



November 2023

BRIGHTEN ACADEMY



Our Girls on the Run Club participated in their first 5K. The coaches were proud of every girls. Everyone made it across the finish line, and the smiles on their faces Brightened the whole day. Thank you to the coaches and parents who made the day extra special for everyone!

Brighten Academy was honored at the EL Education National Conference in Denver as we received our National Credential Status for our impact as a school in achievement, character, and high quality work! Mrs. McDonald will share more information about this amazing success and recognition at our State of the School Address on Tuesday, December 5, at 6:00 PM (Presentation will be held virtually, invite to be sent via Remind)



Brighten Broadway

Our Drama department would like to say a special THANK YOU to everyone in our Brighten community who came out to support our students during our fall production. We couldn't do it without you!



Auditions for our spring musical, “James and the Giant Peach,” will be held in January.

We will host an audition clinic the week prior (dates and times to be announced soon). During clinic we will teach students a short piece of choreography that they will be responsible for performing during auditions as well as offer coaching on their chosen monologue.

Musical auditions are open to students in grades 5-8. Auditions will consist of group choreography, a monologue, and an individual song excerpt (about a minute long) from the musical theatre genre. Audition clinic sign-up sheets will be coming out soon.

If you have any questions, please contact Toni Aybar at taybar@brightenacademy.com.

Student Expedition Night

We are looking forward to our first Expedition Night on January 18! Students from each grade level will present their progression through the fall learning expedition. This event is open to our entire school community and will be hosted indoors. Mark your calendars to help us celebrate the challenging work that brings beautiful final products!

Media Center Happenings



Last month the media center hosted spooky stories in the library! Elementary students were able to hear spooky stories to understand how stories can invoke emotions and how to visualize a story as you read.



Friends of Phoenix



What is the Friends of Phoenix giving club?

Friends of Phoenix is a year-round fundraising club with exclusive perks for members

What does Friends of Phoenix fundraise for?

Friends of Phoenix fundraising goals are geared toward the improvement and updating of the school grounds and campus.

What is the minimum monthly contribution?

The minimum monthly amount to be considered a Friends of Phoenix perk member is \$25.00 with no maximum amount.

How do I pay each month?

As a member you join and pay through Myschoolbucks.com and your account will be drafted monthly

What are Friends of Phoenix perks?

1 volunteer credit earned per month

1 exclusive Friends of Phoenix spirit wear shirt per family (others may be purchased for members family)

Name plate on giving wall after 1 year of continuous giving

Exclusive VIP member events – our first event is 12/9 - VIP pancake breakfast for members only before Mistletoe Market

**All questions can be emailed to Michelle McDonald at
mmcdonald@brightenacademy.com**

Junior Beta Club

We welcomed 35 new students into our Jr. Beta club in October and recently attended the Georgia Junior Beta Convention in Savannah. We competed with other students across the state in academic, performing arts, and visual arts competitions.



Cedrick Regis Takes State Champ Title



Cedrick Regis, an 8th grade student at Brighten, won 1st Place in the instrumental competition at the State Junior Beta Conference. He will advance to the National Competition later this year.

You can hear Cedrick and others perform at our Band Concert on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 PM!

PTO Update



In December PTO will be hosting Jingle Thru on December 8th. The staff decorates based on a theme and our families roll through all the holiday décor. Kindergarten has been the past winner for the last couple of years, let's see if anyone else can break that streak!

We will also be taking monetary donations for our Brighten the Holidays charity. We hope to be able to help at least 2-3 Brighten families this year.

Our annual Mistletoe Market will be on December 9th from 10am-3pm. Come and support our local vendors and grab a bite to eat. We are also still accepting vendors, please visit our website bacspto.com to sign up!



