

# Bryant Bulletin

September 11, 2019

## Staff Spotlight—Ms. Amanda McKinley



Ms. McKinley is one of our wonderful 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers. She earned her degree in Early Childhood Education from Illinois State University with a Special Education Endorsement. This is Ms. McKinley's 4<sup>th</sup> year teaching in public education. She states that she works in education "to help children reach their goals and grow every day." The best part of working with students for Ms. McKinley is to "see their excitement for learning." Her favorite moment in education is when she sees a concept click with a student who has been struggling with it. She states, "their excitement and drive to keep learning is contagious." Outside of school, Ms. McKinley enjoys spending time in the outdoors, reading, exploring new places and spending time with family and friends. Ms. McKinley contributes to the Culture of Care and Kindness at Bryant by helping her students learn the importance of listening when someone else is talking as well as respecting other people's opinions.

## *Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message*

This week, we will begin discussing our Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for the school year. We have three WIGs this school year and in this edition of the Bryant Bulletin we will discuss our first goal, Student Growth. At Bryant, it is our goal and job to ensure each and every student grows by at least one full school year or more by the end of each school year. This may seem like a given, as students move up a grade level each year, but it is actually quite challenging. Since every student enters a grade level at a different "spot" in their learning, the most important aspect is for teachers to get to know and understand what students already know and determine a pathway for their learning. Continuous growth occurs when we do not focus on teaching all students the same thing in the same way, but teaching students overarching skills and then tailoring those skills to individual student need—practice with on-level materials, filling in gaps that students may have with the skill, or pushing students further who already know the skill. It is important to teach our students through the lens of a growth mindset; always pushing forward, setting goals, and growing in new ways.

Some specific ways we ensure a year or more of growth for each student is through goal setting. Like last year, students will begin to set academic goals. Students in all grade levels will use data to track their progress with their teacher. The goal is for students to learn the basics of how to set goals, how to measure success and what to do if we don't quite meet our goals, and what to do next if we meet or exceed our goals. This looks very different in Kindergarten than it will in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Through the goal setting process, teachers will know their students even better, students will become more invested in their learning because they are intrinsically motivated to reach their goals, and overall, this will help each teacher to help grow each student by one or more years. We began implementing goal setting last school year and are refining our skills. Our STAAR results indicated that 100% of students who had gaps in learning the previous year, had a majority of the gaps filled the next year (last year). We will continue fine tuning remediation; however, we are also focusing on how to grow students who are already above grade level even further in their learning. We are tasked to grow ALL students and while we have to fill in any gaps in learning, we simultaneously have to grow students who are on level or above level.

Needless to say, teaching is no small feat these days; it is very different than when you are I were in school. Today's classroom teacher has to be very skilled to ensure every student receives what they need in order to grow as a learner.

In next week's Bryant Bulletin, we will discuss other ways teachers and students will focus on Student Growth for the 19/20 school year.

Below you will find important information...Keep Reading...

**School Dismissal:** Now that we have our new dismissal procedures in place and running well, we finish entering car rider numbers around 3:45. Please ensure you are in the stacking lane by this time to be entered into the queue. If you arrive after numbers have been recorded, you will pull to the front of the school and numbers will be called individually by walkie talkie and your student will be brought to your car.

**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. If you attend, please tweet pics with #bengalpride so we can spotlight you in our Twitter feed!

**Birthday Information:** Due to privacy, our school does not publish any type of formal directory of student information. As a Katy ISD school, we do not allow students to hand out birthday invitations at school. Since some parents would like to provide their child's information to other grade-level parents for birthday or other invitations, we have created a method for your information to be released to other grade-level parents if you opt-in.

In order to facilitate this, a Google Form has been created for each grade level. If you would like to share your information and your child(ren)'s information, you can fill out the information requested at each grade level link. This is completely voluntary. The links will be live through September 17<sup>th</sup>. After the 17<sup>th</sup>, the compiled information for each grade will be emailed to everyone who has chosen to participate. Information provided will not be considered private and would be open to any public information requests community members may make through Katy ISD as governed by Texas Government Code 552 (the Texas Public Information Act) and 20 U.S.C. 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA)

The information will be shared only with parents who also provide their student's information. However, parents could share information with others, etc. Again, this is completely optional and voluntary. Click on the grade level to complete the form:

[Pre-Kindergarten](#)   [Kindergarten](#)   [1st Grade](#)   [2nd Grade](#)   [3rd Grade](#)   [4th Grade](#)   [5th Grade](#)   [ECAP/YCAP](#)

**Grandparent's Week:** This week we have been/are inviting Grandparents to have lunch with their grandchildren one time this 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 meeting grandparents next week!

