

Bryant Bulletin

September 12, 2018



Staff Spotlight— Mrs. Abigail Tomme

Mrs. Tomme is a new addition to our Kindergarten Team! Mrs. Tomme graduated from Stephen F. Austin University and has been teaching for six years. Mrs. Tomme works in education because she wants to inspire her students, just like her former Katy ISD teachers did for her. Mrs. Tomme hopes that at the end of the year, her students leave her class feeling loved, more intelligent and excited to keep learning! Mrs. Tomme shared what she likes best about teaching, "When my students are experiencing success for the first time and to see them mastering a concept is one of the greatest experiences! It amazes me to see what great things not only my current students are doing but even former students as well."

Mrs. Tomme shared one of her favorite moments in education, "My maiden name is Miss Nation, so when I was teaching one year, one of my former students couldn't remember my name and would call me Miss America. At the end of the school year the student and her mother gave me a special gift, a crown and Miss America sash. Today it is a funny memory that I treasure." Outside of school she loves traveling, cooking, and spending time with family. Mrs. Tomme shared her thoughts on fostering care and kindness, "It only takes one act of kindness to make a lasting impact on someone. The students in my classroom will have the opportunity to have a place where they can all comfortably come together as a community of learners. Together we are a caring community where we motivate one another through kindness not only to our peers but all in the Bryant family." Welcome to the BES(t) family, Mrs. Tomme!!

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

Last week, we discussed our Wildly Important Goal of Writing Improvement and how we are establishing consistent vocabulary and writing processes this school year.

Our next Wildly Important Goal (WIG) is Parent *Engagement*. We love having our parents involved in their child's education but we want to do more; we want parents to be *engaged*. Many think these two words, involved and engaged, are interchangeable, but they are actually quite different. Parent involvement includes coming to events, conferences, concerts, and other activities but engagement is the building of a partnership.

Larry Ferlazzo (ASCD, 2011) more accurately describes the difference between involvement and engagement. He states, *A school striving for family involvement often leads with its mouth—identifying projects, needs, and goals and then telling parents how they can contribute. A school striving for parent engagement, on the other hand, tends to lead with its ears—listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to gain partners.*

Our third WIG is one of the most important because it involves creating a true partnership between home and school. When this is truly accomplished with each family, the possibilities for each child become endless.

Over the next couple of weeks I will discuss ways that we plan to engage with you in order to build a solid partnership.

Thank You: I recently realized I forgot to thank everyone who helped us honor our Katy ISD Police Officers at the end of August!! Thank you to Melissa Santos from HEB of Cross Creek Ranch for donating donuts to our police officers, our amazing PTA for donating an awesome basket of treats, bags of homemade goodies and popcorn, and to a very generous family who donated Chick-fil-a giftcards to our officers as a gift from the students of Bryant. Also, special thanks to our BES kids for really making the officers feel special with cheers, notes, drawings, and letters. I know our officers felt very honored.

Announcement: Congratulations to Kindergarten for winning the attendance challenge for last week. Kindergarten only had 28 absences last week.

Reminder: Please travel safely down Willowmoor Lane when circling behind the circle for the car rider line. Also, please do not park on this street or Ash Creek Court to walk across the street to the campus. This creates hazardous conditions for everyone. Thank you for your cooperation.

Website / Event Calendar

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](#)

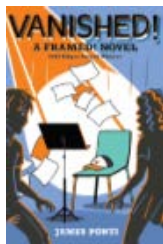
From Our Counselor:

Kindness Crew: I want to thank all of the kids that put their heart into the Kindness Crew applications. It is amazing that so many students want to be a part of this great initiative that promotes kindness throughout our building and into their daily lives! 20 Representatives in grades 3-5 were selected for each homeroom class by our campus Kindness Crew Committee. Those students should have a note in their Wednesday folder. However, the committee was so impressed with the applications that we are inviting all applicants to still help the Kindness Crew in a different way. All applicants will be given a kindness project each month that we will ask them to complete to encourage kindness throughout our building. These will come home with students at the end of each month. Thank you again for all of the applications and your help to promote kindness here at Bryant!

From Our Librarian:

Bryant Elementary Library Presents: Author James Ponti

September 27, 2018



Students in 4th and 5th grade will enjoy a wonderful presentation.

You can pre-order autographed books and receive them that same day.

Online orders accepted at:

<https://www.bluewillowbookshop.com/school-visits-james-ponti>

All orders must be received/placed by **September 19, 2018**.

If you have any questions please contact me at NidiaFCasillas@katyisd.org

Nidia Casillas, BES Librarian

From Our 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 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 20.

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 from the front desk, classroom teacher, or online by [clicking here](#).

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

Gifted and Talented Screening for Kindergarten Students

Information regarding screening of kindergarten students for the gifted and talented program will be sent home with kinder students beginning the week of September 10-14. Kindergarten parents who would like to refer their children for screening must return the Kindergarten Parent Checklist to their campus by **October 5, 2018**. There is a FAQ page and video on the Katy ISD GT/Advanced Academics website for more information about kindergarten screening that can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

From Our 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. [Click here](#) for more information.

Information from the PTA

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

Box Tops

HEB has a great promotion with Box Tops this month! Thru Sept 18th, purchase 15 Box Top items and they will give you 100 bonus Box Tops (\$10 free)!! Or purchase 10 Box Top Items and get 60 bonus Box Tops (\$6 free)! All items must be purchased at the same time at HEB. The bonus certificate will print at checkout. Please look at all the products that have Box Tops! The specifics can be found [by clicking here](#).

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.

We want to encourage fifth grade students, don't forget to turn in your Yearbook Cover Art Submissions by Sept. 18th. Remember to follow the rules and requirements as listed on the paper sent home. We look forward to seeing your art work. Good luck!

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.