

Bryant Bulletin

April 24, 2019

Staff Spotlight— Ms. Lopardo



Ms. Lopardo is one of our fabulous Resource/In-Class Support Assistants! Ms. Lopardo has worked in education for three years. She shared some of her favorite things about education, "I like working in education because I love helping students learn something new. Besides seeing their little faces light up when they master a certain concept, I love just learning all their personalities. They are creative, compassionate, funny and so bright!" Ms. Lopardo shared one of her favorite moments in education, "I was working with a little kinder student who was having difficulty with letter recognition. We got to the letter of what both our names start with and seeing the student realize that we share that was priceless. I love seeing those learning

lightbulbs go off!" Outside of school some of Ms. Lopardo's favorite hobbies include spending time with her three sons and staying busy with all their activities. Ms. Lopardo shared how she helps foster care and kindness at Bryant, "I'm just a huge believer in the Golden Rule. Making people feel appreciated and valuable is key."

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

The past few weeks have been full of interviews here at Bryant Elementary. As we prepare for the 19/20 school year, I search for the very best candidates who have applied to Katy ISD. My strategy includes searching through applicants early and interviewing many, many people before school, after school, in the evening and on weekends. We use face-to-face traditional interviews as well as Facetime/Skype and phone interviews. I am happy to say we are almost fully staffed for the coming year with many people who wanted to transfer to our school from other Katy ISD schools, as well as dynamite teachers from other districts and states!!

This coming year will be a pivotal year for us as a school and community. We will grow to approximately 815 students. By tipping the 800 mark, we are granted more teaching staff units but also more support staff units--from Specials to Administration and Special Education. Among the additional staffing units granted, we are able to hire a second Assistant Principal. After a multi-layered interview process, I am happy to announce our current Kindergarten Team Leader and Teacher of the Year, Dr. Amanda Fait, as our newest Assistant Principal for the 19/20 school year. We are super excited to have one of our own join Mrs. O'Leary, Mrs. Flores, and myself to help lead our school. Dr. Fait will finish the year in Kindergarten and begin her new position in July. Congratulations, Dr. Fait!!

Announcement: Spring Pictures went home today. If you like the pictures, please see the pricing sheet included with the pictures. Simply pay for the pictures you keep and return the ones you do not want. If you do not want any of the pictures, please return all pictures in the envelope. Follow all instructions from Strawbridge Studios printed on the envelope and the insert. Payment/Pictures are due by next Wednesday (5/1) at 4pm.

Announcement: There will be no PTA School Spirit Store during lunch this week. Spirit Store has finished for the year and will return in the new school year.

Announcement: Katy ISD offers Summer Recreation for all ages. [Click here](#) for more information.

Reminder: Tomorrow is PJ day for \$2!! Money collected will be donated to the Junior Achievement Program. Please make sure Pjs are appropriate for school and please have kids wear regular shoes.

Kindness Crew Challenge: Stand up for each other.

I-Write Contest: Because we have so many writers at Bryant, we would love to see some win the I-Write contest again and have their stories, poetry, or artwork published in a real book! Last year, our very own Caleb Caldwell won the contest and helped us promote it this year with students in grades 3-5. If your child would like to participate in the contest, entry is paid by the school. Below you will find links for submission of stories, poems and/or artwork for this year's contest. Each student submitting into the contest will need to create an account for themselves, with the help of a parent of course. As a reminder the contest is for current 3rd-5th grade students, so current Kinder, 1st, and 2nd grade students will not be able to submit. All submissions are due before May 31st.

For Short Story submissions, [click here](#).

For Poetry submissions, [click here](#).

For Cover Artwork submissions, [click here](#).

FYI: Keep Texas Beautiful and the Texas Department of Transportation invite Texas students, kindergarten through twelfth grade to submit their best litter prevention-inspired artwork to be considered as one of 13 winners for the Don't mess with Texas Calendar. Submissions must be postmarked no later than **May 31th 2019**. Learn more by [clicking here](#).



From the District:

Join us for Our Katy ISD VIPS Celebration

Friday, May 10th - Merrell Center

Doors Open 8:15 a.m. - Breakfast Buffet 8:45-9:15 a.m.

Program 9:15-10:30 a.m. - [RSVP](#) by May 7th.



