

# Bryant Bulletin

April 3, 2019

## Staff Spotlight— Mrs. McKinley



Ms. McKinley is one of our wonderful first grade teachers! Ms. McKinley has a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education from Illinois State University. She has been teaching for 3 years. Ms. McKinley works in education because she wants to help her students grow. One of her favorite things about teaching is seeing her students' excitement for learning! Ms. McKinley shared one of her favorite moments in education, "My favorite moment in education is when you get to see a concept click with a student who has been struggling. Their excitement and drive to keep learning is contagious!" Outside of school she enjoys spending time outside, reading, exploring new places, and spending time with family and friends. Ms. McKinley shared how she helps foster care and kindness, "In our classroom we show respect to others, we help our friends, we listen when someone else is talking, and respect other people's opinions."

## *Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message*

**Autism Awareness:** Since April is Autism Awareness Month, we will share a variety of information through our Bryant Bulletin which may help you or your child learn more about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Please note, every student with Autism experiences life a little differently. These educational resources cannot capture all strengths and weakness of a student with ASD. This week we feature [My Name is David](#). This YouTube selection is an animated video of a young boy with autism giving a presentation about what it is like to have autism and how he interprets the world. This video also does a great job explaining what it's like to have autism for younger children. He covers topics such as how he interprets speech literally, cannot read emotions, fixations of preferred topics/activities, and gives suggestions on how his peers can help redirect him. Special thanks to Mrs. Noynaert, our Early Childhood Autism Program Teacher for providing this resource.

**Kindness Crew Challenge:** See something, say something...

**Special Education Assistants:** We are hiring several Paraprofessional/Assistants to work with our specialized programs for the 2019-2020 school year. If you are interested in joining our dynamic team, please [click here](#) for qualifications and application details. Once you have clicked, search "Bryant Aide." Click "Apply" to read the job description. Feel free to pass the word to any great people you may know who share a passion for working with kids.

**For Your Information:** I have gotten several questions about classroom requests for next year. Later in April I will open a two week window in which you can send me an email describing the characteristics your student needs in a teacher. I will then take those characteristics and match your student with a teacher who is the closest match. Please know, I do not take requests for specific teachers. In fact, if there is a request for a specific teacher, I will not be able to honor it and your child will be placed with another teacher. Be on the lookout next week for more details explaining this process.

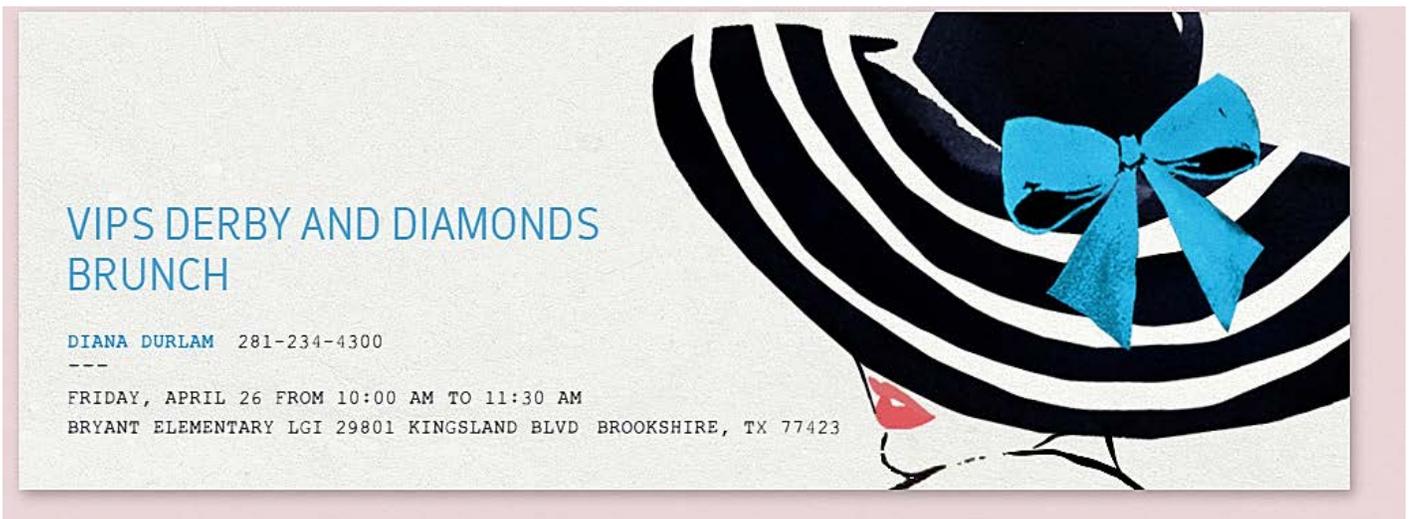
**I-Write Contest:** Because we have so many writers at Bryant, we would love to see some win the I-Write contest again and have their stories, poetry, or artwork published in a real book! Last year, our very own Caleb Caldwell won the contest and helped us promote it this year with students in grades 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 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students, so current Kinder, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will not be able to submit. All submissions are due before May 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

