



## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter is already coming to an end. The school year is off to a great start and I want to thank everyone who has stepped up to help students, teachers and families as the year begins. It truly takes a team effort to make Broken Arrow the school we all want and the school children need. I want to take a moment to share some additional ways you can increase learning opportunities for your child.

One of the most important things you can do for your child is take an active interest in their educational journey and help them take ownership for what they are learning. The number one factor in whether a child succeeds to high levels in school is the level of ownership they take in mastering the skills they need to succeed in school, and in life. As you receive information about your child's academic achievement, talk with them about where they are in their learning and work with them to set goals for the upcoming quarter. Many of the students have set reading and achievement goals already; ask your child about their goals. Goal setting is a life skill that will take our students far in life.

A second way you can support your student as they work to find success is to extend their learning opportunities beyond the school day. There are many ways you can do this, but the number one thing you can do is make sure they are reading every day for at least 25 minutes. Reading is the foundational academic skill that opens the door to every other subject. In looking at our achievement data, we have many amazing readers, but we also have too many students who are struggling in this area. If you are looking at the STAR or the NWEA MAP Reports, we want every student to be at least above the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile (PR). Your support in this area is critical, since the number one way students will become good readers is to practice the skills we are teaching in school by reading a lot!!!

As we talk about helping our students achieve outstanding academic skills, one cannot forget the importance of math. Students who have strong math skills will have expanded career opportunities, which is something we all want for our youngsters as they grow into adults. There are many digital tools that can expand our students' understanding of math. One excellent tool that can be used both at home and school is Khan Academy. I am a math coach for many of our students on Khan Academy and we are seeing tremendous results from this tool. You can also become a coach for your child if they are using Khan Academy. If you want to learn more about this tool, go to [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org). Students can sign in using their Google Account. When I sign students up at school, I also invite parents to be a co-coach with me, so don't be surprised if you get an email from Khan Academy. This is an especially powerful tool for our students who need to be stretched because they have mastered many of their grade level math standards.

As always, the teachers and I stand ready to support you and your child in any manner possible. Feel free to contact me anytime you have a question or concern. Thank you so much for partnering with us as we help children "find their voice" and achieve at high levels in school and in life. Let's commit to working together to make Broken Arrow an "uncommon school" that achieves uncommon excellence!

Mike Brewer, Principal  
Broken Arrow Elementary School

## REMINDER

**Thursday, Oct. 13th**  
**Early Dismissal K-12**  
**NO SCHOOL \*\*Pre-K ONLY\*\***  
*Professional Development*

**Friday, Oct. 14th**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
*Teacher Workday*

**Thur, Oct. 20th & Fri, Oct. 21st**  
**NO SCHOOL**  
*Parent/Teacher Conferences*

### **Shawnee Mission School District Broken Arrow Elementary School**

5901 Alden  
Shawnee, Kansas 66216  
<http://brokenarrow.smsd.org>  
913-993-2300 (Office)  
913-993-2388 (Attendance Line)  
**Principal — Mr. Michael Brewer**

**REGULAR SCHOOL HOURS**  
Breakfast 7:40am-8:00am



## CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2016		
Date	Time	Event
Wed, Oct 5	7:00 pm	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Back-to-School Night Band Concert
Thu, Oct 6	7:15 am	Donuts with Dads*
Thu, Oct 13	12:30 pm	<b>EARLY DISMISSAL</b> /Prof. Development
Thu, Oct 13		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> for Pre-K
Fri, Oct 14		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> /Teacher Workday
Fri, Oct 14		End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Mon, Oct 17- 21		Book Fair
Tues, Oct 18	9:15 am-2:15 pm	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip to Shawnee Town & City Hall
Tues, Oct 18	5-7:00 pm	Parent Engagement Night at Broken Arrow
Tues, Oct 18	7:00 pm	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert at Trailridge
Wed, Oct 19	5:00 pm	Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences
Thu, Oct 20		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> /Parent-Teacher Conferences
Fri, Oct 21		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> /Parent-Teacher Conferences
Wed, Oct 26		School-Wide Dental Screening
Wed, Oct 26	7:00 pm	Broken Arrow Skating Party*
Thu, Oct 27	6:30-7:30 pm	PTA Meeting*
Mon, Oct 31	8:30 am	Halloween Parade/Class Activities
NOVEMBER 2016		
Date	Time	Event
Wed, Nov 2		Picture Re-Take Day
Wed, Nov 2		Broken Arrow Skate Party*
Thu, Nov 10	7:00 pm	Northwest Area Choral Festival, SMNW
Fri, Nov 11		<b>NO SCHOOL</b> /Teacher Workday
Tue, Nov 15		Dental Day
Wed, Nov 23		<b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b> Thanksgiving Holiday
Thu, Nov 24		<b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b> Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri, Nov 25		<b>NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED</b> Thanksgiving Holiday