December Events

12/1 - K-5 Community Circle – Time and location TBA

12/4 - First ½ of 7C's deck due (7 total)

Basketball game – Heritage Baptist church

MSG – 4:00 , MSB – 5:00

12/5 - Lunch with Leadership – Virtual 12:00 pm

Topic – state required trainings (drugs/alcohol/human trafficking/good touch/bad touch)

State of the School address – Virtual 6:00 pm

12/6 - MS Community Circle – 8 – 8:45

12/8 - On a Roll – student/parent breakfast 8:30-9:30 cafeteria

Jingle Drive-thru – 6:15-7:40 pm

12/9 - Mistletoe Market 10:00 – 3:00

Friends of Phoenix VIP pancake breakfast – 9:00 – 10:00

MS Chorus Concert – 6:30-8:00

12/10 - MS Band Concert 6:30-8:00

12/11 - 12/15 - Holiday Dress-up Week

12/11 - Board meeting – 6 pm – Media Center

12/12 - PTO Meeting virtual – 6 pm

12/13 - MS Reward Day

12/14 - Basketball game – Home

MSG 5:00, MSB 6:00

12/15 - 10 Volunteer Hours Due

12/16 Alumni Basketball game – home

MSG – 6:00

MSB – 7:00

12/18 – 1/2– Holiday for students

1/3 - Return to school for students

Middle School Happenings

A BRIGHTEN ACADEMY AND
DOUGLASVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
COLLABORATION



The 7th grade has been studying water scarcity and its impact on sub-saharan Africa and the Middle East.

We were surprised to learn that we have water scarcity issues right here in Douglasville - specifically among the homeless community and **DPD can use our help!!**

IN an effort to help our community here at home, we are asking the **Brighten Community** to donate a case of water this holiday season to help the Douglas County Police Department keep water in their vehicles to distribute to homeless people in our community.

Donations can be dropped off at the **Middle School "JINGLE ALL THE WAY"** station on **December 8th**

Lost And Found Items

Our lost and found continues to grow. Please make sure you label your child's belongings. This should include coats, hats, lunchboxes, water bottles, etc. Be sure to ask your child when you pick them up if they have everything.



Breakfast and Lunch Program



Thank you for joining us at our annual Turkey Feast! The SLA team served a wonderful selection of food to over 1100 people!

Please continue to check balances and transactions at www.SLALunch.com and reach out to Kelly Bemus with questions and/or documentation for free/reduced meals.

Brighten ASP (After School Program)

We still have space for our Middle School ASP.

Starting in January we will start a \$10 late fee (per student) for payments that are not made by Friday.

Basketball

We are going to have the Alumni Basketball game on 12/16/ 23.
The fun begins at 6:00 pm! The Girl's basketball team and the Boys 7/8 team will play against former Brighten students. Please come out and support Brighten Athletics!



Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

As we approach the holiday season, we understand that this time of joy and celebration may bring mixed emotions for families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Coping with grief, especially during the holidays, can be particularly challenging for children. In this special edition of our newsletter, we want to provide support and resources to help children navigate these emotions and find ways to remember and honor their loved ones during this festive time.

1. Acknowledge and Validate Feelings

It's essential to create a safe space for children to express their emotions. Let them know that it's okay to feel a range of emotions, from sadness to anger, and reassure them that their feelings are valid.

2. Create New Traditions

Encourage the family to establish new traditions that incorporate the memory of the loved one. This could be lighting a special candle, creating a memory ornament, or sharing stories about the person during holiday gatherings. These rituals can help keep the memory alive in a positive and meaningful way.

3. Open Communication

Keep the lines of communication open with your child. Be prepared to answer their questions honestly and age-appropriately. Allow them to share their thoughts and memories, fostering an environment where they feel heard and understood.

4. Memorialize through Creative Outlets

Encourage your child to express their emotions through creative outlets such as drawing, writing, or crafting. Creating a scrapbook, journal, or artwork dedicated to their loved one can be therapeutic and provide a tangible way to remember and honor them.

5. Establish a Grief Ritual

Create a special time during the holidays dedicated to honoring the memory of the loved one. This could be a moment of silence, a toast, or the sharing of a favorite holiday tradition that reminds everyone of the person who is no longer physically present.

6. Encourage Self-Care

Remind children of the importance of self-care during the holidays. Encourage activities that bring them joy, whether it's spending time with friends, engaging in hobbies, or enjoying festive activities. Taking care of oneself is crucial during times of grief.

Wishing you a season of comfort, warmth, and healing.

With heartfelt regards,

The Counseling Team