

Bear Tracks

Volume 20, Issue 02

September 12, 2019



Dates to Remember



- **Sept. 20**
 - ◆ Peace Day
- **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, Details TBA
- **Oct. 7**
 - ◆ SIC Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Oct. 9**
 - ◆ Walk at School Day
- **Oct. 10**
 - ◆ Literacy Night, 6:00 pm
- **Oct. 16**
 - ◆ Arts Infusion Day—Primary
- **Oct. 17**
 - ◆ Arts Infusion Day—Lower Elem
- **Oct. 18**
 - ◆ Arts Infusion Day—Upper Elem

Peace Day 2019

We hope you can join us for our annual celebration of the International Day of Peace on Friday, **Sept. 20th at 9:00 a.m.** It is



a Brockman tradition to observe this special day with a solemn ceremony during which we as a community reflect on the importance of peace and dedicate ourselves to the mission of peace making in our world. This year, we present the Peace Dove award to Ayala Asherov Kalus. She is a former Brockman parent, a world-renowned musician who uses music to inspire and teach, and the composer of our school's song: *All Around the Universe*.

Ms. Asherov Kalus is honored to receive this award and she plans to join us remotely from her home in Israel.

Principal's Message



Dear Brockman Families,

We are happy to have your children back in school and we are so proud of our cubs (3K) as they are already developing independence in our Montessori family. It's quite amazing to see how much they can do, especially when you consider that they have only been on this Earth for three short years! Thank you again for entrusting your children in our care. We have a lofty goal that guides our work every day. We want every child to flourish. This means that we want children to develop the capacity to thrive socially, emotionally and intellectually. We want them to participate meaningfully in school, community and civic life. Most importantly we want them to live a life of curiosity, influence, and satisfaction. We thank you for partnering with us as we recognize that this work is a journey that takes time, passion and effort. In my next article, I will talk about how Montessori Guides (teachers) help children to develop executive function skills. I'll explain what these skills look like at each of the developmental levels. Hopefully, the ideas that we share in Bear Tracks give you additional insight into the Montessori methodology.

Dr. Heidi Stark

Walk for Life

Join us Saturday, October 12th, as we walk in the annual 5K to raise funds for the Prisma Health Breast Center. Parents and families are welcome to join us for this important service opportunity.

You can register for our team, "Richland 1—Brockman Bears" by going to <http://events.palmettohealthfoundation.org/goto/BrockmanBears>. You can also make a donation at this website.



Meet Our New Arts Coordinator

Hello Brockman Families!

My name is Katy Dallas. I am your Brockman Arts Coordinator! I have 2 children of my own attending our fantastic school. Wyatt, 9, is in 4th level with Mr. Stoner and Ms. Jefferson, and Stella, 4, is a 4K junior bear with Mrs. Ferrell and Mrs. Edgren.



I am also the dance teacher at AC Flora High School and the Lead Dance Teacher for Richland School District One. This is my 16th year teaching public school dance and it is truly a joy.

I am really looking forward to embracing the Arts Coordinator role at Brockman this year! We have many planned arts events and experiences for our Brockman Bears. This year's Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) focus is on the Visual Arts, but we will still have many music, dance, theater, and creative writing experiences along the way, as well. Soon we will be sending home information about our Brockman smARTs Afterschool Fine Arts Program (FAB), so be on the lookout!

Please feel free to contact me anytime with your ideas or questions at the following email address:

brockmanartscoordinator@gmail.com

Brockman School Improvement Council

We are currently forming our School Improvement Council (SIC) and need nominations of parents, community members and staff who are willing to work together to achieve results that better the education and environment of our school. We need at least two parents, community members and teachers for our SIC.

The SIC meets nine times throughout the year and the time is set by the committee at the first meeting. The SIC will monitor the progress of our 5-year Strategic Plan and will also set a course for future improvement of our school. Please consider nominating yourself or someone else for this important advisory position. Nominations will be accepted through September 20th. Please use the following link to go to the nomination form:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/H7RYRRC.

