

Brown Street Times

2029 N. 20th St

935-3100

January, 2011

In Our Classrooms

K5/K4

Room 125 is going on a field trip to Hawthorne Glen to go tobogganing and/or go animal tracking. This is to culminate our winter and animal units.

1st Grade

First graders just done done writing about their favorite season for their Drop Everything and Write. We learned all about seasons and weather in reading and science too! We are working on the sh, wh and ph sounds and cause and effect in reading also. Keep asking us to tell you what time it is as we started to work on that in math...so far we have done on the hour and half hour. We are trying to remember all our PBIS rules and how important it is to listen and get along with others!

Third Grade

The third grade is busy learning strategies to help us become better readers. This week we explored how the dictionary and a glossary can help us find meanings for words. We read about an invention and wrote about the good and bad things about inventions that are part of our everyday lives. We have all completed our WKCE testing. In math we are using different strategies to subtract numbers. Our place value blocks have been getting a work out! In the Nature Outdoor Classroom, third graders have been observing the change of seasons and what things have energy. Related to our energy unit, we had a wonderful field trip to Discovery World where we had an excellent lesson on making a simple circuit as well as doing things like petting a sturgeon and flying a plane. Thank you Discovery World for helping us pay for this trip.

Attendance

Parents, please remember the importance of sending your child to school on a regular basis and on time. Frequent absences and tardiness negatively impact your child's ability to learn. If your child is absent from school, it is important to call the school for each day of absence. You have 2 days after the absence occurs to provide an excuse. Otherwise, it will remain as an unexcused absence. Thank you for your support in your child's education.

It All Adds Up

Mr. Hartwig – “The Math Guy”

Welcome to a new calendar year!! At Brown Street Academy we are approaching the mid-way point in the school year. In just a couple of weeks the second semester starts and that means the same old things – a long weekend for the students and report cards being completed – and something new, MAP tests!! Right after students start second semester they will be taking the MAP assessments – a test on the computer to show their academic progress.

“So what? They take tests all the time,” you say. That is true, but these are unique tests that give us feedback about how well your child is doing in both reading and math. These are very important test for Brown Street Academy and MPS in general. So it is very important for children to take them seriously and give it their best effort.

At home you can help in several ways.

1. If you have a computer have your children practice using it for educational things that can be found at Brown Street’s Website – especially things that involve math. Have them use scrap paper to find answers to hard questions and then answer on the computer.
2. Have students work on as many word problems as they can for homework, even if you have to make some up yourself to challenge you child. The more they read and have to think through math and reading problems the better off they will be on all test.
3. Talk about math around you all the time: the cost of items at the store, how much change to get when you buy something, how much to measure into cooking ingredients, how much time it takes to do an activity, etc. And play games with them that involve math!

Parent News

HIP (Having Involved Parents) has monthly programs for parents. Watch for upcoming B.O.B. - Big On Books events. Each B.O.B. event provides books for parents to share with their child along with a presentation on topics of interest to parents. Watch your child's Tuesday folder to sign up for upcoming programs! HIP provided a delicious luncheon before the holidays that was well attended. Hopefully you were a winner of door prizes! Thank you to parent's who attended the school program. It's always fun to see your child perform! Your child's Tuesday folder, along with asking your child, is the best source of information for what's happening next at Brown Street Academy!

Reading

As part of our reading program, children practice their new skills in small groups at Literacy Work Stations. The Work Stations include: Media/Technology, Writing, Phonics/Word Work, Vocabulary and Independent Reading. Ask your children what they have been learning in their Work Stations. Each week, your children are learning new words. Ask them about their works of the week and see if they can use them in daily conversation.

January

Our monthly theme for January is "World Cultures. "The multiple intelligence focus for January is intrapersonal intelligence. People with intrapersonal intelligence are good at setting goals. They know their strengths and weakness and are reflective and independent.

1/14- Dr. King Program @ 9:00

1/17- Dr. King Holiday. No School.

Week of 1/17- World Culture Month Displays

1/21- Record's Day. No School.

1/24- Banking Day. No School.

1/25- Report Cards

From the Principal's Desk:

Time seems to have flown past. We are almost into our 2nd semester of school and our students, for the most part, seem to be on target for moving forth academically and socially. Here at Brown Street, we try to work together as a family to address our students' needs. We appreciate the support you offer when you are called on to come in for a conference or to assist us in getting your child back on track. It is important that your child realize that we function as a team and we will work together to find solutions that will allow your child to maximize his/her academic opportunities.

I would like to bring a few items to your attention:

*If your child is currently enrolled at Brown Street, you are not required to re-enroll for next school year. If you know of any students in need of a great school, recommend our school to them. We welcome new faces.

* The student school day ends at 2:25pm. Please **avoid** picking your child up early unless **absolutely** necessary as it cuts into their learning time.

*Please remember to use the main entrance at all times when dropping your child off at school or picking him/her up. All other entrances/exits are off-limits to parents due to liability laws.

*Please remember to call in if your child is going to be absent so that the absence will not be considered unexcused.

*Parents must call ahead and speak with a secretary or send a note if your child normally rides the bus and you want the child to stay behind for parent pick-up or CLC; otherwise, your child will be put on the bus.

*The parking lot is reserved for staff members only! Please do not drop your child off in that area. It is dangerous as staff do not always "see" the smaller children and we want to avoid accidents of any kind.

*The goal for attendance is 95%. Please send your child to school daily so that will be prepared academically. *Please plan to attend the parent-teacher conferences in March. It means so much to your children to show that you are concerned with their academic progress.

*Please make sure that your child completes his/her homework daily and returns it. Incomplete homework affects your child's overall academic progress.

*Please make every effort to attend our Martin Luther King, Jr. program in January and our Black History program in February. Your presence means so much to your children.

Parents, our school is a **uniformed** school. Students should be wearing **school uniforms daily**. If your child has told you that it doesn't matter if they do or not, that is not true. The uniforms have had a tremendous influence on the positive behavior of our students so we would appreciate every effort for them to remain in uniform unless otherwise noted.

Together we let's continue the efforts to make this a great year for our students!

Mrs. Morris