



Bradley International School Principal Newsletter

Fall 2016

Dear Bradley Community,

It is hard to believe that the first trimester is nearly over! The first ten weeks of school have been filled with fantastic learning opportunities and wonderful community events! Along with some of our newer initiatives, such as Science Buddies and LightSail (independent reading), we continue to concentrate on our IB Program of Inquiry.

We are now in our second year of the *Ready* curriculum. Last year, we saw gains in Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies. This year, we will continue to keep mathematics as our school-wide focus. Our students are engaged in dynamic inquiry-based literacy and math lessons as our teachers continue to deepen their understanding of the Common Core. Students are learning how to be creative and proficient readers, writers and mathematicians. Based on our STAR and iReady benchmarks, I am pleased to report steady growth for our students.

As always, our instructional approaches are rooted in the IB - PYP Programme. Our students are living the IB Learner Profile as they build their knowledge through transdisciplinary and collaborative learning. It is the foundation of our instruction and why we remain a top performing school in Denver.

Additionally, I would like to take a minute to reflect on some successful initiatives which you may already be aware of:

1) Reading:

- Students in 1st – 5th are using Accelerated Reader to track their independent reading skills and focus on comprehension.
- Students take STAR assessments monthly to track growth and reading levels.
- Teachers can see “live” reading data on TOPS reports while conferencing with students daily.
Conferences include: the books they choose, how many books they are reading, the level of their books and their percent correct on AR comprehension quizzes.
- 5th Grade is piloting a digital reading program called LightSail on our new Google Chromebooks.

2) Technology and Communication:

- This year, with the help of the PTO, we have purchased our second cart of Chromebook computers, added three new Promethean Boards in Kindergarten and purchased 5 new Macintosh desktops for the computer lab.
- IC Messenger – With email now a vital part of our school communication, we have tried to streamline our messages into a Friday Messenger. Please

check your email on those days. Occasionally our teachers will send voicemail messages alerting/reminding you of upcoming special events.

- For the most current information, visit the Bradley website:
<http://bradley.dpsk12.org>

3) Family Engagement:

- Our annual **Fun Run** was held in September by the Bradley PTO and raised over \$13,000 to support our students. WOW!
- On September 21st students and their families had a blast learning math games at our annual **Family Math Night**.
- **Family Art Night**, which took place on October 13th, was another tremendous success with a larger than imagined turnout.
- We also enjoyed various celebrations in the grade-level classrooms; **First Grade Potluck, Fourth Grade Dioramas, Third Grade Market Day and Fifth Grade Explorer presentations**, to name a few.
- Please join us as at our annual **Family Literacy Night** on **November 2nd from 6:00 – 7:30.**

Finally, I can never emphasize enough the significance and importance of *your involvement* in your student's education, especially in academics and achievement. Our expectations remain high and we appreciate your continued support in our schools success!

Thank you parents for supporting Bradley!

Mr. Stephen Wera
Principal