Michigan has joined 18 other states in adopting the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS). A central part of the NGSS standards includes scientific inquiry. The National Science Teacher Association defines scientific inquiry as “the diverse ways in which scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on the evidence derived from their work. Scientific inquiry also refers to the activities through which students develop knowledge and understanding of scientific ideas, as well as an understanding of how scientists study the natural world.”

This past week, students at Brick Elementary School worked with Jack Samuelson, a.k.a Dr. STEM, on an activity that focused on scientific inquiry. The activity involved the use of ultraviolet beads. These beads react to light in unique ways, given different variables. Prior to his visit, Mr. Samuelson shared self-produced videos with Brick teachers to help set the stage for his visit.

When “Dr. STEM” visited classrooms, the students were well prepared to ask questions about the activity, which is at the heart of scientific inquiry and the way students learn. Students need to be able to not only ask questions, but use evidence to answer them. In the process of gathering evidence, scientific inquiry encourages students to learn to conduct investigations, develop conclusions and share the results with others.

STEM education also has its roots in scientific inquiry. The Engineering Design Process used at Brick encourages students to develop a product by asking questions, developing a plan, carrying it out and improving upon it.

In an age of ever advancing technology, today’s science instruction must have scientific inquiry as its centerpiece. At Brick, we will continue to remain on the cutting edge of science instruction.
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- **Jan. 15th**
  MLK Day
  No School

- **Jan. 16th**
  PTO meeting 6:00

- **Jan. 17th**
  Spirit Day “Hero”

- **Jan. 18th**
  Food Gatherers Distribution

- **Jan. 19th**
  Early Release
  Professional Development

- **Jan. 29th**
  No School Records Day

- **Feb. 9th**
  Brick PTO Valentines Dance

- **Feb. 12th**
  NAAPID Day

- **Feb. 14th**
  Spirit Day “STEM Career”

---

**Brick PTO Valentine’s Day Dance**

The Brick PTO crew will be hosting a Valentine Day Dance on **February 9th, 2018**. The dance is from **6:00-8:00** in the Brick Café. The Brick **BOOK FAIR** will also be running during the dance in the Brick Gym:) We will have lots of fun activities and great music to dance too!

---

**YOU’RE INVITED**

You’re invited to be a part of the AWE-SOME group of parents that help support OUR students and staff at Brick! Please come to a meeting and share your voice, your ideas, your questions, and your experiences with us! We would love to have your input on upcoming fundraisers and future events. Brick PTO is looking for Core Officers this year, PLEASE contact Kari Branham is interested!

Don’t forget to sign up for **Brick Kroger Rewards**, where Brick makes money on all the purchases you make!:

---

**Family Movie Night**

**THE EMOJI MOVIE**

Friday, Feb. 23
6:00 p.m.
Brick Auditorium

---

**Science Olympiad**

Thank you to Mrs. Massey and Mrs. Rogers for being Brick’s Head Coaches for this year’s Science Olympiad Team!!

**PARENT MEETING** Jan. 17th at 6:30 Brick Media Center

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Michelle Cox

Brick Elementary is looking for a few parent volunteers to become Event Coaches for this AWESOME program.
Unfortunately, the Campbell Labels program is discontinued.

However, BOX TOPS is continuing! So, please keep bringing them in to Brick! Thank you so much.

Brick Holiday Shop

Thank you to the MANY Brick parents that volunteered your time and energy to make the Holiday Shop a success for our Brick students! We appreciate all you do to make Brick awesome!

Silly, Silly Dolphins

Once upon a time, there were three silly dolphins. Their names were Emma, Billy and Ellie. They were silly because they made silly faces all the time. They made silly faces when I came to visit them. They made silly faces when they brushed their teeth. I like those silly dolphins. I like them because they are silly like me! I like to make silly faces too.

THE END
Brick STEM After School program with Mrs. Ryburg!!

**Advanced Lego:** We do Robotics using the engineering design process to create, test, improve.

---

**Crafty Person Needed**

Brick would like to have a “Free Little Library” placed outside near the bench. However, we are in need of a crafty volunteer willing to make the library:) If you are interested please contact us!!

---

**Brick PTO Winter Fundraiser**

Starts **January 25, 2018**! Watch for info being sent home!

Lots of prizes to win at each grade level!

---

**Kindergarten Holiday Sing and First Grade Holiday Around the World**

These are just a few examples of holiday projects from Brick!

The holidays are awesome at Brick!!
Thank you to all the Brick Holiday Helpers! Your generosity is humbling! Without you this program won’t happen!

Congratulations to Mrs. Berecz!!! She was nominated and won an award from USA Hockey for AMAZING teacher recognition! Thank you for all your dedication Mrs. Berecz!

SAVE THE DATE
JOIN US FOR Brick Multicultural Literacy Night!!

WHEN:
TUESDAY, March 6th FROM 6:00-7:30 PM AT BRICK ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA!

WHAT:
Join us for guest readers, crafts and dancers! Please bring in a family favorite snack or food from a different country to share!

Brick Healthy Habits Program:
Brick students get a wonderful opportunity each month to work with nutritionists and take part in the Healthy Habits Start Now Program as part of the Lincoln Healthy Schools.

Here are some highlights about the Healthy Habits Start Now program:

- Students will participate in activities that reinforce lessons in language arts, social studies, math, science, and wellness.

- Students will continue to taste delicious fruits and vegetables during each of the five lessons presented by the Nutrition Educator.

Be sure to Like the Brick Elementary PTO page for updates about PTO and school news.

Brick Aladdin the Musical was a HUGE hit!!
We are so proud of our Brick actresses and actors that participated in the musical Aladdin at Brick! They worked really hard and shined like stars on stage!! Congratulations!!
Dr. STEM 2018 Visit to Brick Elementary School

The students all made bracelets in December and were given the challenge to find out why the beads on the bracelet were considered magic. Using the skills they have learned through STEM, the students experimented with the beads in several different ways to examine the properties of the beads. Dr. STEM then visited each classroom to discuss their findings and give the students new STEM challenges.

Scholastic Book Fair Volunteer NEEDED

The Brick PTO is looking for individuals to help with the Brick Book Fair on Feb. 9, 2018...it’s the same time as the Valentine’s Day Dance!

Being a Brick family you are automatically a part of your Brick PTO! Please consider helping with this awesome event!

Please contact Kari Branham if interested at: haag@med.umich.edu OR call the Brick office:

Brick Family Math Night

Thank you to all the Brick families that came to work on and learn about our math here at Brick.

BOOK FAIR