

# Bryant Bulletin

October 30, 2019



## Staff Spotlight—Ms. Lowe

Ms. Lowe is the ASIP teacher at Bryant. She has her Bachelor's in Elementary Education and Special Education from Baylor University and a Master of Special Education in Autism from the University of Kansas. This is her 4th year teaching and her 2nd year in Special Education. She works in education because she believes that all children need someone on their team helping them become the best person they can be. What she likes best about teaching is seeing students make progress, big or small. She loves celebrating her students' learning and hard work. One of her favorite moments in education was when she was working as an Autism Specialist in Kansas. A 4<sup>th</sup> Grade student worked incredibly hard to be able to participate in the school choir concert for the first time in his life. He even got a speaking part! She says,

"Seeing him light up as the crowd cheered for him and the impact this small moment had on his whole family is the reason I do what I do." Outside of school, she enjoys walking her dog, spending time with friends and family, and watching documentaries. She contributes to Bryant's Culture of Care and Kindness by encouraging all students to understand and show compassion to those who are different from them. She believes in teaching everyone to look for the good in others and find common connections with people they don't know well.

## *Dr. Rhodes' Weekly Message*

Thank you to everyone who participated in PTA's Trunk or Treat. It was slightly cold but a good time was had by all!!!

A couple of times a year I like to point out that the Katy ISD Curriculum and Learning Department has a great website that explains units of study in mathematics, K-5. Each unit has videos of Katy ISD teachers teaching strategies which are taught to our students. This is a great resource for your student and even for you. Education has changed a lot since we were all in school and things are taught a bit differently. These video demonstrations will help you help your student. I hope you find them useful. [Click here](#) to visit the website. **\*\*Note-** this link will not open when launched with Internet Explorer.

**Thankful Parties:** Our Thankful Parties will be here before you know it!! Party times are listed below in the calendar. This year all grade level parties will be held in the gym so that kids can have fun together instead of separated into homerooms. Pre-Raptor can be requested by [clicking here](#) (please read all details on the webpage). If you have not visited the school and been raptured this year, you will not be able to Pre-Raptor. If this is the case, drop by any time before the party day and your license can be scanned into the system so that you can successfully Pre-Raptor.

**Shopping with Amazon?** Don't forget us when shopping at Amazon. [Click here](#) to learn more about how to support PTA as your AmazonSmile partner. We show up as "PTA Texas Congress- Bryant Elementary." When shopping, use the web address <https://smile.amazon.com>

**Weekly Satisfaction Survey:** [Click here](#) to take our Bryant Satisfaction Survey. This survey will be open through Sunday evening.

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

**This Week's Character Challenge:** Write a thank you note to a teacher or someone that works at the school to show appreciation for something that they have done for you.

**November Character Trait:** Help us kick-off our character focus of the month by wearing **orange** on Wednesday, November 6th. This month students will be having conversations and activities that help develop and apply Responsibility in their daily lives! We are using the following definition for **Responsibility** at school: *to take action and understand how our choices affect others, ourselves, and the world.* Responsibility is a skill that will change over time as students take on more and more responsibilities in their lives. Students will be taught the meaning of responsibility and how to practice it in everyday life through engaging activities and powerful discussions. If you are looking for ways to extend this trait at home as well, check out our [K-2 resource](#) and [3-5 resource](#). For more information, contact Penny Flores, the School Counselor, at [penelopewflores@katyisd.org](mailto:penelopewflores@katyisd.org).

**Giving Tree:** Bryant Elementary PTA is offering the Giving Tree again this year. This is an opportunity for families in need to have some assistance in the purchasing of items during the holiday times. Items are donated anonymously from parents, staff, and community members of Bryant Elementary. If your family could benefit from the assistance of the Giving Tree, please email [penelopewflores@katyisd.org](mailto:penelopewflores@katyisd.org) or call 281-234-4331.

**Kindness Crew:** Did you know that Bryant Elementary has a Kindness Crew? This group of third, fourth, and fifth graders are selected by their peers and teacher to represent their classroom as a Kindness Crew member. They meet with the Counselor once a month to discuss relevant issues on campus and ways to instill and enhance kindness throughout the school. They also come up with the weekly Character Challenges based on their experiences. You may see them giving out high fives and greeting students on Monday mornings, as they hope to get other students excited about the school day.

**Kindness Scouts:** We also have Kindness Scouts for each classroom/homeroom in Kinder-2nd Grade. These students are on the lookout for kind acts happening around the school. Each week, the Kindness Scouts reports kindness they have seen around the school to their class. They also nominate someone from their class for extraordinary kindness! Kindness and care are an important part of our school culture.

### ***From Coach Gregorski, Coach DeLeon & Mrs. Howell, BES(t) PE Team:***

As the weather gets cooler, we see more students wearing boots, which is perfectly fine. Please make sure tennis shoes are in your child's backpack so they can participate in PE class.

