



Brighten Bulletin

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Happy Holidays...

From the Staff of Brighten Academy

Thank you for sharing your children with us and letting us be part of your family!



7 C's Green Party

Congratulations to all of our students who qualified to attend our Green Party on Thursday, December 15th. To qualify, students had to complete 7 activities from the 7 C's Deck and present them to their classes. We're proud of their hard work and dedication, and look forward to celebrating with them! Remember, it is still possible to earn a 7 C's Green Shirt even if you did not complete 7 activities at this time. Green shirt requirements include all 3s on your 2nd semester 7 C's Report Cards, no office referrals, and 14 activities completed by April 13th.

REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS

12/15	Green Party 3:00-4:30 Spirit Night – Moe's
12/16	½ Day – 11:30 Dismissal End of Grading Period
12/19-01/03	Student Holidays
01/04	Report Cards Issued
01/05	Spirit Night – Stevi B's
01/09	PTO Board Meeting Governing Board Work Session
01/16	Holiday
01/23	Governing Board Meeting
01/27	½ Day – 11:30 Dismissal

Alexander, T	Boatright, D	Cortez, Z	Hillard, D	McDonald, L	Signoret, T
Al-Husseini, A	Brennan, B	Craton, C	Hillard, J	Meriweather, N	Smith, E
Al-Husseini, A	Brennan, M	Cross, C	Hillard, M	Migade, I	Smith, P
Anderson, O	Bricker, H	Curtis, C	Hillard, M	Minter, C	Sorg, A
Andrade, J	Brooks, R	Dean, E	Hood, A	Minter, M	Sorg, N
Andrews, A	Bullock, C	Delgado, M	Hood, B	Minter, RJ	Stephens, A
Andrews, J	Cadman, C	Dooley, L	Hood, J	Minter, S	Stephens, S
Apomah, A	Cadman, S	Fegans, E	House, A	Moss, A	Thaler, A
Ardis, S	Caisey, K	Forbes, B	Hultquist, M	Ogando, B	Thaler, B
Armstrong, E	Callicott, C	Forbes, B	Hultquist, S	Overton, A	Thaler, C
Armstrong, J	Callicott, J	Fuhr, J	Jefferson, N	Oyedepo, J	Tuohy, C
Arnold, J	Caputo, A	Garner, A	Kelly, T	Padgett, J	Tyson, M
Aybar, A	Caputo, M	German-Bey, N	Kiger, B	Partridge, K	Verity, K
Aybar, E	Caro, R	German-Bey, O	Kite, L	Perry, A	Wadsworth, A
Ayers, C	Caro, R	Glaser, A	Kite, M	Phillips, C	Wallace, C
Ayers, L	Caro, S	Glaser, C	Kratt, J	Phillips, C	Wallace, M
Baker, K	Chabbouh, C	Godfrey, E	Leger, A	Polane, E	Warmoth, G
Baldwin, D	Chabbouh, M	Gray, M	Linehan, L	Prysock, A	Watson, M
Baldwin, S	Chaves, G	Griffin, W	Mazumdar, K	Prysock, D	Wilson, C
Belisle, B	Cherry, K	Grogan, L	Mazumdar, S	Rankin, M	Woodall, B
Belisle, L	Civetta, Z	Hardeman, O	McCoy, E	Rucker, J	Worley, Z
Berg, E	Compitello, R	Haskins, A	McCoy, J	Scherling, E	
Bliss, A	Cooley, T	Helms, D	McDonald, A	Schintzius, K	
Bliss, M	Cortez, A	Higgins, A	McDonald, H	Sharma, A	

Brighten Students in Our Community

We want to thank some of our Brighten students who went above and beyond to make our community a better place. If you have a community helper, please let us know by emailing Toni Aybar at taybar@brightenacademy.com.

We are proud to recognize the following students who have helped make the holidays special for the less fortunate in our community:

Mina Wallace volunteered to wrap gifts at Inner Harbour for children who will be at the facility during the holidays.

Amma Apomah has been volunteering with the WOF Angel Tree Ministry as both a wrapper and a tree monitor.

Also, we will be collecting NEW (not used) gloves, mittens, long socks, hats and scarves for the homeless through December 16th. A basket will be placed at the front office for drop off. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Angi at aandrews@brightenacademy.com.

Blazer Bots Win Another Award!

