

# B.E.S.T. NEWS



Christina School District  
Mrs. Jeanette R. Ganc Principal

Brader Elementary School Team  
Mrs. Kathy W. Kelly, Asst. Principal

## Greetings from Mrs. Ganc and Mrs. Kelly

March/April

Volume 24, Issue 5

We would like to congratulate the following staff members from Henry M. Brader Elementary for receiving grants from the Delaware Community Foundation and the Fund for Children's Literacy: Alaine Grunow, Diane Bale, and Cynthia Ledesma. Funds from these grants will allow the teachers to find new and exciting ways to motivate their students to learn, increase student engagement and help their students meet the increased rigors of the common core state standards. Thanks for your dedication, Brader Tiger Teachers!

On January 19, the Brader Tigers Robotic Team competed at Delaware State University for the opportunity to participate in the First State FIRST LEGO League Championship Tournament. For the complete story, please visit our new Brader website: <http://braderelementary.weebly.com/>

Yes, the penguins have arrived! Our Time for Kids fundraiser is sponsored by the administration. It supports the purchase of Time for Kids subscriptions for K-5 classrooms. Last year's fundraiser paid for almost the entire school. We hope to surpass last year and have fully funded subscription. Teachers use the magazine to supplement social studies content especially current events. Thank you in advance.

The next round of DCAS testing is upon us. Second through fifth grade students will be taking this important test. As with any important test, a good night's rest, a healthy breakfast, and the support of family are all important to ensure a positive testing environment. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments during your child's testing dates.

We would also like to personally thank our fourth grade teachers and students. On February 6, 2013 our fourth graders took the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). We received accolades from the NAEP team regarding our students and teachers. Nicely done, Brader Tigers!

### **Brader Procedural Reminders**

Our outside area has become overfilled with students arriving too early in the morning. We are in morning professional meetings almost every day of the week. We are not responsible for your children until 8:45. We are missing important work to make calls or monitor early arrivals. It is imperative that you make arrangements for morning care prior to this time. Thank you for your help in keeping our lobby and outside area free of unsupervised students.

Teachers are very busy in the morning with their beginning of the day procedures and are unable to meet with you at that time. If you have a need to speak to your child's teacher, please call or email them to set up an appointment, so they can give you their undivided attention.

A few reminders for parents picking up or dropping off during the school day: The fire lane is NOT a parking area. You must park in a space when entering the building. We have plenty of parking spaces available. This is also true for parents who wait outside to pick up their children at the end of the day. In addition, we begin dismissal at 3:35. **Please pick up any early dismissals by 3:15.** This helps avoid confusion in the office and allows for smooth transition out of the building.

In the age of social media, it is important to be involved in your child's online activity. We have become involved recently in investigating cyber bullying incidents happening off campus. There are steps you can take to keep your children safe. Know their usernames and passwords. Monitor their usage. Restrict their use of social media. All children are provided the I-Safe curriculum at Brader during library but it is ultimately up to parents to oversee use of the internet at home. In addition, please remind your child that if they bring a cell phone to school, it is to be turned off and stored in their book bag. It is not to be carried around the building or present in the classroom.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

March 1	2nd Trimester Ends	March 28	School Closed—Professional Development
March 14	Spring Picture Day PTA Mtg./Math Mardi Gras @ 6 PM	March 29	Spring Break Begins—School & Office CLOSED
March 21	Friendly's Night @ Peoples Plaza	April 1 -5	Spring Break—School CLOSED
March 27	PTA Skate Night	April 10	PTA Meeting @ 6 PM
		April 24	Excellence Fair 6:00—7:30 PM

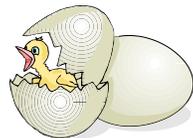
## KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten classes enjoyed many activities focusing on the season of winter in January. We also had many opportunities to observe various types of weather and temperatures, that's for sure.

February has been a very busy month. We discussed Presidents' Day, enjoyed our 100th day of school, celebrated Valentine's Day, focused on Dental Health, and encouraged more reading as we recognized that February is I Love to Read Month. Please remember to read to your child daily; it's the best gift you can give to your child. We will be reading lots of Dr. Seuss books, since his birthday is March 2nd. Our hallways will be turned into Seussland in honor of this great author.

