

Brookdale Beacon

A Newsletter by the Brookdale Staff



**Brookdale
Elementary
School**

Volume 2, Issue 3

April, 2006

On-Time Arrivals Result in Student Success and Safety

As the weather warms up and we begin to recover from "cabin fever" it is a good time to consider a few important habits worth reviewing:

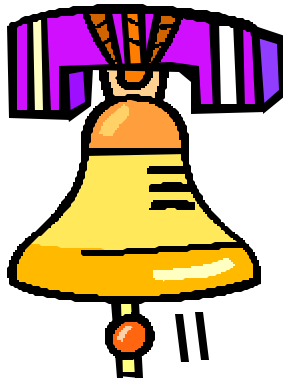
Entrance Procedures

As you know, students may enter the building in the morning anytime after 8:50 a.m. However, students should not be arriving at school before this time because we are not able to provide adequate supervision. Students who arrive early sometimes congregate with peers and find themselves in situations where they make poor choices and begin their day with disciplinary consequences or even have their safety in jeopardy.

Starting Class

Also, students are expected to be in their seat and prepared for learning at 9:05 a.m., the official start time for school. Therefore, when stu-

dents arrive between 8:50 and 9:05, they have a few valuable minutes to hang their coat, unpack their bag and folders, hand in homework and organize their mate-



rials so they are ready for learning. Students who arrive late, or right at 9:05 may find themselves rushing, or struggling to get ready for their first tasks or lesson for the day.

Dismissal/Going Home Safely

At dismissal time, the bell rings at exactly 3:35

p.m. With the warmer weather hopefully here to stay, more children are walking or riding bikes home from school. Please take a few moments to review the route your child takes to ensure that it is safe and respects the property of our neighbors throughout the Brookdale community by using sidewalks.

Playing on the Playground

Finally, while we appreciate that many adults are encouraging kids to play outside more often, please remember that students may play on the playground equipment only when they are supervised or after 3:45 p.m. This ensures that students go home first to check in with parents in order to get permission first. This also makes it easier for school staff to determine which children may still be waiting for a ride after school. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Brookdale Says "Congratulations" to Mr. Buttimer Accepts Principalship at Westview Elementary in Wood Dale, IL

Alan Buttimer, Student Services Coordinator at Brookdale School announced recently that he will not be returning to Brookdale next year. Instead, he will be assuming the role of Principal of Westview Elementary School, located in

Wood Dale School District #7 in Wood Dale, IL. Wood Dale is located about 5 miles west of O'Hare Intl. Airport in northern DuPage County. Buttimer taught third grade for six years at Brookdale before serving as Student Services Co-

ordinator for the past two years. A search for his replacement will begin immediately. Buttimer will officially begin his new role on July 1 and while Brookdale School will miss him, we wish him well as he takes this next step in his career!

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Important Dates

- *No School—Local Holiday—April 14*
- *PTA Spring Fling 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.—April 21*
- *1/2 Day of School-School Improvement Planning—April 28*
- *5th Grade Poetry Night—May 3*
- *1/2 Day of School-Teacher In-Service—May 5*
- *Grades K-2 Music Program—May 10, May 11 @ 7:00 p.m.*
- *Kindergarten Registration and Parent Orientation—May 18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.*

Adult Crossing Guards Worthy of Respect and Appreciation

Wind, Rain, Sleet, Snow...and a fashionable orange vest? While you may have initially thought we were referring to our U.S. Post Office, we'd like to take a moment to point out the important job done every single school day by our adult crossing guards!

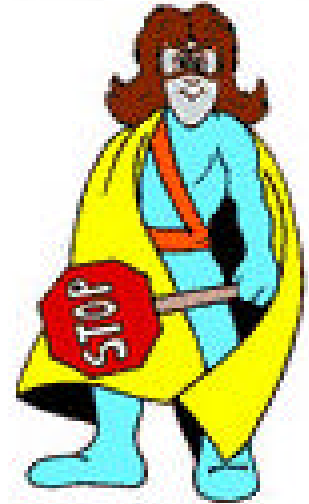
No matter the weather or conditions, you can depend on our crossing guards to be at their respective posts before and after school with one priority in mind—keeping your kids safe!

Our trained crossing guards are district employees and serve in a role where they are supported by the Naperville Police Department along with daily contact with school staff. This connection ensures that traffic patterns and potential problems are quickly communicated to the school office so steps can be taken to ensure that our entrance and dismissal procedures are as smooth and safe as possible. While this may not always be

the most convenient scenario for drivers, our crossing guards consistently enforce rules that are designed to accommodate students, parents, and community members as they walk, drive, park or ride bikes around the school grounds.

