

Bear Tracks

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Dates to Remember



- **Sept. 26**
 - ◆ Interim Reports go home
- **Sept. 27**
 - ◆ High Five Friday with the Richland Co. Sheriff's Dept. during morning car line
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Honesty
- **Oct. 1**
 - ◆ Parents may begin classroom observations.
 - ◆ Parents may also begin joining their child(ren) for lunch.
- **Oct. 2**
 - ◆ School Picture Day—Bring your SMILE!
- **Oct. 3**
 - ◆ Parent Education Night, 6:15–7:15 pm
- **Oct. 7**
 - ◆ SIC Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Oct. 9**
 - ◆ Walk at School Day
- **Oct. 21**
 - ◆ FUNd Run Kick Off
- **Oct. 23**
 - ◆ End of 1st Nine Weeks
- **Oct. 25**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Cooperation
- **Oct. 26**
 - ◆ Brockman Bash, 6:30–8:30 pm
- **Oct. 28–Nov. 1**
 - ◆ Red Ribbon Week
- **Oct. 28–Oct. 31**
 - ◆ No CRP—Intersession Week
- **Oct. 30**
 - ◆ Report Cards Issued
 - ◆ Safe & Sound Town, 1st grade
 - ◆ Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30 pm
- **Oct. 31**
 - ◆ Student Holiday
 - ◆ Teacher Professional Day

Principal's Message



Dear Brockman Families,

This past weekend I spent lots of time with my one year old grandson and five year old granddaughter. In this role as a grandparent, I have an opportunity to watch their growth and think about my hopes and dreams for them. I want them to grow into strong, thoughtful and caring people, and as educators, we want the same for your children. We define these hopes and dreams as outcomes that include executive function skills, literacy, numeracy, social fluency and emotional flexibility. This week, I will focus solely on executive function skills. These are sometimes referred to as soft skills and in traditional programs might be defined as "work habits." Executive function skills are known to be essential for both school and life.

These skills grow more sophisticated with age and experience. In our primary classrooms, executive function skills include focused attention, independence and developing the ability to resist impulses. While children are increasing their physical independence in primary classrooms, in our lower and upper elementary classrooms, children grow in their mental independence. In these classrooms executive function skills develop into persistence, self-regulation, planning and reflecting. Dr. Montessori defined the result of healthy development as one of "adaptation" or the capacity to thrive as a person in one's time and place. Our hope and dream is help your child thrive and find joy in the journey!

Dr. Heidi Stark

Parent Ed Night

"Taming the F.E.A.R. Monster: Helping Your Child Dial Back Worry" is the theme of the Brockman Parent Education event Thursday, October 3, from 6:15-7:15 p.m.

As an outgrowth of our purposeful partnership with families, we will focus on specific ways we can help children step away from a pattern of apprehension and toward a more positive and empowering perspective.

Adults will meet in classroom B-3, while Brockman students will participate in a community meal* facilitated by Brockman teachers and your PTO, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

RSVP today to Susan Watts @ 803.790.6743 for your child to take part in this special experience! Please let us know as soon as possible (by 9/30 at the latest) for planning purposes.

(*chicken tenders, mac & cheese, green beans, fruit)

Walk at School Day

On October 9th, Brockman will be celebrating National Walk to School day by having a Walk at School day. Teachers will take their class outside to walk at least 20 minutes sometime during the day. This will allow all students to participate in Walk at School Day.

Bears on Track

Bears on Track will be starting October 14. Registration forms will be sent home Thursday, October 3rd, and need to be returned by Friday morning October 4th. Mr. Linton only will accept the first 50 students with registration forms and payment. Please send checks or money orders. Cash will not be accepted. Practices will be on Tuesdays and students will be training for the Deck the Halls 5k on December 7th.

Primary

Ground Rules

For many of our students, this is their first experience in a formal school setting. Adding an entire new way of working creates an additional twist! At the beginning of the year, with reminders throughout, we work hard on establishing our Ground-rules. We understand that when everyone knows what to do, we have a working peaceful learning environment.

Listed below are the expectations. We appreciate whatever you can do at home to reinforce and practice these rules.

- Walk slowly and speak softly.
- Use two hands to carry all materials.
- Use a rug for all floor activities. All materials stay on the rug or sit next to the rug.
Walk around rugs.
Roll rug and put away when finished.
Carry the rug safely (hug to body).
- Carry tray with two hands, holding it close to your body.
- Push in chair whenever you leave your table (before picking up your materials).
- Clean up your own work and your own messes.
- You may join a child's work only when you ask and if the child says "yes".
- Wash your hands before snack before preparing food after using the bathroom
- When you hear the special signal, put all materials away quietly, and come to the line.
- When the lights go out, or you hear the chime, stop everything, freeze your body and listen for the teacher's instructions.
- When you need a teacher, walk over to her, touch her shoulder and wait for her to respond.

Thank you! – The Primary Montessori Team

Lower Elementary

Lower Elementary Math

Much of the Montessori math curriculum is based on giving children exposure to concrete materials first, then giving them incremental opportunities to work toward more abstract concepts.

What do we mean by concrete? The children are able to hold a material in their hands. The materials are representative of a quantity and over time children let go of the materials and find solutions on paper or even in their heads while referencing the materials in their "mind's eye." This idea of mastering a skill without the assistance of materials is abstraction.

In Lower Elementary, the basis of the math curriculum are the Golden Beads. When a child is ready to learn the basic operations, there are plenty of materials to support them. Montessori math uses the golden bead material as a foundation; first to build numbers into the thousands. For example a single golden bead represents 1, a group of 10 beads are strung together in a straight line for 10, and 100 beads are affixed into a flat square. The thousand cube is as large as 1,000 of the original single '1' bead. Once a child is able to build a visual representation of a number, the beads are used to teach basic operations. Children as young as primary and into lower elementary are able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide numbers into the thousands using this material. They first learn with static problems - that is, with no "borrowing and carrying" - and then move on to more complex, dynamic problems. They quickly learn that ten 1s is equal to one 10, and they do this by holding those numbers in their hands.

"Do not tell them how to do it. Show them how to do it and do not say a word. If you tell them, they will watch your lips move. If you show them, they will want to do it themselves."

Maria Montessori

Upper Elementary

Peace Day

By Mr. Stoner's Class

Our 2019 Peace Day was very successful. There was a lot of singing and a lot of peace. Peace Day is a time to celebrate peace, calm, and being in the moment.

Peace Day helps us work towards world peace. The United Nations established Peace Day, or the International Day of Peace, back in 1981. Peace Day is observed around the world each year on September 21st. Peace Day is a globally shared custom for "all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to [work on] building a Culture of Peace."

Peace Day is a very special day here at Brockman. It is a day when everyone comes together and celebrates international peace.

Thanks to our chorus, Mr. Linnan, the language speakers, Naomi, Carlitos, and most importantly Mrs. Godfrey. And thanks to you all for participating in Peace Day.

"Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war."

Dr. Maria Montessori



Fiona Taylor, Lower Elementary student, works with "Golden Bead multiplication."