

Brookland Elementary

December 2018



Paw Prints Newsletter

DECEMBER DATES

- Dec. 2 – Brookland Christmas Parade, 2:00 pm
- Dec. 3 – 2nd Book Club, 6:00 pm
- Dec. 3 – “Gifts” - Kindergarten Christmas Program (Burke, Gann, Matthews, Scarlett, Smith, Tirado), 7:00 pm
- Dec. 4 – Students begin earning letters for “Winterfest”
- Dec. 4 – “Gifts” - Kindergarten Christmas Program (Copelin, Lavender, Machen, Mealer, Sullivan, Turner), 7:00 pm
- Dec. 12 – TEAMS day
- Dec. 13 – 2nd ASU Basketball Game Visit, Bearbuck Store
- Dec. 14 – Teacher Luncheon. Students will eat in their classrooms. No lunch visitors please!
- Dec. 17 – Santa’s Reader Shop
- Dec. 19 – PBIS Winterfest
- Dec. 21 – Christmas Parties, 8:30 – 9:30 am; Students will dismiss at 11:00 am and buses will run. **Please Note: No lunch or afternoon CAT Club.**

Elementary News

WINTERFEST

Beginning Tuesday, December 4, students will begin earning letters that spell WINTERFEST. They will have 11 days to earn 10 letters. This will give them one “mess up” day because everyone deserves a second chance. The rules are as follows. The student must stay on Bearcat Black or Yellow (Warning) every day in order to earn their letters to spell WINTERFEST. If they miss any of their recess or get lunch detention, they will not earn their letter for the day. If they get an office referral or have to go to the office for any reason, they will automatically be disqualified from WINTERFEST. If they spell out the word WINTERFEST, they will be able to attend the best WINTERFEST yet! We will have lots of games for those attending. This celebration is for those who truly deserve it. It is a reward; it is NOT for everyone. **Please Note:** If the student receives an office discipline referral they are immediately exempt. Therefore, please discuss with your child some basic rules: follow all directions, be respectful, use kind words, and keep your hands and feet to yourself. Please encourage your child each morning to be the best they can be and to make good choices. Let’s keep up the good behavior!

PLEASE REMEMBER...

All adults MUST check in with the office. If you are not wearing a name tag, someone will politely ask you to return to the office to check in.

Sometimes disagreements will happen. If a situation occurs in which you are dissatisfied, please contact the classroom teacher first. If the matter cannot be resolved, you may then contact the principal. If the complaint concerns a teacher, the principal will consult the teacher. The issue can then be discussed with both parties present. Any complaint concerning school policy not covered by the Student Handbook or other published document must be presented in writing to the principal. Thanks for your cooperation!

You, as parents and supporters of our school, are one of the biggest influences in how your child views school and learning. Ask what your child learned or liked about school that day. A positive attitude is catching!

Parents and Visitors: It is necessary to refrain from using cell phones or cameras to take pictures while visiting the building unless they are of your child **only**. This protects all of our students’ privacy. Your help is much appreciated!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas parties will be held Friday, Dec. 21st. They will begin at 8:30 am with individual classroom activities organized by the classroom teacher. Due to certain state laws and guidelines, food at all parties must follow these rules:

- Only store bought items (in the original packaging prepared in a commercial food service establishment) may be brought to school.
- No food items may be prepared at home and served at school.
- Please check with your child’s teacher concerning allergy issues. **No peanut products PLEASE!**



Early dismissal at 11:00 am. Buses will run but no lunch will be served and there will be no afternoon CAT CLUB .



Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?

The Stockings were hung by the Chimney with care . . .



Want to be a better reader? A better writer? A better communicator? READ!

Student A reads 20 minutes per day; 3,600 minutes per school year and 1,800,000 words per year.

Student B reads 5 minutes per day; 900 minutes per school year, and 282,000 words per year.

Student C reads 1 minute per day; 180 minutes per school year and 8,000 words per year.

By the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read 12 school days, and Student C will have read only 3. The more your child reads the better his/her comprehension and related skills will become. Practice makes progress!

The holidays are a great time to read the classics! Enjoy!



’Twas the Night before Christmas . . .



Please send a coat daily!

Please put your child's name on ALL outdoor clothing, including hats, coats, etc. The Lost and Found bin is VERY full! Help your child learn to zip or button his / her own jacket.

Help your child develop independence. Be sure your child can tie his/her shoes and zip his/her coat.



Students are looking forward to the class Christmas party. Look for a note to come home soon!



Kindergarten News — The “Gifts” Christmas Programs are Dec. 3-4!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Look for a note from your child's teacher regarding Christmas party information.

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

Help your child by reading and saying letter sounds. Also, concentrate on short vowels and sight words. This is an important first step in learning to associate letters with words. Look at familiar print around you, such as cereal boxes, can

labels, and road signs. Point out individual letters and show how they connect with other letters to form words. Practice sounding out small words and writing them.

MATH

Ask your child to find items to match a certain number, such as 10 socks or 5 pennies. Make a simple graph with your child. Talk with your child about numbers that are “greater than”

and “less than.” Compare ages of people and things. Compare numbers of Christmas ornaments, toys, candy types, etc. Focus on the “teen” numbers and identifying that number of items.



