

Bryant Bulletin

January 30, 2019



Staff Spotlight— Mrs. Cabrera

Mrs. Cabrera is one of our awesome Kindergarten teachers! She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Sam Houston State University and has been teaching for twenty-two years. Mrs. Cabrera works in education because it is both challenging and rewarding. As she says: teaching really is a work of heart! We asked Mrs. Cabrera to share one of her favorite moments in education, "My favorite moments are connecting with my students beyond the classroom. I feel that I have become a part of their personal lives when I am invited to church activities, baseball games, dance recitals and birthday parties. To me nothing is more valuable than receiving a letter or note from a current or former student thanking me for the difference I have made in their lives. One moment stands out in particular. Several years ago, one of my former students had come back to visit me. He wanted to personally invite me to attend his graduation from high school. As a total surprise to me, he had been given a writing assignment to describe someone who had influenced his life. He had written about our journey together and was asked to be a speaker at his class graduation. It was a complete surprise, and one of the most touching experiences of my life!!!" Outside of school, Mrs. Cabrera enjoys spending her free time relaxing with family and friends, watching movies and traveling. Her main hobbies are electronic scrapbooking and decorating. Mrs. Cabrera shared how she helps foster kindness and care at Bryant, "When I first meet my new students and families I begin to build relationships. I want my classroom to be a safe haven where students are willing to take risks and feel comfortable enough to make mistakes. I constantly strive to exhibit a positive attitude and encourage my students to compliment each other. Likewise, I try to maintain and exhibit the same positive attitude towards my teammates and peers with personal notes, friendly smiles and small tokens of appreciation."

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

I hope everyone has had a great week. We have a lot of in-school and after school events coming in February—from author visits to the Bryant Ball, we have a busy month ahead. Since we have come back from Winter Break we have had an increase in office referrals for discipline. We will continue to follow our school-wide and classroom expectations and we ask that you discuss school behavior at home. Together we can continue to create an optimal fun and safe learning environment for all students.

Congratulations: Last week our staff nominated teaching peers for Teacher of the Year. We had quite a few nominations but our top three who made the voting ballot are Dr. Amanda Fait (Kinder), Ms. Maggie McCauley (5th M/Sci), and Mrs. Jennifer Morgan (Kinder). Congratulations to these three Bryant Teachers!! After our voting period, I will announce the teacher who will represent Bryant Elementary!!

Family Learning Night: February 7th is our very first Family Learning Night. We have taken the ideas of a Math Night and a Science Night, and a Reading Night and combined them into one big event called *Family Learning Night* in which families can extend learning through hands-on activities. Learn more by [clicking here](#). We hope to see you

there. Please note the time has been adjusted from previous advertisement. Our event will begin at 5pm and end at 7pm.

FYI: Friendship Parties will be held on February 14th. The party times are as follows: 10:30-11:15-- 2nd & 3rd Grades; 11:45-12:30-- Kindergarten & 4th Grade; 12:00-12:45-- 1st Grade; 2:00-2:45-- 5th Grade. **Please note-** in order to stay within building capacity and remain aligned to Fire Marshall standards, there is a limit of 2 adults per student during parties. We use the following guidelines for party visitors: Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s), Grandparents listed on the Lunch Visitor Form completed in the 1st Day of School Packet, and aunts/uncles who are accompanied by a parent/guardian). We encourage all students to stay at school after their party as the remainder of the day is instructional and a regular school day. Students leaving early do receive a partial day absence. If you will be attending your student's party, it is encouraged that you Pre-Raptor for the event so you do not have to wait in long lines to be processed. You can Pre-Raptor if you have previously visited our campus and had your Driver's License scanned into the Raptor system. [Click here](#) to Pre-Raptor before 2/11/19. In order to pick-up your Pre-Raptor Badge, you must present your current identification.

Event Calendar

Monday, February 4 – Friday, February 8

Book Fair

National School Counseling Week--*We LOVE Mrs. Flores!!*

Wednesday, February 6

Core Essential Kickoff, wear blue for "service."

