

THE BROOKWOOD BEAR BULLETIN

A Brookwood PTA Publication

FEBRUARY 2012



Message From Principal Mootz:

Wow. We have so many wonderful students at Brookwood and we are celebrating them. We have two new programs at Brookwood, the Brookwood Bear of the Week and the Student Super Scoopers.

Each week our teachers will nominate a student from their class who has exhibited our Brookwood Way: Safe, Kind and Responsible. The Brookwood Bear of the Week for K-2 is announced on Mondays, grades 3-4 are announced on Wednesdays and grades 5-6 are announced on Thursdays. Each student receives a certificate, a citizenship pin and their picture on the bulletin board. Hopefully you have seen the bulletin board with our wonderful Brookwood Bears. Each week, the students' pictures are moved to the library, where they will hang on display all year.

Our Student Super Scoopers is a new celebration of our students. Students who are caught doing a great job in the non-classroom areas may be awarded a yellow ticket. Our Student Super Scoopers are students who scoop up the problem by being safe, kind and responsible. The yellow tickets are collected at the office and each week winners are chosen at random. The winning students receive a "front of the lunch line pass" and will have their pictures posted on our front bulletin board. We are so proud of all our Brookwood students. They are true leaders.

Reading is Essential and FUN

Brookwood just finished our winter benchmark assessment for oral reading fluency. All of our students were assessed in the area of reading. Students in grades 1-6 are assessed by reading 3 different grade level passages for one minute each. Using a standard scale, we can determine how well you child is reading and books that are appropriate for each his/her level. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions. One of the best ways to help your child with reading is to read with them everyday. This habit helps with fluency and instills a love of reading.

Thank you,
Principal Mootz

February Dates to Remember:

Feb. 7th – Tennis Assembly
Feb. 9th– "Mixed UP Lunch"
Feb. 14th–Valentine Day Activities
Feb. 20th–President's Day (no school)
Feb. 21st-24th–Internet Safety Week

PTA Board 2011 – 2012

Co-Presidents:	Ellen Sperry / Stephanie Shumway
Co-Pres. Elects:	Denise Richard / Kathryn Turley
Vice President:	Derek Brown
Secretary:	Sara Hopkin
Treasure:	Kim Kehl
ELM:	Kristi Reardon
Newsletter:	Lindsay Dean

News from the PTA....

Hi everyone! We are into the month of February and there are still so many great things happening at Brookwood! We all had such a great time at the Art-of-Plooza. We want to thank the School Community Council and all the volunteers that made it such a great success! We have a few more fun things in February to look forward to.....

Feb. 9th– "Mixed UP Lunch"
Feb. 14th–Valentine Day Activities
Feb. 20th–President's Day (no school)
Feb. 21st-24th–Internet Safety Week

February is "Black History Month". Kristi Reardon is our EML representative. She has some great things for us to learn as we celebrate Black History". She also has some fun things in store for us at a "Mixed up Lunch" on the 9th.

Deanna Lambson is heading up our "Internet Safety Week". The theme for the week is....."Is it for Real?" She has some exciting things for us to learn and to participate in during this week. We are sure you will enjoy this week as well as learn some valuable skills.

Thanks to all who participated in the emergency preparedness bags for your children. We are still collecting them if you have not been able to get yours in to the teachers. We hope you all have a great month.

Sincerely,
Ellen Sperry and Stephanie Shumway
PTA co- presidents

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More News from the PTA....

This month we will be accepting nominations for the 2012-2013 PTA Board. The PTA Co-presidents are **Denise Richard** and **Kathryn Turley**. Many of our current board members have agreed to serve a second term, however, nominations for all positions will be accepted. You can nominate yourself or someone else. This is a great way to help serve our school. Please complete the form and return to the office.

Sincerely,
Ellen Sperry and Stephanie Shumway

PTA Co-Presidents

We Need Pictures!

We have begun work on the 2011-2012 grade DVDs and are looking for more pictures.



If you have **photos of events from this school year**, please drop them off at the school office on a CD or they can be emailed to Channa at vyfvinkel@comcast.net.

Please include the name and grade of each student in the photo.

Chess Club Update:

I know I'm not alone in saying ... **CHESS ROCKS!**

Chess Club is booming and I am amazed every week at the depth of understanding your kids demonstrate of the game. And we are all having a blast to boot. :)

In December and January, 32 kids moved up in rank. Congratulations to our new **PAWNS**:
BLEEP, BLEEP, BLEEP! (Sorry, we can not post names.)

And a big shout out to our new **KNIGHTS**:. ***AGAIN, BLEEP, BLEEP, BLEEP!***

If you have a 4th to 6th grade child who would like to join Chess Club - it is never too late, they are welcome any time. And volunteers are very, very, very welcome, appreciated, and needed!! Please contact Jan with any questions or to register:
BrookwoodChess@gmail.com, 801.520.6055, www.BrookwoodChess.blogspot.com.

THANKS, THANKS, & MORE THANKS!

The School Community Council would like to thank all of our amazing parent & teacher volunteers who helped make this year's Art-A-Palooza a huge success! We had an awesome turn out and could not have pulled off such a great event without all of our wonderful volunteers.

Pre-Order Your Child's Grade 2011-2012 Movie DVD Today!

If you were unable to sign up at the Art-A-Palooza & Gallery Walk there is still time to purchase a grade DVD for your child! We began the sign-up to pre-order the DVDs at the event and will continue over the next few weeks. The DVDs are actual movies - as shown on the sample that played at the event - that will include hundreds of amazing images. There will be a DVD created for each grade that will include highlights specific to that grade from the entire year! DVDs will be completed & distributed at the end of May 2012. DVDs are only **\$15.00** each and all proceeds will go to continued art enrichment for Brookwood students.