Congratulations to our Blazer Bots team for their awesome performance at their qualifier competition Saturday. Besides generally representing Brighten well, they won the Research Award with their "Quest to End Salmonella Infection During Chicken Preparation", and they will advance to a super-regional competition in January. The judges had many positive things to say to our kids! The boys were also their own advocates when they disagreed with a robot round score that was posted. When they appealed to the judges, the score was raised 20 points! Thanks for your hard work, and for being such great representatives of Brighten. Also, special thanks to Melanie Gibbs for leading the team. Our team members are **Chandler Cadman, Gareth Gibbs, Zyn Liang and Anthony Russo.**

Also, we are looking for adults to lead our team for next year. If you or a family member might be interested in continuing this program, or if you have any questions, please contact Melanie Gibbs at [mgibbs30135@yahoo.com](mailto:m gibbs30135@yahoo.com).

The next competition will be at SPSU (Southern Polytechnic) on January 14th if you would like to see the team in action. You can also watch their presentation from this week's competition by following this link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITKmXgake4c>.



Letters to Soldiers



In November, many of our Brighten students participated in The Bert Show's "Big Thank You" by making holiday cards for American soldiers. We are excited to have received responses from some of the recipients which show how much these small tokens of gratitude can really make a huge difference to our service members. Thank you to all of the students who helped to make the holidays special for others. Here is a letter we received:

Dear Tiffany,

Thank you for the Thanksgiving letter that you sent to the US service members. Your letter was shared with me by Lieutenant Commander Chris Woodruff. We appreciate your letter and we are keeping your letter up on the wall in our living area. We are looking forward to coming back to the US when our deployment is over. It is our honor to serve to create a better world. Take care and have a joyous holiday season!

Sincerely, Lieutenant Darren Kasai, US Navy

Congratulations

We would like to send out huge congratulations to Gareth Gibbs. Mrs. Olvey nominated Gareth for the Congressional Youth Leadership Council for his academic achievement, maturity and leadership skills. Gareth had the opportunity to represent Brighten in Atlanta where he attended the Congressional Leadership conference. Gareth spent 3 nights and 4 days in seminars that teach young people how to become better leaders in their community. Being singled out and personally selected to join students from across the United States to learn and apply leadership skills is a life-changing event. Thank you, Gareth for participating and representing Brighten Academy.

Essential 55

Our last Essential 55 Rule was:

Always say thank you when I give you something. If you do not say it within three seconds after receiving the item, I will take it back. There is no excuse for not showing appreciation.

Students recognized for this rule are:

Alexander, T	Bullock, C	Holcomb, J	McDonald, H	Scherling, S
Al-Husseini, A	Cadman, S	Hood, A	McDonald, L	Shoemaker, B
Anderson, K	Callicott, J	Hood, A	McKoy, G	Skelton, K
Anderson, O	Carnes, K	House, A	Migade, I	Smith, T
Andrade, M	Caro, R	House, G	Migade, O	Sorg, N
Andrews, A	Caro, R	Hoylman, L	Minter, M	Sorg, N
Armstrong, C	Civetta, Z	Jackson, E	Minter, S	Stephens, A
Armstrong, E	Compitello, R	Janney, A	Montgomery, K	Stephens, C
Aybar, A	Cross, C	Jean, G	Olvey, B	Stephens, S
Babalola, O	Curtis, C	Kimball, C	Oyedepo, J	Stone, PD
Baker, K	Delgado, M	Kite, M	Oyedepo, T	Stroud, C
Baldwin, D	Forbes, B	Lawson, J	Padgett, J	Taylor, J
Beard, I	Francis, L	Lerner, B	Pritchett, J	Thaler, B
Belisle, L	German-Bey, N	Lin, C	Rice, C	Thaler, C
Blake, M	German-Bey, O	Lucas, B	Rowe, I	Triplett, C
Boatright, D	Glaser, C	Mahoney, M	Rucker, J	Triplett, C
Bogner, H	Godfrey, E	Manuel, C	Rudisill, M	Wallace, M
Brand, L	Grogan, H	Manuel, J	Sanders, H	Walters, D
Bricker, H	Henderson, S	McCoy, M	Sanders, H	Woodall, B
Bridges, J	Henry, J	McDonald, A	Sasser, J	Wright, J
Brooks, R				

And congratulations to our winner of our \$5 School Gift Certificate – Carrington Triplett

This week's rule is:

When you are given something from someone, never insult that person by making negative comments about the gift or by insinuating that it wasn't appreciated.