The first nine weeks in PE we focused on rules, procedures, expectations and safety. We also worked on throwing and catching. We are now moving on to cooperative games, scooter games, striking and basketball skill

## ***From Our English Language Arts Coach:***

In the 2019-2020 school year, the State of Texas adopted new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for English Language Arts instruction. Katy ISD also adopted new instructional materials to support the teaching of the new objectives. Therefore, many of the materials and practice items for spelling at home may look different. Word Study is a conceptual way of thinking about how to read, understand, and spell words. Word Study has three components: phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. In Katy ISD and here at Bryant Elementary, kindergarten through second grade will focus on the phonics component of Word Study. The goal of phonics instruction is to support kid's progress as readers and writers. Students will be taught principles of phonics through singing, pretending, inventing, talking, writing, and spelling. Students will receive snap words, formally known as sight words. Students will be expected to read and spell the snap words correctly. Working with snap words at home is an excellent way to support your child's reading, writing, and spelling.

In third through fifth grade, the focus of instruction is on spelling and vocabulary. Word Study includes learning to correctly spell words. It requires students to think more deeply about words and how they are put together and not just memorizing words in isolation. Students will learn the rules of spelling and how to apply those rules as part of Word Study. Students will receive word sorts each week as home practice. Students need to be able to read, sort using the spelling patterns, and utilize the identified spelling pattern to correctly spell additional words. In addition, students also need to be able to understand the meaning of the words and use them correctly in sentences. [Click here](#) for a document that shows several ways to support the practice of words at home. In addition, the following are ways you can help your student study:

**Sort the words into categories.** Ask your child how he/she sorted the words at school. Remind your child to read each word aloud during this activity. Ask your child to explain why the words are sorted in a certain way--what does the sort reveal about spelling in general? Have your child sort again but faster. You can even time your child to add an extra challenge.

**Do a blind sort with your child.** Lay down a word from each category as a header and then read the rest of the words aloud. Your child must indicate where the word goes without seeing the word. Lay it down and let your child move it if he or she is wrong. Repeat if your child makes more than one error.

**Assist your child in participating in a word hunt,** looking in a book he/she has already read for words that have the same sound, pattern, or both. Try to find two or three words for each category.

**Do a writing sort to practice writing the words.** As you call out the words in random order, your child should write them in the correct categories. Call out any words your child misspells.

## ***From the District:***

The Department of Special Education is offering a parent training on Behavior Management Strategies and De-escalation Techniques which will focus on a foundational understanding of behavior and strategies to de-escalate children in crisis. [Click here](#) for more information. *(The fall date full but if interested, go ahead and register for the spring session before it fills up.)*

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.

## *Campus Event Calendar*

### **Monday, November 4- Friday, November 8**

Library Book Fair

### **Tuesday, November 5-**

PK, Kinder, 1st & 2nd PTA Spirit Night, Marco's Pizza (see PTA section below for details)

### **Wednesday, November 6**

Wear **Orange** for Character Kickoff (Responsibility)

### **Thursday, November 7**

3rd Grade Veterans Day Program 6pm

### **Friday, November 8**

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, November 12**

Make up & Class Pictures

### **Tuesday, November 19**

Progress Reports Go Home

3rd, 4th, 5th PTA Spirit Night, Marco's Pizza (see PTA section below for details)

### **Friday, November 22**

No Lunch Visitors due to Parties

Grade Level Thankful Parties in Gym

PK & K- 8:45-9:35

1st- 9:45-10:35

2nd- 12:45-1:35

3rd- 1:45-2:35

4th- 11:45-12:35

5th- 10:45-11:35

Pre-Raptor by [clicking here](#).

### **Monday, November 25-Friday, November 29**

Thanksgiving Break (Students and Staff)

### **Wednesday, December 4**

Monthly Character Kickoff (details TBA)

**Friday, December 6**

Pajamas for Junior Achievement (JA). Students may wear pajamas with a \$2 donation to JA. School appropriate shoes must be worn.

**Monday, December 9-Friday, December 13**

PTA Holiday Shop

**Friday, December 13**

PTA Cookies with Santa (evening event- Time TBA)

## *Information from the PTA*

***Spirit Nights- Marco's Pizza***

November 5- Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades

November 19- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders will receive Marco's Pizza boxes tomorrow (Wednesday). If your family would like to participate, students can decorate the box and return it by 11/4. When you order a pizza on the 11/5, you will tell the Marco's employee that you are ordering from Bryant Elementary and your child's name. The pizza will be delivered in your child's decorated box!! We will repeat this process in mid-November for grades 3-5.

***PTA Special Membership Meeting***

A special membership meeting is being held on Friday, December 6, 2019 at 9:15am in the BES LGI Room. All paid 2019-2020 members are welcome.

***Yearbooks on Sale!***

Yearbooks are continuing to be sold. The price is now \$35. [Click here](#) to buy a yearbook through the Jostens website.

***Get your Spirit Wear!***

Our Spirit Wear is in-stock and ready for you! For your convenience, you can purchase all your Bryant Spirit Wear online by visiting <http://officialbryantpta.com>. If you have any questions, please contact our VP of Fundraising – Jennifer Nash at [bryantptafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:bryantptafundraising@gmail.com).