

Bear Tracks



Volume 19, Issue 13

February 28, 2019

Dates to Remember



- **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 10**
 - ◆ Daylight Savings Time begins
- **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 17**
 - ◆ St. Patrick's Day
- **March 19**
 - ◆ Parent Education Night—"Transitions," 6:00 pm
- **March 20**
 - ◆ Donuts & Drop-ins at Sanders Montessori Middle School, 10:00-11:30 am
- **March 22**
 - ◆ End of 3rd Grading Period
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Kindness
- **March 25**
 - ◆ Student Holiday
- **April 3**
 - ◆ Report Cards Issued
- **April 4**
 - ◆ NOON DISMISSAL
 - ◆ Parent/Teacher Conferences
- **April 5**
 - ◆ Field Trip—Grade 5 students to Bull's Island
- **April 12**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Fairness
- **April 15-19**
 - ◆ Spring Break

Principal's Message

Dear Brockman Families,

We recently held the lottery to add new families to our school community. We had 130 applicants and have openings for 25 three-year-old children and 17 openings for four- and five-year-olds, and 1st grade children. Twenty-two of these new students will be brand new families to our school community. We are anxious to welcome them and would like your help! As a part of our School Improvement Plan, we are working on an intentional plan to improve our family engagement. We'd like to increase the number of volunteers, promote fellowship and service to our community and strengthen the Montessori home-school connection. One of our first efforts will be to create a mentoring program to welcome the new families. We have a form that will come home in your Thursday envelope. If you are interested and willing to mentor a new family, please fill it out and return it to the school office. Thank you for your continued support as we seek to grow as a caring and inclusive school community!

Dr. Heidi Stark

Randon Acts of Kindness



Last week at Brockman, we celebrated National Random Acts of Kindness Week. We strive to be kind every day of the year, but this week is a special time to be more aware of the kind acts others do for us and seek out opportunities to be kind and help others. Students enjoyed activities this week such as writing acts of kindness on hands and hearts to create a bulletin board by the main office, recording videos about kindness for the Morning News Show, drawing and writing kind messages with window markers, and contributing to service projects to help people in our community.



Georgia Godfrey
School Counselor

Attention Parents of Strings Students

Strings students have an optional performance on Saturday, March 9th, at the Junior League Healthy Kids Fair. If you are interested in your child performing with a group of students from each of my schools, please watch for the RSVP letter or send me an email at amelia.evers@richlandone.org. Students should arrive by 11:15 a.m. for turning and preparation and will finish all performances by 1:00 p.m.



Amy Evers
Strings Teacher

Primary

Creating Balance in the New Age of Technology (an excerpt from *Montessori Life*)

Current scientists, just like Maria Montessori, have concluded that the most important time for brain development is between birth and six years old. Montessori believed that major "sensitive periods" (time when children were most interested and absorbed a lot of information) during the first six years included order, language, writing, and culture. Children need deeper engagement with tasks of mental substance through interacting with nature each, other, and animals. We are trying to foster as many face-to-face interactions because they teach patience, kindness, new vocabulary, and speaking skills. Empathy is something young children are learning and it becomes very difficult for them to discern an emotion because of the distorted or exploited views they receive from the media that surrounds them.

At Brockman we try to introduce computer skills and have the students in primary. They are using educational programs such as MyLexia, Reading A-Z, and Starfall. We want to expose them to technology since it is a large part of our world, yet, we do not want to alter their brain connections in ways that may harm their deeper thinking, interpersonal skills, and social skills. We also try to foster as many face-to-face interactions because they teach patience, kindness, new vocabulary, and speaking skills. Empathy is something young children are learning and it becomes very difficult for them to discern an emotion because of the distorted or exploited views they review from the media that surrounds them.

Montessori environments are known for supporting the development of executive function, which allows humans to modify remote events through intentional behavior. Some tips for the home:

Continued on Page 3

Lower Elementary

The Road to Independence

"The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one's self."

"Needless help is an actual hindrance to the development of natural forces."

Maria Montessori

Practical Life skills are one of the most important tasks young children can learn. These skills allow children to function independently in society. We, the adults, may think of these skills as chores but to the young child they are points of interest that will help the child become the adult they will be one day. These tasks should become a part of their daily or weekly routines.

Here are some simple ways to help your child become independent at home, at school, when caring for themselves and when interacting with others. Parents should show the child, in small steps, how to successfully complete each task.

