

USELESS INFORMATION

One definition of "useless" is offered as "Being or having no beneficial use". The following information and tidbits are definitely just that! But they sure are entertaining!

- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.
- There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.
- Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, dogs only have about ten.
- TYPEWRITER, is the longest word that can be made using the letters on only one row of the keyboard.
- The name of all the continents end with the same letter that they start with.
- Women blink nearly twice as much as men.
- More people are killed by donkeys annually than are killed in plane crashes.
- Donald Duck comics were banned in Finland because he doesn't wear pants.
- The shortest war in history was between Zanzibar and England in 1896. Zanzibar surrendered after 38 minutes.
- Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower', because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the 'upper case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller, 'lower case' letters. The proper term for upper case letters is "majuscule" and for lower case it's "minuscule".
- Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

Now, at your holiday parties, you can impress all of your friends and family with how little you know about so much! Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Upcoming Events

- Dec 1 - Market Day Pick-up
9:45-10:15AM
- Dec. 2 - Kindergarten and 1st
Grade Lit. Night 6-8PM
- Dec. 4 - Buzy Bobcat Store
8:30-9AM grades K-2
- Dec. 9 - Chorus/Choir
Chimes/Guitar Concert 7-9PM
- Dec. 15 - Dinner Night Out at
Atlanta Bread Company
- Dec. 18 - Buzy Bobcat Sore
8:30-9 Grades 3-5
- Dec. 18 - Winter Classroom
Parties 2:30-3:15
- Dec. 18 - Last Day Before
Winter Break
- Jan. 4 - Back To School
- Jan. 13 - Dinner Night Out at
Buffalo Wild Wings

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent/Teacher Conferences were an overwhelming success. We had approximately ninety-seven percent of our parents participate in conferences. Parent exit surveys suggest that the satisfaction rate was very high. Of the 278 parents who responded, 87% rated the experience "excellent" and 13% rated the experience as "good". Written comments were also very supportive of the efforts of our teachers. We continue to use the information to improve the process for subsequent conferences. Thank you to all the parents who attended and all the teachers for their hard work in preparation for the conferences.

PD WEDNESDAYS

The staff is working hard on Wednesday mornings to further their understanding of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) by engaging in activities that are foundational to an effective PLC. For instance, one PD Wednesday was devoted to achieving our literacy committee SMART goal that is based on improving the reading extended-response ability of our students. Through an analysis of our data, we recognized that our reading extended-response instruction needed to be more consistent and build upon itself in an age-appropriate manner. The result of our efforts over the next three years will be a systematic, school-wide approach to reading extended-response and subsequently, improved achievement in that area. Other Professional Development (PD) Wednesday topics have included, among other things, Bully Prevention Program training, SMARTBoard training, team collaboration to generate SMART goals and associated action plans, reading fluency and data analysis of student performance.



PBIS

We continue to recognize our students for following the three core values of the school (Respectful, Responsible, and Safe) by distributing Positive Actions Within School (PAWS) to those students who model appropriate school behavior. On Fridays we recognize students who have earned PAWS in multiples of ten by saying their names on the announcements and asking them to add to our visual display located in the LMC. For the Fall months, students select a fall-colored leaf, write their names on it and attach it to the tree. Each student who is recognized also receives a raffle ticket that enters them into a contest for a monthly celebration. Two students from each grade level (one boy, one girl) are randomly selected from the raffle contest and are rewarded for their behavior with a surprise celebration at the end of each month. For the month of October, winning students played Wii games with one another in the gym. As always, we encourage our parents to consistently review the core values with their children and stress their importance both inside and outside of school.

PA TESTING

"The mission of the gifted program is to identify academically talented students and provide them with a learning environment that offers an enriched/accelerated curriculum and promotes interactions with academic peers." (Excerpt from IPSD 204 Project Arrow brochure) Shortly, we will be identifying students for the program based on a matrix established by the district office that includes classroom and PA teacher observations and standardized test scores. Students in first through fourth grade who are identified as potential participants will receive written notification of their identification on December 9, 2009. The notification will be placed into student backpacks. Testing will occur January 25, 2010 through February 5, 2010. For further information about Project Arrow, please consult the district website at www.ipspd.org and click on the "Instruction/Gifted Program" link.