\* indicates a PTA sponsored activity



# SKYWARD<sup>®</sup> Family Access

**REQUIRED!**

There are 2 **important** parts to the Skyward Family Access:

1. The first part is a secure Internet-based resource available for you to use as a way to remain informed about your student's school experience:
  - track of your student's attendance
  - monitor grades and academic progress
  - review schedules
  - check for assignments
  - update emergency information
2. The second part is the **Required Online Verification** - the Shawnee Mission School District is requiring families to electronically sign Permission Forms and to verify information for each student in your house hold and make any necessary changes to address, phone numbers, emergency information and contacts and health information. This information will be changed for your student in Skyward once the school's office approves it. Parents will be contacted by the school if there are any questions.

See the SMSD.org website for additional information and instructions on electronically signing the required permission forms and viewing your student's grades, attendance, assignments, etc.

Call Cindy in the Broken Arrow Elementary School's Office if you have any questions at 913.993.2300.

## Attendance Line

### 913-993-2388

To report an absence or illness, please notify the office. This ensures the safety and correct attendance record for your student. Please state your child's name, teacher's

## ATTENTION: VISITORS

**ALL VISITORS & PARENTS MUST SIGN IN  
AND WEAR A BADGE**

Please refrain from making unnecessary trips to classrooms. Please leave items in the office for students to pick up, and contact the teacher to schedule a visit. Thank you!



## Absences Add Up!

2 Absences Per Month x 9 Months of School  
= Less Likely to Graduate from High School

Your child's daily, on-time attendance is critical to their success in school. And while some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, it's important to understand the impact of each absence.

A student is considered chronically absent if they miss only **two days of school per month** (18 days in a year), whether the absences are excused or unexcused. This is true for children as early as elementary school, when they are at a higher risk of falling behind in reading. Even one year of chronic absence can cause a child to fall behind academically and decrease a child's chances of graduating from high school, which can have long-term consequences on their financial independence, physical well-being and mental health.

The good news? Attending school every day increases a child's chances of success in school and in life.

Below is a wonderful website that explains the effects of absenteeism and lots of resources to help ensure your child is making it to school each day.

All School Picture is Tuesday, October 11th

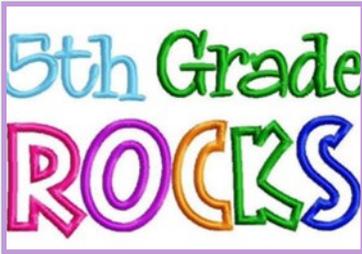
Be sure to wear your grade colors!

PreK- White  
Kindergarten- Gray  
SLC- Baby Blue  
1st Grade- Royal Blue  
2nd Grade- Green  
3rd Grade- Purple  
4th Grade- Red  
5th Grade- Yellow  
6th Grade- Orange Class Shirts





### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade – IPAD LEARNING ACTIVITIES



Fifth grade is off and running! Our focus on utilizing technology continues to be a joy, but also a challenge. Many students see their device as a form of entertainment. Music, videos, games and messaging are high on their priority lists. We are working to shift this mindset; to help students see their iPad as a LEARNING TOOL. The district provides iPads to students to use during the course of the day for lessons in the classroom. We also do iStation math and reading to improve skills at the student's current level of learning. This is also a great tool for parents

to use with kids at home. Every minute spent on iStation is learning time, unlike other games students are often drawn to. We will continue to work on shifting the mindset and hope that you will support our efforts to do so. Here are some things you can expect us to do during this labor of love:

- Delete games that are distracting students at school.
- Keep an iPad overnight at school should a student not use it properly during the day.
- Ask a student to do a lesson on paper while others do it on the iPad if they are distracted by the iPad.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Encourage use of the iPad for learning activities only.
- Make sure your child plugs in their iPad before bed so it will be at 100% by morning.
- Make sure the iPad gets in the backpack each day—your child may miss several lessons in a single day if they do have it.

If you have any questions about iPads or the use of technology in the classroom, please contact us!

