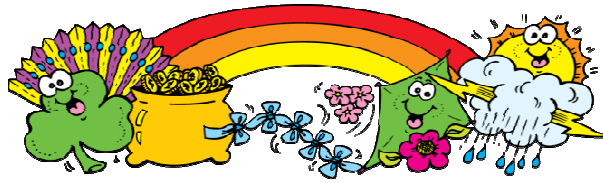


H L Brockett Elementary  
March 2011 Board Communications



Around the School:

March 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing TAKS test

March 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Library hosted several special events in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. Mrs. Lott even dressed up as "The Cat in the Hat" for morning assembly.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Brockett Elementary hosted the Local Battle of the Books competition. 6 Brockett teams and 4 Monaco teams competed. The top 2 teams moved on to the Regional Battle of the Books meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

March 4<sup>th</sup> - Our fabulous PTO hosted another of their fabulous luncheons for teachers and staff. Thank you PTO!

March 11<sup>th</sup> - The teachers had a "pot-luck" luau in honor of Spring Break and March birthdays.

March 21<sup>st</sup> - Brockett Elementary started its spring cookie dough fundraiser. Proceeds will help purchase student awards and incentives. Students who sell 5 packages of cookie dough will receive a stuffed animal and the class that sells the most will receive a giant one.

March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> - Monte B will be on campus taking spring pictures and group pictures of our students.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - The Regional Battle of the Books tournament will be held at Monaco Elementary. One team from Brockett and one team from Monaco advanced to the event. Good luck students.

March 24<sup>th</sup> - Our Kindergarten students will be attending a field trip to Will Rogers Auditorium to see Steven Fite's "It's Groovy Great to Educate" concert. Following the concert, students will head to Eureka Park to enjoy a picnic lunch.

March 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> - Mrs. Lott is hosting her 4th 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.

March 25<sup>th</sup> - The Brockett PTO is hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Fling at the Aubrey High School football field. Radio Disney will be at the event again this year. Please join us for a night of fun and games.

March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be heading to the "Bloomfield One Room Schoolhouse" again this year. Students are encouraged to dress up in period clothing for the event.

March 28<sup>th</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup> - The Library will be hosting their annual spring book fair.

March 31<sup>st</sup> - Please join us for the Brockett Open House from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. You will be able to visit our Book Fair, the new Outdoor Classroom, the Computer Labs, and see our Science Fair projects.



In the Classroom:



Kindergarten:

Students have been busy learning about the world around us. In science, we talked about living and nonliving things while we compared gummy worms to real worms! We also learned about the water cycle and rocks. In social studies, we will begin to learn about the great state of Texas. We will discuss the mockingbird, bluebonnets, Lone Star flag and many more Texan things. We ended our 2 week study of Texas with a Texas Round-up day! We had chili tasting, horse racing, square dancing and other fun activities.

In language arts, we continue to read, read, read! We are learning middle sounds in words and how to write words by using the letter sounds we know.

Everyday we continue to write stories and share them with our friends. In math, we are having fun learning to add.

We look forward to our field trip in late March to see Stephen Fite in concert!



1st Grade:

In reading, we are studying fairytales. We are using fairytales to help students learn about the sequencing and elements of stories, such as characters, setting, problem, solution, and main idea. We will also be comparing the fairytale "Pinocchio" as a book, movie, and play. In language arts, we are continuing to learn about clusters in words, and how those clusters can help us write new words. We are learning to add sequence words to our stories.

In math, we are learning about measurement. We are comparing and ordering objects by length, weight, capacity, and area. In science, we are learning about force, simple machines, and how different types of force make objects move in different ways. We will also begin our unit on water, soil, and rocks.

In social studies, we are learning about the great State of Texas. We are reading various books about our great state, as well as learning about its symbols and historical figures.



