



A NOTE FROM MRS. McDONALD

April is a very busy month! We know families are excited for a much-needed break. Once we return, our students and teachers will be hard at work preparing for GMAS.

GMAS, the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, is an annual standardized competency test administered to grades 3-8. It assesses students' achievement of state standards in English language arts and math in all grades, science in grades 5 and 8, and social studies in grade 8.

It is an important assessment tool used to ensure that we are accountable to our promise to ensure that **"every student has measured growth every year."** It helps us understand gaps in learning students have, where they need to be challenged, and how we can improve our instructional program.

We use data like this as a roadmap to guide our work with individual students, groups, classrooms, and as a school. Because it is our roadmap, it's very important that we have accurate data about where every child is and that they do their personal best.

Parent often ask how they can support their child:

- Review concepts and make sure they complete any review work assigned.
- Be sure they go to bed early and eat a nutritious breakfast and hydrate.
- Start their day with low stress, smiles, and encouragement.
- Be sure they arrive on time every day of testing.
- Remind them that although it is important that they do their best, the test does not define them as a human.

We are excited to see their growth and to celebrate their hard work!

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

REFRIGERATOR REMINDERS

Apr 3 – 7	Spring Break
Apr 10	Board Meeting 6pm @ Media Center
Apr 11	PTO Meeting 6pm @ Cafe
Apr 13	PTO Staff Potluck
Apr 14	7 Cs Decks DUE
Apr 15	Volunteer Workday 9-12pm
Apr 17-21	MAP Testing
Apr 21	Uganda Dress Down Day
Apr 22	PTO Springfest 10-3pm Variety Show
Apr 24-28	GMAS & MAP Testing *** Note: 4/26 is a FULL DAY
Apr 28	Uganda Dress Down Day
Apr 29	Autism Family Day ` 12-4pm
May 1	Volunteer Credits DUE
May 2-3	GMAS & MAP Testing
May 4-5	MAP Testing
May 5-7	Beauty and the Beast Performance
May 8-12	Teacher Appreciation Week



CREW LEARNING TARGETS for APRIL

CREATIVITY

I can complete original work.

I can demonstrate creative thinking in my work.

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)



MAGNET PROGRAM ACCEPTANCE

Hard work and commitment pay off!
Help us to congratulate these students on acceptance to high school magnet programs!

Alex Bemus	Alexavier McDonald
Amaris Alleyne	Amir Bailey
Aria Todd	Arianna Lankford
Asia Curry	Autumn Hollis
Caitlin Newbern	Caleb Gilbert
Carolina Davis	Chidi Eziakor
Christian Terrell	Christina Kalos
Christopher Flores	Ella Lassiter
Ellie Gillespie	Jazmine Asare
Kaitlyn Lundy	Kaitlyn Rainey
Kaylee White	Kenneth Duhart, Jr.
Kinsey Spradlin	Kolawole Oyedepo
Kyndle Cook	Leah Orange
Maci Harris	Madison Hackett

PE UPDATES

We started our Soccer Unit this week. With 48 students. Students are learning to navigate open space, identifying directions, speeds, and amounts of force, and practicing safety. Middle schoolers are reminded to wear proper athletic shoes and dress down clothes.



TOME SOCIETY

Tome Society attended our annual TomeCon Conference on March 14. The 3rd – 8th graders spent the day attending literacy seminars on topics such as how to be an author, how to blog, creative stations, critical thinking activities, and many more!

