

Bryant Bulletin

September 18, 2019

Staff Spotlight—Mrs. Katheryn Hedblom



Mrs. Hedblom is one of our fantastic 3rd Grade teachers. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Baylor University and her M. Ed. in Reading/Curriculum Instruction from Houston Baptist University. This will be her 11th year teaching. She absolutely loves what she does. She taught Kindergarten her first 2 years and then 1st Grade for 7 years before joining the 3rd Grade team at Bryant Elementary last year. She says she "absolutely loves working with young children." She states she was the child that played "teacher" every day at recess. She feels it is so special to be a teacher and to see children grow not only academically, but socially and emotionally throughout

throughout the year. Mrs. Hedblom thinks it is so important to make sure each child knows they are loved, valued, smart, and irreplaceable. Her favorite time of the year revolves around the Holiday season. She loves when parents are able to come into the classroom to celebrate with their children. The school atmosphere around the Holiday season is so joyful! Outside of school she loves spending time with her husband, Brent, and their almost 3 yr old son, Conrad. The Hedblom's are excited to add a little girl, Baby Harlyn, to their family around Thanksgiving. Each weekend you can find her going on adventures around Houston with their Golden Retriever, Kirby. She also holds volunteering very close to her heart. She helps contribute to Bryant's Culture of Care and Kindness by being positive and always smiling. She knows every child has a gift and the opportunity to use their gift to make the world a better place. As a 3rd Grade teacher, Mrs. Hedblom loves witnessing the heart of her students on a daily basis and seeing the world through their eyes.

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

Last week, we discussed our Wildly Important Goal of Student Growth and how setting goals impacts student achievement.

Our next Wildly Important Goal (WIG) is focused on Writing. Last year we began focusing our efforts, K-5, to develop common language in writing. When using common language to describe and teach writing, students are better able to understand and learning happens more quickly and naturally. This year we are focusing on writing across the curriculum such as in math and science. The more students can write about their thinking in other academic areas, the more skilled they will become in writing and the better they will understand the content they are writing about.

In next week's Bryant Bulletin, we will discuss continuing our Wildly Important Goal of Parent Engagement, our third main goal for the 2019/2020 school year.

Changes of Transportation: [Click here](#) for the Bryant Change of Transportation Form. Please feel free to print and use this form instead of writing a note when you need to change your student's transportation. By completing the form, you provide all the information we need for processing. We will still accept written notes, we just wanted to provide this form if that is easier for you.

You're Invited: The Robert R. Shaw Center for STEAM, is hosting a STEAM Night for Katy ISD students in grades 2-8. These nights are fun for all. Please [click here](#) for more information and RSVP details. If you attend, please Tweet pics with #bengalpride so we can spotlight you in our Twitter feed!

Paws for Kindness: Our Bryant PTA Paws for Kindness fundraiser kicks off this FRIDAY!! Paws for Kindness will celebrate Bryant's school culture of Kindness and Care by challenging students to choose specific acts of kindness and complete these acts while family and friends make pledges for these sincere acts. Our PTA is heading up this whole event. In previous years a company headed Bryant fundraisers and they got to keep a chunk of the money raised. With our hard working PTA doing everything, over 90% of donations will stay with PTA to provide unparalleled learning experiences for all Bryant students. We will complete three Acts of Kindness here on campus and the rest will be up to each individual student. We hope you find this a rewarding endeavor as we will have over 880 students spreading kindness in our community. We have the opportunity to make a huge impact as well as teach kids the importance of kindness. There will of course be rewards—both for amounts of pledges raised AND for number of Acts of Kindness completed. As a campus, if 10,000 Acts of Kindness are complete, I will be kissing a pig. I will be doing other fun things as our pledges come in such as playing beanboozled on live announcements and getting water ballooned with hundreds of balloons!!



From Mrs. Foreman, Destination Imagination (DI) Sponsor:



Calling all kids in grades 1-5!!!!
DI groups forming soon...

Who: Students and families interested in Destination Imagination (DI)

What: Informational meeting about DI

When: Friday, Sept. 20 at 6:00pm

Where: Bryant Elementary LGI (enter by Art Room)

Why: To learn more about DI and hopefully join a DI team!!!

TEAMS WILL BE FORMING AT THE MEETING, SO MAKE SURE TO ATTEND IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS PLACED ON A TEAM.

