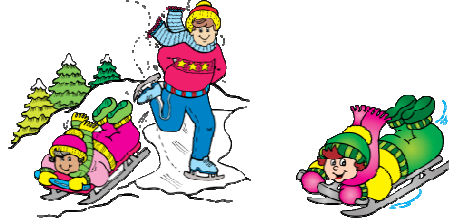


# **H L Brockett Elementary Board Communications January 2011**



## **Around the School:**

### **January 13: "Dads and Kids" Pizza Night & Watch D.O.G.S. Introductory Meeting**

We will be introducing 'Watch D.O.G.S.' to the fathers in our community. 'Watch D.O.G.S.' is an innovative program being used by schools across America which helps students to be positively impacted by the committed involvement of fathers and father-figures in their student's life. The goal is to have fathers spend at least one day of the year at the school to be a positive male role model for the students.

### **January 5 – 11: Home-made Gourmet Fundraiser**

Money raised from this fundraiser will be used to purchase supplies for our new 'Outdoor Classroom'.

### **January 21: Bluebonnet Book Reading Deadline**

Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, who have read at least 5 current Bluebonnet titles may vote on this year's Bluebonnet book nominees on January 28<sup>th</sup>. These students will also be invited to the Brockett Bluebonnet Brunch in March.

### **January 28: PTO Teacher Appreciation Lunch**

This month they will be providing a baked potato bar. Thank you again for the wonderful meals you provide for the teachers and staff of Brockett Elementary.

### **January 31: Family Fun Fitness Night**

The Brockett PTO and Box Tops for Education are hosting a free Family Fitness Night. There will be 7 different stations for students to learn more about keeping fit and eating right. Please come by and learn how much fun fitness can be. Keep on turning in those Box Tops! PTO just received a check for over \$1800.

### **Outdoor Classroom Update**

Our bricks have been ordered and will be arriving soon. We are hoping to have our groundbreaking by February.



## **In the Classrooms:**



### **Kindergarten**

WOW, time is flying in Kindergarten at Brockett! Guided Reading has started and it is going great, we are working on one-to-one matching and using picture clues. We have introduced all of our sight words, so we are working hard to know 25 words. In math, we are learning about #'s 21-30, and counting to 100. We will also be starting our unit on geometric figures and fractions. In science, we are studying winter, winter animals, Martin Luther King Jr., Health and Nutrition and we will be learning about our community helpers and careers.



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

In math, we are working on measuring temperature, graphing and place value. In writing, we are continuing to write personal narratives using our own ideas. We will also be writing using story prompts. We are working on using details and descriptive words in our writing. In reading, we are enjoying our Daily 5 authentic reading time. We spend quality time reading to ourselves, working with words, working on writing, and listening to books on computer and/or CD. We are learning about the differences between expository, fictional, and poetry writing. In Social Studies, we will be learning about historical figures in U.S. history such as Benjamin Franklin and Martin Luther King, Jr., and their contributions to our country. In Science, we will be studying and learning about how our weather changes with the seasons, how to measure temperature, and how weather changes affect people, animals and plants.



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

We are working on changes in weather and magnets in science. We are introducing CHAPS reading strategies and working with passages. In language arts, we are focusing on adjectives in our writing as well as reviewing nouns. In social studies, we are studying about community helpers and goods and services. We are studying 3-D shapes in math and working on word problems. We continue to work on fluency and comprehension in guided reading groups.

 **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade at H.L. Brockett Elementary is excited to be moving on to a new year and a new semester! We are so blessed to have such a great bunch of kids. We are now well into the routines of school and are excited about all the learning that is happening in our classrooms. The month of January will find us teaching and learning the following... In reading, we are continuing to practice our CHAPS reading strategies. We are setting the stage for winter by incorporating science and reading together. Students will be reading Mr. Popper's Penguins while focusing on TEKS objectives. In science this month, we will be studying the life cycle and habitat of different penguins. The students will be watching informative movies on "United Streaming and Listening" to books on tape. Students will be working on their comprehension of stories by applying what they know about story problems, solutions and details, facts, opinions, sequence of events, and main idea. In math, students will be reviewing multiplication through flashcards and multiplication activities. Students will also begin division. In language arts, we will be focusing on persuasive writing. The students will write a complete paper from brainstorming to publishing. In Social Studies this month, third graders will be learning about maps, different types of maps and how to read a map. We have some character building activities planned for the week of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. We are excited about all that lies ahead of us in the New Year, as we set our sights on striving for and reaching our high expectations and goals.

 **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This will be a very busy month in fourth grade as we are getting that much closer to the TAKS test. In writing, we will be working on 'What does it takes to write a great paper?' This will include looking at adjectives and stretching our sentences to give our readers a great paper! In math, we are diving off into the world of division. In reading, we are zoning in our skills for main idea and summary. We will also be starting Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingles Wilder. With this book we will be looking at plot and tying it into social studies as we talk about what life was like for early settlers in Texas. Science will be all about exploring the world of matter and how we are surrounded by it. We will be looking at the different states of matter and what happens when we mix solutions together.

This promises to be a very busy month in fourth grade!

 **5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

With the new year already underway and TAKS right around the corner, we are working extremely hard to prepare the students. In science, we have almost completed objective 2: Life Science. Adaptations will be the last major concept imparted before we launch into Objective 4: Earth Science, where the Earth, Sun, and Moon comparisons will begin our studies. It is also time to start preparing for science fair projects.

In reading, we will work on STAR Reading Tests. Students are learning about inference using nonfiction, biographies, and autobiographies to identify major events in a person's life. They are also learning how to compare and contrast different aspects of a story.

In math, over the next couple of weeks we will be working on probability and statistics. As part of our probability unit, the students will be given snack size bags of M & M's to sort by color. They will then work in teams to find the probability of getting a specific color. Together, we will find the probability of getting a specific color out of just one bag, the team's bags combined, and the entire class' combined bags. We will then expand and find the percentages. This is a fun way to tie math into real life and the kids love it!

In writing, we will be back in our Writer's Workshop groups. Our prompt for this writing assignment takes place in Disneyland! There is a "Disneyland Disaster" and all of your favorite Disney characters must join together to take care of the problem.

Our focus of social studies is the colonization of Roanoke and Jamestown. Important people we are learning about include: John Smith, Pocahontas, John Rolfe and many others...