

Bryant Bulletin

September 5, 2018



Staff Spotlight— Mrs. Cara Cook

Mrs. Cook is a new addition to our Kindergarten Team! Mrs. Cook graduated from Texas A&M (whoop!) and has been teaching for four years. Mrs. Cook works in education because she loves to help her students learn and grow and celebrate academic and social successes! We asked Mrs. Cook to share one of her favorite moments in education, "I have been blessed to have some sweet moments with students these past four years. One of my favorite memories actually happened while I was on maternity leave. One of my kiddos was having a rough day and requested my partner teacher call me to help calm them down. We all three talked for just a few minutes but knowing that the student trusted me enough to help them on one of their hardest days meant the world to me." Outside of school, Mrs. Cook enjoys spending time with her new baby, Reid, going to the park with her family and dog, Millie, and watching mystery television shows. She also loves attending any Texas A&M games. Mrs. Cook shared how she helps foster kindness and care at Bryant, "I am extremely passionate about showing care and kindness in the classroom. One way we show care and kindness in my classroom is by simply listening to one another. We start our days with sharing 'Good Things' that have happened since the previous day. Each kiddo gets to listen and then participate too. I also believe 'Thank you' goes a long way in helping others feel welcomed and appreciated." We are so happy to have Mrs. Cook join our Bryant family!!

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

Last week, we continued discussing our Wildly Important Goal of Student Growth and how attendance effects student achievement.

Our next Wildly Important Goal (WIG) is Writing Improvement. This year we are working on improving our writing skills K-5. We will be establishing consistent and specific vocabulary and writing processes K-5 in order to create continuity as students advance through grade levels. As we establish these common processes, we will keep you updated. Also, writing staff development will be at the forefront as teachers advance their knowledge and skills in writing curriculum and instruction.

In next week's Bryant Bulletin, we will discuss our Wildly Important Goal of Parent Engagement, our third main goal for the 2018/2019 school year.

Severe Weather Dismissal Information: Today we had our first ever Severe Weather Dismissal, which ended up not being very severe. I always hesitate to call severe weather because the weather can change so quickly, as it did today and no matter the call I decide, there will be upset parents. At 3:15pm it was thundering and lightening and the local radars showed more storms headed our way. At 3:40 the skies were clear. Some parents were upset because I did not make a decision at 3pm; however, making a Severe Weather decision at 3pm lends to even more unpredictability as far as the weather is concerned. Making the decision and letting parents know by 3:15pm allows for 25 minutes before dismissal begins and 45-50 minutes before dismissal is over. Please know when I make a decision it is for the safety of all students. It may not be convenient for an individual family, but it is for the safety of over 700 students. In

the end every student got home safely today, which is the most important thing we as a staff can do. I will send out an email with Severe Weather FAQs, Tips, and Reminders tomorrow.

Grandparent's Week: We invite Grandparents to have lunch with their grandchildren one time next week. It is imperative that grandparents be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the 1st Day Envelope. If they are not listed, they will not be able to visit their grandchild. This is a safety measure for your child's protection. Each Grandparent will also need a valid state identification card/driver's license/passport. We look forward to next week!

Notice: We are unable to heat students' lunches. When packing a lunch please ensure you are packing items that do not need heating, refrigeration, etc.

Reminder: Please remember students are not permitted to bring nut products for classroom snacks. We are unable to separate students and control eating environments in the classroom like we can at lunch. In the lunchroom we have allergy seating which separates students who have documented allergies from students who bring food from home.

Announcement: Congratulations to 2nd grade for winning the attendance challenge for last week. 2nd grade only had 19 absences last week.

After School Program: The Abrakadoodle Company will be offering after school art enrichment beginning in mid-September. There will be two sessions, September 12-October 17 and October 31-December 12. If you are interested in this program, [click here](#) to learn more or enroll. Please note that outside companies rent space at the school and are overseen by the company and its employees. Bryant Staff and Administration are not involved and do not oversee the programs. These companies have their own method of releasing walkers, bikers, car riders, etc.

Website / Event Calendar

Thursday, September 6

PTA VIPS Kickoff, 9:00-10:00am in the cafeteria

Monday, September 10

PTA Spirit Store, details to be announced

Monday, September 10- Friday, September 14

Grandparents Week. Grandparents are invited to visit one day during the week and sit with their grandchild(ren) at their *class lunchroom table*. Grandparents must be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the 1st Day Envelope.