Contact: Jodi Foreman- jolindagforeman@katyisd.org

What is DI? Destination Imagination is the world's largest creative problem-solving program for kids. It is a community-based, school friendly program that builds participant's creativity, problem solving ability, and teamwork in enjoyable and meaningful ways. This year every state in the US and 42 countries will have teams. Competitions begin at the local level and proceed to state and national level competitions. Go to <http://destinationimagination.org/> for more information.

Parents can help by:

- Becoming a team manager (training provided)
- Providing a place for the team to practice
- Helping at the DI tournament
- Becoming an appraiser at the DI tournament

From Mrs. Foreman, GT Teacher:

Gifted and Talented Screening for Current Fifth Grade Students: Students in fifth grade who are not currently identified for the elementary Challenge program have the opportunity to be screened for the Gifted and Talented Program with service to begin in the fall of sixth grade. Secondary gifted program options are available in English, reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. Students may be screened in any or all of these content areas. Letters to 5th Grade Parents have been sent home. Parents interested in referring their child for secondary Gifted and Talented screening need to complete a Secondary Parent Checklist and return to the elementary campus by September 19, 2019.

Screening will occur during the months of October through December. Parents will be notified of the placement decision by U.S. mail in January.

Parents may obtain a Parent Checklist by [clicking here](#)

Please make sure you are completing the checklist for *Secondary* screening and not the Elementary form.

From Mrs. Flores, School Counselor:

This Week's Character Challenge: stand up for someone that may need it.

Books can be an engaging way of learning about important topics (one of those being kindness). Students in grades 2nd-5th heard the story Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson. This book is about making the most of the moments we have, and filling those moments with genuine kindness. Students learned about the ripple effect and how our actions can impact those around us. Be on the lookout soon for a fun display of their learning through these ripple effects of kindness! Check out the newsletter for grades K-2 and 3-5 for some book topics on kindness.

Ideas of spreading kindness beyond the school walls can be found in the [K-2](#) family letter as well as the [3-5](#) family letter. Thank you for taking opportunities to encourage and promote kindness! If you would like more information, please contact Penny Flores, School Counselor, at penelopewflores@katyisd.org.

From the District:

The [Legacy Parent Academy](#) will continue in the 2019-2020 school year with sessions focusing on prevalent social-emotional topics. The academy is intended to provide parents with information on current topics that impact students and school districts. Academy sessions are supplemental to campus-based programs and initiatives. The Legacy Parent Academy [webpage](#) includes session descriptions and a link to register for future sessions. The September meeting will focus around cyberbullying. [Click here](#) for more information.

Campus Event Calendar

Thursday, September 19

Fall Picture Day

Friday, September 20

PTA "Paws for Kindness" Fundraiser Begins

Tuesday, September 24

PK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, ECAP, YCAP, and ASIP Open House, 6-7pm

Wednesday, September 25

Wear a College Shirt Day

Thursday, September 26

3rd, 4th, 5th, YCAP, and ASIP Open House, 6-7pm

Wednesday, October 2

Character Strong Kickoff-Wear PURPLE for Empathy

Friday, October 4

1st Grade Junior Achievement Day

Monday, October 7

Early Dismissal @ 12:40pm

Tuesday, October 8

Coffee with the Principal @ 9am in the LGI

Thursday, October 10

PTA Spirit Night @ USwirl 4pm til closing

Friday, October 11

PTA Spirit Store Open during lunch times. *If students will make purchases, please place money in a sealed ziplock bag labeled with student name and indicating the money is for Spirit Store.*

Friday, October 18

Early Dismissal @ 12:40pm

Information from the PTA

Paws for Kindness Fundraiser – Kickoff is this Friday!

We are getting EXCITED about kicking off Paws for Kindness this Friday and are busy getting the school ready as well! This year, Paws for Kindness will be run completely by our PTA and will be a unique fundraiser that not only raises money for our PTA to continue offering great events and opportunities for BES students and their families, but also provide support for the school and its staff, as well as much more - but it will be an event that allows us to highlight and expand our culture of kindness at school, home, and into the community.

Paws for Kindness begins Friday, September 20th and runs until our Kindness Celebration on Friday, October 4th. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 while also completing 10,000 Acts of Kindness in that two week time frame. For more information on how you can make this event a success, please contact us at bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com! We will also be sending home information packets on Friday. Get Ready!

Online Store is Open!

Our Online Store is now open – we are featuring brand new Spirit Wear for our new School Year! We have a one stop shop now open for you to get all the Bryant Spirit Wear you need. [Click here to visit!](#)