



Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that first quarter has already come to an end. It was wonderful to see the collaboration that recently took place between parents and teachers during our Parent-Teacher conferences. Many parents were able to sign up for Skyward Access so they can check their child's grades. Please see Cindy Hoffman, our school secretary, if you have not already signed up for having access to this important student information resource. It truly takes a team effort to help all students find success, and I am pleased to report that we have had an excellent first quarter of school and we have many things to celebrate.

One very big celebration and exciting announcement is the recent news that Broken Arrow has been named as an Apple Distinguished School. We will be sharing more about this significant accomplishment and what it means for Broken Arrow and the Shawnee Mission School District in the coming weeks and months. Suffice it to say, I am very proud of the students, staff and families for helping Broken Arrow achieve this significant milestone.

Recently, we held a Parent Engagement Night where families were able to learn about parenting with Love and Logic and also learn about some of the powerful digital learning tools that are available to our students. Our very own Mr. Psota presented to parents and we had a great discussion about working with young people. Our instructional coaches created a presentation on I-Station and Khan Academy, which are two of the digital learning resources students at Broken Arrow are using to expand their opportunities to learn new skills and concepts. I really enjoyed visiting with parents about ways we can help kids succeed at home and at school.

Last, but certainly not least, I wanted to let all families know that we will be celebrating reading and math growth in many ways in the upcoming months. We are seeing tremendous gains in both reading and math as we find ways to motivate students to work at their "just right level" using varied tools and strategies. Be watching for ways you can celebrate your child's academic growth with us. On that note, many of the resources and celebrations we have at Broken Arrow are made possible by our wonderful PTA. Please find ways to support the Broken Arrow PTA both with your time and your resources if possible. One great way for you to ensure the PTA has the necessary funds to continue to support students in their learning is to make a direct donation to the Broken Arrow PTA where 100 percent of your gift goes to the PTA and your gift is tax deductible. I know my wife and I will be taking advantage of this opportunity to give and I hope you will consider giving as well. I have attached a direct donation form for your convenience. Thanks in advance for helping make Broken Arrow a place where students can learn and grow through your support of our PTA. By working together Broken Arrow can reach new heights of success and become a school that achieves "uncommon excellence."

Have a wonderful 2nd Quarter and please feel free to contact me if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Mike Brewer, Principal
Broken Arrow Elementary School

Shawnee Mission School District Broken Arrow Elementary School

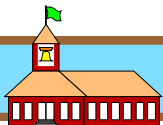
5901 Alden
Shawnee, Kansas 66216
<http://brokenarrow.smsd.org>
913-993-2300 (Office)
913-993-2388 (Attendance Line)
Principal — Mr. Michael Brewer

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

REMINDER

Friday, Nov. 11th
NO SCHOOL
Teacher Workday

Wednesday, Nov. 23rd
Thursday, Nov. 24th
Friday, Nov. 25th
NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED
Thanksgiving Break



BROKEN ARROW ELEMENTARY PTA

5901 Alden Street • Shawnee, Kansas 66216-3849
Phone: (913) 993-2300 • Fax: (913) 993-2399 • brokenarrow.smsd.org



2016-2017 Direct Donation Campaign

Please consider making your tax-deductible donation to the Broken Arrow PTA. Donations and fundraisers are the only way Broken Arrow PTA can fund school programs that enrich classroom learning.

PTA has been able to fund activities and special projects including collaboration spaces in the 4th and 6th grade pods, a 3D printer for the art teacher, and a Lego maker space for the library.

There are currently more than 450 students attending Broken Arrow. If we receive \$75 per student, there would be no need for any other fundraisers!

Any donation amount is appreciated. Your donation is 100% tax deductible and 100% of the funds go directly to the Broken Arrow PTA.

We look forward to supporting Broken Arrow with your help. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Huddleston, PTA President at jhuddle@everestkc.net.

Fundraising options:

- Direct donation
- Broken Arrow Carnival
- Cookie dough
- Walk-or-Run-for-Fun

Your contributions support:

- Media and technology
- Reading programs
- Math Club
- Library support
- Buses for field trips
- Educational assemblies
- Staff appreciation
- ...and much more!

