

Bear Tracks

Volume 19, Issue 08

November 29, 2018



Dates to Remember



- **Nov. 30**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Good Citizenship
- **Dec. 5**
 - ◆ Interim Reports
 - ◆ Showcase of Schools, 5:00-7:00 pm, Columbia Convention Center
- **Dec. 6**
 - ◆ Parent Information Session, 5:30 pm
- **Dec. 11**
 - ◆ Parent Information Session, 8:30 am
- **Dec. 14**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Responsibility
- **Dec. 18**
 - ◆ PTO Meeting & Winter Strings Concert, 6:00 pm
- **Dec. 21**
 - ◆ Make-up day for students
 - ◆ NOON DISMISSAL
- **Dec. 24-Jan. 4**
 - ◆ Winter Break
- **Jan. 7**
 - ◆ Students return to school

Principal's Message

Dear Brockman Families,

We begin each day as a school community reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We also practice a deep breathing exercise and share a moment of silence together. This routine is central to our Montessori philosophy, because as a school community we focus not only on academic growth, but also recognize the importance of growing social and emotional skills. The deep breathing exercise helps to develop emotional self-regulation. We know that children will encounter stressful and challenging situations throughout their lives. Our goal is to teach them to be resilient and face challenging times with optimism and an "I can" attitude. Deep breathing exercises help to calm our bodies and increase oxygen flow. It's a strategy that we practice so that when a tough situation arises, your child can use it. You can continue the practice at home. You can ask your child "What is your favorite breathing exercise?" I'm guessing that they might choose the balloon breath or the bumblebee breath. These are favorites and frequently requested here! You can even ask them to teach YOU the breath! Together we can develop resiliency in our children.

Thank you for your continued support!

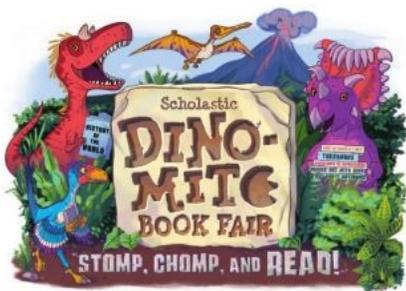
Dr. Stark

"Wee Deliver" is Open for Business!



We're sending a big Brockman "Thank You" to our "Wee Deliver" postal workers: Sadie Williamson, Gracie Daly, Micheal Kawooya, and Promise Curry! "Wee Deliver" is our school's postal system which gives students the opportunity to write letters to friends throughout the school community. We appreciate our wonderful volunteers that collect, sort and deliver the mail every Tuesday and Thursday mornings! *"Happiness is receiving unexpected mail."*

Book Fair is Coming!



December 3-7, 2018

School shopping hours:
Monday, Wednesday & Friday
7:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday
7:00 a.m.—6:00 pm

Online shopping available at
Scholastic.com/fair
November 28 to December 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!
If you can volunteer to help at the Book Fair, please use the following link to sign up.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080d4bada92ba1fd0-brockman>

"May I See Your ID Please?"

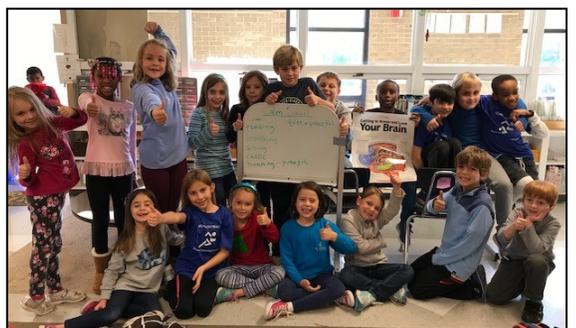
Beginning Monday, December 3rd, please have your ID available when coming to visit or volunteer. Our security software has been updated and we will need to process all visitors into the new system.



Ms. Huf will be asking for your ID when you come to volunteer, drop off snacks, or enjoy lunch with your student(s), so have that license ready to be scanned! This procedure may take a few extra moments so please be patient. Our goal is to provide the safest environment for our community. If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach Ms. Huf at arleita.hufstetler@richlandone.org for any questions or concerns.

