BTWA CHRONICLES
THE LATEST EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR BOOKER T. WASHINGTON ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

From the Principal
Ms. Erin Conley

This month we focused on being responsible. Our BTWA Responsibility Exemplar Students are: Jadiel Paucer (4th), Janaya Crocker (3rd), Tiana Lott (2nd), Sierra Benton (1st), Brianna Brunson (K) and Mauriah Keitt-Williams (Special). In November we are learning about the virtue of Truth. Being truthful requires that we live with integrity, are sincere in words and deeds, use reflection to recognize and learn from mistakes, keep promises and make informed judgements. Please talk with your scholars at home about truth.

Academically, students worked hard on their fall benchmark assessments like NWEA and DRA. Teachers are now using this data to intentionally focus instruction for all students. Our staff has been working hard on differentiating instruction to meet the academic needs of each scholar.

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PTO Meeting
Nov. 13th 5:30 @Elementary School

Dress Down:
PJ Day Wednesday
Nov. 27
Homework

Scholars should be practicing 10 minutes of RaZ Kids and 10 minutes of IXL nightly. They also practice at school so they should be familiar with the programs. It is imperative that scholars are working on Kindergarten skills on IXL to further enrich the concepts and skills we are teaching in class.

Please Note:

Ms. Kitchens will be hosting a Parent Night for her class this coming month. Keep an eye out for forthcoming information.

Looking Ahead

Math: Your scholar will begin working on composing and decomposing 2-D shapes using other shapes.

Reading: We will continue exploring books and begin practicing how to talk about books we're reading.

Writing: Your scholar will begin writing "How-To" pieces and using their writing to teach others.

Core Knowledge: Your scholar will finish their Stories Unit and begin a new unit on Plants.

Practice at Home

- Counting to 20 with and without objects
- Letter sounds:
  - f
  - i as in "win"
  - e as in "me"
- Drawing a picture to represent a number (draws 3 people for 3)
- Pointing to words when they read

Averie hard at work during Readers' Workshop
First Grade
We have completed our fall baseline assessments and the scholars are anxious to “WORK HARD” and “GET SMART!”

Reading
Guided Reading is now in session and scholars enjoy the opportunity to read in a small group setting with peers and discuss the stories they read. They make predictions, build on prior knowledge, and make personal connections to characters and situations. They work on strategies to decode new words and practice retelling stories to aid in comprehension. While one group is reading with the teacher, the other scholars are reading independently, the leveled books they have selected to put in their reading bags. Selecting their own books helps them stay engaged and focus during this time.

Writing
We are in the “Informational” writing unit and learning about facts and opinions. To begin, scholars are writing “How To...” books teaching others about something they know a lot about. Show them other resources using “how to” like cooking recipes, instructions on how to assemble a toy, or directions on a box.

Math
We have finished the unit on Geometry and have begun the unit “How Many of Each? How Many in All?” This will include addition and subtraction equations, solving word problems, and learning to count on (addition) and count back (subtraction). At home, scholars can use dice to practice writing equations and flash cards to become fluent with math facts to 10.

Core Knowledge
The Human Body was the focus of the most recent unit in Core Knowledge. Scholars learned about the different systems in the body and how they all work together. They studied parts of the body and how a healthy lifestyle (safety, nutritious food, good choices) makes for a longer life.
Second Grade

What are we learning?

**Reading:** In November we will begin unit three in Readers Workshop. Unit three will focus on understanding the character(s) in our stories. We will dive deeply into understanding the wants and needs of a character, how their feelings change throughout the story, and predicting what the characters might do. We will discuss what the problems may be in a story and how the characters solve those problems. We will also look at the different settings that our stories portray. With all these details scholars will be able to retell their stories starting at the beginning, then to the middle, all the way to the end; using important text evidence.

**Writing:** In this unit, Informational Writing, scholars will be choosing their favorite topics and writing factual information about them. They will be composing texts that includes: a topic, facts and a conclusion. Scholars will have the opportunity to inform or teach their readers about these topics!

