

Beartracks

The Newsletter of Bryson Elementary School

Fall 2011

Thomas Chambers, Principal
Jane Mills, Assistant Principal

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

- ◆ 10/31
First Report Cards
- ◆ 10/31
Book Character Day
- ◆ 11/10 - 11/16
Book Fair
- ◆ 11/14 - 11/18
Career Week
- ◆ 11/17
Grandparents to Lunch Day
- ◆ 11/22
Decade Day
- ◆ 11/23 - 11/25
Thanksgiving Break
- ◆ 11/28
Progress Report #2
- ◆ 12/9
Spirit Day: Twin Day
- ◆ 12/12
PTA Meeting
- ◆ 12/19- 12/30
Winter Break

Principal's News



Hi Bryson Bears,

What a wonderful season of the year. I love fall.....the colors, the smell of fireplaces, the crispness in the air, clear, cool evenings where the stars seem to shine extra bright. It is truly my favorite season.

.....speaking of my favorite things.....we are having a wonderful year at my favorite school, with my favorite kids, my favorite parents.....and of course my favorite teachers and staff. I hope that your year is going well.

A couple of matters that we continue to ask parents/homes assistance with:

- ◆ If you haven't joined PTA - please consider doing so.....they do SO much in support of our school
- ◆ If you are a car rider in the morning.....*please* consider leaving a little earlier. On most mornings we have little or no traffic from 7:35 to 7:50.....then the rush and

back-up begins. If only 20 to 30% of our morning car riders arrived in that 7:35 to 7:45 window.....life would be a dream!

- ◆ Please encourage your student. If he/she had excellent grades first quarter.....encourage them to keep up the good work! If the grades were not reflective of your child's usual work.....or not his/her best effort.....please encourage them *now*. The year is still young.....there is much time to improve.
- ◆ Finally, be thankful for the wonderful gift of your children! You only get to raise them once.....so please join with us to collectively do our best to prepare them for the years ahead.

Regards,
Mr. Chambers

tchamber@greenville.k12.sc.us

School Bus Focus -

Bryson Elementary and Greenville County Schools Transportation Department have a strong partnership to insure that students travel safely to and from school each day. Bryson Elementary is served by 6 Regular Bus Routes and 3 Special needs Bus Routes. Bryson also partners with area daycare providers to load and transport students safely.

Here are some interesting things to know about bus riders at Bryson Elementary. There are approximately 400 students at BES who ride the bus each day. Students may sit three to a seat in buses that can hold around 78 students. School Bus Drivers often drive several routes completing the elementary school routes and then proceeding to middle and high school. Drivers also transport Bryson students to area field trips throughout the year.

School Bus Safety Week is October 17-21st, 2011. Students at Bryson write thank you notes during this week and often bring drivers special treats. Due to the daily interaction on the bus, drivers become very familiar to students and may drive a bus route for several years watching the students grow and mature. In essence, our bus drivers are part of the Bryson Elementary Family.

If your student rides on a school bus to or from school please take time to thank the drivers for the hard work they do each day. For a review of bus safety and bus rules, please refer to the Greenville County Website under the transportation link.

Mrs. Mills

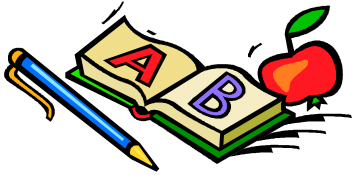
jmill@greenville.k12.sc.us



Visit our website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bryson>



Kindergarten News



The Kindergarteners have been very busy getting adjusted to school. They have learned their class routines and procedures to make each day go smoothly.

In the class they are learning letters, letter sounds, popcorn words, numbers, shapes, and seasons. Many of the students are recognizing letters in the “morning message” and in their environment.

All of the classes went to the pumpkin patch at the beginning of October, and they had a wonderful time. While on the field trip, students learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Students enjoyed a hayride and learned to identify the signs of fall.

First Grade News

Math - We are studying addition and subtraction this Fall.

Science - We are also learning about plants.

Events - First grade will be going to Roper Mountain Science Center on Oct 20 & 26. We will also be going to Woodmont High Farm Day on Nov. 4.



Second Grade News

Second Graders at Bryson have been learning so much about weather since school started this year.

We have learned about measuring rainfall with a rain gauge, measuring temperature with a thermometer and measuring the strength of the wind with a wind flag. We enjoyed making each of these measurement tools in our classes.

We also had fun going outside and observing cumulus, stratus and cirrus clouds and making weather predictions from these observations.



