

Bryant Bulletin

September 25, 2019

Staff Spotlight—Ms. Strickler



Ms. Strickler is one of our 5th Grade Teachers at Bryant Elementary. She graduated from the University of Houston in December of 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. She has been teaching for 8 years, all in Katy ISD. Ms. Strickler taught Junior High math and coached cheerleading for 5 years. This is her 3rd year teaching 5th grade. She says she chose to work in education because she loves interacting with children and having an impact on their education and future. Ms. Strickler feels creating strong relationships with students can create a community in which students thrive and grow as learners and individuals. She loves teaching

Elementary aged students because they have such vibrant personalities and amazing thought processes. Ms. Strickler says she "loves to watch students really grasp a concept and open their minds to new knowledge." One of her favorite things is to run into previous students and see how they have grown. She states, "there are so many possibilities and paths for students to take after they leave my classroom. Finding out all the choices they have made is wonderful." Outside of school, Ms. Strickler enjoys making crafts, working out, going to the movies and hanging out with her family. Ms. Strickler helps contribute to Bryant's Culture of Care and Kindness by creating a family atmosphere in which she gets to know each student individually.

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

Last week, we discussed our Wildly Important Goal of Student Writing. This week we turn to our third major goal, family engagement. This is a goal we began last year but are continuing because true engagement between home and school can lead to powerful results in a child's education. It is important to note there is a difference between engagement and involvement. Parent involvement is often related to attending student events. Engagement is all about relationships between teachers/staff and parents. All staff members at Bryant will tell you that I believe building relationships with students is a top priority. When a teacher to student bond is created, children are drawn to school and want to come each day. While we focus on teacher to student engagement, it is also important to remember that parents are part of the engagement equation.

One way we will be engaging parents is through a weekly survey. This survey is very similar to the weekly survey from last year. Last year I found it beneficial to send the survey each Friday afternoon so that I could get a true snapshot of the current week. However, I know this was not as convenient for families because it was another email which had to be checked. This year the survey will be a link in this newsletter. The survey will give each family the opportunity to tell us how we are doing as a school, offer teacher/staff praise, as well as give an opportunity for suggestions/solutions. By providing more lines of communication we hope to engage families with all members of our school family. Each survey will be open at the time of the newsletter publication and will remain open through Friday at 11:59pm. We hope you will participate in this very quick survey each week. [Click here](#) to take the survey!!

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: Last Friday we kicked off our major PTA fundraiser for the year called "Paws for Kindness." Students are earning individual privileges and prizes but we have also reached milestones of 5k, 10k, and 20k. Please see the calendar below for some special days ahead...Friday is PJ Day, Monday is Crazy Hair/Wig day, and Tuesday will be backwards/inside-out clothes day!!! At 40K, kids get to see Dr. Rhodes soaked with water balloons!!



Morning Attendance Call Out: Beginning October 7th the district will begin early morning attendance call outs for elementary students to let you know if your student has been counted absent. This is an additional safety measure being taken at all KISD schools in order to account for all students at the beginning and end of the day, instead of the current method of end of day call outs. More information will be included in the Bryant Bulletin next week.

From Mrs. Flores, School Counselor:

This Week's Character Challenge: Give a kind note to someone who 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 26

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

Friday, September 27

PJ Day for all students (school appropriate with regular shoes) because students hit the \$5k fundraising goal

Monday, September 30

Crazy Hair or Wig Day for all students because the \$10K fundraising goal was reached.

Tuesday, October 1

Backwards/Inside-Out Clothes (school appropriate) Day for all students because the \$20K fundraising goal was reached.

Wednesday, October 2

Character Strong Kickoff-Wear PURPLE for Empathy

Friday, October 4

Paws for Kindness Celebration

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

Monday, October 21-25

Red Ribbon Week (dress up days to be announced)

Friday, October 25

PTA General Board Meeting 4pm

PTA Trunk or Treat Event 5:30pm

Information from the PTA

Paws for Kindness is Off and Running!



Sept. 20 - Oct. 4

Last Friday we kicked off our major PTA fundraiser for the year called "Paws for Kindness." This fundraiser is run completely by our PTA and focuses on the idea of "paying it forward" to encourage our students to complete Acts of Kindness while simultaneously raising money for their efforts. If you have not yet registered your child to participate, it is not too late! Simply visit <http://my.raisecraze.com/AR7XKFM> to do so! So far, we've raised over \$21,000 on our way to a goal of \$50,000. We have also completed 1,150 Acts of Kindness! How amazing is that?! You may have heard the buzz on Friday evening, but if our school logs and completes at least 10,000 Acts of Kindness, Dr. Rhodes will kiss a pig at our Kindness Celebration next Friday, October 4. Thank you again for your generous support and don't forget to continue logging Acts of Kindness in the software. We can't meet our goal without YOU!!! For more information about this event, please contact us at bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com!

P.S. You can see where each class ranks by checking out the Leaderboard at <https://my.raisecraze.com/leaderboard/for/AR7XKFM/>

Get Your Spirit Wear!

Our Spirit Wear is in stock and ready for you! If you have previously placed an order through our online store, you should be getting your orders very soon. You also can purchase Spirit Wear at our Open House tomorrow night. For your convenience, you can also purchase all your Bryant Spirit Wear online by visiting <http://officialbryantpta.com>. If you have any questions, please contact our VP of Fundraising – Jennifer Nash at bryantptafundraising@gmail.com.