So, next time you have the opportunity to speak with a crossing guard or are approached by one, please cooperate with their request, and offer a word of thanks. They have a big job to do, and they do it well.

Of course, if you should have any concerns or questions about our procedures that are in place to ensure student safety, please don't hesitate to contact the school office at 428-6800 to receive clarification or a copy of our map which outlines drop off and pick-up guidelines. This map is also available in the "downloads" section of the Brookdale web page at brookdale.ipeds.org



Our crossing guards do a "super" job keeping Brookdale kids safe each day!



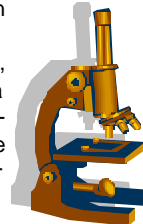
Brookdale Science Fair to occur May 1-5

Science Fair Open House will be on May 2nd from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Brookdale Science Fair Approaches

Calling all 1st through 5th graders! It is almost time for the Brookdale School Annual Science Fair. During the week of May 1-5 the school's LMC will once again be lined with voluntarily submitted science projects.

While studying science in each grade, students learn about a variety of things including nature, space, the human body, rocks and many more interesting topics. However, throughout the six years that a student might attend Brookdale, they are applying the same scientific method to their explorations.



While the Brookdale Science Fair is not a judged competition, we hope that it can be a learning opportunity for students who are interested in scientific inquiry.

Parents who choose to help their child with a project, are encouraged to use and discuss the scientific method throughout the process in the hopes that it may further inspire our young scientists to pursue their natural curiosities about the world in which we live.

Please refer to a note that went home April 10th with more details about the science fair, including dates for setting up and taking home project displays.

Brookdale Recycles Idea of Athletic Shoe Collection

Do you have old athletic shoes at home just taking up space in your closets? Well, it is time for some spring cleaning, and time to donate those gym shoes to Brookdale's 3rd Annual Shoe Recycling drive from April 17-May 19.

Once again, Brookdale School will serve as a drop-off location for old athletic shoes that can be recycled in a collection bin at the school's entrance rather than ending up in landfills with other garbage.



Any unwanted gym shoes that are still in good condition or dress shoes, slippers, sandals, boots, etc. should be donated to

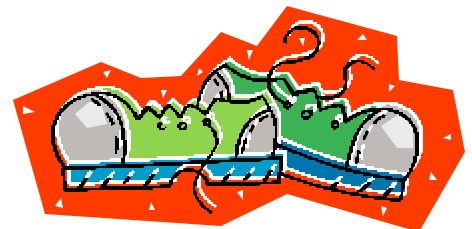
a local charity or resale shop.

But, if you have athletic shoes that are just taking up space at your house, Nike will be able to recycle the rubber and other materials to create courts and other playing surfaces for parks and recreation facilities all around the country.

Formerly the "Reuse-a-Shoe" program, the "NikeGo Places" program has been growing steadily thanks to participating donation drop-off locations such as Brookdale. For more information, visit www.nikego.com.

And, special thanks to Brookdale 5th

Grade Teacher, Cindy Frestel for organizing the shoe recycling program once again this year!



Note: PLEASE tie pairs of shoes together; spikes and cleats cannot be accepted at this time; and "tight-up" shoes must have light mechanism removed before they can be accepted. Thank you!



A column from the Brookdale Literacy Committee Spotlight on Literacy: Building a Voluminous Vocabulary

Having a voluminous vocabulary is very beneficial for your child, and that is exactly why vocabulary instruction is one of Brookdale's school improvement goals.

Learning new words can be very exciting for your child as he/she develops a vocabulary that increases comprehension and fluency. Here are some suggestions to help boost your child's vocabulary:

- Use advanced vocabulary often, when talking with your child. Your child will unconsciously use context clues to

decipher what you are saying. These advanced words will naturally become part of their vocabulary.

- Teach new words in pairs, using synonyms. Therefore use one word definitions to explain unknown words. This will help your child to mentally create word families.
- Encourage your children to use descriptive vocabulary when they express themselves. Use descriptive vocabulary when you express yourself to them.
- Make-up and play your own vocabulary games with your child. Some

possible games could be: twenty questions, with a word as the topic, "I am thinking of a word that...", "I spy a word that is...", "Find three synonyms of..." or charades with vocabulary words. You can play these games in the car or at home.

- Have your child draw pictures of what the words mean. These can be part of a vocabulary notebook of their own.

Give praise and positive reinforcement when your child's takes an active role in finding out about new words and what they mean.



