

Bryant Bulletin

August 28, 2019



Staff Spotlight—Mrs. Christina Nguyen

Mrs. Nguyen is one of our amazing 1st grade teachers who joins us this year from Portland, Oregon but previously taught just north of us in Cy-Fair ISD! This is Mrs. Nguyen's sixth year as a teacher. Mrs. Nguyen works in education because she enjoys being able to help kids recognize their potential, feel proud of themselves, feel accomplished, and learn to be good people. Mrs. Nguyen states, "I love when students realize that I'm not just here to teach them, but that I'm here to love them and help them become a better human being." One of Mrs. Nguyen's favorite moments in education was the last day of her first year of teaching. Her students were getting ready to leave, and she noticed one of them under his table. He was one

of her students who had been so shy all year that he struggled to greet her each morning. On that last day, Mrs. Nguyen caught him underneath the table crying and crying because it was time to go home for summer. Mrs. Nguyen states, "that moment, although bittersweet, was also the moment I realized how much of an effect I had as a teacher. It wasn't a gift from the student, a thank you card from the parents, or anything tangible. It was the true expression from the student that really made me believe I could make an impact." Outside of school Mrs. Nguyen enjoys singing, playing music, spending time with family, being at the beach, taking a hike, camping, and playing volleyball. Mrs. Nguyen helps create a Culture of Kindness and Care at Bryant by seeing the good in people, by being a listening ear, and by trying to show gratitude as much she can. She also tries to really learn about others and get to know them. It's not always easy, but she always tries. Mrs. Nguyen believes, "people are able find value in themselves when they know others genuinely want to learn more about them." We are excited Mrs. Nguyen has joined our Bryant family!!

Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message

We hope you are having a great week! Don't forget, you can see what students are doing in classrooms and throughout Bryant by following us on Twitter @BryantElem. If you are not familiar with Twitter, here is an [easy tutorial](#) on how to begin. We would love for you to tweet your kids doing amazing things at home and in the community using #bengalpride and @BryantElem

School Safety: This week we had our first fire drill and it went very smoothly. We were out in minutes and students followed all directions. On September 3rd we will practice all safety drills (Secure the Building, Lockdown, Severe Weather, and Fire Drill). Please take a moment to read [this letter](#) from Katy ISD Police and the Office of Emergency Management. It discusses training at the elementary level and a link to one video we use to train [staff](#). PLEASE NOTE: we do not show this video to students but you may want to use it as a resource for yourself or to talk to your student. When discussing a lockdown drill, we discuss situations in which a stranger may be in the building. The best way to help us from home is to emphasize that students must be quiet and listen to their teacher in an emergency. Thank you in advance.

Severe Weather Dismissal Information: Yesterday we had our first Severe Weather Dismissal. We make this decision at 3:15 based on current conditions and radar data. Please know when making this 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 850 students. It is important to note that we do not have a "rainy day" dismissal at Bryant as this would lead to change all the time. If there is a light rain, walkers and bikers are sent in the rain. I have found over the years that most parents appreciate this philosophy because a light-weight poncho is easy to keep in a backpack for kids to put on during a shower. This also allows for kids to get home quickly, take a warm shower, and continue with the day...not having parents sit in the car rider line over an hour while students wait. However, if you do not believe this is the best choice for your child, please check weather information each day to determine if there is a possibility of rain showers. If there is, you can send a change of transportation for the day. In the case of a torrential downpour we keep students until rain has let up a bit. When we call "severe weather" dismissal, this is due to active lightning, tornado warnings, etc.

Tardies: Now that we have our car rider line finished by 8:20am, any student arriving after 8:20am will need to be escorted into the building by a parent/guardian. Please remember that you must show your current ID in order to gain entrance into the building. The parent/guardian will then sign the student in at the front office for the day.

Paws for Kindness: This year our PTA's major fundraiser will be called Paws for Kindness. Our PTA is doing all the work, which means a very large portion of the funds raised will be used here at Bryant and not paid to a company who puts on a production, provides the giveaways and plans the final event. Paws for Kindness will celebrate our 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. More information will be coming soon!!



After-School Program: The Katy Robotics Academy is coming back to BES in September for 1st-5th Grade students. Students will have a wonderful opportunity to learn computer programming with LEGO robotics this year! Students will learn computer science and robotics concepts through hands-on experience with LEGO EV3 and WeDo robots. Paid registration is first come, first served, and space is limited. To register or find out more information about this amazing program coming to Bryant, visit www.katyroboticsacademy.com

Please note--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. After school programs have their own method of dismissal, releasing car riders, etc.