**Math:** In Math Workshop, we are continuing with Unit 2 Attributes of Shapes and Parts of a Whole. Throughout this unit, scholars work toward identifying attributes of and draw 2-D and 3-D shapes. They’ll make rectangles out of squares and describe it, divide 2-D shapes into halves, thirds, and fourths. Scholars are frequently asked to share their thinking about a given problem. They will accurately solve math problems in ways that make sense to them. At home, encourage your child to explain their math thinking that supports those solutions.

**TRUTH**

Scholars will form the value of truth by communicating in an open and honest manner to adults, peers and self.

**HOMEWORK**

It is our belief that homework teaches responsibility, involves parents in the education process and reinforces skills at home. Please ensure scholars are reading 20 minutes daily on MyOn. You will find a homework packet in your scholar’s folder weekly. Homework packets are due on Mondays.

*Dominique Johnson from Ms. Walker's class is working hard to revise her writing piece.*
**Third Grade**

**What's going on this month?**

**Reading:** This month, we are focusing on informational texts. Scholars will be working to identify the main idea and supporting details. We will dive into locating important information in a text through utilizing close reading strategies. To support at home, please make sure your child is reading nightly.

**Math:** In third grade, we are starting a new unit on addition and subtraction. To help at home, please work with your child on their basic facts nightly. Reach out to your child's teacher for more information on this.

**Writing:** We are beginning Unit 3, which is focused on crafting informational stories. Scholars will create pieces based on what they are experts on in order to teach others about the topic.

**Core Knowledge:** This unit, we are learning about the human body and body systems. Scholars will learn about how the different body system support one another to help us function in every day life.
Fourth Grade

Here’s What’s Happening In 4th Grade

Fourth Grade Team:
- Ms. Garrett
- Ms. Walters
- Mr. Morrison
- Ms. Dimeola

Reading:
This month we are analyzing and interpreting literary texts. We will dive into discussions about figurative language (similes & metaphors). Scholars will explore the development of central themes and understanding symbolism.

Writing:
In writing we are learning how to express our opinions in writing. This unit will culminate in writing a persuasive essay. Scholars will learn how to effectively present their opinions and counter arguments in an essay.

Math:
In Unit 3 of Math we will be learning how to multiply and divide multi-digit numbers while using common core strategies such the open array method for multiplication and the box method for division. These are important building blocks for eventual use and understanding of the standard algorithm that we use.

Core Knowledge:
We will continue learning about Medieval Europe. Scholars will learn more about early Europe and feudalistic government, the establishment of the European monarchy, culminating with the Black Plague that ended the Dark ages. Scholars will have an opportunity to create to create models of their own Medieval European kingdoms.

Our virtue this month is Truth. 4th grade scholars are expected to embody this day in and out. Scholars should practice showing integrity in their words and actions regardless of the consequences.

Families should have conversations with scholars about maintaining their integrity in all situations. To remain truthful and trustworthy at home, school, and in their communities.

Upcoming Dates:
Pancakes with Principal 11/7
PTO Meeting 11/13
Picture Day (uniforms) 11/13
Early Dismissal 11/27
Parent Teacher Confer. 12/4
ART
This month first grade will be learning about the following artists: Faith Ringgold, Georgia O’Keeffe and Claude Monet. Second grade will kick off their ‘Around the World in Art’ Unit by learning about art from Africa, Mexico, Japan and Germany. Kindergarten will be creating art out of shapes and third grade will be creating dot paintings inspired by Australian Aboriginal artists. Fourth grade is finishing up their perspective projects and moving onto stained glass.

SPANISH
Hola familias de BTWA, mi nombre es Ms. Villanueva y soy la maestra de español. Es un placer ser parte de la familia de BTWA. Espero conocerlos a todos.

Hello BTWA families, my name is Ms. Villanueva and I’m the Spanish teacher. It’s my pleasure to be a part of the BTWA family. I look forward to meeting you all.

SCIENCE
I am pleased to announce the following scholars earned Scientist of the Month for October: Kani McDaniel (Kindergarten), Zimuzor Ekwoanya (Grade 1), Dominique Johnson (Grade 2), Tahira Barr (Grade 3), and Y’nyce Harrison-Gallishaw (Grade 4).

STEM Club has officially started! Scholars meet after-school weekly to engage in science, technology, engineering, and math in the science room from 4-5 pm.
Grade 4 - Tuesdays
Grade 3 - Wednesdays
Grade 2 - Thursdays