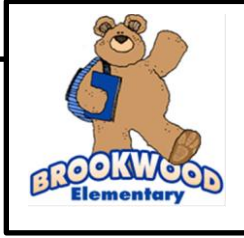


THE BROOKWOOD BEAR BULLETIN

A Brookwood PTA Publication

OCTOBER 2011



Principal Mootz Memo:

"We come in peace." The aliens have landed at Brookwood Elementary! Have you seen the fun staff photos in our entryway? Do you recognize your teacher? We want to thank our wonderful PTA volunteer/photographer, Mrs. Kathryn Turley, for her time and making all of us look like pretty cute aliens©

You also may not recognize us on October 31th when we will be celebrating Halloween. Our parade will begin at 9:30 a.m. and should arrive in the gym around 10:00 a.m. Students should come to school in full costume with everything labeled plus a change of clothes for afternoon and a bag to get all costumes home. Parents/family are invited to the gym to enjoy the parade. Students are asked to dress as a favorite book character and carry their book during the parade. The PTA will have a special prize for all students who carry their book in the parade. Costumes need to be dress code appropriate, and contain no masks or weapons (real or facsimile).

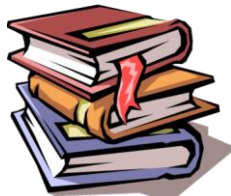
Almost every day I am asked by a parent, "What can I do to help my child succeed in school?" One of the most important things a parent can do to help their child is to keep a positive attitude. Let your child know school is important to you. Show an active interest in what is happening each day at school.

Next to a positive attitude, a love of reading will help children be successful in and out of school. Reading is the key to success for students of all ages. Children who are good readers find it easier to do well in other subjects, because so much of learning depends on the ability to read.

Children need to have good "reading role models".

- Let your child observe you reading.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Visit the library as often as you visit the mall.
- Share your excitement and pleasure when reading a good book.
- Set aside some time each day for reading.
- Give books for gifts.

I would like to thank the parents of Brookwood students for sending us such bright and cooperative students to work with. Your support and positive attitude help our children see the importance of education. Please continue to display a positive attitude and remember to read each day.



October Dates to Remember:

10/5 - National Walk to School Day
10/5 - PTA Board Meeting 12:30 in Kiva
10/11 - Picture Day
10/20 - 21 Fall Recess, No School
10/24 - 27 Red Ribbon Week
10/24 - REFLECTIONS due date theme "Diversity Means"
10/28 - EBL Day, No School for students
10/31 - Halloween Parade starts at 9:30

PTA Board 2011 - 2012

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

News from the PTA....

Can you believe that it is already October and we have been in school for over a month? We had a busy month in September getting back into the groove of school again (homework, carpool, early day, baggy books, sack lunches, after school activities etc...). Before you know it Halloween will be here!

We enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Mootz at "The Meet and Greet" and getting to know a little bit more about her! We are so thrilled to have her at Brookwood.

Kelli Green has done an excellent job as our coordinator of Publicity. If you want to know what is happening at Brookwood, just stop and look at the bulletin board by the office, it will keep you informed as to what is going on at our school. A big thank you to Misty Walker and her group of volunteers who helped with vision screening. Also, Chantelle Brown started us off with a big bang by taking care of Soup Labels and Box Tops. She has had great participation so far (can't wait to see who wins the party this month).

Did you get your T-shirt or sweatshirt? They have finally arrived and they are fabulous! Thank you to Sarah Weaver. If you did not get one, there is still time to order. Stop by the office and order yours today!

Lots of things will be happening in October, National Walk to school Day, Picture Day, Reflections, Red Ribbon Week, The Halloween Parade, Halloween parties, and the Book Fair. Check out the school calendar and the Publicity bulletin board for dates!

Again thanks to all you parents who volunteer your time and make our school so great.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Shumway and Ellen Sperry
Co-PTA Presidents

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No Idling Zone Information

You may have noticed the 6th graders holding up signs after school in the pick-up lanes asking you to turn off your engine. You may be wondering why. Here are a few reasons to have no idling in front of school when possible.

1. Car idling puts more fumes into the air than turning off the engine. Engine idling has serious health consequences, experts say. Air pollution contributes to ozone depletion, increases rates of asthma and heart disease and contributes to the greenhouse gases that are associated with climate change.
2. Excessive idling can actually damage your engine components, including cylinders, spark plugs, and exhaust systems. Fuel is only partially combusted when idling because an engine does not operate at its peak temperature. This leads to the buildup of fuel residues on cylinder walls that can damage engine components and increase fuel consumption.
3. For every two minutes a car is idling, it uses about the same amount of fuel it takes to go about one mile. Research indicates that the average person idles their car five to 10 minutes a day. But you're not going anywhere. Idling gets ZERO miles per gallon.
4. The recommendation is: If you are going to be parked for more than 30 seconds, turn off the engine. Ten seconds of idling can use more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it.

