

Bear Tracks

Volume 20, Issue 04

October 10, 2019



Dates to Remember



- **Oct. 16**
 - ◆ Field Trip—Wentzky/Phillips Community to Lever Farms, 8:00 am—2:00 pm
- **Oct. 21**
 - ◆ FUNd Run Kick Off—Fundraising packets go home
 - ◆ Family Meal Night at Groucho's Deli Forest Acres, 4:00-9:00 pm
- **Oct. 23**
 - ◆ End of 1st Nine Weeks
- **Oct. 24**
 - ◆ Yoga Day at School with Yoga Masala
 - ◆ Field Trip—Lower El Music Study @ Eau Claire High School, 9:00 am—11:30 am
- **Oct. 25**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Cooperation
 - ◆ Bus Evacuation Safety Drill
- **Oct. 26**
 - ◆ Brockman Bash, 6:30—8:30 pm
- **Oct. 28**
 - ◆ Smoothie Day at Lunch
- **Oct. 28—Nov. 1**
 - ◆ Red Ribbon Week
 - ◆ Teacher Wellness Week Challenge
- **Oct. 28—Oct. 31**
 - ◆ No CRP—Intersession Week
- **Oct. 30**
 - ◆ Report Cards
 - ◆ Safe & Sound Town, Grade 1
 - ◆ Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30 pm
- **Oct. 31**
 - ◆ Student Holiday—NO SCHOOL

Walk for Life

Thank you to everyone who brought in donations for Walk for Life to help fight breast cancer in our community. Through cash and online donations, our school has raised \$319 for this important service project. If you did not get a chance to donate and you would like to, please use the link listed below to make an online donation.

http://events.palmettohealthfoundation.org/goto/Brockman_Bears



Principal's Message



Dear Brockman Families,

One of the essential aspects of Montessori education is the opportunity for outdoor experiences during the school day. Dr. Montessori emphasized the connection to the natural world as necessary for the healthy development of young lives. Whether children are going on a nature walk, cultivating a garden, painting, cooking, building something, or studying outside simply to enjoy the fresh air, they are able to build their knowledge based on the sensorial experiences of nature, art, and working with their hands and bodies.

One of our school improvement initiatives has been to revitalize gardening experiences at our school. We fund a part time position for a Science Lab assistant using profit from our Bears Aftercare program. Mr. Jefferson serves in this position and he works with each classroom to schedule small groups of children to go to the garden plot or greenhouse for a planting experience. Even with his help, we have struggled to bring our weed-infested beds to a condition that children could successfully plant.

This past weekend we were blessed with the partnership of two area churches to lend their hearts and hands to work on our garden beds. Fifty volunteers from North Trenholm Baptist and Riverside Community churches descended on our school full of love and energy. This was part of the Cola Love Day of Service for area churches. The volunteers brought tools, plants and supplies and spent the day preparing gardening beds for children to plant. Richland One supported the effort as well and provided compost, soil and mulch. Mr. David Harris from the Richland One maintenance department worked alongside the volunteers and hauled away our refuse. It was an impressive effort and we are so grateful for their help! Our children are writing thank you notes. You are also welcome to send a note of thanks to North Trenholm Baptist Church and Riverside Community Church!

Dr. Heidi Stark



Walk at School Day

On Wednesday, October 11th, Brockman Bears commemorated National Walk to School Day! Here at Brockman, instead of walking TO school, we walk AT school so all our students may participate. Teachers took their classes outside for 20 minutes and walked around our school grounds. Our students enjoyed the cool fall weather and being physically active!



FUNd Run is Coming!

It's hard to believe it's almost time to kick off our 7th annual Brockman FUNd Run, where "Many Hands and Many Hearts" will come together for Brockman PTO's largest fundraiser of the year! Rather than sell items like wrapping paper or candy, Brockman simply gathers pledges for this fun, community-building event that incorporates one of our principal values — to support growth of the whole child in body, mind, and spirit. If you are new to our school and would like to learn more about the FUNd Run, please email brockmanfundrun@gmail.com.

If you are returning to Brockman, hopefully you have seen and heard about a very exciting result of past FUNd Run efforts — the new Upper El playground! Money raised during the FUNd Run also goes to support classroom initiatives and much-loved annual PTO events such as the Brockman Bash and End of Year Picnic.