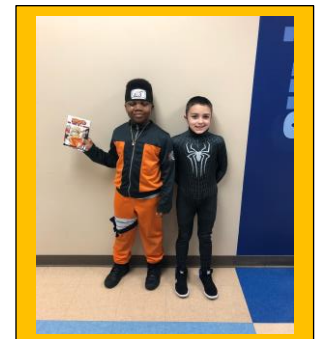
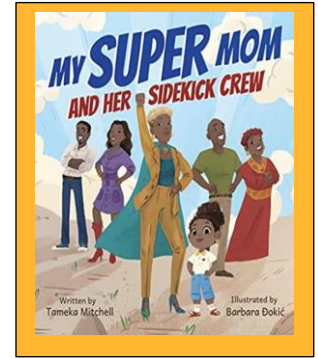


MEDIA CENTER HAPPENINGS

The last two months have immersed students in literature connected to Black history and women's history. Some popular reads include Rosa Parks, Melba Doretta Liston, Ruby Bridges, Helen Keller, and Katherine Johnson. During the reading of *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* by Katheryn Russell-Brown, 8th graders **Asia Curry** and **Kaitlynn Lundy** wowed the audience by playing their trombones!

During Read Across America Week, Georgia author Tameka Mitchell shared her book and writing process to 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade students. Tameka Mitchell's book, *My Super Mom and Her Sidekick Crew* displays the power of family and how to work together.

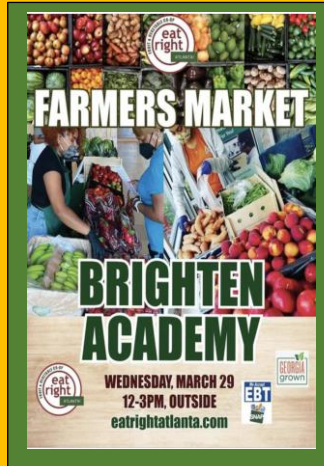
Mrs. Peterson brought in a beehive to the media center to share with the school. Kindergarten students learned the importance of pollinators and 2nd graders learned about the lifecycle of the honeybee!



EAT RIGHT ATLANTA

We're excited to announce Brighten's partnership with Eat Right Atlanta, Georgia's largest farmer's market! With the rising price of groceries, we know everyone can benefit from access to healthy food at deeply discounted prices.

Come celebrate 6th and 8th grade as they investigate food waste, food deserts, and food supply chains!



ON A ROLL!

Congratulations to students recognized in 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 February 2023!

Laila Mullins	4th- Mr. Savidge
Jaicee Dorsey	5th- Mrs. Markel
Shena Loke	5th- Mrs. Sparks
Major Sylvia	5th- Mrs. Sparks
Jasmine Crowder	6th- Mrs. Gore
Jade Williams	6th- Mrs. Young
Bailey Daniels	6th- Mrs. Young
Jaide Davis	6th- Mrs. Young
Chris Winston	7th- Mr. Daly
Audrey Ridenour	7th- Mrs. Mundy
Amir Bailey	8th- Mrs. Stephens
Kyndle Cook	8th- Mrs. Aybar

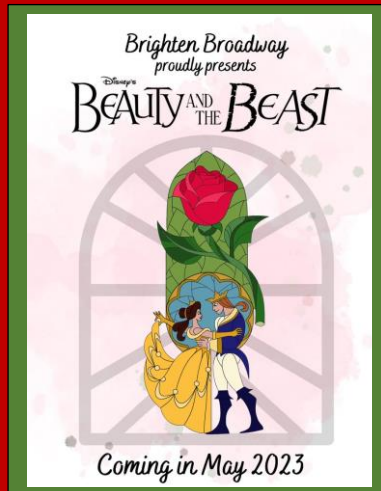
FEBRUARY 2023

DRAMA

Beauty and the Beast Debuts

May 5-8
7:00 pm

Tickets go on sale
April 1



BRIGHTEN ACADEMY VARIETY SHOW

Calling all singers, dancers, musicians, gymnasts, martial artists, musicians, comedians, ventriloquists, mimes, poets, and performers! If you've got the skills, we've got the stage!
AUDITIONS MARCH 30

VARIETY SHOW APRIL 22

7Cs DECKS

Due APRIL 14

Commitment
Critical Thinking
Culture
Curiosity
Community
Creativity
Craftsmanship

ATRIUM RENOVATION

The Governing Board recently published a bid that closed on March 9 for completion of atrium renovations.