(www.consumerenergycenter.org)

Drop-Off and Pick-up

Parents, we have noticed students on the playground as early as 8:00 am and as late as 4:15 pm. Please drop off your child as close to 8:50 am as possible. Supervision begins at 8:40 am and we do not want students unsupervised. We all care about student safety and students need to be supervised.

Thanks for all you do to help us with this!

Chess Club is coming to Brookwood!

Chess is FUN and is a lifelong skill. Research shows that chess improves literacy and logic skills to boot. We have found a phenomenal curriculum that makes learning chess a piece of cake (for both students and volunteers.) Please look for the Chess Club table at SEP conferences in November. Chess Club will begin meeting the week after SEP conferences. The day and time has not yet been decided.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jan Thomson at janmt@mac.com. NO CHESS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Oh – and Dads! – Since Chess Club will likely be held one day BEFORE school, this would be a great way to get involved!

Lions and Tigers and Parking Lot Safety ... Oh my!

Thank you for everything you have done to help ensure our student's safety in the parking lot. Student safety is always our number one concern.

You may have noticed that we changed the parking lot this year. This will help you more easily maneuver the parking lot. Here are a few reminders and suggestions for safety.

1. Please, please, please slow down!
2. Please use the designated crosswalks. We are all models for the children.
3. The lane closest to the school is only used as a bus lane.
4. Your child will walk out to the island once your car is in the drive through lane. We do not want students walking out into the parking lot. It is safer for them to wait for you to drive up.
5. Older siblings may wait outside grade level doors to walk with a younger sibling. Teachers will walk their class outside to help with the loading.

'Diversity Means' Reflections Entries due October 25th

Entries for this year's Reflection program are due Tuesday, October 25th. The theme this year is 'Diversity Means'. This is a great program for recognizing the unique artistic abilities of our students. Please encourage your student to showcase their own talents this year. Remember only original work will be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Nielson at thismomruns@yahoo.com.

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Red Ribbon Week

Mark your calendars.....Red Ribbon Week is October 24 - 27, where Brookwood Bears show their school spirit and choose to be drug free. As always, we have some FUN activities planned:

*October 24 - Drug free posters are due for our annual poster contest! Posters will be displayed around the school during the week and the top 10 will receive a prize! Also, the top 3 classes that turn in the most posters will get donuts!

Remember during Red Ribbon Week, there's a different theme every day, so join in the fun!

*Monday, October 24 - Wear your Red Ribbon Colors - Red and Black! Students will be signing a drug free pledge poster and will get a treat at lunchtime.

*Tuesday, October 25 - Wear your shirt backwards to "turn your back on drugs!" And enjoy give-a-ways at lunchtime.

*Wednesday, October 26 - Wear a hat to "Put a cap on drugs!" And enjoy give-a-ways at lunchtime.

*Thursday, October 27 - Wear your favorite slippers to "Put the slip to drugs" And enjoy give-a-ways at lunchtime. This is also the day that we will announce the poster contest winners and award the prizes and donuts.

Join us in the fun of Red Ribbon Week so we can celebrate being drug free at Brookwood!!



Grade Level Updates

Kindergarten

We have been having a lot of fun in Kindergarten. We have learned lots of positional words that have built a great foundation for geometry. We have also learned all of the letters in the alphabet, as well as the sounds they make. Now, we are reviewing the letters and sounds, as well as putting some of those sounds together to read some words. In October, we will be learning the numbers 0-5, as well as learning to count things through 5. Our classes have been learning how to use our reading centers and are looking forward to using them the first week of October. Just a reminder, please complete the School Community Council survey.

We would ask that during the month of October, you review with your Kindergartener what the five rules are in Kindergarten: Listen to the teacher and follow her directions, be a good listener, raise your hand and wait to be called on, be a good friend, and be on time. We would also ask that you discuss with your students what it means to be Safe, Kind, and Responsible.

First Grade

October is finally here and first grade is in full swing. Our alphabet review is complete, our initial reading placement tests are finished, and our guided reading program is fully underway. We are so pleased the first grade center program is up and running as well. This month we will focus on several areas of study such as our Me, Family and Friends unit, fire safety, and, of course, Halloween! First grade will once again continue to incorporate your child's favorite book character into his/her costume theme and carry the book during the parade around the school.

Two baggy books are now arriving home each evening. Please sit with your child and have them read the book at least 3-5 times to you depending on the length. Read for at least 20 minutes and sign both the front and back of the little note contained in the bag. We do require a signature for each book read. October marks the onset of our spelling program as well. Tests will be normally on Fridays or the last day of the week, so study, study for the spelling exam.

We do appreciate all that you do at home as well as the help you are offering us in the classroom. We are a team and we are looking forward to a great year.

Also, one last reminder, Principal Mootz would like to encourage you all to complete the SCC survey on the Brookwood web site.