Thursday, February 7

BES Family Learning Night, 5-7:00pm

Monday, February 11 – Friday, February 15

School Bus Driver Appreciation Week—*Show our bus drivers they are important!!*

Tuesday, February 12

Progress Reports Go Home

Thursday, February 14

Friendship Parties, [click here to pre-raptor before noon on 2/11](#)

Friday, February 15

Early Dismissal, 12:40pm

Bryant Ball: Sparkles & Spurs, 6-7:30pm

Monday, February 18

Student Holiday, President's Day

Friday, February 22

Spirit Store During Grade Level Lunches (Please place money to be spent on Spirit Store in a ziplock bag with your child's name, grade level, and Teacher written on the outside. Please label the bag as "Spirit Store Money.")

Texan Day

Wednesday, February 27

College Shirt Day

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 Counselor:

Bryant Elementary will be hosting a Career Day for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students during the school day on May 3rd. We are looking for parents that may be interested in being a part of the event. We really want our parents to be the baseline of our Career Day. We will seek outside community members to represent careers only if needed. It is much more meaningful if our students hear from our parents. We would need you to be available at Bryant Elementary from 8:20-11:30 on May 3rd. You would speak to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders about your job in 45 minute rotations. If you are interested in being a part of our Career Day, please email me, Penny Flores, at penelopewflores@katyisd.org.

Mrs. Flores would like to put together a Parent Book Club with our Bryant Parents. We will be reading the book UnSelfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World by Dr. Michele Borba. This book is a great read! It provides a wealth of information on how to build empathy within our children from birth through college, and beyond. Did you know that teens today are forty percent less empathetic than they were thirty years ago? Empathy is an important skill to build within our children. As a book club, we would meet three times: February 13th, March 20th, and April 17th to discuss the book. You would be responsible for purchasing the book and bringing it to our Book Club. It can be found for under \$10 on Amazon. If you are interested in participating in our Book Club, please complete the following Google Form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf7zHqFvDOkmKdejkwT_9uZgnJSBA5xX0u2mGWpRfl_Cbt8EQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

From the District:

Katy ISD is sharing information about the state, district and your child's campus as part of our obligations under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). Copies of the 2017-18 Federal Report Cards for the state, district and our campus are available for your review in the front office of our school, or online at www.katyisd.org or by [clicking here](#).

Home to School Connection



Sharpen critical thinking

Q: At a recent curriculum night, the principal talked about critical thinking. Are there fun ways to work on this at home?

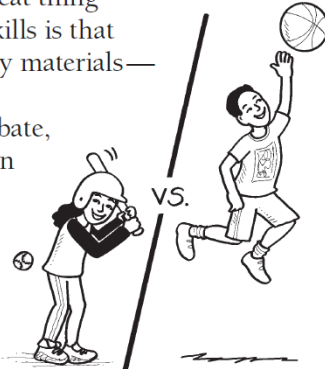
A: Absolutely! And the great thing about building thinking skills is that your child doesn't need any materials—just her brain.

Try holding a family debate, with a twist. Ask a question like “Which is better, basketball or baseball?”

Let each person answer, then argue in favor of the sport she *didn't* choose. Your

youngster will need to think critically to take a view that's the opposite of her own. For instance, a baseball fan might say that basketball is more fast-paced and exciting.

Or encourage your daughter to look at familiar situations in new ways. Have her pick a situation or an event (say, a snowstorm). Now take turns looking at it from others' perspectives. How would a truck driver, a toddler, or a squirrel feel about the snow?♥



Information from the PTA

2018-2019 Yearbook

Please don't forget that in order to guarantee you receive a yearbook for this school year, you must place your order by March 1st. The cost of the yearbook is \$40.00. Yearbooks for the 2018-2019 school year are available to purchase by [clicking here](#).

As a reminder, if you have pictures from school-related events, please send them to bryantptayearbook@gmail.com or upload them through the ReplayIt App.

Online Store

Are you ready for this weekend's cold front? Do you want to stay warm in style? Stop by our PTA Online Store and grab one of our Bryant Hoodies or long sleeve shirts (in both youth and adult sizes) and stay warm this weekend – and for the remainder of this winter season! [Click here](#) to order.

Bryant Ball – February 15

Save the date for our second annual Bryant Ball with this year's theme: “Sparkles and Spurs.” This event is open to our Bryant families and will be fun for all. More information will be coming home.