



Braden River Elementary

School of Innovation

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Winter 2023 Newsletter

Message from the Principal

As we dawn a new year, there is much to be celebrated that is unique to Braden River Elementary. We have had the opportunity to have two grade levels hold programs during the school year. Our Kindergarten students celebrated by singing at our PTO's annual Cookies with Santa event. Our fifth-grade students took the stage for a musical performance with Dr. Katz and the 5th grade team support for parents. This is the first year in a while these traditional performances have been brought on the BRE stage. Our dual language programs have grown to KG and 1st grades, and they were able to hold a parent university this school year. Our first Innovation Expo took place where students were able to showcase the information they learned and became experts on through their Project Based Learning (PBL). I will share more about this later in this article. Our school community has supported all these efforts and more, the tremendous feeling and show of support by our school's parents, staff and greater school community has been no more evident than this school year. As the principal of BRE, this is great to see!

This is what makes our school innovative and one of a kind!

Kindergarten	Fire safety – How can we create an escape plan in our home in case of an emergency? Celebration of the World – How do people of other countries celebrate holidays?
First Grade	Waste Wizards – How can we reduce waste? Grandfriends Project – How can we listen and share stories of others?
Second Grade	Life Lessons - How can we be everyday heroes?
Third Grade	Tiny House – How can we design a tiny house that meets the needs of our clients?
Fourth Grade	Invasive Species – How can we take action and inform others about the impact of invasive species in Florida?
Fifth Grade	A Spark in Time – How can we, as historians, uncover and share stories about our community?

Our investment in becoming “**A School of Innovation**” has truly paid off with the Project Based Units your students have been able to take part in this first semester. Please see the list above on what makes our school innovative and one of a kind. No other school has written and created these authentic units for students to experience. Please, if you have a moment, share with your child's teacher the value you have seen with these experiences. These comments go a long way.

After our fifth-grade red carpet premier of their documentary showcasing “Be the Spark in Time” where the students interviewed community members to seek their story, parents shared the following:

Parent: "I just HAD to say that the documentary tonight was OUTSTANDING!!!! It was quite the tearjerker, and you should all be commended for the work you do alongside our 5th graders! It was an amazing storytelling experience I expect they will remember it forever! My son was so excited and proud tonight of the work he did with his peers. As a mom that is all I can ask for my own children; to be proud of the work they do and to be happy while at school. I had to say THANK YOU and WELL DONE! I was incredibly impressed this evening! You have some pretty exceptional grade 5 students!"

Grandfather: The power of the many lessons the students learned from the PBL unit were far more than he thinks the teachers even expected.

Parent: "I am a long time BRE parent. I believe this was the most powerful thing I have seen done at BRE during our time here. My daughter has never been prouder of something she has done in school."

Reading these comments shows how much value this adds to your students' learning experience and provides support for our staff who have worked to create these valuable units for your students.

2023 will bring a continuation of this work, as the teachers have more PBL units to keep that spark of learning. We also have many events that our school and PTO will host in the second semester. **One of the exciting events coming next semester is our Parent Innovative Expo Night where you will see Project Based Learning in action.** Look out for that date and time in future school communications. You won't want to miss this showcase!

Finally, 65% of the students that attend BRE are here by choice or hardship. We just concluded the District Choice period, where we toured more parents than we have in the last four years. We are now entering the hardship request period for the 2023-2024 school year. If you know of families looking for a school that is innovative, please refer them to take a tour. **Any new families with PreK or kindergarteners zoned for BRE that you may know are considered a priority and Open Enrollment for them starts March 1st through March 10th.** Please mark your calendars so we can get you enrolled in PreK and KG programs. Contact the office for more information.

We look forward to a successful end to the school year – thanks for being a strong partner!