A Gift of Love Donations

Thank you to all the families who participated in our Gift of Love Canned Food Drive. We collected a total of 1,444 cans and non-perishable food items to help needy families in Douglas County. Congratulations to our winning classes:

1st Place – **Mrs. Roskaft** with **822** items
2nd Place – **Mrs. DeNucci** with **154** items



Reading Bowl News

Congratulations to the students who will comprise our 4th and 5th Grade Reading Bowl Team:

Duncan Helms
Ethan Rogers
Maia Bliss
Amelia Glaser
Brendon Thaler
Carrington Triplett
Carlos Martinez
Benjamin Nalley

We're proud of your hard work and dedication!

Scholar Dollars

CHRISTMAS BREAK IS A GREAT TIME TO WORK ON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS!! Every student can and should apply for scholarships and enter contests. There are lots of opportunities for students in elementary and middle school. Besides the fact that it's great experience, you can also win some great prizes, including cash! Plus, any award that you win now will be an impressive addition to your student résumé!

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: "Olive Garden's Pasta Tales Essay Contest" – Website: www.olivegarden.com/About-Us/Community/Pasta-Tales/. Entry Deadline: 01/29/12. Open to all students in 1st through 12th grade. This is a very simple contest that everyone can enter! Write an essay of 50 to 250 words, answering this question: **"If you were given \$5,000 to support education in your local community, how would you use it and why?"** Submissions will be judged based on creativity, content, essay development, relevance to theme, originality, organization, grammar, punctuation, and spelling. One Grand Prize winner will receive a \$2,500 savings bond plus an all expense paid three-day trip for four people to New York City! **Each** grade category winner (1st – 12th) will receive a \$500 savings bond plus dinner for four at their local Olive Garden restaurant!

SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: "ScholarshipExperts.com Top Ten List Scholarship" –Website: www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htx#topten. Entry Deadline: 12/31/11. Must be 13 years of age or older, and must plan to enroll in college no later than the fall of 2017. Submit an online short written response (250 words or less) for this topic:

"Create a list of your 10 favorite books and what they have taught you." The sponsor is looking for eligible applicants who follow directions and submit applications that are well-written and clearly and creatively address the topic. A qualified panel of judges will select the winners based on the criteria of writing ability, creativity, originality, and overall excellence. Three prizes of \$1,000 each will be awarded to the winners!

OUR COMPANY: *Scholar Dollars* provides personalized scholarship searches for students in high school, college, graduate, and professional schools. Most parents and students either don't have the time and energy to look for scholarships, or don't know where or how to find the right ones. And there's so much information out there that it can be completely overwhelming! **WE DO THE WORK SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO!** Please visit our website at www.Scholar-Dollars.com for more information about the services we provide, and "Like" Scholar Dollars on Facebook for access to current information and relevant news articles we post about scholarships. Information provided by Tracie Joyner, Owner and Founder of Scholar Dollars. She has two sons, one who is a 6th grade student at Brighten, and the other a recent graduate of Columbia University (and also her first "client").

Brighten Blizzard Updates

Thanks to everyone who helped to make Brighten Blizzard so successful. We raised \$969.01, and could not have done it without the support of our volunteers. Special thanks to Toya Sasser for chairing the committee, and to the following volunteers for all of their hard work:

Amber Wilburn Photography
Governing Board for donating the cakes
Mandy Eaton for donating Chips
Connie Arnold for donating cups/supplies
Polly Wallace for donating sand art
Daryl and Valerie Blake
Michael and David Sasser
Peter and Sheila Compitello
Sherona Bailey
Tommie and Roshonda Powers
Nita Jefferson
Lisa Prysock
Susan Morgan

Marian Apomah
Mellanie McCullough
Karen Farmer
Sandy Gore
Cheryl Frances
Lashonda Skelton
Renee Worley
Mr. and Mrs. Cherry
Jill Pritchett
Cal Moss
Alena Tappin
Mr. and Mrs. Wilson
Jennie Maxwell

Book Fair News

Thank you for all of the participation in our December Book Fair. We profited approximately \$800 from the fair while helping to grow a love of reading in our students. Thank you again!

