



Science Director Marvin Wilson welcomes kindergarten students.

Science Bus visits Brooker school

Brooker Community School had an "in-house" field trip when the Science Bus from Gainesville made a visit.

The Science Bus is a converted yellow school bus painted with a mural of Florida scenes. Inside, the seats have been replaced by cabinets running the length of the bus on each side. Demonstration items are placed on the countertops for the students to explore.

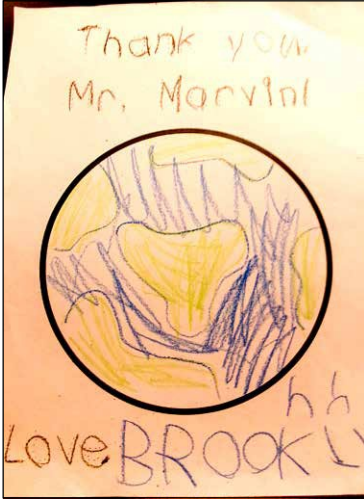
This is a hands-on experience, and students are encouraged to "touch everything." With their reluctance set aside, the students readily explored the various exhibits. Science Director Marvin Wilson was impressed with the astute questions from the students. He even commented on how polite and engaged they were.

There is a dissecting microscope for a magnified view of scales on a butterfly wing. A pair of mirror glasses makes handwriting appear upside down. Other demonstration items made sounds or blew "smoke rings." Coordinated by teacher Stephanie Nash, the students rotated through, grade by grade, to explore the various demonstration items until every student had visited the bus.

At the end of the tour, the students were each allowed to choose a book of interest for themselves. Some were books on various animals, rocks, trees or water. Some were human oriented, such as the book of different types of houses around the world. The NASA calendar was a favorite selection.

The Science Bus is a project of the Cultural Arts Coalition from Gainesville. The bus is part of their after-school science clubs and funded through city and county grants to visit local schools. Since this would be a cross county visit, it needed private funding. So, groups from both Bradford and Alachua counties contributed to the cost as an Earth Day gift.

The collaboration included local groups such as Bradford Environmental Forum and Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District. Regional groups included the Sierra



Student Brooklynn drew Earth on her thank you card.

Club and Our Santa Fe River. Individuals Carol Mosley and Michelle Marcotte each contributed their awards from submissions to the Writers Alliance of Gainesville.

Before heading back to the classroom, volunteer host for the day and plant pathologist Paul Still talked to the students about the health of the plants in their newly constructed garden. Teacher Ashley Shelton is organizing an after-school garden club on Wednesdays. Still is a member of Bradford's Garden Club and the Bradford Soil and Water Conservation District and hopes to get other members involved to help the school's garden club be successful.

As an after-visit reflection, the students wrote thank you letters to Wilson. Shaelyn put nine thank yous down the side of the folded card. Inside she says, "Thank you for showing

us cool stuff. You are so cool." From Johanna, "Thank you Mr. Marvin (sic) for... being kind and being here at the school and helping me." Makenna writes, "My favorite part was ...Upside down goggles!" And she drew the upside-down goggles.

The older students were more detailed in their descriptions. Josie wrote, "I like how when you learn science you can learn a lot of new stuff like how electricity works or how to make stuff. So, science is really cool, and I love it." Kevin especially liked the plasma ball and water tornado. He says, "You make me think that science is cooler than it sounds, and it really is."

If the goal of the Science Bus was to pique an interest in the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, then mission accomplished. And it was a lot of fun.

Kindergarten registration underway

Informational events planned

BY EVELYN CHASTAIN
Bradford County Schools

Now enrolling the Bradford Tornadoes Class of 2037! When you look down into the eyes of your four-year-old, it's hard to picture that in thirteen quick years, you will be looking up into the eyes of your child on the threshold of stepping out on their own to college or career opportunities we cannot even imagine today.

Bradford County School District kindergarten registration is underway. To enter kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year a child must be 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2024. There is no early admission provision for kindergarten enrollment.

Requirements for registration include a birth certificate; a school entry health exam performed within 12 months prior to the first day of school; a required immunization certification; and proof of residency, including rental agreement or mortgage documents plus a utility statement. A photo ID or driver's license of the parent/guardian and the voluntary collection of the child's Social Security card — which may be used for specific purposes including Medicaid eligibility and billing, scholarship applications, state assessments and driver's licenses — round out the required

registration documents. More details are available at www.bradfordschools.org.

A student is not considered enrolled until all documents are submitted. Not sure which school to enroll in? Visit www.bradfordschools.org for an interactive zoning map. Choose "Student Registration, Interactive Zoning Map" and type in your home address to learn which school.

Kindergarten events

Lawley Elementary School, 904-966-6796, Tuesday, May 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Kindergarten Roundup will include a question-and-answer session with kindergarten teacher, curriculum resource teacher and administration, a classroom walkthrough and scheduling screener for new students. Kindergarten teachers will model a UFLI lesson for parents. Light casual food provided and located in the media center.

Starke Elementary School, 904-966-6049, Tuesday, May 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Kindergarten Roundup will include a question-and-answer session with kindergarten teacher, curriculum resource teacher and administration, a classroom walkthrough and scheduling screener for new students. Kindergarten teachers will model a UFLI lesson for parents. Light casual food provided and located in the media center.

Bradford Elementary School, 904-966-6063, Thursday, May 16, 5:30-7 p.m. Kindergarten Kickoff will include a question-and-answer session with kindergarten teacher, and a classroom walkthrough. Light casual food provided.

Free book and bag

Superintendent Will Hartley is delighted to provide early enrolling kindergarteners with a Tornado sport bag and new book for their home library. The books selected for this year are designed to support your child's kindergarten entry. We hope parents will enjoy time being a reading role model for their child. After all, parents are the child's first teacher. Take the sport bag and new book home and read it all summer long.

Kindergarten enrollment is digital, but help is available at each site. www.bradfordschools.org. Select "Student Registration" and then the category that applies to you. August 12 will be here before you know it. Learn more about your child's first day and staggered start first days available at your school. Help your child arrive on time every day through graduation 2037! First- through 12th-grade registration documentation requirements parallel those for kindergarten enrollment. See the enrollment registration information at www.bradfordschools.org.

Scholarship available for medical study

The Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone Scholarship is available for the 2024-25 school year. Students must apply by May 30, 2024, to be considered for the upcoming fall and spring semesters.

This scholarship is for students entering any field of study

related to medicine, such as nursing, medical research, cancer research, etc. The scholarship is provided in memory of the late Shirley Ann Brown Livingstone, a registered nurse who died from breast cancer.

Applications are available at the Santa Fe College

Andrews Center, Bradford High School guidance office, North Florida Technical College and Starke City Hall. For further information, you may contact Carolyn Brown Spooner at 904-964-5807.

The Matthews Museum (Bradford County Museum) Needs Volunteers!

- * Show visitors around the museum.
- * Share interesting facts about Bradford County.
- * All of this in a climate controlled location.
- * Students can earn Community Service Points.

To find out more

Contact: **Chuck Kramer**
(904) 964-5001 or (904) 364-6977



Volunteer Paul Still talks about plant health in the new garden.