2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

We are very busy in 2nd grade. In math, we are studying about money, using several activities and games to enforce learning. In reading, we are studying context clues and story elements, along with a unit on Arthur. In social studies, we are learning about our country. Science is exciting, as we work on our conservation and recycling unit. We are reviewing "Peer Editing" in writing and working with commas.



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Spring is quickly approaching! 3<sup>rd</sup> grade has been very busy with many exciting activities! We studied Black History and its many important figures during February as well as simple and complex machinery. Throughout March, we will be

studying many interesting topics as well. In reading, we are reviewing context clues, multi-meaning words, sequencing, and prefixes/suffixes. Our focus in math will be on problem solving and everyday math problems.

The students have been enjoying studying and creating cultural art and learning about Impressionism in social studies. Our hallway is lined with beautiful artwork that the children made using watercolors, inspired by Impressionist artists such as Monet and Renoir. We have been preparing in science for our upcoming project detailing the planets. The students will be doing extensive research and presenting their findings. Our focal point in language arts is poetry. We will be studying several different authors and types of poetry and then writing our own throughout the month; examples of our poetry are also displayed in the hallway. We have also been utilizing and appreciating the outdoor classroom thus far! The year is going by so quickly and things are really kicking into high gear! ☺



4<sup>th</sup> grade:

Spring is here and we rejoice as we see new blooms on the trees and flowers bursting forth! Fourth graders have been blooming and growing all year and are almost ready for 5th grade! Fourth grade would like to extend a thank you to everyone who helped with our outdoor classroom. It will be utilized and be a great teaching tool. We have now put the Writing TAKS behind us. We know that all of our students gave it their best and we are very proud of them.

The next few weeks will be focused on reviewing what we have learned this year, and of course learning a few new things! The students are discovering that fractions are fun as we compare and put them in order in math. We are giving it our best as we review and practice cursive writing and begin a poetry unit in English. We have learned about the battle at the Alamo and the struggles that Texas faced as a Republic. In the next few weeks, we will learn how Texas became a state and why that decision was made. Spring in Texas can bring about some crazy weather which makes it a great time to focus on weather in science. We will learn about different types of weather that we experience and identify clouds and what they mean. Soon, we will step back in time one hundred years and travel up the road a piece to the Bloomfield One Room Schoolhouse. There we will experience a day as a pioneer school child. We will also begin the novel, Little House in the Big Woods. We look forward to spring and the wonderful things that spring brings us.



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

In reading, we are reviewing reading skills that have been taught earlier in the year. Some students are in pull out tutoring and also afterschool tutoring. The students are working very hard to get ready for TAKS. After spring break, we plan on starting Esperanza Rising, by Pam Munoz Ryan. The skills we will be working on are compare and contrast, genre, theme, myths, effects of historical events, and point of view, and poetry.

In math, students have been focusing on their skills in measurement. We have worked on measurement conversions, elapsed time, perimeter, area, and volume. The students have participated in a variety of activities to help them understand the different concepts. We have used rulers to measure different surfaces to determine their perimeter and area. These are great skills that students can truly apply to the real world. We looked at different size rugs and determined the area they would cover. We also discussed that you must first determine the area before knowing how much carpet and how many tiles you would need to cover a specific size area. With TAKS right around the corner, we will begin going back over the different TEKS and gaining a better understanding of the skills. We will do this through different activities that will have an impact and stick with the students the day of the test. For example, to review Coordinate Grids, the students will partner with a classmate and play a game of Battleship. These are great hands-on experiences that the students will remember. They are working extremely hard; and we are looking forward to great achievements from this group of young adults.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Writing Workshop is working awesomely! It is very encouraging to see the students working so hard on all of their writing papers. Students are arranged in table groups (5 students per group) and are continually writing! I assign an essay a week to be drafted. Afterwards the students revise their papers according to the "six traits of good writing" process. Then, they have someone at their table "peer edit"; and finally a final draft is prepared. For the final step of the writing process (publishing), students either present their papers to the class or we go to the technology lab and type and print them.