At Home and At School Lower Elementary Students can:

- Make their bed every day
- Take out the trash and recycling
- Sweep and vacuum floors
- Fold laundry and put it away
- Feed and care for pets
- Set/clear the table for meals
- Help prepare meals (with adult supervision)
- Read a book to parents, siblings and by themselves



Continued on Page 3

Upper Elementary

Living History Timeline

For a decade now, Upper Elementary students have celebrated Black History Month by preparing and presenting one-page dramatic monologues from the first-person perspective of a selected African American historical figure—the Living History Timeline project. After researching self-chosen individuals, students make costumed presentations, with a prop suggestive of the character being portrayed.

This year Primary and Lower Elementary students visited Upper Elementary communities to listen to such luminaries as Frederick Douglass, Maya Angelou, Marian Anderson, and Barack Obama recount the stories of their lives (see photo below). Younger children were treated to their 'older friends' dramatic flair as they shared highlights from the lives of historical figures represented in this project. We remind the children that they, too, can be the change they wish to see in the world: "The heroic and moving stories of days gone by captivate and inspire us both to dream and to follow our dreams, so that we might touch our world and transform it, simply by being who we are, where we are, when we are."



Happy
St.
Patrick's
Day
March
17th



Continued from Page 2

Primary

Creating Balance in the New Age of Technology

1. Limit technology: 30 minutes or less a day (more tv and video games the students interact with daily has shown to increase chances of ADHD, aggressive behavior, and/or depression)
2. Put child safety blocks on devices that your child has access to.
3. Spend time in nature, playing games, telling jokes, eating meals, exercising, etc.
4. Have tech-free days or spaces in the home: dinner table, bedrooms, etc.
5. Demystify media, use it as an authentic learning tool, watch appropriate shows and discuss them.



Brockman Elementary
A National Blue Ribbon School



Continued from Page 2

Lower Elementary
The Road to Independence

To Care for One's Self Lower Elementary Students can:

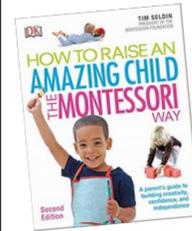
- Pick out clothes for school, get dressed on their own
- Wake up to an alarm clock
- Fill/empty and clean water bottle
- Pour beverages, serve self
- Pack lunch with nutritious foods
- Carry their belongings
- Prepare book bag for the next day
- Clean up spills
- Remember to bring all belongings to and from school (book bag, coat, water bottle, violin, lunch box)
- Put away toys, games, books
- Order from a menu

When Interacting with Others Lower Elementary Students can:

- Say please and thank you
- Help others with work
- Solve problems with friends
- Apologize and make amends
- Use appropriate table manners



Montessori Parents Book Club



Dear Primary Parents,
You are invited to join us for a Montessori Parents Book Club beginning March 4th and continuing thru April 22nd. We

are offering two opportunities to participate based on what is most convenient for you—Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. at Brockman or evenings at Barnes & Noble (day and time TBD). Please RSVP your meeting preference to the following email by March 1st.

staci.clawson@richlandone.org

What is the Brockman Parents Book Club and should I get involved?

The Brockman Parents Book Club is an educational group that meets weekly to discuss Tim Seldin's "How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way." Our inaugural group arranged by Staci Clawson was originally only four moms. We met each Friday for six weeks to discuss a new chapter. Although some of the chapters seemed geared toward younger children, we learned that we could incorporate the basic principles and adapt them to fit our families no matter where we are on our parenthood journeys. I found that much of the advice could even be used in my adult relationships.

What I gained most from the book club was a camaraderie amongst other parents with whom I learned new techniques and got a chance to "vent" (as we all know parenting is not for the faint of heart!). We had so much fun each week!

I also enjoyed being at the school more often and felt inspired to become a more active participant in our Brockman family; there are so many wonderful opportunities to get involved. Join the book club. You are in for a treat!

Mary Brown
(parent to Connor (3rd grade) and Vivian (4K))

Welcome Ms. Williams



Hi! My name is Victoria Williams. I recently graduated from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Elementary Education. I also played softball for the university. As a student, I attended a Montessori elementary school and I am so excited to join the Brockman family! It feels like I'm returning to my roots!

Farewell Ms. Patterson



Today we are saying "farewell" to Ms. Erica Patterson. Ms. Patterson has been a Lower Elementary teacher here at Brockman for the past 11 years and she will be greatly missed! Ms. Patterson is moving into a new position as the Special Programs Coordinator at the Palmetto United School District, which oversees educational programs within the Department of Corrections. All of us here at Brockman wish her the very best as she assumes these new responsibilities.

Welcome Ms. Greene



Meet Ms. Carolyn Greene who has been helping us out all year while Dr. Parkmond transitioned into her new position as CRT. Ms. Greene is retired from Richland One School District after teaching for 33 years. She will be the long-term substitute for Dr. Parkmond for the remainder of this school year.

More pictures from the Living History Timeline...



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