Kindergarten is egg-cited to announce that we received a grant from FLC. We will be using the funds to order 5 dozen chick eggs, journals and non-fiction stories about chicks. We will be working with the University of Delaware Embryology Program to conduct research on chicks and create non-fiction stories. The students will also gather information in their science journals and work on the computers in the library to add to their journals. We are so excited to take part in such a wonderful experience. The eggs will arrive April 29th and we look forward to watching the eggs hatch and to have cute little chicks chirping away in our classrooms.

Please continue to check your child's book bag on a daily basis and go over any work that he/she may be having difficulties with. We appreciate your continued support as we progress into the final marking period.



## FIRST GRADE

Hello! The month of February included many activities and celebrations within a relatively short time span. We celebrated Black History Month, which highlighted the contributions of African-Americans. We also celebrated Valentine's Day and President's Day. February also marked Dental Health Month and I Love to Read Month!

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## FIRST GRADE Cont'd.

We had Mr. Rick Waterhouse visit us periodically to present his Ready for Reading program, where he taught the first graders songs related to a variety of children's authors, while he played his guitar! Mr. Waterhouse also shared facts and information related to specific children's authors!

On Friday, February 22nd, we had our Pajama Day! We were also delighted to have our very own Mrs. Ganc serve as a "guest reader," and read Dr. Seuss' *The Cat In the Hat* to the first graders! We thank Mrs. Ganc for her participation!

Related to I Love to Read Month, is Brader's Reading Game Night, which will take place on Thursday, February 28th. During that event, first graders will be able to participate in a variety of reading games! Please come join us from 6-7 pm!

The first full week of March will be filled with exciting and important activities! We will participate in the Read Across America initiative, which encourages children to develop a love for literature! We will also celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday during the same week! On Monday, March 3rd, we will have Red and White Day, like the *Cat In the Hat's* hat! On Wednesday, March 6th, we will have Dress As Your Favorite Dr. Seuss' Character Day! Also on that day, Mr. Rick Waterhouse will pay his final visit to us. All of the first grade classrooms, accompanied by Mr. Waterhouse on guitar, will have an opportunity to sing a song, related to a specific author, during this fun-filled event!

March 6th also marks the celebration of the First Grade 50 Book Reading Challenge! The first graders will participate in a parade to acknowledge those students who have met the goal of reading at least 50 books during the month of February! The students will create a book cover from their favorite book, and display it as they parade around Brader! While the Reading Challenge may have come to an end, we encourage all of the first grade students to continue reading books at home each night.



Lastly, depending on your child's home-room, the Brader first graders will take a field trip to Hagley Museum, on either March 7th or 8th! Students will have the opportunity to learn about life in the 1800s, visiting a 19th Century home and schoolhouse. Please pack your child a bag lunch which excludes glass bottles or containers. Thank you, and take care!

## SECOND GRADE

Greetings from the Second Grade Team! We have been very busy with our science unit learning about and building bridges.

This has been a great science unit, the teachers and



students are excited about it. In math we have been learning or will be learning about money, time and temperature, fractions, and place value to 1,000. Something that you can help us with is when your child brings home worksheet that he or she has been working on at school; continue working on the concept at home. Have your child practice the value and identification of coins; have them count out your change each night for practice! If you have an analog clock in your house, have your child practice telling time using an analog clock and if you have a thermometer ask your child to read the temperature. (For about \$1.00 at the dollar store, you can purchase a thermometer and use it for practice.) Practicing these concepts at home reinforce what they have learned at school. There is nothing better than that!

Your second grader has been working hard; with that in mind, we would like to remind you that getting the proper sleep is important. Did you know that children ages 5 - 12 should have ten to eleven hours of sleep each night? Did you also know that sleep promotes alertness, memory and performance? Children who get enough sleep are more likely to function better and are less prone to behavioral problems and moodiness.

Below are a few helpful tips for a bedtime routine:

- Make bedtime the same time every night.
- Make bedtime a positive and relaxing experience without TV or videos. According to one recent study, TV viewing prior to bed can lead to difficulty falling and staying asleep. Save your child's favorite relaxing, non-stimulating activities until last and have them occur in the child's bedroom.
- Keep the bedtime environment (e.g. light, temperature) the same all night long.

For more information please go to: <http://www.sleepforkids.org/html/sheet.html> And finally, if you are planning to change the way your child goes home, please be sure that you send in a note. If we do not get a note from you, your child will go home his/her normal mode of transportation.

## THIRD GRADE

Brrr! It certainly has been a wacky winter wonderland so far! Remember that we do go outside for recess as long as the wind chill is 32 degrees or higher, so make sure all students come ready with warm coats, gloves, hats, and scarves. Inside the building, we have been keeping warm and busy!

