

# Brockman Elementary Bear Tracks

December 1, 2020

## Principal's Message

Dear Brockman Families,

My first few months as principal during this pandemic has been very busy, however, it has been a wonderful experience. I would like to express how grateful I am to partnership with the families and faculty at Brockman Elementary. As the principal, I am thankful for students who work hard to learn, parents who encourage, and teachers who are dedicated and truly care about each child. Thank you for your help, support, and sense of community. There is no other place I would rather be!



This year, due to COVID-19, our goal is to send less paper documents home with students, therefore, Bear Tracks will be sent in an electronic format. Please read Bear Tracks in detail and let us know if you have any questions.

Warmest Regards,

Sharonda Giles

## Dates to Remember

- December 1st-16th:** STAR Assessment Window
- December 2nd:** Early Release for Students at 10:30 a.m.
- December 4th:** Full Day for Students (originally a half day)
- December 15th:** Pajama Day Cohort A (Lower and Upper Elementary)
- December 18th:** Pajama Day Cohort B (Lower and Upper Elementary)
- December 21st-January 1st:** Winter Break
- January 4th:** Students/Staff Return
- January 18th:** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday (No School)
- January 26th:** End of 2nd Nine Weeks
- January 29th:** Teacher Workday (No School for Students)





## 2020-2021 Yearbook Baby Photos

**5th Grade Baby Photos:** Calling all 5th Grade baby photos. Parents, hunt down that adorably cute baby photo of your 5th grader. Please send the photo to [BrockmanYearbook@gmail.com](mailto:BrockmanYearbook@gmail.com) by the deadline. **PHOTO DEADLINE: Friday, December 4th.**

If you have questions about the yearbook contact Urica Floyd at [BrockmanYearbook@gmail.com](mailto:BrockmanYearbook@gmail.com) or at 803-318-0247.

## Holiday Gift Donations

The Thanksgiving holiday reminds many of us of the things for which we are grateful and leads into the excitement and joy of the winter holiday season. However, in all communities, there are families who may find this time of year stressful or strained due to financial hardship. Our Brockman community strives to encourage kindness and compassion for all people, and we look for opportunities to spread joy and show love to others. In that spirit, we are collecting gift donations to pass on to some Brockman families before Winter Break.



If you would like to help with this service project by donating gifts or gift cards to brighten the holidays for some of our Brockman Bears, please contact Ms. Godfrey or Ms. McCrorey by Friday, December 11th.

**Georgia Godfrey, School Counselor – 803-790-6743, [georgia.godfrey@richlandone.org](mailto:georgia.godfrey@richlandone.org)**

**Lakenna McCrorey, Parent & Family Engagement Specialist – 803-908-9483, [lakenna.mccrorey@richlandone.org](mailto:lakenna.mccrorey@richlandone.org)**

If your family needs assistance with holiday gifts and you have not been contacted, please call Ms. Godfrey to be included in this program.



## PTA Poinsettia Fundraiser

Thank you for supporting our PTO Poinsettia Fundraiser! Pick-up is on Wednesday, December 2nd from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the front of the school building.

## Daily at Home Health Checks

We encourage families to conduct daily health checks before dropping students off in the morning. If a child displays any indication of a possible illness, that may decrease the student's ability to learn and

also put them at risk for spreading illness to others, they should remain at home. Symptoms that are indicative of a possible illness include but are not limited to:

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever



Nurse Cynthia Hubbard is Brockman's COVID lead contact. Please feel free to contact Nurse Hubbard at [Cynthia.hubbard@richlandone.org](mailto:Cynthia.hubbard@richlandone.org) or 803-790-6743 if you have any questions or concerns.

## Montessori Philosophy Reminders

As students are working in the virtual school program and on asynchronous learning assignments, please be reminded of the following – *fostering independence and the importance of using Montessori materials.*



### **Fostering Independence**

One of the key goals of a Montessori education is to teach children to be able to do things for themselves, and provide many engaging opportunities for them to do so.

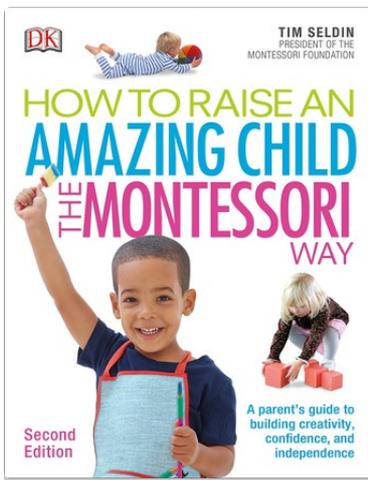
In Montessori classrooms, students set their own learning agendas, challenging themselves when they're ready. Children are not forced to keep the same pace as others. The learning materials first designed by Dr. Montessori encourage young learners to assess their own learning progress and spot errors. In this way, they develop greater self-sufficiency and personal independence, which leads to an internal sense of purpose and motivation.

### **Importance of Using Montessori Materials**

A hallmark of Montessori education is its hands-on approach to learning. Students work with specially designed materials, manipulating and investigating until they master the lesson inside.

Each material teaches a single skill or concept at a time—for example, the various “dressing frames” help toddlers learn to button, zip, and tie; 3-dimensional grammar symbols help elementary students analyze sentence structure and style. And, built into many of the materials is a mechanism (“control of error”) for providing the student with some way of assessing her progress and correcting her mistakes, independent of the teacher.

The concrete materials provide passages to abstraction, and introduce concepts that become increasingly complex. As students progress, the teacher replaces some materials with others, ensuring that the level of challenge continues to meet their needs.



## Book Recommendation

Want a great book to add to your Montessori parenting Christmas list? "How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way" by Tim Seldin is a great resource for new Montessori parents. With full color photos and easily digestible information, this book is a "must have" as you begin your Montessori journey.

Here's what a fellow Brockman mom had to say:

*"How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way has given me small every day, practical things to do to make a big difference in my children's world. Keeping in mind that they are "human beings" upgrades my level of respect for them. Now I'm listening more intently to verbal and nonverbal feelings and spend more time acknowledging their opinions."* – Karen Mekongo

## We Love Our Brockman Bears!