Wednesday, September 12

District No Homework Night

U-Swirl Frozen Yogurt Spirit Night, 4:00pm-8pm (mention BES when paying)

Monday, September 17

PTA General Board Meeting, 4pm

Tuesday, September 18- Thursday, September 27

PTA Boosterthon Fundraising Program

Wednesday, September 19

Progress Reports sent home

Thursday, September 20

Fall Picture Day

Watch D.O.G.S. Orientation, 6:00pm in the gym

Monday, September 24

Destination Imagination Informational Meeting, 6:00pm-7:00pm in the LGI

Tuesday, September 25

Campus Advisory Team (CAT) Meeting, 4:00pm in the LGI

Wednesday, September 26

College Shirt Day

Thursday, September 27

Boosterthon Obstacle Course during specials times

Office and Other Information

- Click [HERE](#) for the Bryant Website
- Click [HERE](#) for Katy ISD Home Access Center (HAC). Register to gain access to grades, e-news, etc.

Follow us via social media:

Facebook= [Bryant Elementary](#)

Twitter= [@BryantElem](#) [#bengalpride](#)

From the Art Department:

This year Bryant Elementary is participating in an amazing program called The Crayon Initiative. The Crayon Initiative takes used and unwanted crayons - donated from school, home, and restaurants. They melt the crayons down and re-manufacture them, reducing environmental waste. The crayons are then recycled and redistributed to art programs at Children's Hospital's. Mrs. Marker has a box set up outside of her classroom for crayon donations. As the school year progresses, please encourage your students to donate their old, broken crayons from home and restaurants. Thanks for your help! Feel free to let Mrs. Marker know if you have any questions. We can't wait to see how many collection boxes get filled! <https://thecrayoninitiative.org/>

From the Destination Imagination Sponsor:

DESTINATION IMAGINATION (DI)

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: Monday, **September 24th from 6:00-7:00 PM**

Where: Bryant LGI

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

Contact person: 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.

From the District:

Katy ISD is looking for parent volunteers to serve on committees to review and select new instructional materials that will be implemented during the 2019-2020 school year. The subject areas, days and times are indicated in the chart below. If you would like to be a part of one of the review committees, complete the interest form at <https://tinyurl.com/Proclamation-2019> to be considered for participation on the selection committee. Keep in mind not all volunteers may be selected to serve on a committee.

Committee	Review Day 1	Review Day 2	Final Day 3
Reading & Word Study (Spelling) (K-5 English & Spanish)	September 25, 2018 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM	October 15, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	January 31, 2019 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Writing & Handwriting (K-5 English and Spanish)	September 25, 2018 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM	October 22, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	January 31, 2019 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
English Language Arts (6-8)	October 24, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	October 30, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	January 30, 2019 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
English Learners Language Arts (7-8)			
Personal Financial Literacy	October 18, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	October 30, 2018 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM	January 29, 2019 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Home to School Connection

Routines that stick

Little habits make a big difference in the kind of day you and your youngster have. Here are things each of you could do to create routines for smooth days.

Your child can: Make a picture chart of what she needs to do every morning, afternoon, and evening. She might draw a backpack as a reminder to show you papers she brings home. A picture of a violin could prompt her to practice her instrument.

You can: Have her go to bed in time to get 9–11 hours of sleep and to eat a healthy breakfast in the morning. Set aside downtime after a busy day (perhaps 20 minutes when she gets home) so she'll be recharged for homework, chores, and family time. ♥



Information from the PTA

PTA VIPS Kickoff – September 6th, 9:00am

Please join us for lots of volunteer information, door prizes and meeting new friends. If you are unable to attend and would still like information on volunteering, please email our VP of Volunteers Kathalyn Garza at bryantptavolunteers@gmail.com.

Teacher Recess and Lunch Duty Coverage:

We are searching for our super star volunteers to **help cover lunch and recess duties** for teachers, once a month. Last year, the teachers loved when we took over their lunch and recess duties for Teacher Appreciation, so we decided to bring it back this year. To be part of this "gift of time" all you have to do is [sign up here](#), get to the school 10-15 minutes early to Raptor in at the front (make sure you have your IDs ready) and either help students in the cafeteria or monitor recess. Feel free to email if you have any questions: bryantptavolunteers@gmail.com

Spirit Night at U-swirl Frozen Yogurt– September 12th, 4:00pm-8:00pm

Our first Spirit Night of the year was a big hit, and we are super excited for this sweet event. Please make plans to join us at U-swirl Frozen Yogurt on Wednesday, September 12 beginning at 4pm. Be sure and mention you're with Bryant Elementary!

Order a Yearbook Now

Yearbooks for the 2018-2019 year are now available to pre-order. The cost is \$30.00 until October 26th, with discounts on personalization available. Please visit this link to place your order:

<https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/2735885/Bryant-Elementary-School/>

If you have any questions or would like to email any school pictures you may have to our Yearbook Chair, please contact Robin Marcoulier at bryantptayearbook@gmail.com. Thank you!

Website

Visit the PTA website for up to date information by [clicking here](#).

Facebook

Check out the [Bryant PTA Facebook page](#) for information, pictures, and other great information.