Ms. Gray

[gaylegray@smsd.org](mailto:gaylegray@smsd.org)

Mr. Psota

[jefferypsota@smsd.org](mailto:jefferypsota@smsd.org)

Mr. Bartlett

[johnbartlett@smsd.org](mailto:johnbartlett@smsd.org)



If you have anyone in your life who has food allergies, you know how "tricky" Halloween trick-or-treating and other holidays can be. This website has a good list of safe Halloween treats for those who can't have treats manufactured in the same place as those where peanuts and tree nuts are packaged.

<http://www.allergysf.com/safety/candy/nuts/>

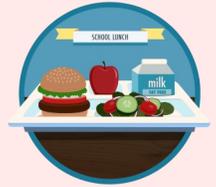
For classroom parties and celebration, please make sure any treats brought into a classroom with nut allergies are tree nut/peanut free. If you are bringing in a homemade item, please include the ingredients used to make the item and/or ingredient labels if store bought. Also, please make sure that items used in preparation of homemade treats are not cross contaminated with the food allergen (spoons, bowls, cutting boards, etc.).

*Thank you for making party day a safe  
and fun time for all of our students!*

Source: <http://www.foodallergy.org/resources-for-schools/classroom>



## Did you know...?



**Did you know that National School Lunch Week is October 10-14, 2016?** This year's theme, "Show Your Spirit," reminds parents, students and school officials that a healthy school lunch helps students power through the day! The National School Lunch Program has served our nation admirably for over 60 years through advanced practices and nutrition education. It is dedicated to the health and well-being of our nation's children. Please help celebrate NSLW 2016.

**Did you know that there are job openings with SMSD Food Services?** You could work a few hours each day in one of our school kitchens. It's a great way to earn some money while your student is at school. Check out our current job openings and apply at <http://www.smsd.org>. Click on *Careers*, *Job Opportunities*, *View Current Job Openings*, and then *Food Services*.

Don't forget – if your child receives free or reduced meals, they are eligible for one breakfast and one lunch per day as part of this benefit. All breakfast and lunch meal choices are available for all students regardless of eligibility status.

**The school breakfast menus, lunch menus, and other nutrition information are available on the district's website at <http://foodservices.smsd.org>**



## Holiday Assistance



Although it may not seem like it, the holidays are quickly approaching. Every year there are many struggling families who are working hard to raise their families. The task of providing basic needs such as food and shelter simply leaves nothing extra for additional things such as Christmas gifts. Christmas can be a very stressful time for some families and we would very much like to help provide a Christmas for these families. If your family is in need of some assistance for the holiday season this year, we would like to help connect you with local resources.

If your child/children qualify for Medicaid assistance (free/reduced lunch, waived book fees, food stamps, or other DCF assistance), **October is the time of year to pay close attention to your mail.** Kansas DCF will be sending out your invitation to the Christmas Bureau.

### Other area agencies that may be contacted for holiday assistance are:

JoCo Christmas Bureau	913.341.4342
Salvation Army	913.782.3640
Johnson Co Multi-Service Agency	913.715.8970
Shawnee Community Services	913.268.7746
Catholic Charities	913.384.6608
Your own church or an area church	

If you have tried to obtain holiday assistance through the above agencies with no luck, please feel free to contact our school nurse, Julie Johnston, or our school Social Worker, Tina Lipari. We would be happy to assist you in finding resources this holiday season.

Tina Lipari, School Social Worker  
Julie Johnston, School Nurse



## Nurse's Notes



### Broken Arrow Dental Screening

Broken Arrow will be providing a free dental screening to all students enrolled in K-6 on Wednesday, October 26, 2016. In compliance with Kansas State Statute 72-5201, all district students will be screened unless the parent does not want their child to participate in the screening. The screening will be provided at your child's school and will be at no charge. Oral health is an important part of children's overall health, and is a critical component in their ability to learn and succeed at school. **If you wish to opt out of the screening, please contact the nurse.** Screening results will be sent home with children who appear to need dental care. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at school at 993-2302, or by email at [juliejohnston@smsd.org](mailto:juliejohnston@smsd.org).



### Immunize: It's the Law!

Kansas Law K.A.R. 28-1-20 defines immunizations required for any individual who attends school or early childhood programs operated by a school. Parents of students who are not compliant with KS Immunization requirements will be notified three different times. **Students remaining noncompliant will be excluded from class on October 20, 2016 until compliance is met.** If you have received a letter/email from the nurse regarding your child's immunization status, please contact your doctor and get the situation rectified ASAP. Contact Julie Johnston, BA School Nurse with any questions.