Joshua Bennett, Principal

BRE PTO NEWS

We are always looking for volunteers! Upcoming volunteer needs are: Scholastic Book Fair morning hours 1/30-2/3 and planning committees for the Fairytale Ball, Kickball Game & Spring Fling

Upcoming Spirit Nights

Chick fil A, Panera,
Culvers, Menchies,
Freddy's & Texas
Roadhouse

Upcoming PTO Meetings

January 19 @ 6pm

Sponsor Spotlight: Music Compound

February 16 @ 6pm

March 23 @ 6pm

Meetings are held on campus in the media center & childcare is provided by the BRHS Key Club for school age children in the cafeteria

3rd Quarter PTO/School Events

Scholastic Bookfair Jan 30-Feb 3

A school event with parent volunteers organized by PTO

Bonfire Friday, Feb 3

An evening of fun organized by the school

Fun Run Week of Feb 7-15

Boosterthon will return to campus again this year for a super fun fundraiser

Fairytale Ball Saturday, Feb 11

A father/daughter dinner & dance at Oasis Church. Volunteers needed!

Kickball Game Friday, March 24

mother vs son game on our kickball field

Spring Fling April 15

Adults only event at the Riverclub Golf Course Clubhouse. Live music & auction. This is our biggest FUNdraiser.

Reminders

Yearbooks are on sale now! You can purchase them online and customize two free pages until March 2023. Yearbooks get delivered to the school for **FREE** in May if ordered before the deadline. School Code: 1012864503831432

Nurse's News

Hello Braden River Elementary Families,

Happy New Year from the Nurses! We hope everyone had a safe and healthy Winter Break with family and friends.

During the second half of the school year we will continue our health screenings and work toward our goal of screening 100% of kindergarten, first and third graders. If your student is not in one of these grade levels but is having a difficult time seeing or hearing in the classroom, please reach out to us and we can screen them as well. We do have a financial assistance for vision exams and glasses for families that qualify. Please reach out to your school nurse at 941-751-7012 extension 57004 if you would like more information.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month.

We will spend time educating students on the importance of good dental health habits like brushing, flossing and avoiding sugary drinks.

We also want to remind parents of the importance of scheduling regular dental visits to help children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. If you do not have dental insurance through your employer you can apply through Florida KidCare. It is free to apply and they offer year-round enrollment options. Please visit www.floridakidcare.org to get more information. Another great low cost option is LECOM School of Dental Medicine here in LWR. You can call 941-405-1600 for more information and to make an appointment.

Looking forward to a great third quarter!

Laura Schuyler RN & Nicole Wells RN



Thank you to our 2022-23 BRE Sponsors

Platinum Plus

Flood Pros

Blue Marlin Insurance – Jeff Hamer

Little Town Smiles Pediatric Dentist

Platinum

Alpha Fortius

Cablish and Gentile CPA

Carousels

Center for Skin Wellness

Clear View Windows & Doors Inc.

Coder School

Culver's

Drama Kids

Freddy's

Honeyside Farms

i9 Sports

Mathnasium

Morrish Stewart Orthodontics

Music Compound

Oasis Church

Premier Martial Arts

Schindel Orthodontics

The Milbank Team, Real Estate

Triumph Martial Arts

Wellness Concepts - Dr. Kotlarczyk

Bronze

Happy Dragon – The Lui Family

Your sponsorship will support our school's vision by providing professional development trainings, materials, and community building experiences for our students and staff. If you are interested in purchasing a sponsorship, please contact at BREPT06125@gmail.com.

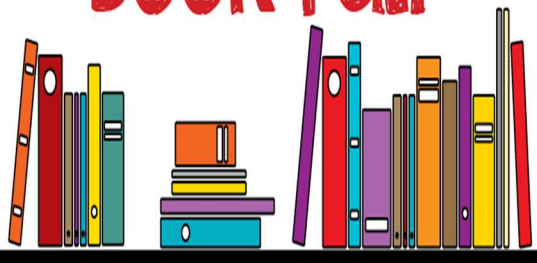


BATTLE of the BOOKS

Battle of the Books starts on January 17 and runs through March 31 ending with our exciting Battle Bowls! This year we have changed it up some and have different books for each grade level! Check them out below! Each class has a set of the books as well as a set in the media center for students to check out! Happy Reading! Will you get to the Battle Bowl and become the Champion Reader?! To do so, you must read all the books in your grade level and pass each quiz with an 80% or higher. There will also be a friendly House competition to see which house can read the most books. Who will win???