From Mrs. Flores, School Counselor:

This Week's Character Challenge: As we continue to focus on respect (always staying rooted in kindness), our character challenge for the week is "Let anyone who wants to play join in with you!" Click here for a [PK-2nd](#) or [3rd-5th](#) resource about ways to incorporate respect at home and in the community.

From Nurse Osbourne, School Nurse:

Fever (100.0 or above), diarrhea, vomiting, contagious illness? Your child must be 24 hours free of the above symptoms without medication before returning to school. If your child has any of the symptoms listed above, please

call in your child's absence at 281-234-4300. Please also let the nurse know if your child is diagnosed with contagious illness such as flu, strep, or pink eye.

Medicine at School - All medications (prescription and nonprescription) brought to the school must be taken to the school clinic immediately upon arrival. Students may transport prescription/nonprescription medication to and from school as long as the medication is not a controlled substance. Students may not be in possession of any prescription or nonprescription drug on school grounds during school hours unless officially authorized by the campus nurse for possession and self-administration of a prescription medication for asthma, anaphylaxis, or diabetes. The following procedures are to be followed regarding medications:

All prescription drugs dispensed through a physician's office must be in their original pharmacy container or packing and labeled by the pharmacist or physician. The label must include:

- The student's name
- The physician's name
- The name and strength of the drug
- Amount of drug to be given
- Frequency of administration
- Date prescription was filled

All nonprescription drugs (including cough drops) must be in their original container. The written request for administration of these over-the counter drugs, made by parent, guardian, or physician, must contain the following:

- The student's name
- Name of drug
- Amount of drug to be given
- Scheduled hours when the drug is to be given
- Reason drug is to be given
- Date
- Appropriate signature

Medications prescribed or requested to be given three times a day or less are not to be given at school unless a physician prescribes a specific time during school hours, or the school nurse determines that a special need exists for an individual student.

Only one medication is allowed per properly labeled container. Students may not have prescription or non-prescription drugs in his or her possession on school grounds during school hours.

Natural and/or homeopathic-like products, not FDA approved, will not be dispensed in the school setting by school district personnel.

Note: There are no "stock" medications kept in the clinic. The only medications that are kept in the clinic are those which were brought in by the parent or student with appropriate paperwork.

Questions? Please call me at 281-234-4326

From the District:

This year the [Department of Special Education](#) will offer training sessions for parents on relevant topics pertaining to special education. Below you will find the Special Education Parent Training Session for September which is also located on the Special Education Website. All training sessions will be held at the Jeanne Coleman Support Annex (JCSA).

Katy ISD Special Education Department, Programs, Supports, and Services

Presenter: Dr. Brian Malechuk, Executive Director for Special Education

Thursday, September 5, 2019

2:00PM-3:30PM and 4:30PM-6:00PM

Learn more about the Katy ISD Department of Special Education and the programs that are offered across the continuum of supports and services.

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

Friday, August 30

All K-5 curriculum slide presentation links will be emailed to parents/guardians. As a reminder we are presenting basic curriculum for each grade level electronically and we will then have an Open House in September (see calendar below). This is different than previous years.

Monday, September 2

Labor Day- School Holiday

Tuesday, September 3

Lunch visitors begin, once per week.

Wednesday, September 4

Character Education Monthly Kickoff--Kindness. Wear Pink as a school unifying color for our kickoff.

Thursday, September 5

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

Monday, September 9

National Teddy Bear Day. Students can wear Pajamas to school (with school appropriate shoes) for the day with a \$1 donation. All proceeds will be donated to the Katy ISD Teddy Cop Buddies Program. [Read more about this project.](#)

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 ****this is a corrected date from last week's Bryant Bulletin**

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

Information from the PTA

PTA VIPS Kickoff - September 5th

Please join us on Thursday, September 5th from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the LGI Room for our annual VIPS Kickoff. If you are interested in volunteering but don't know where or how to help out, this is a great time to come and find out more about all the exciting things we have planned this school year and all of our different volunteer opportunities.

You will also have the opportunity to meet your 2019-2020 PTA Board and those heading up many of our events. You can ask questions and learn first-hand about where you can put your talents to use.

Come make some new volunteer friends!

If you are unable to attend but you are interested in volunteering, please contact Christina Rannigan at: bryantptavolunteers@gmail.com.

"Paws for Kindness" Fundraising Committee

We are gearing up for our major fall fundraiser and are looking for parents who would like to be a part of our planning committee. This year, our fundraiser will be coordinated by our PTA, and there are a number of 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. It's time to "Paws for Kindness." For more information, please contact Brian Lennox at bryantpawsforkindness@gmail.com.