### Just a Friendly Reminder .....

Every effort is made to maintain a safe and healthy environment for the children at Broken Arrow. Per the Johnson County Health Department, children should be excluded from school if:

- **Fever >100 degrees (fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication)**
- **Undiagnosed rash**
- **Upset stomach/vomiting/diarrhea (vomit/diarrhea free for 24 hours without aid of medication)**
- **Persistent cough unless allergic in origin**



### Hearing and Vision Screening



Hearing and Vision screening continues this year for Broken Arrow students. Testing began in September and will be completed by Thanksgiving. Please make sure your child wears their glasses/contacts if prescribed. You will be notified if your child does not pass the screenings. Notifications can be taken to your doctor for further evaluation.

*Julie Johnston, School Nurse*



### SMART Start Pre-K

We are now several weeks into the school year and are very excited to be learning the schedule and routines of the school day. The children are fast becoming adjusted to the daily schedule and learning lots everyday. We are so happy they are here.

Our current unit is on learning about ourselves, including how we look like other family members, what our favorites are (food, colors, animals, places, things to wear, etc.), what we like to do, where we like to play and body parts (head, face, eyes, nose, mouth, eyebrows, shoulders, knees, toes, etc.). Also, many of our literature selections help to reinforce body awareness and finding and naming body parts. To practice this at home, you could teach your child simple songs like, "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes," and "Where is Thumbkin?"

During math, we are learning basic shapes like circle, square, triangle, and rectangle, and also colors. Later we will include oval, rhombus, heart and star. A great way to continue learning this at home is to play a game where you find different things around your home or environment that are circles, squares, triangles, or rectangles. In relation to numbers, we are working on learning 0 through 10.

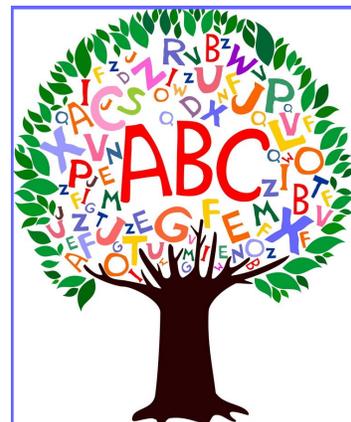
Please remember if you would like to visit our classroom, call or email me and we would love to set up a time for you to come.

*Dates to remember:*

- *Thursday, October 13 – No School Pre-K AM/PM – Professional Development*
- *Friday, October 14 – No School Pre-K AM/PM – End of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter*

*Please remember to read to your child every night!*

Miss Courtney and Miss Susan





## Concert Reminder

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade Strings & Band Back-to-School Concert**  
**Wednesday, October 5**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Broken Arrow Multi-Purpose Room**

Contact Ms. Wasko with any questions at [brittanywasko@smsd.org](mailto:brittanywasko@smsd.org) or Brett Eichman at [bretteichman@smsd.org](mailto:bretteichman@smsd.org).

Hope to see you there!



## Art News

### Greetings from the Art Room!

We made the NEWS on the SMSD website with our Pinwheels for Peace project! So proud of students using peaceful language and promoting PEACE through ART in our school and in our community! What's one purpose of Art? Art sends a message!

#### SMSD DISTRICT NEWS



#### Broken Arrow Students Promote Peace Through Art

9/21/2016

Students at Broken Arrow Elementary are participating in an international project promoting peace, while creating a unique art installation on their school grounds.

The students designed and made pinwheels in their art classes, while having discussions about peace within their school and community. The International Day of Peace is Sept. 21 and all grade levels will participate by installing their pinwheels around the school.

The image of a broken arrow symbolizes peace, and students have been exploring this and other symbols that convey a messages of non-violence.



Sometimes I tweet out things from the art classroom:

@PeaceLoveAndArt

Laura Porras, Art Teacher



## Letter from the PTA President

Happy Fall Trailblazer Parents! We have had a great start to the year, but there is so much yet to come! There is a lot going on at our school this month so make sure to read through this newsletter and mark your calendars with all the important dates! Here are a few of the highlights that I hope you'll join us for:

1. Donuts with Dads 10/6 at 7:15 AM – Every year this is a great kick-off to our Dad's month. This is a great place for dads or other male family members to come to school, enjoy a donut together and get to know some other Trailblazers! Be looking for more information about other ways for Dads to spend time at school this month.
2. PTA Meeting 10/27 at 6:30 PM – We will meet in the school library and discuss upcoming events as well as hear a school report from Mr. Brewer. This is a great way to get to know what's going on at school and meet other parents.
3. Halloween Parade 10/31 at 8:30 AM – Friends and Family will gather in the gym to view our spooky students as they parade around the gym in their costumes. Don't forget your cameras!