After finishing up our division unit in Math, we moved on to function tables. Even though we have moved on to the next unit, it is still vital to continue practicing the facts. The Human Body is an amazing machine! We are learning



how the skeleton, joints, muscles, and brain work together to provide structure and function for our bodies! Some of the investigations are:

building skeletons, dissecting owl pellets, and making models to show how muscles and tendons work together.

We've been doing our best to respond to both stand-alone writing prompts, such as "How is technology important in your life?" and text-based prompts, such as "The Truth About Bears," in which we compare and contrast different types of bears. Comparing and contrasting is also a comprehension strategy we have been working on, along with character traits and author's purpose.

We have a few upcoming field trips for this spring, such as to Dayett Mills for Water Explorations and the Grand Opera House to see "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs." Look for those permission slips soon.

Thank you to all parents who attended conferences. Your support is necessary and appreciated!

## FOURTH GRADE

Round two of DCAS testing is complete and a lot of growth has taken place. We will be looking at the results and making decision about how to help your child improve further. Teachers will be setting up computer based learning sessions for students based on their need. In the near future look for a letter that explains how to access this site.

In science, students worked on magnetism and electricity. They executed a series of interesting labs where they discovered what magnets stick to and why. They built series and parallel circuits and learned about the various components. This unit is one that will help your child understand some of the concepts in 6th grade science. It's a big "hit" with the students.

In math, we completed the Unit 13: Fractions. Many new concepts were taught and will continue to be reviewed throughout the remainder of the year. Being able to look at a ruler and name the fraction was the most difficult task for the students. We will be forming small tutoring groups to assist those students that had difficulty mastering some of the concepts.

In writing, students focused on persuasive, informative, and text-based writing. Students wrote self-selected persuasive essays that will be on display at Excellence Fair this spring. They also practiced how-to writing. They took a simple task and wrote detailed instructions about how to complete it. Students focused on specific word choice and how to write so the reader can visualize each step.



You're probably wondering when the students are going on a field trip. Unfortunately, both of the trips we had planned this year fell through. We are planning to go on one in the spring. Once we have finalized everything, letters will be distributed.

## FIFTH GRADE

For social studies during the month of January, the fifth grade had a special visit from Sergeant Jeffrey Whitmarsh, a Delaware State Police officer who came to Henry E. Bradler Elementary school to give a presentation on Due Process. The students had been learning in class about



the protections guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. Sergeant Whitmarsh, explained to the students about the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments and how all citizens must be protected equally under the law.

In science the students are busy studying the properties of mixtures and solutions observed through concentration, saturation and physical change.

In mathematics students learned how to interpret graphs, chose appropriate scales and intervals, and selecting an appropriate graph for presenting data. Now the students are leaning all about fractions! They are learning how to write a fraction that is equivalent to a given fraction and compare fractions using common denominators, write decimals as fractions, and identify prime and composite numbers.

In reading students are continuing to work on reading strategies and skills. One focus is finding evidence to support answers to reading questions.

In writing students are working on a unit in Persuasive Writing. We created Persuasive Advertisement with original products created by the students.

Our next incentive trip for the second trimester is to the Hong Kong Buffet on March 15.

The first round of DCAS testing is done but the second round of testing will be forthcoming. Individual teachers will contact parent with the exact dates. Please make sure your child gets a good night sleep the night before testing and a good breakfast the day of the test. As always, thank you for all your support.



# Give us your BEST ROAR!

## MENTORING MESSAGE

Brader Mentoring is “March-ing” toward Spring welcoming new mentors and updated activities! This time of year finds our mentoring pairs busy with new games, reading, and expressing their creative side! A fifth grade mentee and her mentor assembled pictures from around her neighborhood and added graphics to create a framed display for her room at home! Other mentees are happily enjoying the games recently added to our activities closet....new favorites include Connect-4, Word Shout, No Speed Limit, Turtle Checkers and the Memory Game! Our recent Scholastic Book Fair also found mentors and mentees happily exploring new reads! Here’s what our students think about their mentoring time.....

**When asked what their favorite activity with their mentor was:** “Eating lunch together.....just talking....learning to add.....playing new games...working on the computer....helping to read and write a story.....learning how to stay focused and still have fun...talking about problems and how to work them out....teaching me new things that I don’t already know.”

