

# BROOKLYN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## "Message from the Principal" - Ms. Debra Powell

By the time you read this article, the holidays will be just a memory and we will be finishing up the first semester of the school year. Wow, it is hard to believe that half of the school year is almost over and we have accomplished so much! If you haven't heard, BES is becoming a "bucket filling school"! Each March we celebrate *March is Reading Month* and the author Carol McCloud of *Have you Filled a Bucket Today?* will be hosted this year at BES and MES. Thus, as part of the BES Character Education Program we are becoming bucket fillers, not bucket dippers. In addition to this Character Education Program, BES has also added a K-Kids Chapter, a division of the Brooklyn Kiwanis. K-Kids is the youngest and fastest growing service organization for elementary students worldwide. This club will be open to all students in grades 3-5 at BES. What a great way for our kids to learn to give back to their community! The BES PTO has been so supportive of our school. They started the school year out with a fun-filled fall school carnival, followed by a successful book fair and winding the year up with Secret's Santa Shop. In addition, they presented a gift of \$10,000 to support the BES Playground Improvement Project. Their endless fundraising efforts and generosity is most appreciated. Academic supported programs continue to promote all BES students to succeed. These programs range from after-school Study Island, Writing Workshop, *Little House Comes to BES*, *Brooklyn Buddies*, classroom volunteers, as well as numerous hours teachers provide outside the classroom. In addition, a Fourth and Fifth Grade Girl's Choir has been added to support the arts. As you can see, we have had a very busy and successful first half, which could not be accomplished without such a great BES Staff Team behind our kids.



## Man Walks to Preserve Nature

Article by: Jeff Bush, Reporter

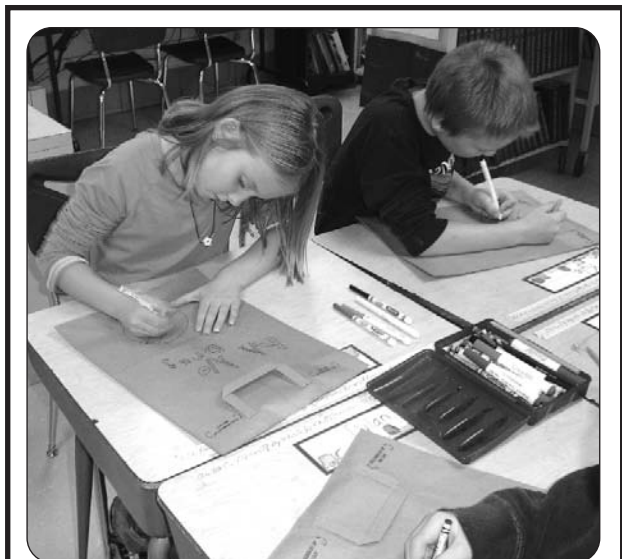
"Walkin" Jim Stoltz has that name for a reason. You see, "Walkin" Jim doesn't just walk around the block or down the road for groceries. He doesn't even just walk across the state to see what's going on. "Walkin" Jim walks across the country. He did it twice, going from the Mexican border to Canada and from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. Along the way Jim took time to capture nature in its raw form by photographing rare and exciting animal life and scenery. He brought his collection of slides and stories to Brooklyn Elementary this past fall to the delight of the students. The kids participated with animal sounds as "Walkin" Jim used his guitar and songs to tell stories about nature and harmony and how to keep the earth clean. He enhanced the experience by showing slides of exotic wildlife and picturesque scenes. He explained that it is important to respect animals and their habitat. At the end, the students enthusiastically asked questions about his journeys and what he had seen.



## Camp Amazes the Senses

Article by: Jeff Bush, Reporter

It was a wonderful fall to go camping and that is just what the fourth grade at Brooklyn Elementary did. The fourth grade took a trip to Camp McGregor. Located on the shores of Crispell Lake, the Jackson County Intermediate School District owns Camp McGregor on 85 acres of lush woods, open meadows, and animals in their natural habitat. The camp is also home to JCISD's Math & Science Center and brags that it has one of the most modern computer-driven telescopes you will ever find in the state. The students filed in on a Thursday morning then immediately began to go on a "Leaf Walk." On this walk the students gathered different leaves to be used for their next project. With volunteer parent chaperones helping, the kids painted the backs of leaves to be pressed onto t-shirts. Red, yellow, orange, and green were used to customize shirts into a fall wardrobe. When fourth grade teacher Ms. Judy Clouse asked why these specific colors were used, Hannah Early replied, "because they are the color of fall leaves." Fourth grader Donna Gonzalez responded about the project by saying, "I think it was awesome. I learned about leaves a lot." One activity melted into another as the students were regrouped and whisked away to other parts of the camp. The Sensory Trail provided the children with the difficult task of using only a rope to navigate a trail while blindfolded. "I liked the Sensory Trail," exclaimed Hannah Taylor. Trenton Garrison added, "It was fun. I almost hit a tree." Trenton also said that the trail experience gave him an idea of what it would be like if he had no eyesight. Next it was off to the "Dinosaur Dig" which was actually the buried bones of a wolf. The students wasted no time in rummaging through the sand in the staked out area. They were to find thirty-plus bones to complete the dig and managed to find them all. Later in the afternoon the students learned a few archery lessons as well as discovering microscopic organisms. Followed up with games, dancing, and music the kids were ready for bed by "Lights Out," at 10:30 p.m. The next day was filled with activities before noon. Highlighted by the scavenger hunt where the students had to find grasshoppers, fossils, moss, and wildflowers the day seemed to pass too quickly, "We didn't want to go home," said Hannah Taylor. Karrissa Shong added that, "I love Camp McGregor," and wishes to visit again.



## Paper or Plastic

Local shoppers were given free artwork with their purchases this past holiday season. Brooklyn Elementary participated in the Breakout Drug Education Program where the students decorated paper grocery bags that were used at local grocers. The theme of the project was "Enjoy the Holidays Responsibly" where shoppers were reminded through the students' artwork not to drink and drive or use drugs.