Third Grade News

Science- Third grade has been working on many different science experiments showing the different kinds of rocks and minerals. We will be moving on to landforms soon when we will build volcanoes and have them erupt in school.

Math- We are moving right along to multiplication. We will be working hard to know all of our facts by Thanksgiving!

SC History- Our third graders have been

building maps to show the six regions in South Carolina. We have also been working with maps to show all of the cool places to visit in our home state.

Reading/Writing- We are reading various memoirs from different authors to show students how we can take a small moment in our lives and create a piece of writing from it. Third graders have been writing their own memoirs in class.

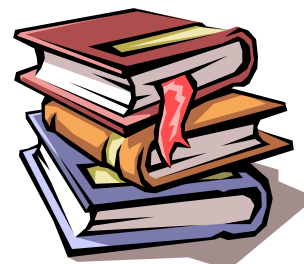
Events- We have a few upcoming field trips to Furman and the Peace Center.

We will be going to see Ramona Quimby at the Peace Center on October 25th. We will be seeing The Best Christmas Pageant Ever on December 7th and The Nutcracker on December 15th at Furman University

Fourth Grade News

Fourth graders have been hard at work since the first day of school! We hit the ground running! We have been busy learning all about being a meteorologist and how to predict weather. We have already learned all about the Native American groups in the United States and did some fabulous Native American projects. Our next mission is learning about all the explorers that discovered parts of North America. We have read

the novel, Sign of the Beaver, and have been writing stories. We are masters of multiplication and place value too! We enjoyed our field trip to the Peace Center to see "We the People" where we heard songs about our Constitution. We plan on continuing to work hard and doing our best!



Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade adventure is in full swing...

Reading: Theme 1 has been completed and most classes have moved into their first novel study of the year...it's a spooky one.

Writing: Students have published their first writing, a personal narrative/memoir. We will continue to focus on the writing process with special attention to the prewriting and revision steps...it all starts with a good plan and ends with vivid descriptions and details.

Math: Math began with a review of place value, followed by work in the basics - addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Time to pull out those flash cards! (Hopefully you already have.) The Algebra and Data Analysis unit is up next.

Social Studies: From Reconstruction after the Civil War to the Transcontinental Railroad and Pioneers

conquering the West, social studies has spanned several important times in our nation's history. The Industrial Revolution and Immigration is the next unit of study.

Science: Science classes began with a review of the Scientific Method. In the Forces and Motion study, students learned about the different forces and designed and tested vehicles using K'nex pieces to see first-hand how forces affected motion. We will be moving into Geological Landforms.

Other tid-bits...

- Operation Christmas Child donations are being accepted through Nov 11th
- DC payment #3 due Nov 30th

Just as FYI - The Peace Center Field Trip date has been moved to Mar 6th due to a conflict with the PASS Writing Test.



From The Guidance Lighthouse



"My Favorite Student"

Students often ask me who my favorite student is here at Bryson. As the counselor, it is important that EACH student feels that he or she is the most important kid here at Bryson. It would be amazing if we as professionals could somehow look ahead and see where these students will be in 2041! We would be shocked at which students will be eagles and which students will be prairie chickens in 2041!

This year my goal is to look at each student as a possible "eagle" and treat that student as an "eagle." Maybe one of our students will find the cure for cancer. When that student becomes famous, that student could say that I had faith in them and told them they could "soar." In that respect I will not be performing my duties just for today; I will be looking ahead 30 years and where that student could be then. It is more important for me to think of that student as an "eagle" than where that student is today. That is the important perspective!

Mr. West

kwest@greenville.k12.sc.us

Coach's Corner

Hello Bryson Students and Families! I am eager to become acquainted with each and every one of you as I begin my new position as Instructional Coach here at Bryson Elementary. I want to take a few lines to introduce myself.

I am Shannon Land. I have been a teacher in Greenville County Schools for the past 10 years. I have had wonderful opportunities to educate students from Kindergarten through 4th grade.

My goal is to support the students, teachers, administration, and the school community. I am impressed by the students' excitement for learning and friendliness with their peers, and adults. My favorite part of the day is greeting the students each morning as they enter the building. The students are eager to share their projects and explain what they have learned with me.

I would like to encourage all of you to visit my website for information and helpful hints. Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas or questions. I look forward to establishing a collaborative partnership with the Bryson community.

Respectfully yours,
Shannon Land

sland@greenville.k12.sc.us



Visit our website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bryson>



From your PTA Co-Presidents...