Please see "Upcoming FUNd Run Dates" on page 2 for special events we have planned as part of this year's FUNd Run.

Primary

Guidelines for Observing in a Montessori Classroom

We are focusing on working quietly and creating a peaceful environment in our class. Most of our time is spent in "uninterrupted work time."

As an observer, we ask that you sit in the observer's chair and quietly watch what all the children are doing. If you talk to the children, you will disturb their work. You may take an opportunity to discuss the activities you observed at home with your child or at a later time, when the students are not working.

Upcoming FUNd Run Dates

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| 10/21 | FUNd Run Kick Off (fundraising packets go home) |
| 10/24 | Yoga Day at School with Yoga Masala |
| 10/28 | Smoothie Day at Lunch |
| 10/28-11/01 | Teacher Wellness Week Challenge |
| 11/02 | Family Zumba/Play Date at Trenholm Park |
| 11/04 | Hula Hoop Day at Lunch |
| 11/08 | FUNd Run (parents are invited! Primary @ 8:20 am; LE @ 9:00 am; UE @ 9:40 am) |

Brockman School Improvement Council (SIC)

Thank you for the nominations for people to serve on the SIC! We have a slate of energetic people ready to begin in this important advisory role! They bring passion, talent and a willingness to work on our Five Year Strategic Improvement Plan! All we need is one minute of your time to vote this slate into action.

Please visit the following link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PSXB7QS> and vote "Agree"!

Here are the members of our SIC:

- Mr. Duffy, Parent
- Mrs. Mekongo, Parent
- Mrs. Rotureau, Parent
- Pastor Knapp, Community Member
- Mr. Whitehair, Community Member
- Dr. Parkmond, Staff (CRT)
- Ms. A. Brown, Staff (Teacher)
- Mrs. Wentzky, Staff (Teacher)
- Mrs. Moore, Staff (Teacher)
- Mrs. LaKenna Pressly, Family Engagement Coordinator
- Mrs. Clawson, Staff (Teacher) & Parent
- Dr. Stark, Principal
- Mrs. Giles, Assistant Principal

Lower Elementary

Peace Table

By Sully Wilson, Sadie Wiskes, & Liz Harper

In our class we have a Peace Table because if you have an issue with your friend, you can work it out. We use a talking stick at the Peace Table to help us remember to talk one at a time.

One person talks so they can tell about their issue, they hold the talking stick. One person listens because if the person is not listening, you will not understand the problem. We come up with agreements at the Peace table so our issue will not happen again.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to all of our talented young artists here at Brockman!

If you are headed to the SC State Fair this week, be sure to stop by the Cantey Building to check out the Student Art Exhibit. Many of our students had artwork selected for exhibition during the fair, and both Maddy Romero and James Webb received 2nd place ribbons for their submissions.

...a few more pictures from Cola Love Day of Service



Upper Elementary

D.A.R.E. Field Trip

By Jack Mann & Gabbie Kawooya

On Friday of last week the fifth level students from Richland One went to see the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Kickoff presentation. For the past five weeks, Deputy Burroughs has been teaching Brockman's fifth level students how to stay safe and drug free. Students meet in the cafeteria every Friday and Deputy Burroughs talks to them about the effects of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco and the importance of staying in groups with non-drug users. Deputy Burroughs also presents scenarios to students and asks them what they would do in certain situations, for example, if a friend takes a beer out of the refrigerator at home - should you drink it with them? Occasionally, Deputy Burroughs asks for volunteers to read and respond to the questions. What students enjoyed the most at the D.A.R.E. Kickoff was the ice cream and watching Clifford "hit the woah."



National School Healthy Award

By Eve Duffy & Ranger McAngus

We are proud to announce that Brockman Elementary has been awarded the Healthy Alliance Silver award for being one of America's healthiest schools! Only 355 schools in the whole United States are awarded this title!

The National Healthy Schools Award is an outstanding achievement that celebrates all our hard work for building a healthier school!

We have become one of the Nation's healthiest schools for our healthy meals, physical activity levels, employee wellness, physical education program, and all our other clubs and activities that promote being physically active and living a healthy life! So good job Brockman Bears!

Let's keep up the awesome work Brockman Elementary and go for the GOLD this year!

