" you not to do drugs!

Wednesday – Sock it to drugs! Wear crazy socks.

Thursday – Hair's to a drug free future! Wear a crazy hat or hair.

Friday – Good characters don't do drugs!

Teachers are also participating in a door decorating contest to celebrate Red Ribbon Week. As we lead up to Red Ribbon Week, students were also provided lessons on the differences between safe and un-safe drugs by Mrs. Milacek.

October 26 – 30 Book Fair Week

The Library will be hosting their first book fair of the year.

October 29 Cool Shade for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

The Denton County Master Gardeners will be visiting our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to talk about the importance of trees. Each 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student will receive a free seedling to take home and plant in their yard. This is their 5<sup>th</sup> year to visit our campus.

October 29 PTO Teacher Luncheon

Thank you in advance PTO for our second luncheon of the year!

October 30 Character Parade

Students and staff will be dressing up as characters from their favorite books and parading around the school. Please join us for this fun event.





## Library

The library at Brockett is a busy place in October. School-wide, we've begun our Reading CHAPS program. In addition, 1st graders started the "Fin"tastic Readers program on October 5. On October 30, the school will have its annual Character Parade. The last week in October, the Fall Book Fair will take place.



Guidance classes have been implemented for our Core Essential Character Traits, with a focus on taking "Initiative". Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students were provided lessons on the responsibility process by using the book "Ricky Ritat." All students will be given a challenge to implement the Core Essentials they have been presented since the beginning of the school year. They are wisdom, individuality and initiative. Students will collect stickers on their "sticker collector sheets" for one week at the end of the month, as they are recognized for exhibiting the character traits. Mrs. Milacek is continuing to compile information for the National School of Character application that will be submitted in December, 2015.

Mrs. Milacek received a \$300 grant from National Geographic Explores to purchase ukuleles for her new program "Ukuleles for Self Esteem and Fun".



## Staff & Student Development

Brockett Elementary has a focus on curriculum and instruction as stated in their campus plans. This year we are holding grade level curriculum meetings to focus on different content and measures that can be taken to increase student performance. Monitoring sheets for students' progress have been implemented to drill down to the student expectation and student monitoring mastery. Brockett Elementary will be turning in their first writing samples on October 16<sup>th</sup> for the administration and ELA coordinator to view.

Teachers have been provided inservice on Google Docs and are now collaborating with their lesson plans as they are developed throughout the week. We have gone paperless as the plans are shared with administration where comments are also provided.



## Safety and Security

We have completed our fire drill and lock-down drill for the month of October. Mrs. Abrams provided the students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade a real world challenge in math for Brockett Elementary -- new coverings for the classroom door windows are needed.

Mrs. Abrams wants to make curtains for each classroom door window.  
We have 65 windows total. The windows measure 34 inches x 9 inches.

1. If she buys fabric by the yard, how many yards of fabric does she need to buy?
2. If she only puts Velcro on the top and bottom of the window, how many feet of Velcro does she need to buy?

Mrs. Abrams has completed truancy prevention measure conferences with parents of students with more than 3 unexcused absences.



## TECHNOLOGY (Just a few words from David Cox)

We are technologically off to a wonderful start already this year at Brockett Elementary. It all started on **day one** when I noticed that we had a full Chromebook cart for our teachers to check out for classroom use. Wow! For a nerd like me it was like Christmas!!! This of course meant that I would be going through a major paradigm shift with some of the curriculum that I would be teaching my students.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently learning how to use their new student email accounts to login to Chrome OS on the Chromebooks and how to login to Google.com to access all of the powerful new learning tools that are there; NOT just Gmail like most people. We are learning how to create online documents that can be accessed from anywhere and from any device. We are learning how to share these documents with our teachers and other students electronically. We are also learning how to do collaborative projects where multiple students can be on the same document at the same time, each

independently working on their own part of the projects while seeing the changes their partners are making; in real-time. They are even helping each other edit their group work by leaving digital comments. Cool stuff. And our kids are LOVING IT!!! Students are asking if they can sit out recess so they can work on their Google accounts. ‘Recreational writing’ is the new big thing at Brockett at the moment.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade has been utilizing the Chromebooks for Social Studies. Their textbook this year is completely online. When the Chromebooks are in the classroom, the entire class can individually interact with the Social Studies content. Student engagement is OFF THE CHART during these lessons. Social Studies is becoming one of the more enjoyable content areas for the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade. Here are a few pictures from a recent Social Studies TEST.



