

Brockett Elementary

Board Communication - April 2011



- April 1 Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd Grade teachers held a TAKS Pep Rally for 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade students. The teachers dressed up like the "Ghost Busters" and performed skits using silly string to beat the TAKS test.
- April 1 The 50 students who received the "Principal's Award" dog tag for the 4th Six Weeks will be joining Mrs. Lott for lunch.
- April 4 5th Grade students took the Math TAKS test.
- April 5 5th Grade students took the Reading TAKS test.
- April 7 2nd Grade took a field trip to Fort Worth Museum of Science & History. They also watched the movie "Bugs" at the Omni theater.
- April 12 4th Grade students participated in their first STAAR test.
- April 14 2nd Grade students and the SWAT team performed a musical journey to Africa. Children sung a variety of songs from all around Africa. They also played some great Africa instruments and re-enacted a famous African folk story.
- April 14 & 15 Mrs. Lott is hosting her 5th Dog Tag Mania event. Students will be receiving dog tag awards for perfect attendance, grades, etc. Parents are welcome to join us for the ceremony.
- April 18 - 22 Volunteer Appreciation Week
- April 19 Students who sold over 20 containers of cookie dough for our fundraiser were able to enter the Money Machine during morning assembly. This time we have 19 students!
- April 21 Students in 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade who read at least 5 Bluebonnet books are invited to attend the annual Bluebonnet Brunch. Mrs. Clark and the library aides prepare and special snack of all blue foods.

- April 22 Brockett Elementary is celebrating Earth Day with a variety of activities in the classrooms. Students were even able to purchase special "Earth Day" shirts to help support our Outdoor Classroom.
- April 22 The 50 students who received the "Principal's Award" dog tag for the 5th Six Weeks will be joining Mrs. Lott for lunch.
- April 26 3rd & 4th Grade students will be taking the Math TAKS test.
- April 27 3rd & 4th Grade students will be taking the Reading TAKS test.
- April 28 5th Grade students will be taking the Science TAKS test.
- April 29 Students who meet their individual AR goals by April 29th will participate in a special event with Mrs. Clark.



In the Classrooms:



Kindergarten:

Can you believe it is already April? Spring is such a fun season to share with the kindergarteners. This month in Science and Social Studies, we are learning about insects! We are specifically learning about the life cycle of a lady bug and the meaning of the word "metamorphosis". We will observe living ladybugs in class and release them to the wild in our learning garden on Earth Day. The students are very excited about this topic. Later this month we will further discuss animal habitats and learn all about the rain forest! In math, we are beginning subtraction. As we begin to model subtraction, some of the vocabulary words your little ones will use will be "take away", "are left", "minus sign", and "equal sign". In language arts, we will continue to work on our guided reading each day. Our focus will be on middle sounds, word families, journaling, reading comprehension, and sequencing. Practice makes perfect! First grade is just around the corner! Here we come!



First Grade:

Our reading goals for the coming weeks are making "text to text" and "text to self" connections, and retelling a story in sequence order. We are learning that different genres of books provide us with different purposes for reading, such as for fun and enjoyment, or to learn something new. We are also working on building our fluency, including reading rate, expression, and paying attention to punctuation.

In writing, we are continuing to write personal narratives in our journals, and also write to a picture prompt. We have been working on adding sequence words to our stories to make them flow smoother from one idea to the next. We are also learning about labeling pictures, especially for non-fiction purposes.

In language arts, we are working on tricky letter clusters, such as -igh, -ight, -eigh, and -ough. We are also reading various words in isolation, which gives us practice at our phonics rules such as short vowels, long vowels, clusters, blends, etc.

In math, we are finishing up our unit on money. Students have been recognizing the names and values of coins, and counting the values of mixed groups of coins. We will also review addition and subtraction patterns, fact families, and skip counting patterns.

In science, we are learning about living and nonliving things. We will observe the life cycle of a plant, learn the parts of a plant and their functions, and we will plant various types of seeds in our outdoor classroom garden bed. We will end the month by moving on to life cycles of various types of animals, including the butterfly, which we will observe in our classrooms.

In social studies, we will be learning about symbols of the state of Texas, the meaning and purpose of our State Pledge, and we will end the month learning about the world of work, needs, wants, and how work helps us get things we need and want.



Second Grade:

Second grade has been busy bees. On April 7th, they visited the Museum of Science & Natural History, where viewed an Omni presentation called "Bugs". It was about the rainforest, which we are studying about in science. In social studies, we are studying Unit 2 about our earth. In math, we are studying fractions and word problems. Reading is busy with continuing Chaps strategies and practicing fluency and comprehension. In language arts, we are learning about compound words and are practicing writing to a prompt each week.



Third Grade:

Third grade continues to be very busy with many exciting activities! We have just finished a unit on our solar system. This year our students constructed a model of the solar system to display at our Spring Open House. We have also enjoyed reading and studying many different folk tales and tall tales in language arts and in social studies. Our classes have had fun writing their own tall tales. In both reading and math, we are reviewing all skills and strategies as we prepare for testing at the end of the month. Third graders planted flowers around our outdoor pond as we continue to utilize and appreciate our outdoor classroom! As we enter into the last six weeks of this year, we look forward to huge success on April 26 and 27! We also look forward to our annual Charlotte's Web study and lots of multiplication fun as we wrap up another wonderful school year at Brockett Elementary.



Fourth Grade:

Spring has sprung and our fourth graders are blooming and growing! Our students are learning about life in the 1800's as we read Laura Ingalls Wilder's book, Little House in the Big Woods. We are also hard at work practicing and refining our skills for the reading TAKS test later this month. In math, students are learning about geometry, measurement, and probability. We are also getting ready for our math TAKS. The students are working hard and using all their strategies! Our students really enjoyed creating and drawing their own perimeter gardens. In science, we are learning about the weather. We will be creating anemometers to measure the wind, and we will learn about other types of weather as well. In social studies, we are learning about Texas's role in the Civil War. We will also be studying about cattle drives and ranching. We are excited to be starting our poetry unit this month in language arts also.



Fifth Grade:

Our fifth graders have completed the TAKS reading test. We are tutoring the ones that need extra help. The skills we will be working on in reading are: sensory language and imagery, how-to, following directions, graphs and charts, phenomena, myths, effect of historical events, and poetry. These skills will be taught using poetry books and reading Maniac Magee, by Jerry Spinelli.