

**H L Brockett**  
**Board Communications**  
**April 2013**



Around the School:

April 1 - District Battle of the Books Competition

Teams from Brockett and Monaco competed to see who would advance to the BOB Regional Competition.

April 2 & 3 - STAAR Testing

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Math & Reading

Thank you students for your great attendance on testing days.

April 5 - Regional Battle of the Books Competition in Krum

Congratulations to the Joy Black/Ali Weaver team for advancing to the BOB Regional Competition!

April 12 - PTO Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

April 12 - Bluebonnet Brunch

Students that read 5 Bluebonnet books were invited to a special "Blue" snack with Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Delafield.

April 16 - Kindergarten Musical

Kindergarteners will present their musical "Songs of the Sea" to family and friends. Thank you Mrs. Cummings for all of your hard work.

April 23 & 24 - STAAR Testing

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math and Reading, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

April 29 - Kindergarten Round-up Night

The kindergarten teachers, nurse, and office staff are ready to enroll our 2013-2014 Kindergarten students. Parents are encouraged to come and learn more about what to expect as their child starts school.



In the Classrooms:



Kindergarten

Where has this year gone? We are in April and the pressure is on to get our kindergarten babies where they need to be before moving on to first grade! End of year assessments in TPRI and DRA have begun. We have worked hard all year and anxious to see how much our kindergarteners have learned! We continue to write three or more sentences each day in our journals and take our practice spelling tests weekly in preparation for our end of year spelling and writing test. Great progress is made every day! Our science objective for April will be on plants and the life cycle of insects. This is a fun unit and the students and teachers alike enjoy this topic! Math will consist of comparing temperature, weight, capacity, graphs, and comparing area. Addition and subtraction will be done daily during calendar to assure that the students are retaining this very important skill. Last, but not least, in social studies we will research weather, more specifically the instruments that we use to measure wind, temperature, and rain accumulation. We will also teach our students the difference between a cumulus, cirrus, and stratus cloud! We are on cloud 9 here in kindergarten and the end is drawing near. It is such a bittersweet moment for all of us!



1<sup>st</sup> Grade

In reading/language arts, students will continue listening and reading comprehension skills such as sequencing events, and finding the plot and supporting details in a story, as well as making inferences. We will also focus on decoding unknown words, guided reading, literacy workstations, and responding to literature in Reading Response Journals. In writing, we will continue Morning Message, and

Writer's Workshop. Students will be writing expository pieces about various animals. In math, we will be working on multi-step word problems and measurement. In science, we will be learning about life cycles of frogs, chickens, and butterflies. Classes will observe painted lady caterpillars as they go through their life cycle in the classroom! In social studies, we will be learning about needs and wants, careers/jobs, and how people meet their needs and wants based on choices they make.



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second grade will be beginning testing in April and May. In math, we will be reviewing all concepts taught throughout the year. In reading, we will be continuing our Daily 5 and making sure students are ready for third grade with reading strategies. Social studies concepts taught will be about our 13 colonies and a new U.S.A. In science, we will continue our animal research as we learn about different habitats. In writing, we will venture into nonfiction writing, as we write about real situations and events in our lives.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

As we move into spring and our last six weeks of the school year a lot of great things are happening at Brockett Elementary! In math, we are reviewing all TEKS and math concepts. We are focusing on word problems with multi steps. Third graders are continuing to learn about the value of money, and rounding whole numbers to the nearest tens, hundreds, and thousands. Students are continuing to use vocabulary in math to determine what operation to use in a word problem.

In ELAR (English, language arts, and reading), third graders are continuing to explore expository and fiction texts. In the next few weeks, third graders will be busy reviewing all reading TEKS and applying them to all texts. Students continue to show and use Good Reader Strategies while reading.

In science, third graders are having fun learning about life cycles. All third grade classrooms are watching the progression of an actual life cycle, thanks to Mrs. Milacek. Children are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our adult butterflies. Right now they are still at the larva stage. After life cycles, we will move on to animals in their ecosystems and their adaptations that help them to live and survive. In social studies, we are continuing to learn about economy and entrepreneurship.

We will continue to strive for excellence in character and education! ☺



4<sup>th</sup> Grade

A Tall Tale will be told in the fourth grade hall as they explore the genre of Tall Tales. Many fabulous tales will be told and written about as we have fun learning about this genre. We will be reviewing our year in math and preparing for the upcoming STAAR test! Students will be engaged in various activities and reviews to make sure they are successful. Food chains, life cycles and energy flow will be the objectives in science. Students always enjoy this unit! The end of an era will be discussed in social studies as we read about how our state and country went through changes that impacted the world we live in now.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The skills we will be on in reading are summary, inferences, and making connections between texts with similar ideas. The students are writing historical fiction, and nonfiction. They are taking their writings through the writing process. We are continuing to work on context clues, analogies, and idioms.

In science, we are pursuing a lively study of Life Science. Organisms are adapting, metamorphosing, inheriting, and learning amidst all the eating and other things. A rigorous STAAR science review looms in their future.