I overheard one student say at the end of the day, “That was the coolest test, ever.” I like seeing students feel that way about learning.

One of the other activities that our students have been involved in is getting started with ISTARION, one of our online resources to help our students become better readers and one of our assessment tools. Our students have learned to login independently and have just finished our beginning of the year baseline assessment. We have been using ISTARION for three years now but I feel that our implementation of the program last year was our best. I think we finally got the balance right between ISTARION, Study Island and 100’s of other online resources that we utilize to help our students. Out of curiosity I ran a reading report to see where our school was now compared to last year at this time. This is what I discovered:

note: Teir 1 At or above grade level

Tier 2 Intervention is needed

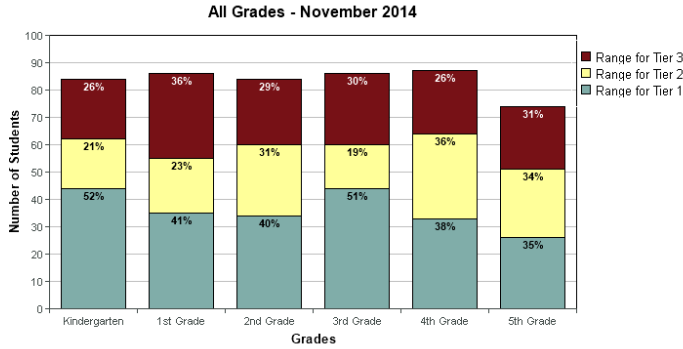
Tier 3 Severe intervention needed.

## Summary

ISIP™ Reading results for **Brockett Elementary School**

at Aubrey Ind School District – 2014/2015 School Year

[Edit Report](#) [Save Report](#) [Exp](#)

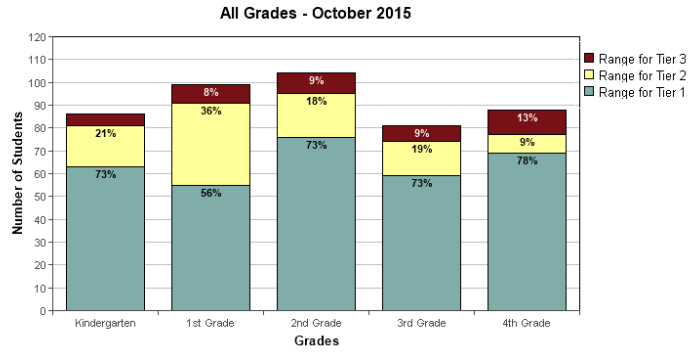


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I liked what I saw. To keep this ball rolling, I have set up our Chromebooks for easy use by our lower grades. I discovered that ISTATION did have a Chromebook app. So now K – 2<sup>nd</sup> classes will be able to check out the Chrome cart for classroom wide use if they feel addition time is needed. ISTATION suggest that Tier 3 students use ISTATION a minimum of 120 minutes a week. It was difficult for many teachers to meet this suggested goal in the past to struggling students. We now have another resource to help meet the needs of our students and make learning fun.





Student Council

Thank you Brockett Student Council for helping Mrs. Marilyn and the custodians clean up trash at the AHS Homecoming game on September 25. Go Chaps!



UIL

Teams are now being formed and after school practice has begun to prepare for the upcoming competition in December.