<p>KINDERGARTEN = 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pete and Pickles -Tacky the Penguin -Nat Geo: Penguins -The Empty Pot -Elephant/Piggie: The Thank You Book -Gratitude is my Superpower -My Camel Wants to be a Unicorn -Net Geo: Helpers in your Neighborhood -Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus -I Need a Hug (Bilingual) 	<p>1st grade = 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea -Narwhal - A Day in the Life -Bruce's Big Storm -Dragons Eat Noodles on Tuesday -The Great Fuzz Frenzy -Nat Geo: Sharks -Saving Animal Babies -I am a Bee -Cranky Chicken -The Blobfish 	<p>2nd grade = 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Missed Meal Mayhem -Mossy the Manatee -Ada Twist, Scientist -Dragons Love Tacos -Who Would Win: Ultimate Shark Rumble -Mercy Watson to the Rescue -Nat Geo: Storms -What do you do with an Idea?
<p>3rd grade = 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ben Yokohama and the Cookie of Doom -Sofia Valdez, Future Prez -Mission: Sea Turtle Rescue -One Tiny Turtle -The World According to Humphrey -Stone Fox -Can you Survive the Jungle (An interactive Survival Adventure) -What do you do with a Problem? 	<p>4th grade = 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Crenshaw -The Lemonade War -Billy Sure: Kid Entrepreneur -Who was Sam Walton? -I Survived the American Revolution -The ChangeMakers: Making a Difference 	<p>5th grade = 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Carry me Home -Holes -Who Was Thomas Edison? -The Mysterious Benedict Society #1 -The People of Spark (City of Ember #2) -Who was Nikolai Tesla?

Scholastic Book Fair



Book Fair is Coming!!!

January 30th – February 3rd

Student can shop during school hours and Feb 3rd from 5pm-7pm

Visit our website for more info and to sign up to volunteer during this fun event!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4eaaa82ba3fe3-scholastic#/>

When you are at the scholastic book fair link, check out the NEW e-Wallet option for easy payment.

BRE PHYSICAL EDUCATION STATION

HAPPY 2023 to ALL!!!!

During Physical Education your students have been practicing EMPATHY, PERSEVERANCE and HONESTY.

Your students are taking part in a 10 minute CONDITIONING OPPORTUNITY at the beginning of every Physical Education class. Students may choose to WALK-JOG-SPRINT during this 10 minute time frame. Students are asked to give their BEST EFFORT during this period. The goal of our CONDITIONING OPPORTUNITY is to improve our students cardiovascular efficiency and to warm up for our FUN activities.

Our Annual BRE TRACK MEET is approaching! Students in Grades 2-5 will be qualifying in the 200 Meter Relay-400 Meter Run-800 Meter Run starting in February. If your student qualifies in the top 5 of THEIR class (5-Girls and 5-Boys) they will be invited to compete in our TRACK MEET that will be taking place in the weeks after Spring Break. Paper notification will be provided by Coach B. and Coach Stilson if your student qualifies.

Coach B & Coach Stilson

Safety Reminder for Students

Students walking to school—check your paths for safety, observe traffic signs, and cross the road inside of crosswalks.

Bike Riders don't forget:

WEAR A HELMET! IT'S THE LAW!

Students may not be dropped off in the Middle School parking lot.

If parents choose to do Parent Walk Up, parents **MUST** accompany the students while in the parking lot and through the crosswalk up to the designated drop off area.

ATTENTION

Please have your child wear sneakers (no sandals, Crocs, heels, boots, etc.) on days that he/she will have P.E. Proper attire will help us keep your child safe. Students are welcome to bring water bottles to P.E., especially during the hotter months. Please send in a note or doctor's excuse if your child cannot participate in P.E. because of an injury or illness. This will help us monitor the situation and keep your child as safe as possible.

Congratulations to our students who will be participating in All-State Chorus & Orff Ensemble.

Pictured (L. to R.)--Back Row: Lailah Aljukic (Chorus), Lillian Ploger (Orff Ensemble),
Front Row: Dr. David Katz (BRES Music Educator), April Johnson (Chorus), Reese Middleton (Elementary), Mr. Joshua Bennett (BRES Principal).

