Bear Tracks

Volume 20, Issue 08

January 10, 2020

Dates to Remember

- Jan 13 @ 1:00 p.m. -School Improvement Council meeting
- Jan 14 (4:00-7:00 p.m.) -R1 Science Fair @ Fairgrounds
- Jan 16 @ 4:00 p.m. -Arts Steering Committee
- Jan 16 - End of 2nd Quarter
- Jan 16 - Last day Dance classes
- Jan 17 - No School for students
- Jan 20- No School for students
- Jan 21 –Drama begins for LEL

  Thank you Fine Arts Boosters!
- Jan 23 - Report cards go home
- Jan 25 -R1 Fitness Bowl
- Jan 28 (6:00-7:00 p.m.) -Learning at the Hands of the Child –see reverse
- Jan 29 @ 5:30 p.m. Parent Information Session for applicants

Volunteers Needed

On Friday, February 7th, Upper elementary students will participate in our annual event called *Awareness: The Key to Friendship*. This educational program teaches understanding and sensitivity towards people with disabilities. The program requires many volunteers to help lead students through activity stations. If you are willing and available to help, please sign up at the link below or email Mrs. Godfrey at this address: georgia.godfrey@richlandone.org

LINK - https://tinyurl.com/ye8wngoo

Farewell for Now

Ms. Lori Jacobsen has been teaching dance at Brockman since August 2018. She will be ending her time as artist-in-residence on January 16th. The Fine Arts Booster (FAB) Parent Organization funded this position and hopes to bring her back in August 2020 if funds can be raised at the auction that is planned for this spring. When asked about her time teaching dance in a Montessori environment, Ms. Lori said,

> *"My goal with the dance program at Brockman was to show the kids that dance is much more than learning steps. It's connecting to music, to emotions, and to community. I share history and culture in my lessons. I share dance as a form of self-care and a coping skill for stress. I engage the children in a variety of movement and stillness practices. We dance, shake, jump, wiggle and then we can rest, meditate and elevate our mood or create intentions. We play, we are silly, we are enjoying movement with our bodies in every dance class."*

When we asked Brockman students what they thought about dance class, they had LOTS to say! Here are just a few thoughts from students:

- "Dance class is a place where you can let your feelings be free". -Caroline Webb
- "In dance class I can express my feelings, which are sometimes hard to say" -Sunny Woods
- "Ms. Lori is super fun and dance class is the best way to get out energy during the school day" -Hugh Hudson
- "Before dance I was a boring caterpillar and now after dance I'm a beautiful butterfly" -Timothy Manning
- "Dance makes my heart pump and makes me feel good" -Gavin Mills
- "When I'm in dance I get to express my feelings, better than anywhere else. And I think Ms. Lori is the best dance teacher Brockman has ever had." -Bess Lyon

Thank you for teaching Brockman students, Ms. Lori. We are not saying "good-bye." Instead we say, "farewell... for now!

Primary Scientists!

During the month of December, Brockman Elementary students and classrooms participated in the Richland One Science Fair. Primary classrooms completed group projects using the five step scientific method: Observations, Questioning, Hypothesizing, Predicting, and then Testing. Results were posted on tri-folds and displayed in the halls. Classes chose to experiment with a variety of concepts, many of the themes were holiday inspired! This is a picture of primary students testing whether colors mix better when they are in a liquid or solid state. Primary is a great time to learn how to investigate, because children are naturally curious about the world around them!

Lower Elementary Students Practice Cooperation!

Cooperation means to work and learn together and get along with each other. We learn to cooperate by doing activities together. Recently our class worked on an activity with Mrs. Geiger's class. We were put into groups of three and had work on a STEM activity about snowflakes. First, we drew snowflakes on paper. Next, we had to make one of the snowflakes using marshmallows and toothpicks. We had to cooperate as a group to make the snowflakes. People had to work together. It took a long time to figure out how to make the snowflakes from the marshmallows, but it was really fun.

Submitted by Parks Johnson and James Webb in Mrs. Tison's Class

Upper Elementary

Hands-on science with inquiry-based learning explorations is an important aspect of Montessori education. Students apply their understanding of grade-level content in an authentic, meaningful way. The annual Science Fair is one opportunity for students to explore their interests and share their investigations with their peers. Recently, 4th level students forecasted weather based on their knowledge of fronts and weather patterns. 5th grade students designed, created, and fine-tuned original structures based on their understanding of engineering. Science education in the Montessori curriculum is focused on dealing with real-world scenarios as well as problem solving using hypothetical examples that students may encounter in life.

Join us Jan 28th for *Learning at the Hands of Your Child*

Parents are invited to a special event on Tuesday, January 28th. This is a one-on-one time for children to share their favorite Montessori lessons with parents! Parents can bring their child anytime between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. to the classroom to enjoy observing Montessori in action. The evening is fluid in terms of scheduling and parents can spend time in multiple classrooms. Please note that child care is not provided for this Parent Education event.

Classroom Guidance

In classroom guidance lessons, children are developing career awareness. Primary and Lower Elementary classes are enjoying books, guessing games, and interactive activities to build their vocabulary and knowledge of jobs and careers. Upper Elementary students are exploring our state's career information website and taking an interest inventory to make connections between activities they enjoy and potential career paths. Students and families are welcome to access this website to explore more at home using the username and password provided below.

Website: www.scois.net
Username: Brockman
Password: Bears 2014

Souper Bowl

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual R1 collection to tackle hunger in our community. Between January 13th and January 31st, students and staff can bring canned goods such as soup, tuna or vegetables. Last year R1 collected 9,102 cans and R1 is ready to do it again to help others! Special thanks to Mrs. B. Brown's class for organizing the charitable event. They want to remind you that the game is big, but our mission is bigger!