

NOTES *from the* CLASSROOM

Brent Elementary | Grade 4

Sept. 2, 2016

Classroom Update:

Reading Workshop:

We have begun our first Reading Unit of Study: Interpreting Characters, *The Heart of the Story*. This first unit of the year aims to launch students back into what matters most in reading: being nose-in-the-book readers! As we get to know our readers, we are reminding them to read INTENSELY in order to grow ideas about their books. We are building routines in our rooms to support students in selecting books they not only can read, but also want to read.

Writing Workshop:

Our first Writing Unit of Study is Writing Realistic Fiction: *The Arc of the Story*. The work of this unit is for students to create believable characters – with genuine struggles and motivations – who experience growth in realistic ways. We are in the midst of planning possible story maps that include conflict and tension. Next week our writers will begin drafting scenes!



4th Grade Team:

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Monday, Sept. 5:**
No School – Labor Day
- **Wednesday, Sept. 7:**
Back to School Night,
6:30-8pm
- **Sunday, Sept. 11:** Family
Welcome Picnic,
11am-2pm @ X-Park

ASK YOUR CHILD...

To share the rules we
created for our
classrooms!

THE BEST PART OF THE WEEK:

Getting to Know Each Other!

So much of the first few weeks of school is about building strong communities within our classroom. We have been getting to know each other through Morning Meeting activities and shares!

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Classroom Update:

continued...

Math:

We have spent the past week establishing routines and procedures for math. We are also reviewing concepts from 3rd grade math. Students are using arrays as models for multiplication and connecting skip-counting to creating equal groups to represent multiplication. Over the next few weeks, students will continue to develop strategies to use in solving multiplication and division problems. A great deal of work in this first unit will focus on working with factors and multiples so that students become familiar with number relationships that they can use as a part of their repertoire for solving problems.

Social Studies:

Our first unit of the year in Social Studies is about learning and developing skills that will help students take charge of their learning.



We are using this time to introduce and discuss the Brent BEAR Values (Bravery, Empathy, Activity, and Responsibility).

VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of creative family members who would be willing to help us create our classroom banners. Please let your teacher know if you can help out!

ASK YOUR CHILD...

To share about what it means to be a Brent BEAR!

SPECIALS CORNER From Coach Mitchell

In P.E. class, 4th grade students will begin the year focusing on a Teamwork / Cooperation unit. During this unit, students will be participating in a variety of activities that focus on communication, respect, and working together.