**Paws for Kindness:** Our Bryant PTA Paws for Kindness fundraiser is coming soon!! Paws for Kindness will celebrate Bryant's school culture of Kindness and Care by challenging students to choose specific acts of kindness and complete these acts while family and friends make pledges for these sincere acts. Our PTA Paws for Kindness will be powered by RaiseCraze. Get a sneak peak of what RaiseCraze is all about by [clicking here](#).

## ***From Mrs. Foreman, Destination Imagination (DI) Sponsor:***



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:** Friday, Sept. 20 at 6:00pm

**Where:** Bryant Elementary LGI (enter by Art Room)

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

**TEAMS WILL BE FORMING AT THE MEETING, SO MAKE SURE TO ATTEND IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR CHILD IS PLACED ON A TEAM.**

**Contact:** Jodi Foreman- [jolindagforeman@katyisd.org](mailto: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.

### **Parents can help by:**

- Becoming a team manager (training provided)
- Providing a place for the team to practice
- Helping at the DI tournament
- Becoming an appraiser at the DI tournament

## ***From Mrs. Foreman, 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 the 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 19, 2019.

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 or by emailing Mrs. Foreman at [jolindagforeman@katyisd.org](mailto:jolindagforeman@katyisd.org)

The checklist is also available at: <http://www.katyisd.org/dept/gt/Pages/default.aspx>

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

### ***From Mrs. Flores, School Counselor:***

**This Week's Character Challenge:** play with someone you don't normally play with at recess.

This month, in our classrooms, we will continue to discuss the trait of kindness and how it can be used in our daily lives. "We spend talking about how Kindness isn't just a feeling, but a choice that we get to make every day! It's an exercise in bringing good things into our lives and the world. Those good things can (and should!) look like more than kind words; Kindness is given through our actions and our encouragement and our attitude and our gifts. We will spend time thinking about how to be kind to ourselves, to our environment, to our school, and to one another. We will get to experience sharing and receiving compliments and helping create acts of service or gifts for others. It's a generous, positive, and encouraging time!" This information was shared in the last bulletin along with ideas of spreading kindness beyond the school walls 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](mailto: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***

### **Monday, September 9- Friday, September 13**

Grandparents Week. Grandparents are invited to visit one day during the week and sit with their grand child(ren) at their *class lunchroom table or visitor table*. Grandparents must be listed on the Katy ISD Lunch Visitor Form sent home in the First Day Envelope or [completed here](#).

### **Friday, September 13**

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.*

**Tuesday, September 17**

PTA Watch DOGS Orientation and Pizza Night, 6-7:00pm in the gym.

Progress Reports go home for 1st-5th Grade students

**Thursday, September 19**

Fall Picture Day

**Friday, September 20**

PTA "Paws for Kindness" fundraiser begins

**Tuesday, September 24**

PK, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, ECAP, YCAP, and ASIP Open House, 6-7pm

**Wednesday, September 25**

Wear a College Shirt Day

**Thursday, September 26**

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

**Wednesday, October 2**

Character Strong Kickoff-Wear PURPLE for Empathy

**Friday, October 4**

1st Grade Junior Achievement Day

**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

# ***Information from the PTA***

## ***Paws for Kindness Fundraiser – Kickoff is on September 20th!***

We are gearing up for our major fall fundraiser and are looking for parents who would like to jump in and help us out. This year, our fundraiser will be coordinated entirely by our PTA, and there are several roles, big and small, that you can help us with to guarantee this fundraiser is a success for our school and an amazing experience for our children. This help will be needed throughout the two weeks we are running Paws for Kindness and would appreciate any time that can be spared. For more information, please email [bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com](mailto:bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com).

## ***Online Store is Open!***

Our Online Store is now open – and we are featuring brand new Spirit Wear for our new School Year! We have a one stop shop now open for you to get all the Bryant Spirit Wear by visiting <http://officialbryantpta.com>.

## ***Watch D.O.G.S. Kickoff – Tuesday, September 17th***

We want to invite you to our Watch D.O.G.S. kickoff meeting on Tuesday, 09/17/2019 at 6:00 PM in the gym where we'll go over everything for this year and give you first dibs to pick your day(s) to serve!

Who are Watch D.O.G.S. and how does WATCH D.O.G.S. work? Watch D.O.G.S. are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer for at least one day each year at our school. For more information please contact Brad Nugent and Gary Chaney at [bryantelementarywatchdogs@gmail.com](mailto:bryantelementarywatchdogs@gmail.com).

## ***Spirit Store Open – Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, During Lunches***

Our Spirit Store is open for the first time this year during all grade lunches this upcoming Friday! You can send money in a gallon size Ziploc bag marked with your child's name and teacher's name so they can make purchases during their respective lunches.