This year at Bryson is off to a great start! Thank you to everyone who has already joined the PTA. If you have not yet had a chance, memberships are still available and are only \$5.

We are also thrilled to have had a very successful fall fundraiser! Thank you to all of the Bryson students and parents who helped sell so much cookie dough. You did an outstanding job! Thank you for helping to improve Bryson for all our students. When you buy a membership and participate in fundraisers, you help us to raise funds toward improving the outdoor area and playground, adding to our school's technology, providing special opportunities (such as the artist-in-residence), and secure needed supplies.

Our major focus this year will be on improving the playground area through new equipment, landscaping projects,

and needed repair work. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Kathy Lowe, who is coordinating our grounds committee.

We would also like to thank all of the Bryson parents who have already volunteered in a variety of different roles, as room parents, with special events, classroom activities, and more. We appreciate all you do! If you have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer, please contact Michele Newton, our PTA volunteer coordinator.

The Bryson PTA board is here to serve the school and help coordinate parent involvement. Contact information for all of your board members can be found on the Bryson website. We are looking forward to a great year!

Katherine Randall and Kristie Torres Thome, PTA co-presidents

brysonempta@gmail.com



Visit our website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bryson>



Support Bryson Elementary



The second Monday of each month is Bryson Night at Chick-Fil-A on Fairview Rd. From 5-9pm, we receive a portion of all sales. Just mention you are with Bryson Elementary. Bring your family & friend for some scrumptious chicken sandwiches, chicken nuggets and famous waffle fries.

Upcoming Chick-Fil-A dates are: November 7th and December 5th



The first Thursday of each month is Bryson Night at Mojo's. From 5-9pm, we receive a portion of all sales. Bring your family & friends for awesome burgers, delicious hand-cut fires, fried pickles and peppers, and mouth-watering milkshakes. Dine-in or drive-thru.

Upcoming Bryson Nights are: November 3rd, and December 1st



The fourth Tuesday of each month is Bryson Night at Tony's Pizza & Subs on Main Street in Fountain Inn. From 5-8pm, we receive a portion of all sales. Take your family and friends out for some delicious pizza, subs or Stromboli.

Upcoming Bryson Nights are: November 22nd and December 27th



The third Friday of every month is Biscuit Breakfast! Enjoy a delicious chicken biscuit while supporting your school...in the morning carline beginning at 7:15, just roll down your window and breakfast is served! You may want to arrive early on these mornings because we sell out fast!



Please bring exact change if possible. Upcoming Chick-Fil-A Breakfast dates are: November 18th and December 16th



Receive a 10% discount on Monday's at Salon 330 on Harrison Bridge Rd. Just present your Bryson Elementary Magnet or anything else that has something to do with Bryson Elementary.

This coupon is good for a 30% discount on Tae Kwon Do lessons at the Huggins Tae Kwon Do Academy. Present this coupon for any Bryson Elementary Student and/or an immediate family member of a student. We will donate \$5 to the Bryson P.T.A. for every student that joins our Academy! Call us today @ 297-9420

Classes meet 5:30, 6:15 and 7:00 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday!

Visit us on Facebook!

Scholastic Book Fair

Scholastic Book Fair -Bryson
Elementary Media Center

Nov. 10 ~ 18, M-F, 8:15 ~ 2:15

Stock up on books for the holidays; they make great gifts! Classroom teachers will send home details of the specific day students will shop. Parents can shop anytime the book fair is open. Bring the whole family during our extended hours on Tuesday, Nov. 15 , 2:30 ~ 6:00!



Grandparents who bring a grandchild to the book fair and make a purchase on Grandparents Day, Thursday, Nov. 17, will receive a treat! All profits help support library programs.

DISCUS

DISCUS - South Carolina's Virtual Library is the "information place" for all South Carolinians. It provides free access to an electronic library that's available 24/7.

Use DISCUS from your home:
scdiscus.org

Username: discus12
Password: learnit

-- Mrs. Wolfe

dwolfe@greenville.k12.sc.us

What will I find in DISCUS?

Magazines and newspapers, reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries, e-books and much more!

Physical Education News

What does the acronym CATCH stand for?

Coordinated Approach to Child Health.

CATCH is a coordinated school program that promotes children to stay physically active and make healthy food choices. The program not only encourages students to make healthy choices at school but while away from school.

CATCH teaches a child that being physically active is not only important to their overall health, but is also engaging and fun. In the following weeks please check out the Bryson website for the activities surrounding the launching of CATCH.