Thank you in advance for nominating someone to participate on our School Improvement Council!

Primary

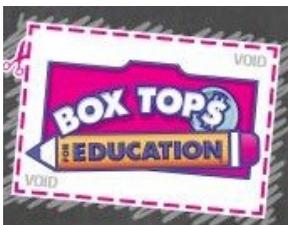
A Little Bit of Montessori Philosophy

Children in a Montessori classroom are free to choose their own activities with only indirect guidance from the prepared environment, older children, and teacher. Dr. Montessori believed that, in a properly prepared environment, children would be drawn to the activities that they need most. All this freedom of activity in the classroom is balanced with discipline and structure. Children are allowed to choose the activities that they have been shown to use and are able to create within those boundaries.

The Montessori environment is orderly, and the limits of social behavior are strictly adhered to. The children have no way of developing respect for their environment and the people within it if appropriate limits are not set. Dr. Montessori believed permissiveness and lack of self-control work directly against the concept of freedom of choice. When a child makes choices without forethought or planning, s/he becomes a prisoner of his/her own impulsive acts and feelings. Allowing the child their choices, allows the child to begin to make responsible decisions based on their own individual needs. Our goal is to foster a strong sense of independence within each child.

Chaperoning Field Trips

If you plan to join us for these or any other field trips, it is **district policy** that you fill out a Volunteer Form at our front office. This is a requirement that has been put in place in an effort to ensure the safety of our children. This is a one-time form that will cover your participation for the entire year.



Brockman Elementary A National Blue Ribbon



Lower Elementary

Welcome new and returning Lower Elementary students! As we transition to a new school year for some folks and a new beginning for others, it is a good time to remember some important benchmarks of independence Montessori refers to as the Second Plane of Development.

Independence can be broken down into three main categories: care for self, care for environment, and interpersonal skills. In the last edition of the Bear Tracks, we learned about the skills your child is working to develop in the three main categories. In this edition, we are focusing on the road to independence and while understanding that it is not always easy, we want you to know that we support the hard work you are doing at home and we also want you to know that...

It is OK ...

- for your child to learn from mistakes
- to eat a tray lunch (free for all Richland One students) if a packed lunch was forgotten
- if your child feels some frustration at having to figure something out
- misses a favorite television show to have time to wind down and read before bed
- to go to bed early to keep from being too tired to get up on time in the morning
- to spill (and clean up after oneself)
- for your child to complain about doing homework and using the dictionary
- if her projects or book reports are not perfect (resist the urge to do it for your child)
- to forget his homework (occasionally)
- if your child is more focused on quality of work over the quantity
- to have a limit on screen time during the school week and on weekends and/or not have screen time until homework and chores are done
- to be upset with a friend, and work to resolve the issue
- for you to have different expectations of your child than other parents have of theirs

We hope that this friendly reminder helps you help your child develop on the road to independence!



Upper Elementary

The children lean in to hear the dramatic words of the storyteller: "This is how our Universe was born. There was nothing and it was very cold, and then there was everything [pops balloon filled with glitter] and it was very hot. There was light for the first time." Every year, Upper Elementary students gather to hear the Great Lessons of Montessori and are captivated by the big pictures painted for them. These theatrical accounts spark the imagination of 9 to 12-year-old children and are the backdrop for all their studies in the Montessori classroom, from the sciences to the arts, from language to mathematics.

Students delve deeper into self-selected explorations that spring from these stories, and they enjoy creating art responses to these lessons as well. The pictures below are of student creations following "The Story of the Universe" and "The Coming of Life."



New Art on Exhibit



The next time you visit our school, stop by the library and look at the beautiful new permanent work of art. Ms. Aitken, a former Brockman parent and staff member, is an accomplished artist. She offered to paint our children doing their Montessori lessons, and began by taking photos of our children at work. She used the photos to inspire her work. We are so proud of her and thankful for the gift that she has given to us!