First Grade News — As you read with your child, help him/her create a mental image in their head of the story. This will help students recall information and improve comprehension.

WRITING

We are writing with a focus on sequence. In a sequence piece, you are writing to describe a series of events or a process in some type of order. Usually this order is based on time. Review transitional words, such as first, next, then, and last as a way to show sequence in writing. Recipes and how to wrap a present are great ideas for practicing sequence writing. Students are also learning how to express their opinions in their writing pieces.

SOCIAL STUDIES

We are studying Christmas Around the World in Social Studies. This is a wonderful time to use compare and contrast ideas. How long is Christmas celebrated in other countries? Do they have the same traditions (milk and cookies for Santa, reindeer pulling the sleigh, decorating a tree) as we do? Is Santa called by the same name or a different name? Answering these types of questions really helps develop higher order thinking skills.

MATH

In math students are learning about giving surveys and collecting data. Data is represented in different ways such as a tally chart, bar graph, or a picture graph. Practice making your own graphs at <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/graphing/classic/>

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

We will have our Christmas Party December 21st at 8:30 am. A note will come home soon. Also, visitors may not eat with students on December 14th. Teachers will have a luncheon that day. Thanks for your cooperation!

Second Grade News —Math is getting more complex. Help your child by reviewing problems sent home.

MATH

Students have been working on addition and subtraction with regrouping. Students need to continue to practice—making a ten with addition and working with counting backwards can help with subtraction. ABCya.com and Funbrain.com are great websites to practice skill fluency, along with **Reflex Math**. (Ask your child's teacher for the website and login info.) They are also really focusing on solving word problems that involve

one or two steps. Sometimes our kids overlook the second step! Remind students to check their answers to see if they make sense.

WRITING/ LANGUAGE

Students are really getting into writing. Classes are exploring different ways to write and revise. Strong language skills can make your child a better reader, writer, and all-around student. You can help build those skills just by talking to your child. You can narrate everyday

activities like driving or cooking. Hearing unfamiliar words in conversation will help your child understand words in books. (Please hand me the *colander* so I can drain the spaghetti.) If your child doesn't know the word, explain and offer an example. Also, encourage your child to join family conversations. Ask questions to help him/her expand on the answers. (Why do you think so? What else happened?) Your child will learn to talk about events, give his/her opinions, and add to their writing skills.

Children and Holiday Stress – How to Calm Down!

The holidays can be a stressful time for parents and children. With different schedules and altered routines, students can become stressed and show behavior that is not the norm. We tend to tell our kids to “calm down” without every giving them explicit directions on how to deal with stress and anxiety. Here’s a collection of simple tools and tips to help teach children how to calm down and relax.

-Think about something that makes you happy.

- Count to 10.
- Do nice things for others.
- Write or talk about your feelings.
- Ask for help.
- Ask for a hug.
- Talk to a friend.
- Get a cold drink of water.
- Take a deep breath.

(Excerpt from copingskillsforkids.com)

Breathing exercises are also a great way to focus attention away from behavior and give children control over their emotions. Try these simple techniques:

The Cocoa Trick – Hot Cocoa Breathing

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWJQVuLdlek>)

Belly Breathing – Calming the Monster Within with Elmo

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZbzDOPYIA>)

Using Shapes to Teach Deep Breathing

(<https://copingskillsforkids.com/blog/sing-shapes-to-teach-deep-breathing>)

(Resources compiled by Tressa Davis)



The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!

-Mark Twain

FOOD DRIVE FOR BROOKLAND FAMILIES

We have Angel Tree families that are in need of food and other items for the days we are on Christmas Break. Brookland Public Schools is sponsoring a food drive along with the Angel Tree Program. Each class’ goal is 100 items and the total will be tallied outside their classroom on a thermometer. If your child’s class meets their goal, then they will receive a movie/snack party in their classroom. The character trait that we want to teach the kids is generosity and giving. Let’s see how much generosity Brookland Elementary can show with our Angel Tree food drive.

- December 3, Monday - Canned Vegetables
- December 4, Tuesday - Canned Soups, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Pasta Side Dishes
- December 5, Wednesday - Mac & Cheese
- December 6, Thursday - Canned Meats (tuna, beanie weenies, Vienna sausages, chicken)
- December 7, Friday - Fruit/Apple Sauce (in small plastic single containers)

THANKS SO MUCH for helping these local families during this difficult time!

Merry Christmas!





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Helpful January Dates

Jan. 7 –
Return to School

Jan. 8 –
Kindergarten PBIS
Rotations/Behavior
Expectations

Jan. 9 –
1st PBIS
Rotations/Behavior
Expectations

Jan. 10 –
2nd PBIS
Rotations/Behavior
Expectations

Jan. 11 –
PBIS Hoe Down
(School Wide
Event)



Ugly Sweater Event

Students will be invited to participate in dressing in their ugliest Christmas attire on December 13. Each teacher will select the "best" dressed from their classroom, and Mrs. McCall and Mrs. Jaynes will choose an overall winner for each grade level. Prizes will be given out to the winners!



Ugly Christmas Sweater Day



December 13, 2018