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

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

**You're Invited:** Have you volunteered for Bryant this year? Whether you have volunteered in the Watch D.O.G.S. Program, cut lamination out from home, volunteered for an event, or are in the work room every day, the BES Staff wants to honor you. YOU help every child learn and grow at Bryant Elementary. Our appreciation brunch will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30am in our LGI room. Please RSVP on or before 4/18 by [clicking here](#)



### *From the Counselor:*

This month our Core Value is **HOPE**. Hope means Believing that something good can come out of something bad. It's like the quote from Elie Weasel, "Just as man cannot live without dreams, he cannot live without hope. If dreams reflect the past, hope summons the future."

Below are some great activities that you can do to foster hope in your children:

- Make a list of something you would like to see happen by the end of the school year.
- Write down a hope or dream you have for when you become a teenager.
- Write down another hope or dream you have for when you become an adult.
- Who is someone that you know who is a hopeful person? What are some things that they do or say that suggest they have hope?

## **BE IT:**

This month, volunteer at your nearest Red Cross. This nonprofit organization helps individuals and families affected by disasters such as fires and hurricanes. There are many ways to volunteer including donating blood or assisting with a blood drive, installing free smoke alarms and helping out after a disaster strikes. Your family will not only serve as a source of hope for people, but you may also witness hope in the people that you serve.

**Please contact me if you would like additional resources.**

Penny Flores

BES Counselor

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## *Event Calendar*

### **Friday, April 5**

Early Dismissal- 12:40pm

### **Monday, April 8 – Friday, April 12**

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

### **Friday, April 12**

PTA Movie Night, 6-7:30pm (Food Trucks ready at 5:30pm)

### **Wednesday, April 17**

Kindergarten Cap and Gown Pictures (each child will receive a picture package. You can purchase any of the pictures or return the pictures. There are no retakes or makeups for Kindergarten Cap and Gown Pictures).

### **Thursday, April 18**

Pre-Registration for incoming Kindergarten and new incoming 1st graders, 9-11am & 1-3pm. (Paperwork is completed through district website prior to April 17). [Click here for flyer.](#)

### **Friday, April 19**

Student and Staff Holiday

### **Wednesday, April 24**

College Shirt Day

### **Thursday, April 25**

Progress Reports Go Home

### **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

## 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 – Friday, May 16

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

## Wednesday, May 22

College Shirt Day

## Thursday, May 23

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

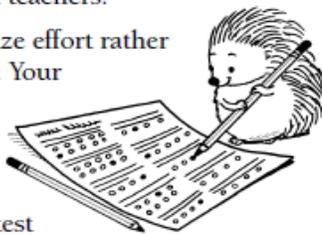
Report Cards Go Home

# Home to School Connection®

## Top tips for standardized tests

How can you help your child do well on standardized tests? Consider this advice from teachers:

- "Emphasize effort rather than scores. Your youngster will feel more confident and relaxed on test day if he knows that doing his best is what counts the most."
- "Have your child do any practice tests or packets that the teacher sends home. Ask him about the material, and look over the work to be sure it's complete."
- "Make sure he gets enough sleep, at least 9–11 hours, each night. He'll be more alert and focused during the test."
- "Give your youngster a balanced breakfast on test day so he has energy and isn't distracted by a growling stomach. Whole-wheat toast, fruit, and yogurt make a brain-boosting combination."♥



# Information from the PTA

## Family Movie Night

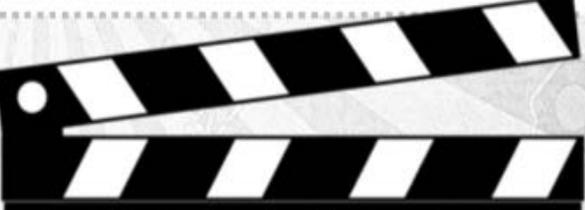
# FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

## April 12th

5:30PM - Food Trucks Open  6:00PM - Movie Begins

### Lights, Camera, Action!

Please join us for our 2nd Annual Family Movie Night on the lawn. The Cane Island big-screen movie truck will be set up in the front parking lot. The movie will begin at 6pm. Bring your lawn chairs, or picnic blankets. Enjoy dinner from a variety of food trucks (proceeds will help our 5th grade party fund). We hope to see you there!



### Food Trucks:

Bayou City Eats  
Volcano Splash  
That's My Dog



Belly Wish (BBQ Tacos & Tinga Tacos)

*A % of proceeds will benefit our 5th Grade Graduation Party Fund.*

*All children must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the event.*

QUESTIONS: Tabitha Garcia [bryantptaengagement@gmail.com](mailto:bryantptaengagement@gmail.com)