

Bear

Volume 20, Issue 07



Tracks

November 21, 2019

Dates to Remember



- **Nov. 21**
 - ◆ Field Trip—1st Gr to Riverbanks Zoo
- **Nov. 22**
 - ◆ Lifeskill Tea for Good Citizenship
- **Nov. 25**
 - ◆ Regular School Day—Hurricane Make-up Day
- **Nov. 26-29**
 - ◆ Thanksgiving Holidays
- **Dec. 6**
 - ◆ Interim Reports go home
- **Dec. 9**
 - ◆ Field Trip—Upper El to Columbia Museum of Art
 - ◆ SIC Meeting, 1:00 pm
- **Dec. 12**
 - ◆ Holiday Strings Concert, 6:30 pm; UE arrives 5:45 & LE arrives 6:00

Media Center News

Greetings from the library!

Did you know that November is Picture Book Month? Picture Book Month is an international literacy initiative that celebrates the print picture book. Oftentimes, picture books are thought of as only being appropriate for very young children. This is a misconception. Picture books can be a great way to expose children to new vocabulary. They can draw in the reluctant reader. Picture books help give children an understanding of story structure. They provide excellent examples of literary language. Picture books are meant to be shared. They provide a great opportunity to connect and bond with our children in an increasingly hectic world. And let's not forget, picture books contain beautiful art. As an educator, I have used picture books to teach children ranging in age from three to eighteen, and I can tell you that in my experience, children of every age find them engaging. Visit the official [Picture Book Month](#) website to learn more about this initiative and to find activities and articles from many well-known picture book authors. I encourage you to read a picture book with your child today. For a list of great picture books, check out [Caldecott award winners](#) or [South Carolina Picture Book Award](#) or head to your local library.

Happy reading!

Phoebe Blalock
School Librarian

Principal's Message



I wanted to take a minute and highlight our newest teachers. You probably recognize that teaching takes a great deal of effort, patience and skill. We are proud that our staff is passionate and dedicated to your children and a quality Montessori program. While we have many veteran teachers, we also have a few new teachers that we selected through a thoughtful and competitive process. We are proud of their great work and want to highlight them in this issue.

Ms. Williams, a lower elementary guide was hired mid-year last year. She is currently finishing her Montessori certification and is already sharing her knowledge with others. Recently, she led a professional development session for Montessori teachers in our district showing a lesson called "Infinity Street," in which children practice reading and making numbers beyond a trillion!



Mr. Linton is our new physical education teacher. This is his first year of teaching and he is also showing his willingness to learn and take the lead among teachers in our district. Recently, he led a professional development session for teachers in the district to show a lesson that teaches children to complete a bounce pass and chest pass in basketball. The lesson broke each pass into three specific cues to help children remember and chain together the steps to make the pass. Veteran teachers shared that he gave them great ideas to take back to their classrooms!

We are proud of our teachers and know that you also appreciate their great work!

Dr. Heidi Stark

Arts Steering Committee



Dear Brockman Families,

Last year was our first year at Brockman, and besides being blown away by the warm atmosphere and high academic standards, my husband and I were delightfully surprised to hear my son and daughter coming home talking about dance and drama, in addition to drum circles, art class, and music! While these activities helped convince us that we were in the right place, it didn't occur to me to consider where the funding for all of these incredible opportunities came from.

Since August, I have begun to understand that the wonderful arts programming to which our children are exposed comes from two primary sources: 1) the dedicated art and music teachers at Brockman, working in tandem with the rest of our teachers to plan innovative field trips and arts infusion days, much of which is funded through a South Carolina ABC grant to fund art in the schools; and 2) the Arts Steering Committee, and it's fundraising arm, the Fine Arts Booster.

Through the ASC and FAB, we have been able to hire Lori Jacobsen to teach dance to primary, lower el, and upper el for the past year and a half, to hire Town Theatre to work with our lower el and upper el students the past two years to stage theatre performances, and to sponsor a slate of dozens of amazing afterschool enrichment classes in years past.

However, times have changed. The FAB budget does not have the funds to hire Lori Jacobsen to teach in the spring, so this semester will be her last semester with Brockman (at least for now). And while we have the funds to cover drama for lower el this spring, without an infusion of funds, we will not be able to continue drama next year (2020-2021). Lastly, new Richland One rules prohibit Brockman from hosting afterschool classes unless they are fully funded *without* student fees; this means that the reintroduction of afterschool arts will require funding from FAB.