GEARING UP FOR WINTER

As the impending cold of another Chicago winter is upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we do continue to go outside for recess at lunch. School policy is that we will be outside for recess unless the "feels like" temperature is below five degrees. Our students, therefore, need to be appropriately dressed with coats, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves and boots. We strongly encourage students who want to play in the snow to wear snow pants and boots. Please make every effort to dress your children appropriately for the weather. In addition cold weather concerns, traffic safety becomes even more of a focus during the winter months. We typically see an increase in traffic congestion and hazardous road conditions which, taken together, make for a potentially dangerous situation. Please exercise extreme caution, follow the appropriate procedures, and take your time as you drop-off and pick-up your children from school.

WINTER BREAK

Aside from my family, there is nothing more important to me than the students who attend our school and the staff who teach them. It truly is my second home and I want you all to know that I am thankful every day that I can come to work with a smile on my face. With that in mind, I hope that you enjoy the Winter Break and take a moment to reminisce about all the things for which you are thankful. Finally, please remember that the last day of school is Friday, December 18th and our winter classroom parties will begin that day at 2:30 PM. School resumes on Monday, January 4th. Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Committee News

THANK YOU!

The hospitality committee would like to thank everyone that helped provide food for the conference dinners that the PTA provided for the teachers. The teachers were well fed and very appreciative of the food. Thank you to Amy Erickson, Barb Marshall, Julie Knoll, Peggy Kolar, Stacey Ramsey, Carolyn Tjards, Cathy Collins, Saily Joshi, Amy Elston, Beth Constantine, Mary Hensley, Carolyn Cuzzone, Laurie Knoll, Jeanette Curtis, Sarah Williams, Christine Marquardt, Krista McCann, Ann Luttrell, Cynthia Bittenbinder, Barb Peterson, Sheila Fleming, and Elizabeth Brundage for providing food for the dinners. We couldn't do it without all of your help!

Thanks,
Beth Martinson

NOT JUST COLD AND FLU SEASON!

Reminder from the health office: It is hat and coat season and along with that comes the potential for head lice. The best way to prevent head lice is to discourage children from sharing personal items such as hats, brushes, combs or hair accessories and avoiding situations where head to head contact may occur. If you notice your child scratching his or her head excessively please check your child's head immediately for live lice or nits. If you would like more information, or your child has an active case of lice, please contact the nurse at 630-428-6806.



The School District has changed its policy this year. We will no longer be checking entire classrooms or sending home letters of notification to the classrooms when a case of lice is discovered. Parents are the most important factor in prevention of the spread of lice.

MARKET DAY, HOORAY!



A very special thank you needs to go out to all the volunteers who helped with the November 3rd Market Day Sale. This was Brookdale's **BIGGEST SALE IN 4 YEARS**, and many answered my S.O.S. call for extra hands. Thank you so much to Rose Baranyk, Sarah Bond, Carolyn Cuzzone, Amy Elston, Julie Fernbach, Julie Knoll, Laurie Knoll, Stacey Ramsey, Kathie Smurawski, Charmaine Steward, and Sharon Yeleska who all stepped up and helped out with all those orders.

Also a special thank you to all families who purchased pies. Although we did not meet our goal of 250 pies, we still profited \$1.75 per pie on the 126 pies that were sold, which is great. The Cookies and Cream Pie was awarded to Alyssa Livorsi (11) who sold 10 pies. The grand total profit for November was \$ 383.37 Great Job Brookdale! Keep those orders coming in!

The November Raffle was won by Anna Liza Joseph who took home a free box of Market Day Italian Style Meatballs.