**When asked if they would like to be part of the mentoring program again next school year:** “Yes!” (that was the answer from all the mentees J)

To volunteer as a mentor, you don’t need special skills...just a willingness to listen, offer encouragement, and share what you’ve learned about life. What a great way to make a difference in the lives of our Brader students! If you are interested in learning more about joining our program, please contact Lisa Deputy-Kelly at [kellyl@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:kellyl@christina.k12.de.us) or by phone at (302) 454-5959. Please also visit [www.CreativeMentoring.org](http://www.CreativeMentoring.org) Join the Brader Mentoring Team this Spring and help a Brader student **GROW!**

## FIRST IN MATH COMPETITION:

Room 438 – Mr. Gustafson’s class is currently ranked:

- #1 in Delaware of all grades and schools,
- #2 nationally of all 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms
- #4 nationally of all classrooms- public and private schools!!

Sydney Episcopo, Casey Abrams, Haley Custodi, and Chloe Shifflett are all ranked in the Top Ten for the State of Delaware!!



**Congratulations to all of the hard working students in Mr. Gustafson’s class!!!!**

## Brader Robotics Team Competes in Regional Tournaments

On January 19, the Brader Tigers Robotic Team competed at Delaware State University for the opportunity to participate in the First State FIRST LEGO League Championship Tournament. Brader placed in the top third, winning the 1st place award for Robotic Performance. This earned them the opportunity to join 42 teams in grades 4 through 8 on January 26th at the University of Delaware Bob Carpenter Center for the regional tournament. The Brader Tigers constructed Lego models from model blue-prints; designed, constructed and programmed their robot, named S.T.E.V.E., created a simulation project that would help seniors citizens live a better life, and created a poster that emphasized the Core Values they had learned. The students presented their robot, programs, simulator, and poster to teams of judges where they were required to demonstrate and explain how they had accomplished their project. They also had to demonstrate how to read computer programs! At the end of the day eleven awards were given and the Brader Tigers were honored by receiving the Judges Award. This award is given when during the course of the competition the judges encounter a team whose unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition. It allows the judges to recognize the most remarkable teams for which a standard award does not exist. We are extremely proud of our first year team! Go Tigers!!



## NURSE'S NOTES

By Tiffany Ford



### When to Keep Your Child Home:

It is important, for the health of all students, staff and families that your child not be at school when sick. The following guidelines are appropriate reasons to keep children home from school:

- A fever  $\geq 100^{\circ}$  F in the last 24 Hours
- A consistent, goopy, runny nose
- White or yellow drainage from the eye, crusty eyes, and/or redness of the eyelid or skin surrounding the eye.
- A bad cough – one that you wouldn't want your well child around
- A sore throat, especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck
- Shortness of breath or other problems with normal breathing
- A child that is acting ill – unusually tired, pale, difficult to awake, headache, or body aches

### School Nurse Advice

Health bodies and healthy brains are vital to learning. If you ask most students who have come to the nurse's office for one reason or another, my advice is often the same, "Drink water, and lots of it." Being well hydrated, along with eating well balanced meals and being physically active, will help students feel better, think better, and ultimately learn better.

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away" is age old advice that holds true even today. And don't forget to "wash your hands" especially before you eat, and "keep your fingers out of your mouth and out of your eyes!" to stay well. And lastly, "get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast every morning!" Children need at least 8-10 hours a night with breakfast following so they can have the best possible start to their school day.

### Allergy Alert

There are many Brader students and staff who have fragrant sensitivities. For those with health issues, such as allergies, asthma, and migraines, exposure to strong scents can cause allergic reactions, asthmatic attacks, and/or migraines. These reactions may interfere with the person's daily routine on different levels and may even cause them to need medical treatment. Please encourage your child/children to refrain from wearing items with strong scents, such as perfumes, lotions, and hand sanitizers during the school day.



All in the name of good health,

Your School Nurse



## LIBRARY NEWS

Many thanks to Brader PTA and their very successful Scholastic Book Fair for "I Love to Read" month.

The Library is a busy place as we head into the spring months. Fourth and fifth grade students are stretching their knowledge and learning about basic research tools with a library project. Fourth grade has been concentrating their efforts in learning about and answering their questions about the American Revolution. Fifth grade students are researching the critters that help make our Brader Vegetable garden grow. They will turn their research into a creative piece for younger students.

K-2 students are finishing up their I-safe (Internet Safety) unit in the library and Seussmania! Students are looking forward to preparing, planting and observing the Brader Vegetable garden. Many of our stories and informational texts will discuss gardening, plants, soil and insects in the spring.