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Second Grade

Second Grade is looking forward to a "Spooktacular" October. It is a perfect time to study weather, seasons, and animal habitats. We will do lots of reading, writing, and discussing on these subjects and many others. Keep reading 20 minutes orally each night. Remember to record the minutes and sign the reading calendar in their planners each day. Calendar checks are on Friday. The goal is 100 minutes each week.

In math we are working on learning strategies to help us with addition and will then move on to subtraction. Please help your child practice math facts for a few minutes each day as well as complete their math homework. Knowing addition and subtraction facts with automaticity is a necessity as we move along in math.

We are working hard in second grade to become great spellers. Look for spelling words in your child's planner each week. The writing part of our baggy books will be a great way to practice our spelling skills.

With weather changes approaching please have your child be prepared for cooler weather by bringing a jacket or sweater with their name written clearly on the inside.

Halloween parties and our traditional Halloween parade will bring October to an exciting conclusion. Be looking for a fun book character to dress up as. We will each be carrying a book as we parade from grade to grade.

Lastly, we would really appreciate each parent going to our Brookwood website and taking the School Community Council survey. We would love for every voice to be heard. Thanks for all you do in support of your child and our school community.

We love your children!

Third Grade

Math for October is Topic 4. It includes easy subtraction, like basic one and two digit, higher-level subtraction, like three and four digit, rounding and estimating with subtraction, and an emphasis on story problems with subtraction.

Students should now be accustomed to keeping their weekly "tickets" free of infractions by getting homework returned daily. Many have also learned to work off any infractions they do get within a day or two as expected. Parents should sign student tickets every Friday and strongly encourage them to get infractions worked off as quickly as possible.

We'll continue our study of Native Americans for another couple of weeks. Then we start Language Arts Unit Two of the new State Core Curriculum titled "Inspired by the Sea". Students will read stories, poetry, and informational texts that are inspired by a love of or curiosity with the sea.

Third grade has a field trip to "This Is the Place State Park" on Tuesday October 4th and a special activity called IPONA Day on Friday October 7th. Thanks so much to the parents who help with all these activities. We depend on you!

Fourth Grade

What a fantastic group of fourth graders we have! We are impressed with the level of responsibility they are showing. Thanks to our great parents for helping them by signing their planners each day, monitoring independent reading, and getting them to school on time. We appreciate the time you are spending as classroom volunteers. Your help and support are amazing!

Mrs. Johnson's room parents are planning a fourth grade Halloween celebration. It will be held on Monday the 31st towards the end of the day. The Character Parade will begin at 9:15 on that day. We're excited to see what book character costumes we'll have in fourth grade!

We are continuing our studies of Utah History, Art, and PE. We are beginning our second science units and are rotating to other teachers. Students need to continue their independent reading at home. We want every student to make our monthly reading goals and make sure all of our students are headed in the right direction at the beginning of the year.

We would like to ask our parents to take the Brookwood SCC (School Community Council) survey, which can be found on the school website.

Thanks for all you do!

Fifth Grade

5th grade is moving forward in October with our study of explorers. We'll read about Ferdinand Magellan, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, and more! In math we are "exploring" the rules of multiplication and division. Keep updated on what we're learning by checking the planners and the math website, www.pearsonsuccessnet.com. In art we are making some really interesting seasonal projects to prepare for Halloween. In music we are continuing to learn those amazing recorder notes. Don't forget to have your student practice! In PE we're moving and working on keeping a healthy, well exercised body. Don't forget to read 20 minutes every day!

Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade has had a fun and productive first month of school. Students are adjusting to their class rotations, writing homework in their planner and being prepared each day. Please bring questions or concerns to our attention so that your child can be successful in sixth grade. We are already off to a great year and feel extremely lucky to work with such an amazing group of students.

A special thank you to all the *amazing* parents who volunteer their time to help us with library and grade activities. Your involvement is very much needed and appreciated! Thank you also for the many parents who contributed to the sixth grade fund. Be aware that if you have not had the opportunity and would like to, please feel free to send your donation with your student. Please know those funds are being put to good use!

Also, if you are interested in signing up for a day of the week to work with enhancing student learning please contact Mrs. Peters. So far we only have 3 parents. It would be ideal to have 1-2 parents Mon.-Thurs. from 11:10-11:55 to support different abilities and needs.

Please be sure to get on to the Brookwood website and fill out the School Community Council's survey. Your responses will guide the SCC in programs and events that will enrich student learning.

Mark your calendars:

10/27- October Club

10/31- Halloween Activities - Remember to wear your costume to school and all costumes should correspond with a book character and follow Brookwood's rules.

Please check out the Brookwood website (<http://brookwood.canyonsdistrict.org/grades/sixthgrade.html>) and our sixth grade blog (<http://mrsr6th.blogspot.com>)

For schedules, due dates, and images of the wonderful experiences we share!

