

THE BROWN BEAR NECESSITIES

The Official Newsletter of
Hannah Marie Brown Elementary School (est. 2021)



Principal Ponderings by Megan Sensibaugh, a "beary" proud Principal

The winter months are prime time for germs and bugs to spread. We want to ensure that students get every moment possible of instruction. Some student hygiene reminders can go a long way to keeping our community safe and students learning in school! Please talk with your students about covering their coughs and washing their hands frequently.

While we understand illness happens, when possible, please consider scheduling appointments and family trips after school hours and on the weekends! If your child is ill, we request a doctor's note to accompany the absence upon their return. It is important to understand that Nevada State Law requires students to be in attendance at school. That information can be reviewed in the attached documents "[A Parent's Guide to School Attendance](#)" and "[Student Attendance Matters](#)." Additional information can be found at [Every Day Matters](#).

As we discuss attendance, it is great to highlight some events our community has to celebrate in and out of school this month! Our Robotic Team competed in the State Championships! We just celebrated National School Counseling Week, and we are so thankful for everything Ms. Treadaway does as our SEL Coordinator for our school community.

Be sure to look at the important dates noted on the side of the Bear Necessities; we have many events this month: Picture Day, Nevada Reading Week, Family Literacy Night, and so much more!

MRS. SUMSION'S CORNER!

Testing season is officially here! We're kicking things off this month with WIDA assessments for our K-5 English Language Learners (EL). This helps us measure their growth in Listening, Reading, Speaking, and Writing so we can provide the best possible support. Meanwhile, our 3rd-5th graders are gearing up for SBAC testing. Our teachers are working hard to balance new lessons with essential year-long reviews. Remember: Every Day Matters! Regular attendance ensures your child gets the consistent support they need to shine.

GIVE YOUR BROWN BEAR STUDENT A BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT!
DIGITAL BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

2/9/26
No School

2/10/26 - 2/18/26
Book Fair

2/11/26
PTA Literacy Night
Student of the Month

2/13/26
Valentine's Spirit Day

2/16/26
No School

2/17/26 - 2/20/26
Kindness Week

2/17/26
Bear Run Permission Slips
Due

2/18/26
SOT Meeting
Spring Pictures (free dress)
Attendance Cutoff for Bear
Run

2/20/26
Bear Run
Free Dress Day

2/23/26
Kindness T-Shirt Day

2/27/26
Spirit Day: Wear your
favorite MLS Team Gear!

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THE SPECIALIST SPOT



MRS. BENNETT'S MEGABYTES



I can't believe this school year is already halfway over! Time really flies when we're busy learning and creating in Computers. Our students have been hard at work building important technology skills while having fun along the way.

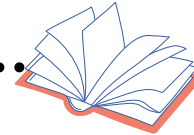
Our little Brown Bear students have been learning helpful Google shortcuts to work smarter and faster, practicing keyboarding skills to build accuracy and confidence, and exploring the basics of graphic design as they create and express ideas digitally. Along with these lessons, we continue to focus on essential elementary-aged skills like problem-solving, creativity, and responsible technology use.

With Valentine's Day in mind, I couldn't resist a little computer science humor:

♥ What did one keyboard say to the other? "You're just my type!" ♥

Happy Valentine's Day to all our students and families! We're excited to keep growing our skills as we head into the second half of the year. Thank you for supporting our young learners as they code, create, and keyboard their way forward!

LIBRARY TID BITS FROM MRS. GEHLKEN



What is Your Child's Library Homework - Your child's library homework is to simply return their books on time each week. To assure books are returned on time, please [click here to see the February 2026 Library class schedule](#).

Spring Book Fair - The library's spring Scholastic Book Fair will be held February 10-18, 2026. Keep an eye out for Dojo posts with updates on important details and links.

Nevada Reading Week - Nevada Reading Week will be celebrated March 9-13, 2026. This year's theme is "Book an Adventure." More details, including a schedule of spirit days, will be shared in the coming weeks.



