

Bear Tracks

Volume 19, Issue 10

January 17, 2019



Dates to Remember



- **Jan. 18**
 - ◆ 5th level students tour Sanders Middle Montessori Program
- **Jan. 21**
 - ◆ MLK Jr. Holiday—NO SCHOOL
- **Jan. 22**
 - ◆ Dance and Drama presentation to 5th Level Students
- **Jan. 23**
 - ◆ Report Cards
- **Jan. 24**
 - ◆ Sanders Middle Donuts and Drop-ins, 10:30-Noon
- **Jan. 25**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Self Discipline
- **Jan. 29**
 - ◆ Parent Education Night: Modern Montessori Family, 6:00 p.m.
- **Jan. 30**
 - ◆ Dance and Drama Auditions for 5th Level Students
- **Jan. 31**
 - ◆ Registration Night at Sanders Middle for families of rising 6th Grade Students, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Feb. 1**
 - ◆ Awareness: The Key to Friendship (for Upper Elementary students)
- **Feb. 11**
 - ◆ Staff Appreciation
- **Feb. 14**
 - ◆ Valentine's Day
- **Feb. 15**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Caring

Guidance

Calling all Career Presenters!

At the elementary level, career development education is all about promoting awareness of the world of work and exposing children to a wide variety of occupations. Each spring we schedule Career Presenters to come to Brockman and give a 30-45 presentation to our students about their profession. If you or someone you know might be interested in volunteering as a Career Presenter, please fill out this brief form found at the link below. Contact Georgia Godfrey, School Counselor, if you have any questions.

<https://tinyurl.com/Career-Presenter>

Principal's Message

Dear Brockman Families,

We finished our first semester of the school year this week. Where did the time go? As we move into the second semester, we will thoughtfully prepare for the upcoming school year. We take great care to help children make a smooth transition, whether it is through bridging or simply growing in the same classroom community. I'd like to take a moment to talk about our youngest children and our 5th level students moving to middle school.

We recently held Parent Information Sessions for prospective new students. It was great to see the excitement of parents for Montessori education! It reminded me how challenging it is for new parents to learn about our school culture, procedures and special events. We have been talking with our School Improvement Council and we think that we can improve in this area, but we'd like to hear from you. If you are new to our school, please consider taking the survey that is on our school website. We'd like to hear your ideas about how we can best support families who are new to our school community.

Our 5th level students are in a unique situation as they will make a decision with their family about continuing with Montessori education. Our district has a Montessori program at Sanders Middle School and on Friday our 5th level students will be visiting the program and talking with students. They will also have the opportunity to tour Crayton Middle School on March 11th and 12th at 6:30 p.m. with their parents to learn about this program. In early April, most students will have made a decision and both schools will send students and teachers to our building to talk with our 5th level students and their parents. It's an exciting time and we want to reassure them that both options have terrific opportunities to learn and make new friends!

Thank you for your continued support!
Dr. Heidi Stark

Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to all of the Upper Elementary students who participated in the Science Fair! We were impressed with the creative ideas and the scientific findings! We would be amiss not to thank the parents as well; we know that you lent a helping hand! We were able to send eleven projects to the District competition. Congratulations to these students whose projects were selected for this special recognition!

Ruby Cecchini	Jake Jones	Caroline Kuhn
Liv Homewood	Lydea Broughton	Carter Levens
Jared Davis	Evie Duffy	Luke Tremble
Marina Rizos	Tsali Ray	

Special congratulations to Jared Davis who earned 2nd place in the Richland One contest and Carter Levens who earned 3rd place. Jared's project was titled "Go with the Flow." He tested liquid viscosity at varying temperatures. Carter's project was "Does paper airplane shape affect how long it stays in the air?" Both projects are eligible to go to the regional science fair at USC in March. Thank you to Mrs. Anderson for organizing our participation and to the students from A.C. Flora High School who judged our projects. They reported that it was a tough task, because there were so many terrific projects!