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Grade Level Updates

Kindergarten

So many exciting things are happening in February! We will celebrate Valentine's Day, our 100th Day of School, and learn about the United States Presidents! We are really enjoying Tanner Dance too! In math we will learn our teen numbers and you are all doing so well with letters and sounds that many of us are reading words that you can sound out! Nice work Kindergartners!

First Grade

February is here already and we are about to celebrate the 100th day of school on Tuesday the 7th. We will be sending home a note asking your child to collect 100 items which will fit into a baggy. Our day will be fun-filled and busy. By 3:30 your child should truly understand what the concept of 100 means.

Valentine's Day will be here in just a few days as well. We ask that your child decorate the special holiday box at home and bring it to school on the fourteenth. This is such an exciting time for first graders. They are writing kind notes to their classmates, and they are so enthusiastic about reading all of their messages. A class list with all the names will be coming home soon. Please encourage your first grader to address and sign each valentine.

We have a couple of requests. Please practice the spelling words several times in preparation for the Friday spelling test. Handwriting is important and the teachers need to be able read each word as well as having it be spelled correctly. Continue to keep them reading, reading, reading. Spring will be here before we know it, and we would like everyone to receive a gold medal. Have a great month and thank you for all your support.

Second Grade

February is an exciting month with lots of special days. We have celebrated Groundhog Day and look forward to Valentine's Day and President's Day. We will enjoy reading, discussing and writing about these special days.

In Math this month we will be learning to regroup (making and breaking tens) first with addition and then with subtraction. We will be using manipulatives to help the children understand exactly when and how to regroup. They are not quite ready for the algorithm yet so **please** don't teach them any tricks for "carrying" and "borrowing". We will get there. Daily math homework will keep you aware of where we are and how we are teaching the concepts.

In second grade we all make "froggy bags" *in class* to collect our valentines. On February 14th please have your student bring a valentine for each child in the class, and have your child put their own name on it, as in "from Steven"-----no other name. We add the other names that day in class as a writing activity. We will be having a class party on Valentine's Day and want to thank all our parent volunteers who help make this day so special for second grade.

Please remind your child to bring a coat each day as recess time is pretty chilly without one. Keep reading those baggy books. We love your children and appreciate each of you and your much needed support.

Third Grade

For February math will include the study of properties of geometric basic shapes like quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons and octagons. We will also study symmetry and congruency.

Third grade classes will all be scheduling an ice cream party for students who pass all their times tables thru 12's. Each teacher has her own schedule so check with your student to find out how he or she earns it and when it will be. You can help at home by practicing written drills, playing math games or flashcard drills and playing computer games. Students who have not passed facts yet should practice about 10 to 15 minutes per night, 5 nights a week basic multiplication facts.

In Language Arts we are doing Unit 4, which is titled, "The People, The Preamble and the Presidents". Students will build on the knowledge of notable people, read informational texts about immigrants, and discuss presidents and development of government in the eighteenth century.

We are using "Third Grade Money" along with the weekly tickets. Students can earn and lose money and it will be used to "buy" their way into activities. So be sure to look for your student to bring home their weekly ticket each Friday and sign it.

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Fourth Grade

Valentine's Day is already coming! We would like to encourage each student to make and bring their own containers for Valentines. It is a nice time of year to remember and thank good friends. We would like to thank Mrs. Finlinson's parent volunteers who are putting time and effort into planning a fun Valentine party.

We have begun our second round of science classes. Please spend time with your child reviewing the concepts they are learning. They each have a science journal that is full of information to help them understand and learn all about the world around them.

More than ever, there is a great need for all fourth grade students to have all their multiplication facts memorized. Time should be spent every night practicing these facts until they are mastered. As we work on multiple digit division, it is very clear that the students that do not know their facts are struggling. Thanks for your extra help.

Fifth Grade

The 5th grade has many incredible things planned for February. We have an amazing field trip to the Federal Courthouse on February 16. We are going to tour the building and learn more about how the judicial branch of our government works! In preparation for President's Day we are learning about the former presidents of the United States and will even be participating in a Wax Museum where the students will get to answer questions as the presidents they researched. This will be on February 24th!

We are also expanding our understanding of fractions and how to use operations to solve problems with fractions! Keep practicing IXL at home, look at the fifth grade M skills to enhance what we're learning in class!

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade is looking forward to a productive and exciting month. We want to remind all students to continue having their planners signed nightly, passports signed every Friday, remember to record your Independent Reading minutes and keep current on KBK!

Officer Albrand began the spectacular NOVA program on January 11, 2011. The students actively listen while she creates an engaging learning atmosphere where she allows students to participate with hands-on activities and explains how to apply these valuable lessons into their own lives. We truly appreciate her enthusiasm and concern that she has for all students at Brookwood!

The sixth grade students are anticipating the Valentine's Day Dance, which will take place on Friday, February 14, 2012. The students have been spending a great deal of time learning the various dances such as the Cha-Cha, Swing and Virginia Reel. We would like to express our gratitude to Mrs. Allen for her time in making this experience so positive and exciting for all.

Don't forget to check out <http://mrsr6th.blogspot.com> to see photos from all of our fantastic events as well as blog writings from our amazing sixth grade authors!

We would like to thank all of our outstanding sixth graders and supportive parents for making our job so enjoyable!

Dates to remember:
2/14 Valentine's Day Dance
2/29 February Club

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!