Math Center Added to Brookdale LMC

As the saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day" and neither was the Brookdale School Math Center! But, thanks to the time, dedication, and creative ideas of several volunteer Brookdale parents, this new resource has been operating daily for several months now.

Located at the edge of the school's LMC, the Math Center includes math materials that were donated in addition to some materials that were purchased with a previous grant by the Indian Prairie Education Foundation. Parent volunteers that have committed to working two-hour shifts each week, supervise the center. Teachers use newly created "passes" to send individ-

ual or groups of students to the Math Center for a specific amount of time so that students can practice a particular skill, play a math game which reinforces or enriches topics which are being taught in the classroom, and have fun!

Teachers report that students love visiting and parent volunteers have found that while some days can be "slow" with only a few students visiting, it allows for a rewarding volunteer experience overall with a chance to interact directly with students and have an impact on their learning.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering, please contact Mr. Buttimer for more information.



Reading Assessments to Guide Future Instruction

During the next several weeks teachers will be assessing a variety of reading skills in all grade levels.

Near the end of April, all students will complete short assessments called Rigby Benchmarks which indicate a student's instructional and independent reading level. Grades 1-5 will also be given very short reading probes called Curriculum Based Measures in which reading fluency will be noted. This skill has a high correlation with overall reading ability which includes reading comprehension.

Teachers in Kindergarten, First, and Second grades will be administering the Illinois Snapshot of Early Literacy

(ISEL) during the month of May, while students in third fourth and fifth grade will use a standardized test to provide information about vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.

Performance on these formal measures as well as a variety of other ongoing assessments will aid the Brookdale staff in curricular planning for the fourth quarter in addition to next year.

Reading with your child and encouraging him or her to read independently every day this summer are two ways that you can make sure they maintain everything they've learned this year.

For more information on summer read-

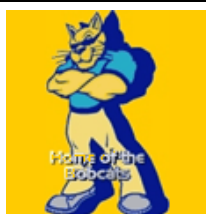


ing programs, contact the Naperville Public Library at www.naperville-lib.org

Theresa Drendel, Principal
1200 Redfield Road
Naperville, IL 60563

Phone: 630-428-6800
Fax: 630-428-6801

*We're on the Web:
Brookdale.ipsd.org*



Brookdale Bobcats are:
*Respectful *Responsible *Safe

Indian Prairie School District
204
Mission and Goals

To prepare all students to succeed in an ever-changing world through comprehensive programs and experiences in collaboration with family and community.

- *We know that including and respecting all people strengthens public education;*
- *We cultivate a climate charged with enthusiasm for teaching and learning;*
- *We challenge all students to reach their potential;*
- *Our students must develop the skills to become life-long learners;*
- *Students learn best in a safe and caring environment;*
- *Education works best when the entire community participates and shares the responsibility.*

The Back Page

assorted “other” bits of information

- Please remember, there is no school on Friday, April 14th due to a local holiday.
- If you have not already done so, please take a moment to sign and return your child’s report card envelope to school. This ensures that you have had an opportunity to review the contents with your child.
- Mark your calendars for the upcoming PTA Spring Fling next Friday, April 21st, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Also, please consider volunteering if you are available so that this event can once again be a successful and enjoyable night for all Brookdale families.
- The 5th Grade Poetry Night will take place on Wednesday, May 3, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- Our Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Thursday, May 18, from 6:30-8:00. Parents can complete the registration process and pay fees from 6:30-7:00 followed by an informative presentation for parents from 7:00-8:00 designed to provide answers to questions about the kindergarten program. Building tours will be available as well.
- The 5th Grade Farewell Party will take place on May 19, from 6:30-9:00. Parents of current 5th grade students should expect more details about this event shortly.
- Indian Prairie School District 204 is proud to present the Annual Fine Arts Festival, hosted by Waubonsie Valley High School on Saturday, May 20, beginning at 8:00 a.m. All Brookdale families are encouraged to visit.
- All volunteers, please plan on attending the annual “Volunteer Brunch” on Friday, May 26, from 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. so we can say THANK YOU for all you do to help make Brookdale such a great place for kids!

Sodhexo “Cooks Up” Books for LMC

The LMC and Sodexo will be working together on “A Novel Lunch” program!

Each month a book will be showcased and the lunch menu will complement the book. This month’s selection is *If You Give a Mouse a Muffin* by Laura Joffe Numeroff.

On Thursday, April 27th the students will receive a blueberry

muffin in their hot lunch to go along with the book.

Whether your child brings a lunch or joins us for the hot lunch we hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the book of the month. There will be a display in the LMC each month with copies of the selection of the month for students to check out.