Remaining Market Day Sales are Jan. 12th, Feb. 9th, March 9th, April 13th and May 11th. Pick up time is 9:45am-10:15am in the Multi Purpose Room. Raffles are done each month and the winner gets a free Market Day Food Item!

Market Day groceries are designed to feed a family quick, healthy meals without all the preparation and clean up. You can address questions regarding Market Day to Tricia Smith triciagreg98@wowway.com or 630.416.3255.

HONEY, WHERE IS YOUR...?



As a new season is starting, this is a good time to check out all of the items in the lost and found bins! Lost winter items will start to pile up quickly, so why not clear out anything your student may have lost during the late summer and fall seasons? The bins are located under the stairway near the 5th grade rooms.

MORE "WRAPPING" UP

Thank you for your participation in the Sally Foster/Cookie Dough fundraiser! This year the Sally Foster/Cookie Dough fundraiser raised \$9,500 for Brookdale School!

We are happy to announce the winners of all the prizes for the Sally Foster/Cookie Dough fundraiser:

- Brookdale School's **TOP SELLER** was **Bryce Jacobson** from 1I. He sold a total of \$564 and won a \$100 gift certificate to Fox Valley Mall.
- The Classroom with the **HIGHEST PARTICIPATION** was **Mrs. McClung's 3rd grade class room**. Her class had sales totaling \$1,625.00. Mrs. McClung won a \$25 gift certificate to Target.
- The winners of the **\$100 gift certificate to Target** (those who sold \$100 or more raffle) were **Rebecca Kolar** from 5P and **Alyssa Hilgenberg** from KR.
- The winner of the **portable DVD player** (those who sold 10 items or more raffle) was **Meagan Piper** from KB.
- The winners of the **Webkinz Lil Kinz** (those who sold 5 items or more raffle) were **Amaya Potts** from 2F, **Chase Costanza** from 3M, **Katie Reed** from 4B and **Matthew Webb** from 5W.
- The 40 winners of the **pizza party** (those who sold 1 item or more raffle) had a tasty pizza lunch with Mr. LeCrone on Tuesday, November 24.

Please contact Debbie Snyder at 630-428-3089 or dsnydermjt@wideopenwest.com or Amy Hausman at 630-961-1210 or khausman@wideopenwest.com with any questions about the fundraiser.

Thanks again for your support of this fundraiser to provide programs and events at Brookdale to make school life fun for your child(ren)!



LOOKING FOR LEADERS!

The PTA has openings for Committee Chairs. Please consider taking the opportunity to volunteer your time and efforts to the PTA. In addition to running valuable events and fundraisers for the school, it's a great way to get to know other parents, staff and students at Brookdale. The open positions are: Silent Auction, Title 1, Special Needs PTA representative and Fall Family Fun Night. For more information, please contact Melissa Winchester at melnme1997@yahoo.com or 630-717-0375

BUZY BOBCAT STORE

The Buzy Bobcat Store has had some very successful sales already this year with one being a record-breaking sale of \$221.00! That is a lot of pencils! Thank you to everyone who helps run the store and to everyone who shops! The December sales are scheduled for Dec. 4th for grades K-2 and Dec. 18th for 3-5. We hope to see you there!



FAMILY DINNER NIGHT



Brookdale School PTA

and



present

PTA Family Day



Come out on Tuesday, December 15th to support the Brookdale PTA by visiting

Atlanta Bread for breakfast, lunch or dinner.

Atlanta Bread will donate 15% of Net Sales coming from Brookdale customers back to the PTA.

Atlanta Bread offers an excellent selection of Sandwiches, Soup, Salads, Panini's, Pizza, Pastas, and freshly baked breads and pastries.

Tuesdays after 4pm, children 12 years and under receive a FREE kids's meal for every paid adult meal.

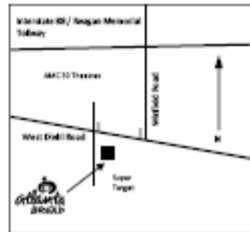
Atlanta Bread is conveniently located across from the AMC 30 theatres in front of Target. Come out to Atlanta Bread to support your PTA.