GATE UPDATES FROM MRS. ROSAS

4th and 5th grade GATE students have ended their science units. 4th graders used hands-on experiments to understand the transfer of thermal energy. 5th graders explored how ecologists create food webs by dissecting owl pellets. 5th graders will break to build a 225-Rubik's cube mosaic of Albert Einstein and 4th graders will jump into working on a living wax museum project.

3rd graders are continuing their weather unit with exciting topics including the water cycle and extreme weather.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL) IN STYLE WITH MRS. TREADAWAY



Hello Families! For the month of January, we focused on perseverance. One way to think about perseverance is "pushing yourself through challenges and obstacles." We all experience challenges in our lives. We all have moments when we feel like we can't do it or that we want to give up on a big task. It is important to develop tools that help us work through those challenges in order to grow in those moments instead of giving up. How might you practice perseverance as a family this month? Encourage family members to commit to one thing they will do each day this week. Maybe it is flossing, drinking a certain amount of water, getting to bed at a certain time, limiting screen time, or exercising. Create a place where each person can tally their progress and see who can keep their streak going the longest! Have fun!

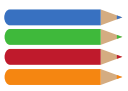


LITERACY NEWS YOU CAN USE WITH MRS. O'FARRELL



February might be the shortest month, but it is filled with many fun themes that offer great literacy connections. We kick off the month with Groundhog Day on February 2. Take this opportunity to dive into Punxsutawney Phil's history and, with your child, predict whether or not he will see his shadow. Will we have an early spring or six more weeks of winter? Check out Gail Gibbon's book: *Groundhog Day!* and *How to Catch a Groundhog* by Alice Walstead for more information.

February is also the time of year we honor and celebrate Black history and culture. Visit your local library and check out biographies of influential figures in literature and history. Here is a link to mini videos: Celebrate Black History Month. Choose one to watch and discuss with your child(ren) the person's significance and contributions. Finally, we can't forget that February is the month to spread love and kindness. Work with your child to come up with ways to spread some cheer. Think of compliments to give or write thank you letters to friends and family. Here are a few picture books about friendship you can read with your child(ren): *Stick and Stone*, *Can We Be Friends*, *Meesha Makes Friends*, and *a Friend Like You*.



HIGHLIGHTS IN ART FROM MRS. PIERCE



Last month, we had such an awesome time cutting and gluing different papers to make collages. It was fun to see whether students made an abstract design or a more realistic image from their cut shapes.

February is such a fantastic time in the art room. There is so much to learn and create! This month in art, we will create artwork inspired by the Lunar New Year featuring the Year of the Horse. We will also be creating some heart-felt pieces around Valentine's Day.



WHAT IN THE WORLD IS UP WITH MR. HANSON: PE AND BEHAVIOR UPDATES!



Greetings, Brown Bear Families!

We are nearing the end of our football unit and will soon embark on our next fun-filled sport of Soccer! Students will participate in learning the basics of soccer and ball handling, followed by drills, activities, and games. Please advise your kiddos not to bring their own cleats or soccer balls.

We welcomed an honored guest to the school in February: the Las Vegas Desert Dogs Lacrosse Team. Their representatives and select players visited the school to educate our students about lacrosse. Make sure you check out the LV Desert Dogs as their season is currently underway.

Lastly, as temperatures rise, please ensure your children come to school in appropriate clothing and shoes, and bring a water bottle. Thank you again, and see you around the school!



Are you looking for exciting ways for your students and families to get involved in the community? The City of Henderson offers an incredible range of youth programs, outdoor adventures, enrichment classes, and recreational sports designed to inspire learning, teamwork, and fun beyond the school day! These programs are a wonderful opportunity for students to build confidence, discover new interests, stay active, and connect with peers in a positive community setting. Don't miss out on the chance to explore, learn, and grow right here in our community! Check out all the opportunities at [Henderson Happenings!](#)