
November Newsletter

Brothers Elementary School

Wow! What an interesting start of our year. We had some issues with our heating/cooling system that led to some chilly classroom days. The district has replaced the system and we are ready for the next cold snap. We have also experienced an unexpected yet welcome increase in the number of students attending Brothers Elementary this year. With our increase came a need to provide more staffing to support students. I would like to welcome Ed Hagan to our teaching staff. Mr. Hagan is a veteran teacher with over 30 years of classroom experience, and specialized training in reading and reading intervention. He subbed for us on multiple occasions last year and developed great rapport with the students. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Hagan to our staff.

I am sad to say that Mrs. Kerr will be leaving us to pursue other passions. I would like to thank her for her time and service.

As some of you may have seen in the Central Oregonian that all Crook County Schools are working on bullying prevention. Our district behavior and special education coordinator, Stacy Bates, joined our students for a lesson to raise awareness about the impacts of bullying and how to prevent it in our school. Mrs. Bates will join our students, again, in November for a follow-up lesson.

Attendance, Attendance, Attendance. Please remember that consistent attendance is the key to student success. Students are currently working on a reward system for daily attendance in an effort to increase attendance and student progress.

Conferences are just around the corner. This is your opportunity to sit with Mrs. Stack and Mr. Hagan and talk about your student's progress. Please remember that if you have questions or concerns you are welcome to contact me at any time.



Welcome Mr. Hagan

We are growing! We are excited to announce that Mr. Edward Hagan is joining our Brothers team. Mr. Hagan will be working a half day with our kindergarteners and spend some time with our first graders. Mr. Hagan is a seasoned reading teacher from Crooked River Elementary with over 30 years' experience teaching children to become excellent readers. His enthusiastic approach to each day and relentless excitement about learning is contagious and we are thrilled to have him join our community of learners. We guarantee your evenings will be filled with great Mr. Hagan stories that Mr. Hagan has shared and that this year will be extra special.



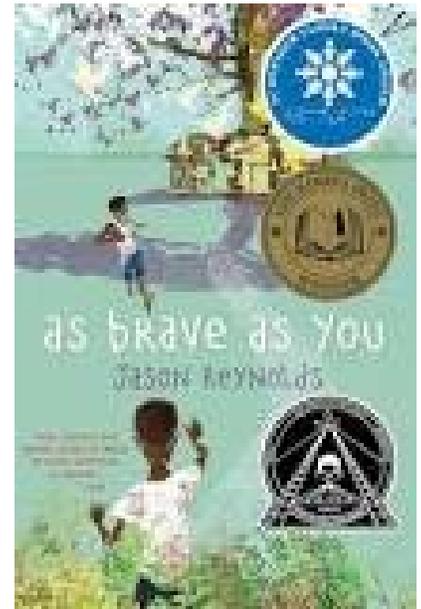
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What We Are Reading!

Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).

How does he match his clothes? Know where to walk? Cook with a gas stove? Pour a glass of sweet tea without spilling it? Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he's ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house—as in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into—a room so full of songbirds and plants that it's almost as if it's been pulled inside-out—he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all.

Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It's his fourteenth birthday, and, Grandpop says to become a man, you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Genie thinks that is AWESOME until he realizes Ernie has no interest in learning how to shoot. None. Nada. Dumbfounded by Ernie's reluctance, Genie is left to wonder—is bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won't do? (Amazon.com)



Reading at Home Works Wonders

Five for Families!

Researchers have identified five areas where the home and family can influence reading development in children:

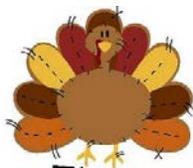
- 1. Value Placed on Literacy:** Parents show their own interest in reading by reading in front of their children and encouraging them to read, too.
- 2. Press for Achievement:** Parents let children know that they are expected to achieve and help them develop reading skills.
- 3. Availability and Use of Reading Material:** Homes with reading and writing materials for children—such as books, newspapers, writing paper, pencils, and crayons—create more opportunities to develop literacy.
- 4. Reading with Children:** Parents who read to preschoolers and listen as older children read aloud help children become readers.
- 5. Opportunities for Verbal Interaction:** The quantity and content of conversation between parents and children influence language and vocabulary development, both building blocks for later reading success.

Source: Hess & Holloway, 1984. Family and School as Educational Institutions

COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER

Cooking up a great gift idea? Christmas is coming in a few months and the PTO has gathered treasured recipes to be included in a special Brothers Cookbook. We will be selling these cookbooks to raise funds for our spring overnight field trip. Keep this special gift idea in mind for Christmas gifts. You can help the school and Christmas shopping can be easier!

PTO Meeting November 1st
3:30 at the School



Happy Thanksgiving