The students will have the opportunity to work with clinicians of a national or international level and perform a concert made up of fourth and fifth graders from Florida over two days in January at the Tampa Convention Center. Students were chosen by competitive audition for this honor. We are so proud of their hard work and dedication.



2ND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

3rd Grade

All A Honor Roll

Eleanor Bercaw	Paige Royce
Emma Curry	Abigail Stephen
Leela DeLazzer	Logan Titus
Ava Duff	Penny Wells
Eleanor Mattei	

A / B Honor Roll

Channing Barker	Emily Haas	Samantha Smith
Sabatini Begani	Wesley Helm	Zara Szekely
Easton Bowling	Aubrey Kane	Melissa Vallor
Gabriella Busenburg	Adrian Llorca	Eric Veillard
Carsyn Carter	Kylie McCurry	Ella Walker
Gennaro Cucci	Daniel Meiler	Vivien Williams
Jefferson Drohan	Isabella Monroy-Fernandez	Raelynn Wilson
Lorenzo Faundez	Nicolas Norwood	David Zebelys
Liam Gil	Aarna Patel	

4th Grade

All A Honor Roll

Isabella Busenburg	Blake Imhoff
Carys Cannon	Jasmine Johnson
Garrett Dailey	Kevin Medina
Lucas Dicesare	Charlie Mulvihill
Kyle Draper	Anna Mylett
Maria Fabri	Karl Nehring
Leo Freyre	Henry Nolan
Trevor Hamer	Arabella Rojas
Alessandro Hernandez	Alexander Sues
Kelly Huynh	Jordan Williams

A / B Honor Roll

Ellis Ackerman	April Johnson	Gabrielle Pedler
Gabriel Alvarez	Christian Jones	Abel Ramirez
Tyson Bailey	Dylan Kardos	Parker Royalty
Autumn Dougherty	Brady Kerr	Owen Sauchinitz
Emily Fitzpatrick	Kiernan Lemmons	Eva Sladky
Ruben Flores	Gabriel Malacarne	Abby Smith
Chase Gephart	Peter Mattei	Eli Sturm
Riley Gephart	Benjamin Offner	Micah Vilayvong
Texaco Guess	Abigail Patton	NeVaeh Williams
Trey Hamer		

5th Grade

All A Honor Roll

Lailah Aljukic
Corbin Bennett
Jovan Cikota
Madeline Cooper
Jillian Kenney
Camryn Killingsworth
Annie Schroeder
Harper Silliman
Mikenna Yermak

A / B Honor Roll

Dylanger Appel	Parsiya Cyrus	Brinna Jones
Desmond Barfield	Justin Diaz	Chase Lovely
Kalix Berhinger	Cooper Eidson	Kaelyn Naumowiz
Mariah Castellanos	Boston Epperson	Evan Sorrentino
Viktoriya Cherepaneuva	Sophia Faircloth	Autumn Spence
Hanson Chuong	Chris Hanamean	Vivian Szekely
Wayne Comegno	Jaxson Hofius	Logan Walker
Ariel Coyle	Phoebe Jessop	Charlotte Wright

Students in 3rd, 4th & 5th grade can achieve honor roll by receiving all A's and B's and Satisfactory and above for Responsible Learner. Students are recognized each quarter in the newsletter and on the Honor Roll bulletin board in the cafeteria.



Kindergarten Registration

Begins at Braden
River Elementary
in March 2023

ALL registrations are done ONLINE by visiting our school website, under REGISTRATION at the top, follow the directions. If you have any questions, please contact our school registrar, Julie Danke @ dankej@manateeschools.net or 751-7012 x57011.

Requirements for Enrollment include:

- Original copy of child's legal birth certificate.
- Record of Immunizations on Florida 680 form
- Physical examination on Florida form - less than one year old
- Social Security card of child
- Proof of Residency in BRE School zone- water bill, electric bill, lease for apt., ins. bill, registration for vehicle, or letter of School Choice/Hardship to attend BRE from OSA.

