



**BRIGHTEN
ACADEMY**

FEBRUARY 2023 BULLETIN

A NOTE FROM MRS. McDONALD

Each day, our students and staff recite our mission statement:

The mission of Brighten Academy is to nurture habits of scholarship and ethical character in a joyful, engaging, rigorous, and equitable learning environment. Inspired educators, in partnership with parents and the community, will ensure measured growth in every student every year and empower students to create a brighter future for our world.

While this statement is a part of our daily morning protocol, living out the mission requires on-going commitment and reflection by all members of our school community. I invite you to take a moment to reflect as a parent, a teacher, or a staff member:

- How am I intentionally nurturing habits of scholarship and ethical character?
- How do I promote joy in learning?
- How can I encourage higher levels of engagement?
- How can I provide more opportunities for critical thinking?
- How can I be a more supportive partner with other members of our school community?

Since Brighten opened, we have always believed the success of students is grounded in a shared commitment among the school, home, and community. Thank you for being part of our Brighten family!

REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS

2/27 – 3/3	Read Across America Week
3/6	Cap and Gown Pix K & 8 th
3/8	6-8 Community Circle 8:15 Gym
3/10	End of 3 rd 9 Weeks (42 days) Middle School Dance 7-10 pm
3/11	Volunteer Work Day
3/13	Student Holiday/Teacher Workday Board Meeting 6 pm
3/13 – 3/17	LGPE Band
3/14	PTO Meeting 6 pm Café
3/15	3-5 Community Circle 8:15 Gym Pie or Dunk a Staff Member Debate Fundraiser
3/20 – 3/24	LGPE Chorus
3/20	Report Cards Issued
3/22	K-2 Community Circle 8:15 Gym
3/24	Uganda Dress Down
3/27	Board Meeting 6 pm
3/29 – 3/31	PTO Talent Show Tryouts
Apr 3 – 7	Spring Break

CREW LEARNING TARGETS for MARCH

I learn from my successes and failures.

I show my work and thinking.

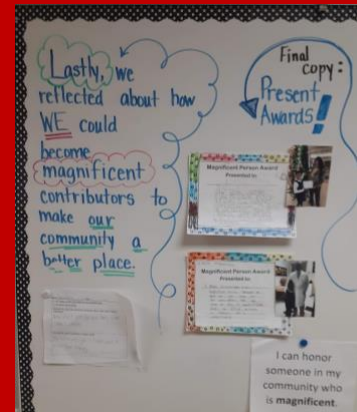
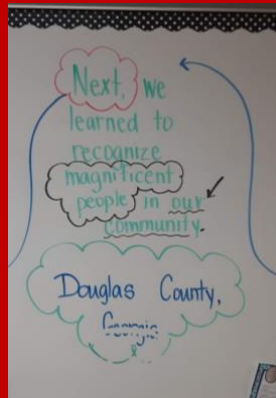
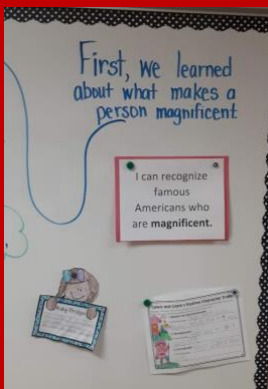
I demonstrate a growth mindset.

"It's not that I'm so smart. It's just that I stay with problems longer." - Albert Einstein



HIGH QUALITY WORK

Have you seen our amazing **DOCUMENT PANELS** around the school? Like other EL schools, at Brighten, we turn bulletin boards into exhibits demonstrating concepts, content, skills, the learning process, and high-quality work. Here's a great example from 1st grade!



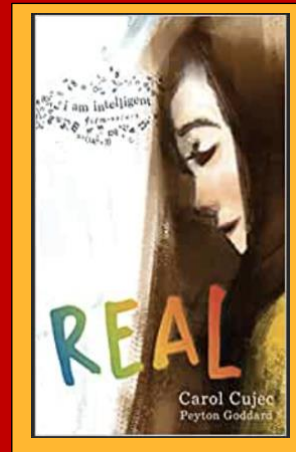
DEBATE TEAM

Both Elementary and Middle School Debate Teams had their 1st debate on Jan. 14 against schools in NY and NJ. Elem. Team placed 13th, 14th, and 22nd out of 33 teams, and MS Team placed 12th, 22nd, and 24th out of the top 25 teams. Both teams will compete again on **March 4**.

Please support the fundraiser featuring a **DUNK TANK** and **PIE THROWS** at several staff members.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK STUDY

Since January, Middle School Crews have participated in a book study reading the book *Real* by Carol Cujec. The main character is a thirteen-year-old girl named Charity who is diagnosed with low functioning autism. Charity has no ability to communicate verbally or physically her wants and needs. She experiences a lot of judgment and assumptions from parents, peers, and teachers. The book study will culminate with each Crew contributing to the community **Autism Day on April 29**. This initiative aligns perfectly with Brighten's value we call "Taking Care of Others."



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The celebration is in full swing with many meaningful learning activities and reading opportunities.