Flyer must be presented at time of purchase for school to receive donation.



28251 Diehl Road, 630-393-1099

Hours:
 Mon-Fri 6:30am - 8pm
 Sat 8am - 8pm
 Sun 8am - 6:30pm



ANOTHER FAMILY DINNER NIGHT

Also keep an eye out after Winter Break for information on January's Family Dinner Night Out. It is scheduled for January 15 at Buffalo Wild Wings.

ART AWARENESS GOES HIGH-TECH!



With the help of our resident web guru, Mrs. Ory, a brand-new Art Awareness website is in the works! We eventually hope to have Art Awareness materials available on the web for each of our artists. Come check out our progress at:

<http://sites.google.com/site/brookdaleartawareness/>.

The reproduction of each artwork and other materials will still be housed in the Art Awareness area across from the Multi-Purpose room. However, parents and volunteers will be able to access information on the artist, project ideas, parent notes and even PowerPoints on our website-all of which can be downloaded for your next Art Awareness presentation! We do need volunteers to help us clean up the Art Awareness packets and migrate this information online. If you are willing to "adopt" a favorite artist or presentation, we would love your help! Please contact Theresa Hus, Art Awareness Chairperson, at hufamily@widepenwest.com, for more information.

Even if you have never done Art Awareness before, please take a minute to look at the website and see what your child is learning. Art Awareness is a PTA-sponsored, volunteer-led program which introduces kids to the great artists. We present six times a year at each grade level, studying artists from Rembrandt to Rockwell, including many masterpieces housed at Chicago's Art Institute. If you are currently an Art Awareness volunteer or have been one in the past, we extend our gratitude to you for helping to continue this program, which has been a part of Brookdale school for over a decade. To all parents and teachers, and especially Mrs. Ory, the PTA appreciates your support!


TYSON LABELS AND BOX TOPS

The Brookdale PTA is once again collecting labels from the Tyson Project A+ program. It is simple to contribute...just find the label on the Tyson wrapper, cut out the "A+ 1 2 3" top section of the label and send it to school with your child. Each qualifying label is worth \$.24! Thanks for all your help. You can check out the Tyson website at <http://projectaplus.tyson.com> for a full list of products. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Marshall at rmarshall8804@wowway.com or 357-7761.



The PTA is also once again collecting Box Tops for Education labels. This is very simple to contribute to as well.... Just find the Box Tops symbol on the many products that qualify, cut it out, and send it to school with your student. The list of products containing Box Tops for Education is on the Brookdale website at http://www.ipsd.org/Uploads/brookdale_box%20Tops.pdf (Wow! This link is great! There are so many products!). If you have any questions, contact Stacey Ramsey at 630-778-1849.

ESCRIP AT DOMINICK'S

 If you have not already done so, please consider registering your Dominick's Fresh Values Card online at www.escrip.com. When you do, Dominick's will donate a percentage of your purchases to the Brookdale Elementary School PTA each time you use your Fresh Values Card! It is very easy to do - just go to www.escrip.com and follow the instructions. Dominick's will donate up to 4% per shopping trip when your Fresh Values Card is used. Once you've registered, you don't have to do anything else. You have to shop anyway so why not make it benefit the PTA?! If you have any questions about this program, you can contact Stacey Ramsey at 778-1849 or e-mail to srams66@wideopenwest.com.



"SEARCH" FOR MONEY!



What if Brookdale School earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? We can, if you use GoodSearch.com, a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, and we can earn money for Brookdale school.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and enter Brookdale School (no additional information) in the "Who Do You GoodSearch For?" box. (Two "Brookdale Elementary" schools are currently listed, so be sure to pick ours.) After that, search as you normally would. Spread the word to friends and family – Brookdale earns money from every search! Please take a minute to visit Goodsearch.com, or make it your home page. It's an effortless way to raise funds for our school.

This publication is produced and paid for by the Brookdale Elementary School PTA.

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