**A CHILD MUST BE FIVE YEARS OF AGE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023
IN ORDER TO ENROLL IN KINDERGARTEN**

**Immunizations are provided FREE OF CHARGE at the
Manatee Co. Health Department. Call 748-0747 for further info.**

**For information concerning School Choice or Hardship
please follow the steps on the district website.**

****Registration is also open for any new students to Braden River starting March 2023****



Applications

Step 1: Starting January 2023 obtain a VPK COE. You can obtain a Certificate of Eligibility from Early Learning Coalition for VPK (www.elc-manatee.org or 941-757-2900)

Step 2: Contact the School Districts VPK Department of Early Learning for availability at selected Districted sites at 941-753-0958 ext. 2000 or the Website is manateeschools.net/Page/8000

Sparks of the Month!

October - Respect

Jaxson Abbuehl	Logan Copeland	Tofa Hufanga	William Perez	Eva Sladky
Constanza Alvarez	Stacy Copeland	Valentina Imperiale	Benjamin Riggs	Gage Souza
Juliana Alvarez	Karlah Delatorre	Lucas Johnson	Penelope Riggs	Vivian Szekely
Adaline Anderson	Violet Fenton	Mihail Kopunovic	Elijah Rojas	Knox Thornton
Tilly Bailey	Silas Freed	Kellen Kotlarczyk	Mateo Roman-Vazquez	Bella Vanmorre
Sebastian Begani	Kasen Freeman	Skyler Maidhoff	Colton Rummery	Ella Walker
Valerie Benematti	Miyah Gagnon	Hugo McHugh	Lukas Ruzanov	Bevyn Williams
Hazel Bercaw	Braxton Garcia-Pineda	Daniel Meiler	Elian Salvador	McKenna Wilson
Richard Buttery	Ariela Gurrero	Audrey Middleton	Anniston Shrock	Leah Witchey
Charlotte Casey	Gabriel Hall	Isabella Oliveria	Jace Skinner	Diana Zebelys

November - Patriotism

Samantha Baeza	Emily Cordero	McKenzi Harding	Landen Marshall	Leonel Sanchez
Scarlet Ball	Ariel Coyle	Ayden Hawk	Kylie McCurry	Chloe Scott
Dylan Benton	Ethan Darling	Sophia Howell	Travis McDuffie	Tula Shirley
Eleanor Bercaw	Madeline DeLuca	Parker Imhoff	Paul Moreno Baptista	Abby Smith
Joel Boardman	Kyle Draper	William Kane	Brixtyn Murphy	Alana Sumuel
Charlotte Bowling	Omar Fernandez	Nolan Kerr	Isla Quintanilla	Blaine Taylor
Easton Bowling	Katie Finn	Aiden Klettner	Camden Royalty	Sebastian Trinidad Santana
Matteo Cabrera	Vanessa Garcia	Willow Koenig	Amaya Rzepka	Penny Wells
Jesus Cerrillo	Klyde Hall	Andres Maradiaga		

December - Gratitude

Channing Barker	Omer Deryol	Eze Kouam-Kamdem	Jaclynn Meiler	Samantha Smith
Jaylen Bayard	Charlotte Dyer	Misha Kuchmak	Ayden Mihai	Temperance Smith
Corbin Bennett	Harper Entler	Austin Lee	Kingston Miller	Logan Titus
Kori Button	Eli Fowkes	Avril Linares-Viscaino	Hannah Offner	Melissa Vallor
Ana Caceres	A'mya Graham	Chase Lovely	Ayla Puccio	Charlotte Wales
Carys Cannon	Alessandro Hernandez	Sicily Lucey	Jacqueline Reyna	Ellisyn Webster
Stella Chrisman	Logan Himes	Cataleya Madison	Harrison Rimer	Olivia Whitman
Kazan Corona	Kaylen Jones	Nolan McDonald	Declan Rzona	Alana Williams
Miguel Couto Pereira	Madelyn Kane	Oscar McHugh	Mitchell Shaeffer	Charleigh Willis
Keira Cramer	Madison King	Arianna Medina	Jalanni Simmons	Padma Yataco