Last week, Katy ISD published two new bullying prevention videos for elementary and secondary students entitled "Bullying Bystander Behavior." Throughout this school year, the District has made it a priority to share information with our students and school community about the detrimental effects of bullying, along with some preventative measures that are in place at all campuses across Katy ISD. These new videos illustrate the different roles students may play during a bullying incident. You may view the elementary video by [clicking here](#). Through these educational videos, we hope to encourage students to "Don't Just Stand By – Stand Up Against Bullying."

Event Calendar

Thursday, April 25

*Progress Reports Go Home

*PJ's for Junior Achievement. Students can wear pajamas for the day with a \$2 donation. All proceeds will go towards the Junior Achievement program, which we offer at our school K-5. Students will need to wear appropriate shoes for PE/Recess.

Friday, April 26

Bryant Elementary Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, 10-11:30am, LGI Room

Tuesday, April 30

Parenting in the Digital Age, 6-7pm, Cell phones, social media, gaming and YouTube. Kids have a lot of opportunities as well as distractions right at their fingertips. Find out more about the tools attracting our children's attention and learn some tips for managing the technology in your household. This is an adult only educational class. [Click here for more information.](#)

Wednesday, May 1

Core Essentials Kickoff- Perseverance; wear verdigris (vibrant Green)

Tuesday, May 7

CAT Meeting in the LGI, 4pm

Friday, May 10

VIPS District-Wide Breakfast, 8:30am-10:30am. More details to come.

Monday, May 13 – Thursday, May 16

STAAR Testing- CLOSED CAMPUS, No Visitors (not even for lunch times or to volunteer)

Friday, May 17 – Wednesday, May 22

End of Year Celebrations—Schedule and details coming soon.

Wednesday, May 22

College Shirt Day

Thursday, May 23

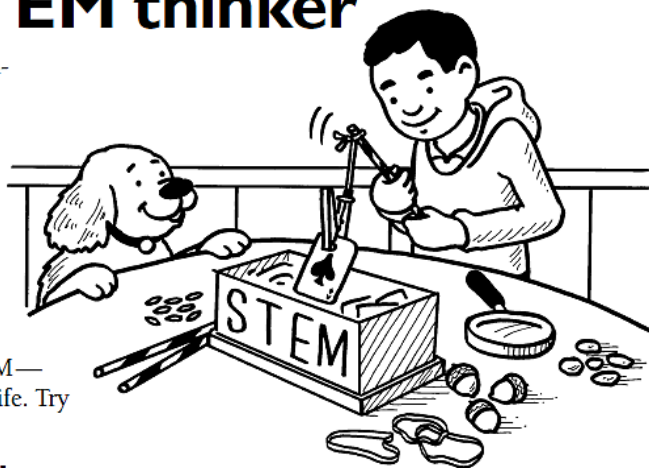
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL-Early Dismissal, 12:40PM

Report Cards Go Home

Home to School Connection[®]

Be a STEM thinker

With science, technology, engineering, and math jobs in demand, STEM is a hot topic these days. Being a curious, critical, creative thinker who can solve problems will help your child do well in STEM—and in every area of life. Try these ideas.



Wonder out loud

Bring out your youngster's natural curiosity by discussing what you're curious about. ("I wonder why rainbows are curved and not straight.") Then, he could experiment to find out. Perhaps he'll create his own rainbows using a flashlight, a mirror, and a pan of water.

Make a "tinker box"

Your child will use critical thinking skills by tinkering with natural objects and loose parts. In a shoebox, let him collect items like pebbles, acorns, seeds, straws, rubber bands, and clothespins.

He could add new objects as he finds them. Maybe he'll design a "claw machine" that picks up small objects or examine an acorn under a magnifying glass.

Promote problem solving

Treat everyday problems as learning opportunities. Say the TV remote won't work, even though you just replaced the batteries. Have your youngster think of solutions and test them. He might check that the batteries are inserted correctly, try batteries he's sure are fresh, or turn the TV off and on again.♥

Information from the PTA

"Parenting in the Digital Age" – April 30th

We are excited to offer "Parenting in the Digital Age" for Adults Only on Tuesday, April 30th in the LGI Room. Please make plans to join us and be sure and RSVP by April 23rd to hold your spot. These forms will be available in your child's take-home folder on the 17th.