

H L Brockett Elementary

Board Communication

September 2010



Around the School:

Outdoor Classroom

There is excitement blooming at H. L. Brockett Elementary! Several of our teachers' dreams for an outdoor classroom are about to become a reality! We have found the perfect spot, and even gotten a couple of donations to get us started!! Nick Gochis, of ALGC Construction and husband of H. L. Brockett Library Aide, Michelle Gochis, drew a beautiful rendering of our vision for an outdoor classroom. We have also received a very generous donation of a pond from Nick Randolph and Mike Marcom at Backyard Concepts, right here in our own backyard!! We are so excited for the opportunity for a rich, hands on learning experience for all Brockett Elementary students!

September 9 & 23 5th grade Camp Goddard Meeting: Camping anyone?

5th grade is preparing for our annual camping trip to Oklahoma. We will be staying at Camp Goddard in Sulphur, Oklahoma for three days of outdoor Science! Many of our Science TEKS will be taught in a hands-on environment. There are two trails to study: Man and Environment and Streams; canoeing, archery, fishing, and an AWESOME museum to visit. The museum is divided into three sections: dinosaurs, wildlife, and Native American. There are a few students that will not be able to attend due to financial restraints. The cost per students is \$120. If you would like to sponsor a child or make a donation, I know they would greatly appreciate it. We have chaperone meetings scheduled for 6:30 pm on Sept. 9th and 23rd in my classroom. Feel free to stop by and hear what's going on!

September 10 - 24 Brockett Elementary students will be selling Entertainment Membership books. Money raised from the coupon books will help fund our new Outdoor Classroom, student awards and an awning to cover our students' bikes from the sun and rain. Each book costs just \$25.00.

September 13 – 17 Our PTO is hosting a Grandparent's Week breakfast. Students may invite their grandparents to join them for a delicious breakfast and a picture to remember the day.

September 17 PTO provided a delicious lunch of sandwiches for the teachers and staff. Thank you PTO for all that you do for Brockett Elementary.

September 20 – 24 We will be holding elections for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade Student Council members.

September 22 See you at the pole. Gracie Sammons, Brockett Elementary 4th Grader, will be leading students at “See you at the pole.”

September 28 Choctaw storyteller and author, Tim Tingle, will be on campus presenting Choctaw stories and folktales to the students. Recently, Tim Tingle’s book, *Crossing Bok Chitto* was nominated for a 2009-2010 Bluebonnet Award. The students will have the opportunity to play Native American instruments, learn about different cultures, and have their favorite Tim Tingle books signed.

PTO Meeting – Through Library and PTO collaboration, the PTO will be having its first meeting of the year. Tim Tingle will be coming that night to present Choctaw stories and folktales to parents and students. Mrs. Clark, District Librarian, will also be speaking to parents about the Accelerated Reader program.

September 29 – October 1 Our 5th Grade students are heading to Camp Goddard for their annual field trip.

In the Classrooms:

Kindergarten This month in Kindergarten we are still learning procedures and how to follow the rules and use good manners. We are introducing our Daily 5. We have learned how to Read to Self. We will be introducing how to Read to Someone, Listen to Reading, Word Work and Work on Writing. We have been learning each others names. In math we are learning about alike and different, same, more than and less than.

1st Grade 2010-2011 has started off to be a great year! We got acquainted with our new first graders on Meet the Teacher Night in August, and had a great turn out for our Annual Parent Orientation Night on August 30th. We began the year with fun “get-to-know-each-other” activities as well as learning about healthy habits at school and home. We have also begun learning about concepts of print, reading sight words, graphing and patterns in math, and we will be having our first spelling test in mid September! We’re off to a great start!

2nd Grade Second Grade is enjoying introducing the Daily 5 which we are implementing in class during our Guided Reading time. We are studying place value and word problems in Math. In Language Arts, we are discussing short vowels and in Social Studies, we are talking about Communities. In Science, we are having lots of fun with some experiments in measurement. Second Grade is off and running toward a successful year!

3rd Grade 3rd Grade at H.L. Brockett Elementary has gotten off to a wonderful start for the 2010-2011 school year. What an awesome group of children we have here!!! Expectations and procedures were easily reviewed and practiced and are now well underway. The month of September will find us teaching and learning the following...

In reading, we are introducing our CHAPS reading strategies and analyzing story characters and setting. We began the year in math reviewing addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. We have

moved on to place value and will soon be having more fun with numbers as we compare and order, skip count, and round and estimate. In Language Arts we have already begun writing great stories and are reviewing nouns, types of sentences, and punctuation. The life cycles of animals are grabbing the attention of all in our science studies and communities and citizenship is the topic of the month for Social Studies.

We are excited about all that lies ahead for us this year as we set our sights on striving for and reaching our high expectations and goals.

4th Grade This month in 4th grade we are working hard! For Language Arts, we are doing a lot of brainstorming to come up with exciting ideas for the papers we will be writing this year! The students are focusing on topics, and narrowing them down into more specific details. We are continuing to work on grammar everyday. Each week the students are receiving a new spelling list to study for our spelling test each Friday. This month, we are working on Units 2 through 6. Math is going great this year. We have some outstanding mathematicians! We have been working on place value, addition, subtraction, and rounding. For reading in the month of September, we will be reinforcing our Aubrey CHAPS strategies on our TAKS passages. We will be discussing main idea, and continue to work on making inferences. During social studies, students will be learning all about maps and what they entail. Map skills are after all, a very important thing to know! Last but not least, students will be learning about rocks, soils, minerals, and erosion this month in science. They have become quite the little scientists this year! All is well in the fabulous, fantastic, fourth grade!

5th Grade Fifth grade is off to a running start. The students have settled in and are doing a great job adjusting to switching classes and having four teachers instead of one. In Math, we have started off strong. We have begun our new Lone Star Math program, which is a daily bulletin board program that previews and reviews math skills daily. It seems to be working great and the kiddos are really catching on. I think this will truly benefit our students since it reviews the skills all year long. We have also been working on Place Value with Whole Numbers and Decimals. The students have enjoyed reading, writing and comparing these types of numbers. Decimal War was a fun activity with the students. They enjoyed comparing decimals to see who could win the battle. Looking forward to a great year with these Awesome Aubrey America students!

The 5th graders have started reading *Hatchet*, by Gary Paulsen. We have talked about ways to choose a book, and books that are just right for them to read. They have all gone to the library. They made schema folders to make them aware of their prior knowledge. The skills we have worked on have been fluency, connections in reading, and story elements. This week we are working on context clues and vocabulary.

5th graders were given the writing prompt: "If your dinner last night had to take the witness stand and defend its nutritional value what would it say in its defense? What is the final outcome – guilty or innocent?" After the students wrote their defense, we held a "Food Court" (not at the mall) and they acted out their dramatizations. I was very impressed with the student's efforts.

In 5th grade science, students are learning to think, act, and measure like scientists. We adjusted our spectacles and tighten our pocket protectors as we learn the scientific method and science skills.