

Bear Tracks



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August 23, 2018

Dates to Remember



- **Aug. 27**
 - ◆ First Day of School for 4K
- **Aug. 30**
 - ◆ PTO Meeting & Open House, 6:00 p.m.
- **Aug. 31**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Respect
- **Sept. 3**
 - ◆ Labor Day—No School
- **Sept. 4**
 - ◆ First Day of School for 3K
- **Sept. 11**
 - ◆ CRP Begins
- **Sept. 12**
 - ◆ Safe & Sound Town for 1st Grade Students

Brockman Elementary A National Blue Ribbon School



Principal's Message

Thank you for the warm welcome to Brockman Elementary. It has been my pleasure to meet you and to begin my service to your children and our school community. I have already experienced the grace and courtesy that your children show to their teachers and to each other each day. This is a special place. I also recognize the skill and dedication of our teachers. They are passionate for the Montessori philosophy and work toward four main goals:

- 1) To awaken your child's spirit and imagination;
- 2) To encourage the natural desire for independence and self-esteem;
- 3) To help your child develop kindness, courtesy and self-discipline, and
- 4) To help your child learn how to observe, question and explore ideas independently.

This is truly a special place!

~Dr. Stark

Nurse's Notes

Thank you to the Safety Patrol who volunteered this week. We will start our class rotation of Safety Patrol teams next week with Mrs. Anderson's class. Please help us to keep our Brockman Bears safe by following our morning and afternoon procedures! Stay healthy and be happy!
~Nurse Hubbard



Health & Wellness

Our school is excited to host a school site visit for policymakers, school leaders and national partners working together with the common goal of supporting healthy environments for children. The visit will be September 28, 2018 and will highlight our healthy practices that include our use of Smart Snack Guidelines, hydroponic garden in Upper Elementary, yoga and healthy snack preparation in Lower Elementary and outdoor gardens with Primary students. We are excited to be a part of this important conversation to promote health and wellness for our children!

PTO News

Get Your Spiritwear!

Short- and long-sleeve tees plus sweatshirts are available to order online at www.brockmanpto.org/shop or check your child's communication folder the week of Sept. 3rd for an order form. Prices range from \$12 to \$21. Orders must be turned in by Sept. 14th. Expected delivery will be the end of September.

Support PTO, Volunteer, & Get Your School Directory

Please consider giving and/or serving our school through the PTO this year. This drive through the next few weeks funds our PTO budget, as well as supports our committee heads with their service goals for the year. With a contribution of \$15, you receive a directory. There are other fun prizes at other giving levels, too. We also have

many small yet significant PTO jobs, and if we all help a little, our community is stronger, our PTO leaders get the support they need, and we promise your child(ren) will be proud!! Forms will come home the week of Sept. 3rd or go to www.brockmanpto.org/membership-form. Contact Katie Purnell at Katietylerpurnell@gmail.com for more information.

Primary

Primary is so excited to have our new group of Big Bears for the new school year. The Big Bears are our classroom leaders. They have worked hard this week remembering and practicing all the classroom procedures called "ground rules". In a multiage classroom, younger students look to the older students for help. The 5K children understand what an important role this is within the classroom and take pride in helping their younger classmates. The Primary teachers are looking forward to the new and returning 3 and 4 Pre K students coming in the next two weeks. They are especially thankful to all of the Big Bears for their hard work to prepare for their arrival.

"All the older ones become heroes and teachers, and the tinies are their admirers." Maria Montessori, *The Absorbent Mind*



Lower Elementary

Students in our Lower Elementary classrooms are introduced to large concepts to help build a framework for their curriculum. The First Great Lesson is the story of the Universe and the Earth. These 3rd level students shared the illustrations displayed, and explained that this is a theory about how the planets were formed. They described a great explosion of gas and rocks that formed planets. They said that it is important so that everyone can understand their place in the universe.



Upper El

Upper Elementary students occupy a unique and important space in our school community. They recognize their place as leaders and role models for younger children, but they also experience their own cognitive and emotional growth that must be supported and nurtured. Adolescent children begin to understand interdependence-relationships of integrity and reliability involving trust, honesty and commitment. In order to foster this sense of interdependence, each of our upper elementary communities spent time getting to know each other. The students pictured below created drawings and wrote about their personalities using colors and shapes. They emphasized that this activity not only helped them to learn about each other, but also helped them to develop self-awareness.



Arts

We are pleased to share that we have received an Arts in the Basic Curriculum (ABC) grant from the SC Arts Commission. Our grant application includes a five year plan with three overarching goals:

1. Provide a comprehensive sequential fine arts program for our students that integrates arts into the Montessori curriculum.
2. Develop advocacy for the arts through community and parent relationships.
3. Organize a professional development program for faculty, staff and parents.

We look forward to sharing additional information with you as our plans take shape!

Media

Come by to visit our newly renovated media center! Brockman's media center is a special place where all students have the opportunity to enjoy stories, engage in research and technology lessons and, of course, check out books. Throughout the school year, the students will engage in digital citizenship activities and lessons. Digital citizenship is the norms of appropriate, responsible technology use. The students will learn how to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in the digital world.

All students in grades 3-5 will receive a laptop this school year. Laptops are expected to be distributed by Friday, Sept. 7. We are excited that our students will have access to a digital tool to support their learning. Remember to review with your child, Richland One's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP), which is outlined in your annual online registration packet.

The Lifeskill Vitamind for August is Respect

Aug. 27	Respect All Cultures
Aug. 28	Listen To Understand
Aug. 29	Respect Different Opinions
Aug. 30	Practice Grace & Courtesy
Aug. 31	Celebrate Your Strengths
Sept. 4	Honesty Brings Respect
Sept. 5	Tell The Truth
Sept. 6	Show Your Honesty
Sept. 7	Express Your Feelings

Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to Jen Barnes for organizing a fantastic salad bar lunch for the school staff on Friday, Aug. 17th to help start the year off right. Thank you also to Francheska Manning, Stephanie Boutte, Susan Kuhn, and Kristen Griffin for serving, as well as the many families who contributed delicious food items.