

Bear Tracks

Volume 19, Issue 12

February 14, 2019



Dates to Remember

- **Feb. 14**
 - ◆ Valentine's Day
- **Feb. 15**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Caring
- **Feb. 17–22**
 - ◆ Randon Acts of Kindness Week
- **Feb. 18**
 - ◆ President's Day–Student Holiday
- **Feb. 19**
 - ◆ Drama Classes begin for L.E. students
- **Feb. 20**
 - ◆ Interim Reports
- **Feb. 22**
 - ◆ Sanders Middle Donuts and Drop Ins, 9:30–11:00 am
- **Feb. 24–March 1**
 - ◆ Montessori Education Week
- **Feb. 26**
 - ◆ Field Trip–Primary students to see "Cat in the Hat" at Koger Center
 - ◆ Parent Education Night–Learning at the Hands of the Child, 6:00 pm
- **March 1**
 - ◆ Daylight Savings Time begins
- **March 5**
 - ◆ Crayton Middle School Counselors visit Brockman 5th level students
- **March 7**
 - ◆ Field Trip–Grade 1 to Riverbanks Zoo, 8:30-1:00
- **March 8**
 - ◆ Make up day for students & staff
 - ◆ NOON DISMISSAL
- **March 11-12**
 - ◆ Crayton Middle hosts workshops for parents of rising 6th grade students, 6:30 pm
- **March 13**
 - ◆ Field Trip–Grade 2 to Saluda Shoals, 9:00-1:00
- **March 15**
 - ◆ FAB Auction, 6:00 p.m.
- **March 17**
 - ◆ St. Patrick's Day

Fine Arts Booster Organization Dance Report

We had a great first semester of fun with Ms. Lori Jacobson in weekly dance classes. The semester started with an introduction to mindful movement and dance basics from ballet, jazz, and hip hop and plenty of FORT NITE emoji dances for all students.

Ms. Lori created choreography for the finale of the Upper El theatrical performance. It was a show stopper! (See photo)



Upper El students are now creating their own choreography for the song Human Nature by Beautiful Chorus (inspired by Michael Jackson's Human Nature). And continue to work and explore all kinds of different movements, working in groups, listening and respecting the ideas of others, cooperating, and supporting each other while having a lot of fun. Fort Nite dances are extremely popular and most students know at least 15-20 different dances from just this segment of the class programming. Along with learning these fun dance, Ms. Lori includes information about the origins of the dances from a historical perspective.

Lower El students learned hip hop choreography to Can't Stop the Feeling! By Justin Timberlake, as well as continuing to deepen their understanding of dance mechanics and body control. Lower El also enjoys plenty of dance games and many are very inspired by Ms. Lori's occasional hoop dance performances in class. Next time you see the kids on the playground, take note of how many are hula hooping!

Primary students have been working on mindfulness, body control and focusing energy. Primary classes play a lot of dance games like the Hokey Pokey, freeze dance, and follow the leader/Simon says. And they learn basic choreography and movements for ballet, jazz and hip hop. Ms. Lori has even taught them to do Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in French!

All classes also get regular stretching and yoga in class. Both to calm the mind and recenter students in their body, for focus and energy.

Primary

Freedom with limits? Huh?

This is a simple phrase that Montessori teachers use often. What we mean is to first show the child how to do something and then leave them free to practice. However, many people assume this means that they are free to do as they please- this is NEVER the case. Maria Montessori wrote, "To let the child do as he likes when he has not yet developed any powers of control is to betray the idea of freedom." She understood that first children must learn "how to" before they can be set free to explore and practice. Many psychologists say there are two kinds of caregivers: the directive, someone who has an overall routine in place while the non-directive just goes with the flow at all times. The Montessori philosophy teaches that both are valuable but must be chosen by the adult as to when and where they are to be used. As teachers and parents we are to be directive in certain areas: routines for the day such as brushing teeth, getting dressed, getting to school on time, etc. The directive teacher/parent also helps guide students to choosing meaningful work and modeling for them how to do new things. When this is established and ground rules are understood then the teacher/parent can become the non-directive adult, watching and learning from observing when and what the child chooses. At home, the parent should first be a directive adult aiding the child in making proper choices at playtime and chore time. The parent sets clear expectations and guidelines. Once this is established then the parent can become more non-directive and watch the child become a unique individual choosing things for him/herself. When we partner together to send the same message at school and at home it benefits the child and lets them know that home and school are places where adults are caring individuals that are helping the child learn how to conduct him/herself with great skill and knowledge so they can become caring, confident, independent life long learners.

See picture next column

Lower Elementary

Uninterrupted Work Time

In the mornings we have Uninterrupted work time (UWT) in our classroom. UWT is when we work to complete the morning lessons we have planned. In our class, we complete one language, two math lessons, a journal, spelling or handwriting and a reading assignment. In other classes they complete different amounts of lessons during work time. Right now, our favorite math lesson in UWT is, Test Tubes. Our favorite language lesson is the Tower lessons. Test Tubes helps you with division. The Towers help you with words like compounds, suffixes and roots. Handwriting in UWT helps us learn cursive. Sometimes if we don't finish all of our work we get to do it in the afternoon. If we goof off, we have to stay in or we walk around the playground. We do a lot of lessons during work time and it is very uninterrupted.

Mamie Biel and Jasper Comer



Freedom with Limits?