In the Classrooms:



Kindergarten

It's hard to believe that Halloween is upon us and that parent teacher conferences are about to begin. In science this fun and festive time of year, kindergarten will be learning about pumpkins, bats, sources of light, size, mass, heating, and cooling. In social studies, we will learn about families and diversity, neighborhoods, celebrating Red Ribbon Week, and fire safety this month. Along with that we are teaching the students about Halloween safety and customs. In language arts, we will continue to learn and manipulate the letters in the alphabet, and adding two new sight words a week. We are rhyming, deleting sounds, writing our morning messages, learning about compound words, nouns, and parts of a book. In math, we have mastered recognizing and writing our numbers 1-10. We will be discussing positional words and begin adding soon.





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

In Reading/Language Arts, students will be learning main ideas and details of stories. We will continue guided reading groups and literacy workstations. The phonics rules will include short vowels and blends. Writer's workshop will be focusing on student selected topics that include a beginning, middle, and ending. We will also be writing an expository piece about pumpkins. In math, students will be learning how to make numbers on a ten-frame and addition and subtraction facts to 12. In science, we will be learning to describe matter and the three states of matter. In social studies, we will be learning about family and community traditions. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, students dressed up like farmers and made crafts of farm animals. We have been writing stories about farm animals and reading fiction and nonfiction books about farm animal.



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

Second Grade is doing well and making great progress!! We are practicing ordering and comparing numbers. In reading, we are finishing the TPRI and DRA tests and beginning guided reading groups. In language arts, we are modeling paragraphs and studying nouns and verbs. We are discussing good citizens and our community. In science, we are discussing collecting data and sharing information.



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

Third grade at Brockett is excited about learning! In math, third graders are starting multiplication. We will be doing a lot of hands on activities. Then we will move on to story problems with multiplication. Towards the end of the month we will be introducing the concept of division. Students are also using their math journal for vocabulary.

In ELAR (English, language arts, and reading), third graders are excited about reading expository text! We are continuing to teach and practice good reader strategies. This



month in reading, students will be able to explain the difference in point of view between a biography and an autobiography. We continue modeling passion while reading and encourage each child to fall in love with reading. In writing, third graders will begin writing an expository response based on a biography and begin their first personal narrative. We are steadily teaching and reviewing Writer's Workshop each day!

In science, we have been busy learning about weather and are moving into force and motion. Students continue to use their science journal for science vocabulary.

In social studies, third graders are learning about leaders in our community and world and how they have affected change. We will continue to strive for excellence in character and education!



4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fourth graders just wrote their first narrative composition. This will be the first of many more to come. We are excited that the papers had interesting beginnings to hook their reader. We will continue working on narrative compositions, revising and editing, and fine tuning skills to be successful. We will be diving into multiplication and soon will be doing 2x2 digit multiplication followed up by division. Students will love doing algebraic sentences to solve multiplication and division problems.

With fall in their air it is a good time to start poetry. It is easy to use our five senses as we learn the structure and components of poetry. The early people of Texas will be examined as we begin to learn about the different Native American groups of Texas. We have enjoyed getting to know our students over the last few weeks and look forward to a great year.

Thank you to PetSmart for our grants to help purchase classroom pets! The grants saved us about \$100 out of our own pockets. Each classroom now has a class pet which is being used to teach lessons all across the curriculum! We are now learning about instinctive and learned behaviors in science.

Fourth graders were engaged in an English lesson about common and proper nouns as they worked in groups and went on a scavenger hunt around the school and interacted with other classes of all ages and staff members as they made videos with IPADS of different activities that had to be performed on their scavenger hunt. They also enjoyed a day of rotating classes in fourth grade. We set up two rooms of math lessons and games

that targeted low SE's and TEKS. One classroom set up a science lab that simulated adaptations of birds and focused on different bird beaks. Students performed a variety of experiments that used tools that simulated various bird beaks. Students have been using the Chrome books that we received to do study island and social studies. The students have also used them to do research on their science papers. Teachers are implementing the Chrome books into lessons across the curricular. This is peaking student interest and engagement in lessons. Istation is now up and running and is being used to enhance our reading and writing lessons.