Ms. Duncan and Mrs. Trammell



Visit our website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bryson>



Ms. Wallace's Art Classes

We are currently studying the art of Vincent Van Gogh.

First grade students made their own Starry Night picture and are currently making self portraits while learning about facial proportions.

Kindergarten is making their own sunflower paintings in the style of Vincent Van Gogh.

-- Ms. Wallace

twallace@greenville.k12.sc.us



Mrs. Boukather's Art Classes

Classes are off to a great start! We have learned about famous artists like Wassily Kandinsky and Miriam Schapiro.

We have also expressed our creativity in our artwork. Oil pastels, watercolor paint, markers, crayons, acrylic paint, colored pencils, scissors, and glue are some of the art materials we have experienced so far this year.

We are also in the middle of our Original Works fundraiser so if you would like to buy items with your child's artwork printed on them; the money will help us buy art materials.

-- Mrs. Boukather

jboukath@greenville.k12.sc.us

Mrs. Coggins' Music Notes

Second graders are also studying rhythm and melody, learning how long is a long sound.

Third graders are studying rhythm and melody and playing pitched percussion ensembles.

Fourth and fifth graders have begun Recorder Karate. Hi-yah! Students are learning to read rhythmic and melodic symbols on the staff to tell them what notes to play on their recorders.

-- Mrs. Coggins

rcoggins@greenville.k12.sc.us



Mrs. Miller's Primary Music Room

Our Kindergarten students have been enjoying the story of Peter and the Wolf as we learn about musical instruments. In the coming weeks we will play many singing games to learn about the characteristics of good singing.

First Graders are beginning preparations for our December PTA performance. We are learning how people in the Northern hemisphere celebrate during the long nights of winter.

-- Mrs. Miller

skmiller@greenville.k12.sc.us



Visit our website: <http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bryson>



PTA Membership Status

At the beginning of the year, we set a school wide goal to reach 100% PTA Membership by **NOVEMBER 18!** Our Current School wide Total is at **65%!!!** **EXTREME ICE CREAM PARTIES** continue to be given to the classes that have already reached 100% Membership :) NOW.....THE **GRADE LEVEL THAT REACHES 100% PTA MEMBERSHIP 1ST.....** WILL GET TO HAVE THEIR VERY OWN **PAJAMA DAY** FOR THEIR ENTIRE GRADE!!!! What a way to show off your school pride!!!! GO FOR THE WIN BRYSON!! HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!!

Congratulations to the classes who have already reached 100% and received their Extreme Ice Cream Parties!!

Kendall - PIZZA AND EXTREME ICE CREAM!!

Bruce

Pleakis

Brown

Smoke-Free Zone

The Bryson Elementary carline is a **SMOKE-FREE Zone**. It is also a **CELLPHONE FREE ZONE**.

Please do not use your cell phone while in the carline, including **TEXTING**, as studies show that drivers using a cell phone are at a greater risk of being involved in or causing an accident than drivers not using a cell phone. Drivers talking on a cell phone are at a 4x greater risk; dialing a cell phone are 6x

more likely to be involved in a accident; and texting are 23x more likely to be involved in an accident than drivers not using a cell phone.

For the safety of all Bryson students, please observe the

CELLPHONE FREE ZONE!!



BoxTops for Education

Thanks to all who collected BoxTops For Education! Here are the winning classrooms for 1st Quarter:

K5: Mrs. M. Johnson

1st Grade: Mrs. Hilbert

2nd Grade: Ms. Brown

3rd Grade: Mrs. L. Hoffman

4th Grade: Ms. Kendall

5th Grade: No Winner

Clip & Send in

Continue to collect Box Tops for Education. Bring them in to your teacher in a zip bag. Don't forget to save the top strip off of your Tyson bags and save Campbell's labels too. Prizes will be awarded quarterly for top classes in each grade.



Campbell's Labels for Education

For more than 38 years, Labels for Education has been awarding free educational equipment to schools in exchange for proofs of purchase from the Campbell family of brands. It's a fun, easy program where students, families and members of the community work together for a common goal. Visit <http://www.labelsforeducation.com> for a list of eligible products.

PTA Volunteers of the Month!

Congratulations to the PTA volunteers of the Month:

September: Elyse Hopkins

October: Laurie Daughtry

MySchoolBucks!

You may now access your child's lunch account at <http://www.myschoolbucks.com>. You can check their balance, prepay for meals, and you can setup for emails to be sent when your child's account is low.