Third grade students will continue learning to be independent learners in locating books in the Library Catalog ([lib.christina.k12.de.us](http://lib.christina.k12.de.us)) and "just right" books for reading. They will also begin their Internet Safety unit in March.

Check out the Library wikispaces: [www.braderbookbytes.wikispaces.com](http://www.braderbookbytes.wikispaces.com) and [www.growwithbooks.wikispaces.com](http://www.growwithbooks.wikispaces.com)



# Brader PTA

Facebook: [Brader PTA](#) Email: [henrymbraderpta@gmail.com](mailto:henrymbraderpta@gmail.com)

## **2012-2013 PTA Board**

Co-Presidents: Tammy Jacoby and Brenda Chambers

Vice-Presidents: Kelly Kramarck

Treasurers: Michele Lockwood and Erica Webb

Secretary: Open

## **PTA Membership**

PTA Memberships are available \$7.00 for individual or \$11 for family. Membership forms are available from your child's teacher or in the office. Thank you to membership co chairs Lisa Kelly and Danielle Pyle. This year's theme is "Raise Your Paws". Volunteers Are Always Welcome. If you would like to volunteer, please come in and complete the volunteer form in the office.

## **Brader Spirit Wear**

Spirit wear order forms are available in the main office or see any PTA officer. Some items/sizes are on hand, others will be ordered, taking 2-3 weeks to arrive.

## **Ongoing Ways to Support Brader & PTA**

### **Box Tops**

Please visit [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) to register and print coupons. Continue to save Box Tops, each one turned in earns the school **10 cents**.

### **Coke Rewards**

Save Coke bottle caps, codes from soda cartons – send codes into school or create an online account, enter codes and donate the points to Brader PTA. [www.mycokerewards.com](http://www.mycokerewards.com) Points are given to Mrs. French, the PE teacher to purchase additional equipment for all the children to use.

### **eSCRIPT**

Please visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) to sign up and register merchant cards and credit cards. Share with family and friends

For a complete list of participating items visit [http://backtoschools.escrip.com/images/AUG12\\_10bts\\_participating.pdf](http://backtoschools.escrip.com/images/AUG12_10bts_participating.pdf)

## **What's New .....**

Joe Corbi Fundraiser runs from Feb 21—March 8. Pick up will be on March 26. Please remember to fill out acknowledgement form.

Donations are now being accepted for teacher gift/raffle for Teacher Appreciation week in May.

## **ATTENTION— CALLING FOR NEW PTA OFFICERS!!!!**

New officer elections will be held in May. Anyone who is interested, please contact a present member of the current board. Training classes will be held in May. We need to get officers in place as soon as possible.



## Christina School District Student Code of Conduct

The Christina School District Student Code of Conduct is integral to our goal of creating safe, nurturing, learning environments that foster responsible, productive and positive behaviors. It provides policies and guidelines for students at all grade levels that will help explain expectations for positive behavior. We believe that promoting positive behavior and creating schools where children and young adults are valued, will encourage learning and will support student success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Christina School District Student Code of Conduct, please feel free to contact one or both of the individuals listed below.

- **Dr. Sharon L. Danney, Discipline Supervisor**  
Christina School District Drew Educational Support Center, 600 North Lombard Street,  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
[sdanneys@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:sdanneys@christina.k12.de.us); (302) 552-2711

The Discipline Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the implementation of the District's policies concerning discipline is fair and equitable. The Discipline Supervisor will also regularly develop and participate in activities designed to raise awareness within the District about the implementation of the District's disciplinary policies.

- **Mr. Edward Mayfield, District Support Administrator**  
Christina School District Drew Educational Support Center, 600 North Lombard Street,  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
[mayfelde@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:mayfelde@christina.k12.de.us); (302) 552-2601

The District Support Administrator will address complaints, grievances, and appeals from parents, guardians, students, and others regarding the implementation of the District's disciplinary policies, and will support the activities of the Discipline Supervisor.

For more information, please call the Christina School District School Discipline Office at 552-2703. The District's current Student Code of Conduct is available online at the following address:  
[www.christinak12.org](http://www.christinak12.org)

Freeman L. Williams, Ed.D., Superintendent

*The Christina School District is an equal opportunity employer. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age or Vietnam Era veteran's status in employment or its programs and activities. Inquiries regarding compliance with the above may be directed to the Director of K-12 Services, Christina School District, 800 North Lombard Street, Wilmington, DE 19801; Telephone: (302) 552-2600.*