Primary

The Importance of Playtime at Home

For children unstructured playtime is a time of discovery. It is an opportunity for your child to process and explore things he is learning without being directly taught. Allowing your child to have free time in their daily life gives him the opportunity to recharge, think and figure things out for himself. Children do not need to be always on the go. They need and actually crave down time at home. You can help create this opportunity for your child by making sure he is not overscheduled with after school activities and actually has some time at home. Create places inside and outside where your child can explore and play without your involvement and direction. Play provides many benefits for children. Through play children develop who they are. Their cognitive, language and physical skills develop through play experiences as well as their imagination, concentration, self – confidence and social skills.

“Imagination does not become great until human beings, given the courage and the strength, use it to create.”

— Maria Montessori



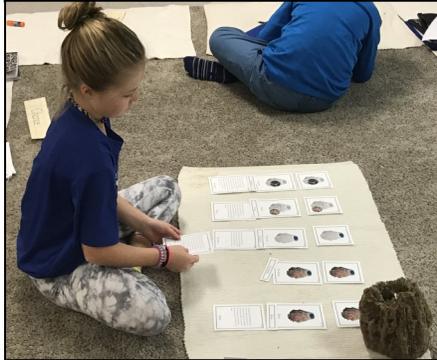
Brockman Elementary is joining together to TACKLE hunger!

Mrs. B. Brown's class is sponsoring our effort to support the Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign. You can help by sending in a can of soup to tackle hunger in our community! We are collecting cans in our cafeteria through Feb. 1st!

Lower Elementary

Every year we are presented the five Great Lessons. The five great lessons help us learn about everything in the lower elementary. The first great lesson is about the universe and we study the solar system, the earth, and things like that. We are studying the second great lesson and it is about the coming of animals. For the last 2 weeks we have been learning about the porifera. We learned that the porifera is an invertebrate and the simplest animal. It has pores and lives in the ocean. An example of a porifera is a sponge. We use 3 part cards to help us learn the parts of a porifera. Three part cards help us learn vocabulary. When practicing we write down the cards and draw the pictures. It can take a few days to complete. Next week we will learn about the next invertebrate and practice the 3 part cards for that.

Written by Salley Humphries



Thank You

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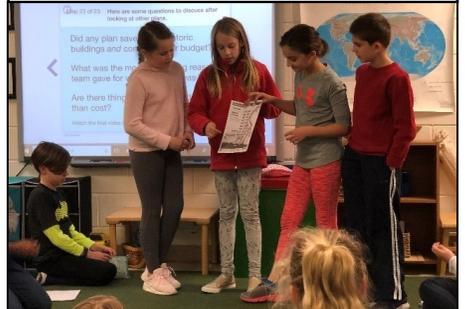


R. Sims Tompkins, DMD MS



Upper Elementary

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) topics and applications are important aspects of learning in the Montessori upper elementary classroom. It is not enough to know discrete bits of information, it is vital that students use that information in an authentic, meaningful way. One recent example of 4th and 5th graders exploring science and engineering practices include 4th level science students forecasting weather based on their knowledge of fronts and weather patterns. In a different scenario, they were tasked to complete an engineering challenge in which they collaborated, with specific constraints, to protect a hypothetical coastal town from hurricane damage. Both 4th and 5th level students also explore a variety of STEM careers by researching famous men and women, historical and contemporary, with BioBottle projects that highlight key STEM individuals and their contributions to society. Upper elementary students work closely in mixed-grade teams with Problem of the Month scenarios that require them to explore a variety of ways to solve non-routine math problems.



Yearbook Pictures Needed

Do you have pictures of Peace Day, First Day of School, Brockman Bash, Winter Performance or other Brockman related pictures to submit for consideration for the 2018-19 YEARBOOK? Send the yearbook committee your best photos. We love close-ups, group shots, and photos showing a diverse crowd. Send photos to brockmanyearbook@gmail.com. Also...

Yearbook Baby Photos Needed for Rising 6th Graders

Attention parents of rising 6th grade students! We need a baby picture of your Brockman Graduate for the Yearbook. We want every rising 6th grade student to be included. Please send your photo to brockmanyearbook@gmail.com. Deadline is March 1st.