Guidance

In classroom guidance lessons, Upper and Lower elementary students are learning about how their brains work and why we practice mindful activities to "train our brains" to know how to calm down when we get upset. In Primary classes, we are learning about sharing and using kind words, or as we call it "I-Care" language.



Check out the link below for a 3 minute Growth Mindset video about the effects of the language we use when praising children.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rxLMUw57Gis>

Primary

Have you looked closely at our primary classrooms? Montessori classrooms are designed specifically to provide order, and give children independence. The environment is carefully designed so that students can select lessons, move them to their workspace, work on them independently or with a partner and then return them. They are child-sized and include thousands of pieces organized thoughtfully in baskets, containers and on trays. It's an amazing scene to observe as children as young as 3 years old choose and care for materials. The sense of pride is evident as children know the routine and complete their work with focused attention. You can build this independence at home as well. Think about ways that you ask your child to care for herself or to help the family. You might ask your child to fold or put away clothing after laundry. You can ask your child to set the table or wipe it after a meal. You can certainly do the tasks more quickly and in our busy lives, we may be tempted to do just that, but if you consider each task a part of your child's development to build independence and confidence, it's well worth the extra time!



Lower Elementary

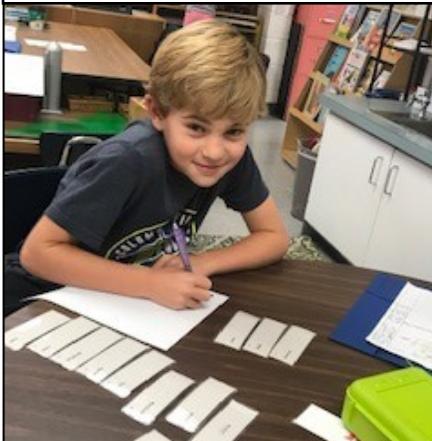
Spelling by Claire Fancher

I love to spell. Spelling can be fun if you practice. In my classroom, we have a lesson called spelling ladders. I love spelling ladders. First you write the letter/letters. Then you write the words. Then you write them without looking at a card that shows you the word and only look at a book that shows you pictures of the word. After that, you go ask a friend to test you. After your friend tests you, you put your paper where work goes and your teacher tests you. In the lesson you learn how to spell words. This is important because you learn to spell words you do not know. I really like spelling ladders.



Suffixes by Brennan Fudger

One of the lessons we practice in our room is Suffixes. You lay out the cards. Then you read the suffixes. Then you see if the root word and suffix make a new word. You get to learn new vocabulary and new suffixes. It is important to know that a suffix always comes after a root word. I enjoy learning about suffixes.



Upper Elementary

As Dr. Maria Montessori stated, "Humans naturally tend to calculate, measure, reason, abstract, imagine and create. But this vital part of intelligence must be given help and direction for it to develop and function." From Number Rods to Golden Beads to Fraction Circles, Montessori classrooms abound with "materialized abstractions," manipulatives that assist even young children to gain understanding of abstract math concepts using concrete materials. This process continues in upper elementary, where students can experience concepts related to numbers and operations in base ten, algebra, geometry, measurement, and fractions with physical materials that help them bridge the gap between the concrete and the abstract.



Health Room Reminders

As the weather changes and it gets colder outside, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. Coats and clothes should be labeled. Our "lost and found" grows quickly this time of year with coats and hats.

The Health Room could use some pants, particularly sweat pants since they can be worn by all students. Sizes needed are from 4K to 12 years.

Remind your children to cover their mouths when they cough and/or sneeze. Coughing and/or sneezing into the elbow does little good if their mouth is not covered. Covering the mouth with a tissue should always be the first choice. You can buy little tissue packets for your child so they can keep them close. And PLEASE WASH THOSE HANDS!

Here's to a healthy December!

Nurse Hubbard

Thank You



R. Sims Tompkins, DMD MS

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