

# **Brockett Elementary School Board Communications November 2014**



## **Around the School:**

### **November 3 - 7 Canned Food Drive**

Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items this year. Brockett families donated nearly 1500 items! These items will help replenish HOPE Food Bank here in Aubrey.

### **November 3 - 15 Blanket Drive**

Zachary Hamilton and several other students conducted a blanket drive to help the homeless in the Denton county area. They have collected close to 400 warm blankets. They will be given to Our Daily Bread in Denton to pass out to those in need.

### **November 6 AISD Parent Meeting**

Brockett Elementary was the host for an information meeting as our fifth grade transitions to Aubrey Middle School. Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. McNabb, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Gillum, and Mrs. Lott were present to provide information to parents, so they could be informed of how and why decisions were made. A question and answer time was provided for parents. Brockett extends a thank you for this time provided by our administration.

### **November 6 & 7 Captain's Crew Celebration**

Thank you to all of the parents and other family members who attended our first awards events on the new school year. Students received "spirit sticks" for a variety of accomplishments and events at Brockett.

November 11          Veteran's Day Assembly

Thank you to all of the veterans who attended our special morning assembly. Student Council members and GT students put together a special presentation to show our appreciation for their service to our country. Close to 50 veterans were in attendance including 1 veteran of WWII.

November 11          Big Kahuna Limo Lunch

The 90 students who sold 15 or more items during this year's fundraiser were invited to a special "Limo Lunch" to Pizza Hut in Pilot Point. Thank you Big Kahuna for arranging this special event for our students.

November 11          1<sup>st</sup> Grade Musical

Thank you Mrs. Cummings for putting together another wonderful performance this year. The performance entitled, "Yo Ho Ho a Singing We Go", contained a variety of sailing themed songs. Great job students!

November 12          BES/MES UIL

Several students from both Brockett and Monaco Elementary have been practicing diligently for various UIL events. They competed to see who will represent AISD in the Argyle UIL tournament in December. Thank you also to all of the UIL coaches who have helped prepare our students.

November 14          Principal's Award Lunch

Mrs. Lott hosted her first Principal's Award Lunch of the school year. Students were taken to Pizza Hut in Pilot Point to enjoy a special meal.

November 14          PTO Bingo Night

The Brockett Elementary PTO held their annual Bingo Night fundraiser. The event was a huge success as usual. Thank you to everyone who donated items to the prize baskets.

November 18          3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip

The students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade visited Elm Fork Education Center at UNT again this year. They learned about habitats, adaptations, ecosystems, and how organisms thrive and reproduce.

## November 20      Thanksgiving Feasts

Students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will enjoy Thanksgiving feasts. Family members are invited to join students in the celebrations.



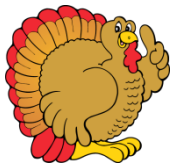
### Library News:

The BES Fall Book Fair was a success. We'll be using the money to build our non-fiction collection. Our character parade was also a lot of fun. Thank you to the many families who attended.

Our reading program, Reading CHAPS, is going strong. We have approximately 200 kids participating consistently. Besides that, our Texas Bluebonnet and Texas 2x2 programs will end soon with the students who've read at least 5 books voting on their favorite.



### In the Classrooms:



### Kindergarten

In language arts this month, students are learning the sight words my, on, she, up, it, he, and, no, and see. They are also learning the letters: /g/, /w/, /x/, /u/, /v/, /y/, and /z/. Comprehension and reading groups will begin with book readers being sent home daily. We will continue writing independently every day in our journals while working on sounding out CVC words, learning what a noun and verb are, rhyming, deleting beginning sounds, and parts of a story. In math, we will be learning how to graph along with recognize numbers up to 20. We have been working on addition and subtraction; the students are grasping these concepts well.

The new curriculum is detailed and allows the students ample time to learn and understand the steps needed to complete an addition or subtraction problem. Social studies during this time of year is so much fun. Our kindergarteners will be learning about holiday celebrations, Pilgrims and Native Americans, and Thanksgiving traditions. To complete the unit, we will have our annual feast on the last Thursday before our break. We are excited to celebrate and review all that we have learned during this festive fall month. In science, we are beginning to learn about the three different types of rocks. We are also learning about the earth's soil, movement, and magnets. We will also dive further into our senses and explore sound and sight. It's going to be a fast and busy month, but we are moving right along and making great progress!



1<sup>st</sup> Grade

In reading/language arts, students will be learning about different sources of media such as news and advertising. We will continue guided reading groups and literacy workstations. The phonics rules will include the digraphs sh, th, ch and wh and silent "e" will also be introduced. Writer's workshop will be focusing on adding details to student selected topics. In math, students will be learning how to add and subtract to 20. We will also continue our mad minute basic fact drills. In science, we will be learning about sources of energy such as heat, light, and sound. In social studies, we will be learning about voting and elections and the history of Thanksgiving. We will be having a grade level Thanksgiving feast to celebrate our learning.



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Second Grade is very busy this November. In math, we are working on addition with regrouping. In reading, we are focusing on many concepts, including making

inferences and fact and opinion, as well as continuing reading groups and centers. In science, we are studying sound and light. Social studies is exciting as we are learning about consumers and producers. In language arts, we are continuing writing narratives and discussing articles and adverbs.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

Third grade at Brockett is excited about learning!

In math this second nine weeks, we are starting division while continuing multiplication. We will be doing a lot of hands-on activities. Then we will move on to story problems with multiplication and division. Students are also using their math journals for vocabulary.

In ELAR (English, language arts, and reading), third graders are excited about reading Expository text! We started this second nine weeks learning about Expository text and the difference between a narrative and informative text. We are continuing to teach and practice good reader strategies and have introduced context clues. We will also be learning about the conventions and forms of poetry. The children are reading and writing poetry! 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 text based on a personal experience. We continue to teach and review 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 are holding onto their hats as they continue to sail successfully through multiplication facts. They are even learning algebraic concepts like commutative and associative properties! Coming up next is division! The explorers have come to Texas and are now establishing colonies. Students will find out what brought people to live in these colonies and the struggles that they faced. The weather is changing with the seasons so it is a perfect time to learn about weather and the water cycle. Students are wondering if we will see any snow this winter! We will be learning how to write letters and will be reading the book, Dear Mrs. Larue, to assist us. We are going to use our letter writing skills to write a sailor who is in boot camp. The students have also asked if they can write persuasive letters to Santa. We told them if they are really good we will consider it.



5<sup>th</sup> Grade

In math during the month of November, fifth graders at BES will be focused on multiplying and dividing decimals. Fifth graders have learned how to quickly multiply or divide a decimal by 10, 100, and 1000. Students are currently learning how to multiply and/or divide a decimal by a decimal. Next we will learn how to add and subtract fractions with UNLIKE denominators. This skill will require students to look for the "least common denominator" and identify equivalent fractions.

In science, students will learn about different forms of energy. They will focus on light and all that it can do. From this point, we go on to a topic of great interest: Texas resources. We will then move on to learn about geology, erosion, and landforms.

In social studies, the students are learning about the Colonial time period: leadership, daily life and culture are some current studies.

We have started "in school" tutoring groups to give students extra help. The skills we will be working on are idioms, drawing conclusions, explaining relationships among ideas, recognizing exaggerated statements in text, compare & contrast, researching, and writing a persuasive.