We all benefit when arts are in our school, and we have the ability to continue to provide these opportunities for our children. What can you do to help? I'm so glad you asked! Please contact me at laura.brashears@gmail.com, and also stay tuned for opportunities to make a difference in the next few months.

Laura Brashears
Arts Steering Committee President

Primary

Good Etiquette and Manners

Adapted from an article by Katherine Lee found on verywellfamily.com

In today's fast-paced, technology-driven society, teaching children manners is something that is more crucial than ever. One of the most important jobs we have as parents is to help our children develop social skills, show them how to interact in a polite manner with people, and teach them to treat others with respect.

Whether the occasion is a holiday gathering, a family meal, or a simple trip to the grocery store, parents can use these social opportunities to instill good manners in their children that will become a habitual part of their lives into adolescence and beyond. Here are some great ways parents can teach their children good manners.

Important Manners to Teach Your Child:

- Teach them to say "Please" and "Thank you"
- *Don't forget the cousins* - "May I," "Fine, thank you; and how are you?"
- Practice greeting people properly
- Encourage your child to use "Mr." or "Ms."
- Remind your child to speak to people in a way he wants to be spoken to
- Get your child into the habit of waiting for her turn to speak
- Emphasize the importance of being gracious when competing
- Teach your child good playdate manners
 - Remind your child to follow the rules of her friend's house when on a play date, and to always clean up after herself before leaving. If your child is hosting the playdate, be sure that she puts her friend first giving her the best seat and serving her first.
- Instill good table manners in your child

What Parents Can Do to Improve Kids' Manners:

- Have dinner conversations
- Have kids regularly say "thank you" and "please"
- Have them write thank you cards
- Turn off the TV
 - Reducing screen time is a great idea in general; research shows that cutting back screen time improves kids' health, grades, and behavior, among other benefits.
- Show them how to write polite emails and texts
- Work on ways to limit cell phone use and other electronic devices
- Teach them the importance of empathy
- Set a good example

Remember that you set the standard. If you are at the dinner table texting on your cell phone or routinely speak to people in a rude manner, your child will pick up on these behaviors and will most likely copy them. If you want to raise a well-mannered child, the first thing you must do as a parent is take a good look at your own behavior and make sure you are consistently practicing good manners yourself.

Lower Elementary

Practical Life in the Lower Elementary Classroom

Practical life activities are for children of all ages, and change depending on what the child can do at each stage of development. The activities can start with something as simple as pulling pants up or washing hands and can get as complicated as baking a dessert, or even developing a business plan in the elementary or middle school years.

When done correctly and presented as an approachable, impactful challenge, these activities hold inherent dignity. It's not "just" getting dressed or "just" juicing an orange if one is doing it oneself. The child is learning to follow a complex motor sequence, independently, in order to fulfill his or her own desires and needs. These skills, when taught early in life, allow children to believe in themselves as well as develop the self-discipline needed for success throughout their lives.

In doing practical life activities, the child can develop a high level of concentration, develop a sense of order, take pride in completing a job, increase independence, develop respect for his or her community and surroundings, and improve fine motor skills—both in general and with an eye to the particular skills that a child will need for more cognitively demanding work such as reading, writing, and mathematics.



Upper Elementary

Charles Towne Landing

by Savannah Peterson & Ella Rogers

On Wednesday, November 13th, the fourth levels went on a field trip to Charles Towne Landing. The trip was amazing! Our guides at Charles Towne Landing taught us about the history of Charles Towne and they showed us how the people of the colony lived. We also participated in trading games and they had replicas of houses, the boats they used, and the wooden gates of the fort. There were also examples of animals from the time, such as, bison, turkey vultures, bobcats, skunks, deer, pumas, and the bald eagle. An interesting part of the trip was the stocks they had at Charles Towne Landing. If you broke the rules of the colony, for example, if you stole, they would place you in one of the stocks or tie you to a tree and whip you. Our historical field trip helped us learn more about Social Studies and we had a fun time!



The Story of Writing

The Story of Writing — sometimes called the Story of Communication in Signs — dramatically presents the evolution of written language and the desire of people throughout time to express themselves in written form.



Students in Upper Elementary worked on the Great Lesson, "The Story of Writing." While studying about their own written language, students had the opportunity to work with Primary students. Upper Elementary students shared their lessons with the younger students who were learning about "Past and Present." This was a great opportunity for our older Brockman students to connect and work with our younger Brockman students.