The vision is to expand our classroom capacity by adding a ceiling and 2-3 classrooms. The atrium's size will reduce by about half for greater functionality and efficiency in implementing our academic program, as well as co- and extra-curricular activities.

Bids are being reviewed currently, and the company with the highest score on the rubric will make a presentation to the Governing Board at the next meeting, and the Board will vote to accept or decline the proposed contract.

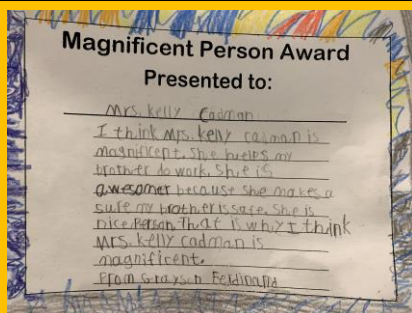
Completion was originally targeted for July; however, supply chain issues, as well as state and local approval backups have shifted the likely date of completion to November. Stay tuned for updates!

SPOTLIGHT ON EXPEDITIONS

1st Grade

MAGNIFICENT ALL AROUND

Students learned about how tools make jobs easier for community helpers and everyone. During the discussion of consumers and producers, students make a magnificent thing as a producer and become a consumer by buying another student's product. Integrating Famous Americans further reinforced whether their contributions were goods or services. As a capstone, students selected a magnificent person to honor with an award they craft and present it along with a paragraph explaining why they are magnificent.



3rd Grade

UGANDA

Students focused on how we overcome learning challenges, why books, education, and reading are important, and how other kids around the world learn. Students created bookmarks with strategies to help overcome challenges and raised money to buy library books the school wanted by selling dress down buttons that could be used once each month on a designated day (check page 1 for dates!) The students raised over \$1,000 and surpassed Haggay School's goal of raising \$3,536,500 shillings (\$914.15)!



CHORUS & BAND

Chorus and Band recently participated in the LGPE, Large Group Performance Evaluation. This event is sponsored by the Georgia Music Educators Association. Groups with 17 or more members may perform. The event offers students and teachers the opportunity of extended listening to their best work of peer groups from other schools. Groups are then critiqued on their performance, which gives them an opportunity to hear advice and suggestions for improvement and raise the standards of musicianship, instrumentation, technical knowledge, and literature selection.

CHORUS, under the direction of Ms. Young, took on an exceptionally complex song selection - the highest level. Although challenging, the students received good and excellent reviews and great feedback on how to continue to raise the bar in their performance. Of special note were 7th graders who joined the group and learned the material very quickly. We were so glad they added their voices to our group!

BAND, under Mr. White's tutelage, also did an excellent job, scoring a good rating in stage performance and excellent on sight reading. This group of kids showed true commitment, staying after school twice weekly all year and coming two Saturdays as well! We're super proud of how they represented as musicians, but also exhibited their 7 Cs in this event!

BRIGHTEN ACADEMY PTO PRESENTS

SPRINGFEST

**VENDORS AND FOOD TRUCKS
WANTED!!!!**

JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING
COMMUNITY EVENT. BOOTH FEE
IS \$32. SET UP BEGINS AT 8:30-9:30
AM.

SIGN UP ON THE WEBSITE
[HTTP://WWW.BACSP TO.COM](http://www.bacspto.com)

CONTACT US AT BACSP TO@GMAIL.COM FOR
MORE INFORMATION!!

SATURDAY
APRIL 22ND 2023
10AM-3PM

BRIGHTEN ACADEMY CAMPUS
5897 PRESTELY MILL RD DOUGLASVILLE

THANKS!

Douglas County School
Board & Mr. North!

**Brighten is grateful for being
allocated \$100,000 ESPLOST
money that will be put towards
much needed new technology for
staff and new furniture for the
media center!**

Brighten is a National Leader!

The EL Educational Credential recognizes schools that have attained remarkable achievement impacts with all students in developing student character, mastery of knowledge and skills, and high-quality work.

We are proud to continue to be recognized
as a national leader!