Mike Brewer
Principal

Jennifer Huddleston
PTA President

Sarah Koenig
PTA President Elect

*Return form and payment to Broken Arrow via backpack mail or deliver to the school office.
Please make checks payable to **Broken Arrow PTA**.*

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ Other \$ _____

Your Name: _____

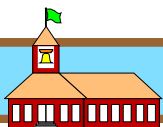
Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Receipt requested (please circle): YES NO
For tax purposes

FOR PTA USE ONLY

Date Rec'd _____ Cash \$ _____ Check \$ _____ Check # _____ Receipt _____



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2016

Date	Time	Event
Nov 1 – 22		We Care/I Can Food Drive
Wed, Nov 2		Picture Re-Take Day
Wed, Nov 2		Broken Arrow Skate Party*
Mon, Nov 7	9:00 – 11:30 am	Kindergarten Field Trip to Wonderscope
Thu, Nov 10	7:10 am	Math Club
Thu, Nov 10	7:00 pm	Northwest Area Choral Festival, SMNW
Fri, Nov 11		NO SCHOOL /Teacher Workday
Tue, Nov 15		Dental Day
Thu, Nov 17	7:10 am	Math Club
Wed, Nov 23		NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday
Thu, Nov 24		NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday
Fri, Nov 25		NO SCHOOL/OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER 2016

Date	Time	Event
Thu, Dec 1	7:10 am	Math Club
Tue, Dec 6	7:00 pm	5 th & 6 th Grade Strings Concert at Trailridge
Thu, Dec 8	5:30 – 7:00 pm	PTA Pancake Dinner*
Thu, Dec 15	7:10 am	Math Club
Wed, Dec 21		EARLY DISMISSAL K-12 /Teacher Workday
Dec 22 – Jan 3		NO SCHOOL – WINTER BREAK

JANUARY 2016

Date	Time	Event
Wed, Jan 4		SCHOOL STARTS • 3rd QTR
Wed, Jan 11	1:15 pm	Class Photos
Thu, Jan 12	6:30 – 7:30 pm	PTA Meeting*
Fri, Jan 13		NO SCHOOL K-12 /Professional Dev.
Mon, Jan 16		NO SCHOOL – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
Fri, Jan 27		NO SCHOOL K-12 /Teacher Workday

* indicates a PTA sponsored activity



Distinguished School

Broken Arrow Elementary has been recognized as an **Apple Distinguished School** for 2016–2018 for the ways we have used technology, provided through the district's digital learning initiative, to transform education.

The designation is reserved for programs that meet criteria for innovation, leadership, and educational excellence, and demonstrate a clear vision of exemplary learning environments.

And, we are now live with the website containing links to the Apple Distinguished School Books – available for download.

Here is a link to the site created with the downloadable books: <http://www.smsd.org/publicinfo/Pages/Apple-Schools.aspx>

School Store to Open Soon!

Dear Broken Arrow Parents,

This year we are creating a school store. In the store you can buy things with our newly designed Blazer Bucks. We need your help with getting a bigger inventory, so we are asking you parents for school appropriate items (trinkets, pencils, pens, posters, notebooks, books, etc.). So please donate items to our school store.

Sincerely,

Kayla Forbes & Hollyn Smith
School Store Managers



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 name, date of absence, and reason for the absence.

ATTENTION: VISITORS

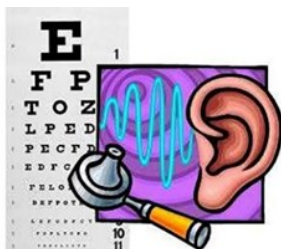
**ALL VISITORS & PARENTS MUST SIGN IN
AND WEAR A BADGE**

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!



Nurse's Notes

Hearing and Vision Screenings

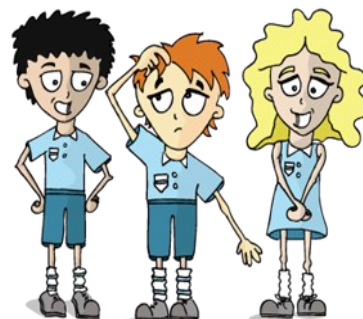


Testing is completed for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents, if your student failed the screenings here at school, you should have already received a letter from the nurse about the need for further testing. There are good resources to help families who are struggling financially and cannot afford the eye doctor appointment or cost of glasses. Call Mrs. Johnston, BA School Nurse, at 913-993-2302 for more information.

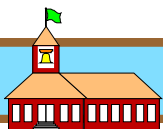
Head Lice

As the weather turns colder, we typically see an increase in cases of head lice. Please check your student on a weekly basis for the signs of head lice (head scratching, sores on the scalp, live lice, nits). If your child has a case of head lice, contact your health care provider for treatment recommendations. Be sure to wash and dry bedding, blankets, and pillows; bag stuffed animals; and, vacuum car seats and sofas. Encourage your student to not share brushes/combs, head wear, scarfs, coats, etc.