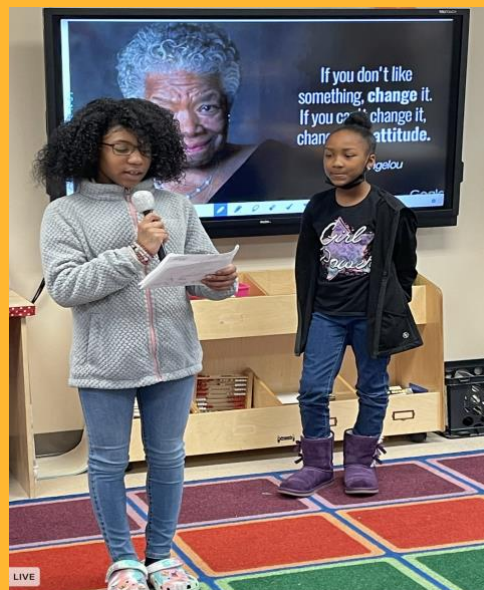
Classrooms have exhibited wonderfully creative doors featuring notable figures in Black History.

Students have been hard at work demonstrating COMMITMENT to quality through repeated practice in preparation for the program, as well as enriching our school culture. Join us for the presentation of:

BLACK HISTORY: *I Can Because They Did* Tues., Feb. 28 6:00pm

The program will highlight achievements in the Judicial System, Entertainment, Politics, Medicine, and Sports. The show will also feature a dance performed by PERFORMING STARS, musical performances, and poetry readings.

Shout out to the awesome parents who decorated the doors, as well as Marie Civil, Kimberly Cuyler, Nicki Jones, and Sharon Young For planning an inspiring program!





AUTISM FAMILY FUN DAY

Autism Family Fun Day 2023
Saturday, April 29, 2023
12-4pm
Theme: **You Are Not Alone!**

This year we will be welcoming our community back into Brighten to celebrate the unique differences that our Autistic population brings to our community.

FOOD * ACTIVITIES * RESOURCE ROOM

ALL families in the community are welcome!

The event is free to the public.

If interested in sponsoring, please reach out to Chanel Brown

[@cbrown@brightenacademy.com](mailto:cbrown@brightenacademy.com)



MEDIA CENTER

Here's the media center's website:
<https://brightenacademy.follettdestiny.com/>
Destiny software shows checkouts and what is available. Here's a [3 minutes video](#).

7Cs GREEN PARTY



120 students worked hard on completing their 7 Cs Decks and earned eligibility to attend the **Green Party**. They had a GREAT time!

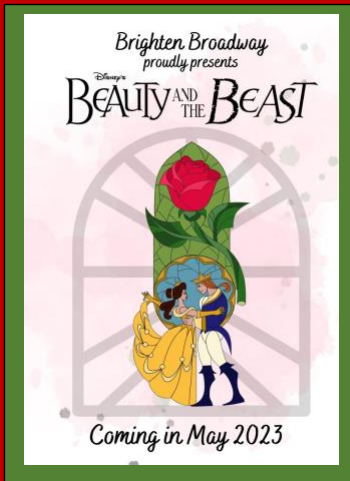
It's not too late to complete the deck! All 14 activities are due by **APRIL 14**.



FINE ARTS

Our Fine Arts "Dough for Dough" Fundraiser deadline has been extended to Wednesday, March 1st! Prizes are awarded for sold items! If the school reaches their goal of \$5000 in items sold, Fine Arts will host a FREE outdoor movie night this spring for the school!

We appreciate all our families who are participating and helping us earn the funds to maintain our sound and lighting systems in the gym!



Beauty and the Beast Debuts

May 5-8
7:00 pm

Tickets go on sale **April 1**

ON A ROLL!

Congratulations to students recognized in **JANUARY** by their teachers or staff members for being "On a Roll!"

PHOENIX On A Roll

Congratulations to the following students, they were recommended by a teacher or staff member as being "On A Roll" for the month of January 2023!

Mya Davis	Mrs. Garner-K
Torre Buke	Mrs. Jenks-K
Brayden Robie	Mrs. Natalie Jones-K
Damiah Hawkins	Ms. Williamson-K
Noah Brown	Mrs. Civil-1st
Olivia Whitmire	Mrs. Andrade-1st
Micaela Raffo-Acevedo	Mrs. Pino-2nd
Makenna Camp	Mrs. Sorrell-2nd
Aliyah Loyd	Mrs. Jared-3rd
Bella Jalloh	Mrs. Cuyler-3rd
Riyan Tillman	Mr. Savidge-4th

JANUARY 2023



The annual BIRDIES FORE BRIGHTEN fundraiser, which includes the golf tournament and a silent auction was held on October 28 and was another BIG success! We raised \$ **\$23,759** to help bridge our funding gap!

Check out the [VIDEO!](#)

SPECIAL THANKS goes to **Greystone Power**, **Auto Cool**, and **Tributary**. Heartfelt thanks also goes to the Brighten Board and Angi Andrews for doing the heavy lifting with planning and outstanding execution! We appreciate ALL our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for their support in making this year's event a success!

PHOENIX On A Roll

Congratulations to the following students, they were recommended by a teacher or staff member as being "On A Roll" for the month of January 2023!

Aubrie Clay	Mrs. Crawford-Bonardy -4th
Joshua Barnes	Mrs. Crawford-Bonardy-4th
Mia Middleton	Mrs. Markel-5th
Joshua Crooks	Mr. Holloway-5th
Talya Nelson	Mrs Markel-5th
Myles Long	Coach Hampton-6th
Xavier Chambers	Coach Hampton-6th
Khalil Willis	Coach Ochoa-7th
Moyosore Bobade	Ms. Matthews-8th
William Hatchard	Ms. Matthews-8th
Honesty Squirewell	Mrs. Evans-8th
Payton Baker Richardson	Mrs. Sheffield-8th
Kaylee White	Ms. Matthews-8th

JANUARY 2023