Upper Elementary

Awareness: The Key to Friendship Program

Brockman Upper El students have the opportunity every year to participate in The Key to Friendship Awareness. This is an awesome opportunity that allows the students to experience firsthand what it is like to have a disability. Friendship Awareness is an educational activity to learn about different disabilities. No one is exactly the same as someone else. We are all different and special in many ways. Disabilities can include the way someone learns, hears, moves, sees or feels.

During The Key to Friendship Awareness activity we went to different stations where we were able to learn about and experience what it is like to have a disability.

For instance in "Trust Walk," we wore blindfolds and had someone lead us around. We could not see anything and had to trust the person leading us not to walk us into someone or a table. It made you feel a little nervous, but now we know what it feels like to not be able to see. Another station called "Finger Reading" taught us about Braille. We got to write our names in Braille and decode a message written in Braille. Visually impaired or blind people use Braille in everyday life to read and write. "I Can't Hear You," was a station that demonstrated to us what it is like to not hear well. We put earplugs in and then played Simon Says. It was challenging to understand and hear the commands. "Mirror Reading" helped us understand better what it is like to have Dyslexia.

Dyslexia makes it hard to read because you see things upside down and backwards. Being in a wheelchair is not easy and takes a lot of concentration. In "Ramp Rolling" we learned that it takes great skill to drive and steer a wheelchair. Turning off a light switch, opening a door and even getting water from the fountain become huge tasks.

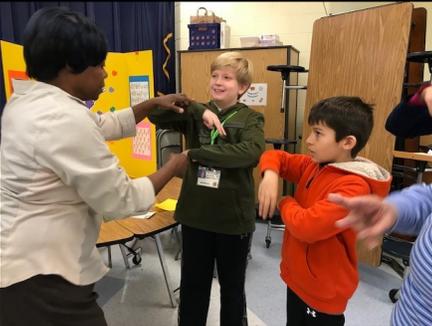
All the stations involved activities to help us gain a better understanding of what it is like to live with a disability. Experiencing everyday skills from a different perspective was challenging and meaningful.

Awareness: The Key to Friendship

In early February, Upper Elementary students participated in our annual event called Awareness: The Key to Friendship. This educational program teaches understanding and sensitivity towards people with disabilities. The program involves 12 stations which are designed to develop empathy through activities that simulate learning disabilities, deafness or hearing impairments, blindness or visual impairments, and physical disabilities. Students participated in interactive learning experiences about a variety of topics such as American Sign Language, dyslexia, Braille, and wheelchair mobility.

Thank you so much to all our school, parent, and district volunteers who helped make this event a success!!!

(Please see the student written article on the previous page)



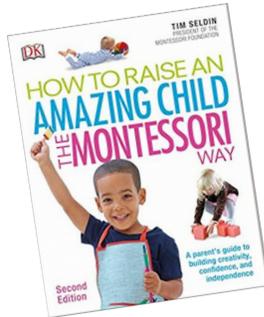
Brockman Spiritwear Donations

Look for the Brockman Spiritwear pass-along table on Tuesday, February 26th at the 'Learning at the Hands of the Child' event night.

Bring your gently worn items to donate, and pick up one in a new size! One item per child per year, please.

Thanks for your support of and enthusiasm for this fun recycling program!

“How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way”



Fitness Bowl

Brockman Elementary placed 8th out of 14 teams in the Richland One Elementary School Fitness Bowl on Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Walker Grove was a top 10 finisher and was named to the All-District Boys Fitness Team.

John Grove came in 12th place for the boys and Naomi Martin tied for 11th place for the girls. All of our team gave their best effort, were true sportsmen, and made Brockman proud!



Dance Your Heart Out

To promote another fun way to help maintain fitness, the Brockman Wellness Council has been hosting the "Dance Your Heart Out!" after-school dance event each year since 2011.

Every student in the school (4K-5th grade) is invited to participate. Students perform fun line dances that they learned in Physical Education class mixed with GoNoodle dances. All together they perform 10 dances within an hour. Brockman students LOVE to Dance Their Heart Out!!!



Nature Nurturers Club

Attention all nature-lovers!!! Brockman's newest after-school offering is in partnership with 4H. We will focus on everything wild while in the framework of the 4H tenets of head, heart, hands, and health. Get your hands dirty as we dig into projects and crafts based around STEM curriculum. Grades K-5th. Starting February 28, we will meet this semester on Thursdays from 2.30-4 pm in the Greenhouse and outside, weather permitting. Cost is free. Be on the lookout for a permission form coming home! Deadline is February 18; return ASAP as we will cap at the first 25 participants in our inaugural year. Questions? Contact Tara Felder at taramfelder@gmail.com or 803.351.5921

Diaper Drive



Hello Brockman Families!

This month we will be doing a diaper drive. We will be collecting diapers (sizes 3-5) for Richland County First Steps - Early Head Start. The diapers will be given to families who have babies and toddlers which need diapers, but who cannot afford them. Please donate, if you can. The diapers can be placed in boxes set-up near the library and in the cafeteria. Next time you go grocery shopping, remember to pick up some diapers! Note: in England a diaper is called a "nappy."

Thanks,
Marissa D.L.C. & Gabbie K.

Brockman Elementary A National Blue Ribbon School



Race for the Place

The Race for the Place 5K Run/Walk and Kid's Fun Run will be Saturday, February 23rd. Sign up at <https://www.strictlyrunning.com/gpsrclgnReg-9f.asp>

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.

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 brockman-yearbook@gmail.com. Deadline is March 1st.

Thank You

Corporate Sponsors!



R. Sims Tompkins, DMD MS