Just an FYI SMSD Health Services, in consultation with the JCHD, does not recommend the practice of screening whole classrooms of children or routinely sending contagion notices home, particularly for isolated cases. Notices of contagious illnesses will be provided by school nurses when recommended by JCHD, if there is a cluster of cases in a particular classroom or grade, when it is in the best health interest of the group, or if the nurse is concerned about a particular illness throughout the building. As required by law, student privacy, as well as the family's right to confidentiality, will be maintained. In keeping with the SMSD goal to leave a smaller paper footprint, parents may be notified of particular illnesses through the school or nurse newsletter, or web page rather than paper.



Julie Johnston, School Nurse



Did you know...?

Did you know some ways you can help encourage healthy meals for your student?



- **Explore** – Encourage your child to try new foods at home and school.
- **Encourage breakfast** – Breakfast fuels learning. School Breakfast is available at all schools. No advance registration necessary! All students are welcome every day!
- **Know the options** – Schools offer a variety of selections at meals. Talk with your child about healthy choices.
- **Encourage good nutrition** – Encourage your child to take and eat the fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and low-fat milk offered in school meals.
- **Taste for yourself** – Take time to visit your child at school and enjoy a nutritious school meal.
- **Be a healthy role model** – Eat a wide variety of healthy foods with your children.

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>.

5th & 6th Grade Choir Update

Since early September, our choir students have been working to prepare music for the Halloween Assembly and the Northwest Area Choral Festival. We will continue to have choir for 5th graders until the Halloween Assembly occurs, and for 6th graders until their Northwest Area Choral Festival performance on November 10. After these performances, we will have a celebration to reward the students for their hard work.

Unfortunately, scheduling conflicts do not allow for choir to continue to be offered as an elective this year. I will greatly miss teaching choir, since it is one of my favorite courses. I am hopeful that the schedule can be modified in the future to once again offer choir at the elementary level.

Thank you for all of your support.

Lorinda James, Music Teacher





SMART Start Pre-K

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thanks to all of you who were able to come in for your parent/teacher conferences. It was a great opportunity to share with you some of the many concepts your child is learning. We also hope that you can work with your child at home to help make the learning process successful.

We are starting a unit on community helpers this week. We will be working on the concepts alike/different and rhyming words. We also will be continuing to focus on learning letters of the alphabet through stories, sounds, and recognition.

During centers we continue to engage ourselves in fun fall activities. In the art center, we have been talking about fall colors and painting pictures.

Fun Fall Ideas:

1. Go on a pinecone hunt- find pinecones of all shapes and sizes
2. Rake leaves in the yard and jump into them
3. Talk about the different helpers you see in the community (cashier, waitress, librarian)

Dates to Remember:

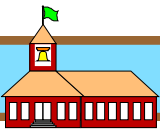
No School: November 11th

No School: November 23rd, 24th, and 25th

Remember to always read to your child at night!
Thank you so much!

Miss Courtney and Miss Susan





Trailblazer Student Council Elected!

Student Council is under way for the school year! Thank you to all of the students that applied and are willing to help make Broken Arrow a great place. We are excited to have the leadership of the Student Council Core to take charge of our school and help us with many things!

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Student Council Core and Class Representatives:

President - Timothy Neslen

Vice President - William Flickinger

Secretary - Perla Moreno

Treasurer - Oscar Ohly

Class Representatives:

4th Grade - Mrs. Iazard: Lauren Huddleston and Ayla Blakney

4th Grade - Mrs. Stevens: Esther Gipson and Lily Meylan

5th Grade - Mr. Bartlett: Adra Cress and Anistyn Kempf

5th Grade - Ms. Gray: McKaylee Nave and Eli Rice

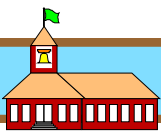
5th Grade - Mr. Psota: Anna Rich and Madi Quass

6th Grade - Ms. Contreras: Maleah Batrez and Riley Rambo

6th Grade - Mrs. Gerling: Anthony Acosta and Alyssa Kempf

6th Grade - Ms. Wilcoxon: Kayla Forbes and Hollyn Smith





Art News

Trailblazers Show Their Creativity!

Last month, Kindergarten students worked on fine motor skills of cutting and gluing while studying Kandinsky's Concentric Circles.

First grade students created a Starry Pumpkin Night, inspired by Van Gogh's Starry Night.

Second grade students explored different methods of watercolor painting with Sunflowers as our subject.

Third and Fourth grade students are creating Character Trait Word Art, reflecting positive personal character traits, while using complimentary colors.

Fifth grade students have been exploring ways to make designs using a compass, then added color with a variety of media using an analogous color scheme.

Sixth grade students studied Ancient Egyptian Art which inspired their scratch art project. It was exciting to see the artifacts of the ancient world that the Nelson-Atkins Museum holds.



Students are creating a physical and digital portfolio of their artwork. The digital portfolio can be seen on Artsonia. The physical portfolio of their artwork will remain at school in preparation for our Fine Arts Open House in April. All artwork will go home at the end of the year.