Jennifer Huddleston  
PTA President  
[jhuddle@everestkc.net](mailto:jhuddle@everestkc.net)



## NEXT MONTH'S TRAILBLAZER DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is **5:00pm on Wednesday, October 26th**. Email articles to Katie McLean-Campbell at [katie.mcleancampbell@gmail.com](mailto:katie.mcleancampbell@gmail.com).

# PTA Meeting

## Come join us!

**Thursday, October 27th**  
**6:30 PM**  
**Broken Arrow Library**

**The Broken Arrow Book Fair is coming 10/17 – 10/21!**



Books make great holiday gifts for kids and for teachers!

Shop early! Shop often! Shop before school! Shop after school! Shop on Parent Involvement Night! Shop during Parent-Teacher Conferences! Shop! Shop! SHOP!

Please join us in the Broken Arrow library. The Book Fair is sponsored by the Broken Arrow PTA and all funds raised stay at Broken Arrow to purchase books and supplies for the library. In order to make our fundraiser a success, we need your help! Please watch for the Sign Up Genius email to volunteer at the Book Fair.

- Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 7:45 – 4:00
- Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> 7:45 – 6:00
- Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 7:45 – 6:00
- Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> 7:45 – 4:00
- Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> 7:45 – Noon

For questions or info, contact:

Anna Ohly ([annaandoscar@yahoo.com](mailto:annaandoscar@yahoo.com)) or Sherri Laws ([neilandsherri@kc.rr.com](mailto:neilandsherri@kc.rr.com))

## Donuts with Dads October 6

We encourage all students to bring their dad, big brother, grandfather, step-dad, uncle, or male role model for a free donut breakfast on Thursday, October 6 between 7:15 and 8:00 a.m. in the gym.



Donuts are just the beginning of “Dad's Month.” During October, we encourage all dads, big brothers, grandfathers, step-dads, and male role models to be involved with your kids — make extra time to *read* together, to *play* together, to tell stories, work on a project, help with homework, rake the leaves together, go out for a coke, just do something extra with your child.

Take the time right now to schedule a few specific activities with your kids in October, either from the suggestions in this article or create your own. A few extra minutes a day of *connecting* can make a huge difference in your relationship down the road. Be intentional and positive with your kids. This month, whether you are a parent, grandparent, or guardian, please begin a healthy habit of blocking out a few hours on your calendar just for family connection.

**DATE: Sat. October 29, 2016**

**TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Shawnee Mission Northwest High School's Student Council invites you to come join us in our **FREE Annual Halloween Carnival!**

All children up to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to dress up in a costume, bring a candy bucket, and come trick-or-treat and participate in many other fun fall festival activities!

# HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL



**WHERE: Shawnee Mission Northwest High, 12701 W. 67<sup>th</sup> St. (between Quivira & Pflumm)**

**CONTACT: Sarah Dent - 913.993.7227 - [nwdents@smsd.org](mailto:nwdents@smsd.org)**



## 2016-17 Broken Arrow PTA Executive Board

### President

*Jennifer Huddleston*

[jhuddle@everestkc.net](mailto:jhuddle@everestkc.net) • 913-645-5221

### President Elect

*Sarah Koenig*

[sarahkoenig27@gmail.com](mailto:sarahkoenig27@gmail.com) • 913-752-7085

### Treasurer

*Sherri Laws*

[neilandsherri@kc.rr.com](mailto:neilandsherri@kc.rr.com) • 913-631-3315

### Treasurer Elect

*Stefanie Forbes*

[stefanieforbes@smsd.org](mailto:stefanieforbes@smsd.org) • 913-888-6072

### VP Community Services

*Wallace Smith*

[wallace@journey-shawnee.org](mailto:wallace@journey-shawnee.org) • 913-744-4937

### VP Education

*Kelli Unruh*

[kelliunruh@hotmail.com](mailto:kelliunruh@hotmail.com) • 913-940-4662

### Secretary

*Martin Koenig*

[martin.koenig@gmail.com](mailto:martin.koenig@gmail.com) • 913-231-0542

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Thanks to the many teachers, parents and SMNW High School students who helped make our 2016 carnival a great success! So many of you donated items and helped run the activities the night of the carnival which all helped us have a super fun, safe, family-friendly night. A special thanks to Kelli Unruh, Stefanie Forbes, Christy Smith and Sarah Koenig for serving on the carnival committee with me this year! If you have any suggestions for next year or would like to join the planning team, please email me at [jhuddle@everestkc.net](mailto:jhuddle@everestkc.net).

Thanks so much,  
Jennifer Huddleston