

**H L Brockett Elementary  
School Board Communications  
January 2015**



Parent & Community Involvement at the School:

Every Friday - Popcorn Friday!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who help each week with Popcorn Friday. This month 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, & 5<sup>th</sup> grade will enjoy their treat.

January 28 - Donuts for Dads - Celebrating Our Dads

We will be treating our dads to donuts and thanking them for all they do for Brockett Elementary, especially our Watch D.O.G.S. program.

January 30 - Attendance Review Meetings

Mrs. Lott and Mrs. Arrington will be meeting with select parents about their child's attendance.

February 5 & 6 - Captain's Crew Celebration

We will be hosting our Semester and 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-Week Spirit Stick awards. Parents and family members are invited to join in our celebration.

Around the school:

January 12 - Six Flags Reading Race

Students who read at least 6 hours during the four-week period and turned in their reading log by the deadline, will receive a free ticket to Six Flags to be used this summer.

## January 23 - UIL Reward Party

Our UIL students will be rewarded for all of their hard work. The competition was tough, but the students rose to the occasion, placing 1<sup>st</sup> overall in Sweeps and bringing the very first 4A Division II - District 9 Championship home to Aubrey, America!

## Testing:

January 7, 8 & 9 - Benchmark Testing for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

January 28 - After-school Tutoring Begins for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students



## In the Classrooms:



### Kindergarten

Kindergarten is back and ready to roll! In language arts we will pick back up with reading groups and sight words. Next week is our MOY TPRI assessments so we are diligently working on getting our students ready for deleting beginning/final sounds, rhyming, blending, etc. There is always great excitement in seeing how much our little ones have learned since the first of the year assessment. It also sets the tone for rigor in what needs to be worked on for the remainder of the year. Making predictions as we read and understanding what we read will be a big topic in January along with compound words, verbs, and nouns. We will continue to make word families and to journal daily. Our students are writing sentences each day and working hard on making them complete with all of the proper conventions of writing. We will kick off math continuing our number counting and recognition to 20. Along with that we will discuss 2 and 3 dimensional shapes and how they may look the same but are different. We are beginning science with the study of winter weather but most of the month in science we will discuss space. Social studies

topics will be Martin Luther King and what he stood for along with local community and the state of Texas. We will finish up this unit with our Texas themed week of fun! This is one of our favorite things to do in social studies! While all of the above is going on, we will continue counting down to our 100th day of school and be getting ready to turn in our first writing samples in March!



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

In ELAR, students will be studying long vowel patterns. We will also be continuing guided reading groups and literacy workstations. In writer's workshop we will be continuing to write personal narratives and informational stories. In math, we will continue learning addition and subtraction facts and begin our unit on tens and ones. In science we will begin our earth science unit. We will be studying landforms, bodies of water and rocks and soil. In social studies, we will also be studying landforms, bodies of water and natural resources and how they are used. We will also be reviewing map skills.



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

Second grade is busy, busy, busy!! In math, we are studying 3 digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. In reading, we are learning CHAPS strategies and how to effectively use these in our reading passages. Social studies is all about our ancestors and family tree. In science, we are studying our seasons and in language arts, narratives with details added and using quotation marks.



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

Third grade at Brockett is excited about learning!

In math for this month of January, third graders at Brockett will be reviewing fractions to prepare for their fraction unit test. Then in the following weeks of January, students will be working on analyzing data using different types of charts and graphs.

We are continuing to teach and practice good reader strategies. This month students will begin to explore the research process by selecting a topic and generating open-ended questions. Students will learn how to skim and scan text features in expository text to locate information to answer their research questions. In writing, students will be writing a narrative, expository, and persuasive essay. Students continue to study words, word parts, and word patterns in order to support the development of oral and written communication. We will continue modeling passion while reading and encourage each child to fall in love with reading. We continue to teach and review Writer's Workshop each day!

In science, we are excited to begin our unit on the Solar System! This is always one of our students' favorite subjects to learn about. Brockett third graders will be watching informative videos on United Streaming and will select a planet to research, which supports our reading unit this month on research. We are also looking forward to our unit on rocks and minerals. 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

After a restful break our fourth graders are ready for the final stretch of fourth grade. Division will be tackled in math. We will also continue to expand our knowledge and skills in measurement. Prefixes and homophones will be our focus in reading. We will continue to become expert writers practicing our expository and narrative compositions. Editing and revising will be fine-tuned over the next few weeks. Salt dough Alamos are fun to make as we learn about the battle of the Alamo and its significance to Texas history. Weather maps and tools help scientists predict weather. We will look at weather patterns and tools that help predict weather.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The new calendar year begins with a week of benchmark testing covering three subject matters: math, reading, and science. Following our benchmarks we will begin the unit on Geometry and measurement. Geometry will cover attributes of 2D shapes. Measurement will include finding perimeter, area, and volume as well as converting both customary and metric units of length, capacity, weight, and mass. We will end the month of January taking the M-Star test in order to continue monitoring progress and flag weaknesses.

In science, we are expanding our geological inquiries from the shaping of the earth's crust to the relationships of the earth, sun, and moon. The diurnal cycle, lunar cycle, characteristics, similarities, differences, as well as the effects of each celestial body are some of the concepts we will explore.

Social studies classes are working on mapping the thirteen colonies. Then we will study cultures in the colonies. We will also focus on the greatness of Benjamin Franklin before we start to revolt.

In ELAR, we are working on getting ready for the STAAR reading test. We are using the concepts of: point of view, author's perspective, story elements, plot, characters, theme, and text to self. The students will write a nonfiction newspaper that will be linked to what they are learning in social studies. We will reteach idioms and adages, analogies, Greek & Latin roots, prefixes & suffixes, dictionary skills, drama, and poetry.