Sometimes I tweet out things from the art classroom: @PeaceLoveAndArt

Laura Porras, Art Teacher



Letter from the PTA President

Greetings Parents!

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are starting the month of November already. I want to take a minute to say thanks to all the parents who have been stepping up and getting involved in so many ways at Broken Arrow. We have many new parents that are jumping on board and finding ways to get plugged in. There is much to be done to help support our amazing teachers, so we welcome your support. Some jobs are big, some are small. Some can be done from home and some can be done at school. Regardless of your situation, there are ways for you to be involved.

As always, we as a PTA board welcome your ideas and input. If you are unable to join us at the meetings, that is fine... we still want you to partner with us. Listed below are the emails for this year's PTA board. Feel free to reach out to any of us with your questions, concerns or ideas. We are not perfect. We are just parents like you, who want to do what we can to make our school a great place for all kids!

Jennifer Huddleston, President, jhuddle@everestkc.net
Sarah Koenig, President-Elect, sarahkoenig27@gmail.com
Martin Koenig, Secretary, martin.koenig@gmail.com
Wallace Smith, VP of Community Services, wallacesmith1972@gmail.com
Kelli Unruh, VP of Education, kelliunruh@hotmail.com
Sherri Laws, Treasurer, neilandsherri@kc.rr.com
Stefanie Forbes, Treasurer Elect, stefanieforbes@smsd.org

Jennifer Huddleston
PTA President
jhuddle@everestkc.net



NEXT MONTH'S TRAILBLAZER DEADLINE

The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is **5:00pm on Tuesday, November 22nd**.
Email articles to Katie McLean-Campbell at katie.mcleancampbell@gmail.com.



BROKEN ARROW BOOK FAIR

Because of you Broken Arrow earned over \$2,300 in Scholastic credits for the BA library! All credits are used by Lyn Crawford, BA Librarian, to buy new books for the BA Library.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Book Fair! Thanks for buying books, volunteering at the book fair, helping set up and take down, and contributing books to teacher classrooms.

Volunteers:

- Julie Barrett
- Nancy Brewer
- Christine Haworth
- Carol Henson
- Alison Kempf
- Sarah Koenig
- Stephanie Markwell
- Tracy Minter
- Andrea Murdock
- John and Diane Naples
- Suzanne Cedras Perry
- Kelli Unruh
- Claire Laws
- Sophia Yusuf
- Rhys Laws
- Oscar Ohly
- Teddy Ohly
- Lucy Ohly

Special thanks to Ms. Crawford, Ms. Hoffman, Mr. Brewer and Manny Batrez!

Thanks to everyone for supporting BA's goal of encouraging kids to read every day.

Anna Ohly & Sherri Laws, Book Fair co-chairs

Muffins with Moms is Coming!



We are looking for some parents to help us plan and host a new event this year called "Muffins with Mom". Stephanie Markwell has agreed to lead the group. If you are interested in helping Stephanie plan, please contact her at slmarkwell1123@gmail.com.



Pancake Dinner -- Meet Santa! Thursday, 12/8/2016 -- 5:30 to 7pm

The fabulous Chris Cakes will set up shop and serve pancakes and sausage!! Great family time and easy way to plan dinner! Order form will be coming home after Thanksgiving. Pay in advance for better savings!! (No charge for Santa, of course!!)

***** 5th Grade Parents!! Your help is NEEDED!! *****

Planning any event takes time and willing hands in order to run smoothly. If you can help serve at the pancake dinner or set-up/clean-up after the dinner, PLEASE call, text or email right away, We're hoping to work out a schedule the first week of November before everybody gets so busy heading towards December.

Athena Thomas -- [913-406-1618](tel:913-406-1618) ... lafloral@lafloral.net
 Sherri Laws -- [913-558-8795](tel:913-558-8795) ... neilandsherri@kc.rr.com
 Carol Henson -- [913-322-6721](tel:913-322-6721) ... carolhkc@gmail.com





2016-17 Broken Arrow PTA Executive Board

President

Jennifer Huddleston

jhuddle@everestkc.net • 913-645-5221

President Elect

Sarah Koenig

sarahkoenig27@gmail.com • 913-752-7085

Treasurer

Sherri Laws

neilandsherri@kc.rr.com • 913-631-3315

Treasurer Elect

Stefanie Forbes

stefanieforbes@smsd.org • 913-888-6072

VP Community Services

Wallace Smith

wallace@journey-shawnee.org • 913-744-4937

VP Education

Kelli Unruh

kelliunruh@hotmail.com • 913-940-4662

Secretary

Martin Koenig

martin.koenig@gmail.com • 913-231-0542

