

Cougar Connect

October 13, 2023



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A Note From Mrs. McDonald

Dear families,

This week has been challenging amid the tragedy that has unfolded in Israel. I appreciate the safe space created at OTE that has set the foundation for being culturally inclusive and providing students a safe space to express what is on their hearts and minds openly. As every family navigates this tragedy differently, our staff will continue to promote compassion and acceptance in crisis.

Our staff lifts every voice and empowers staff and students to speak openly. As we may not explicitly teach the details of what is occurring, we aim to set the stage for talking to students about conflict and informing them of the individuals who are here to listen and provide support as feelings and concerns arise. Some students have invited this dialogue, while others find comfort in silence. Our staff will continue to find a way to open the door of opportunities for staff and students to express themselves and seek the support in place (i.e., counselor, social worker, administration, classroom teachers, etc.).

Below are a few resources that have been accessible to our staff.

[Talking to Students about Crisis.](#)

- [Talking to Children about Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) - National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- [Promoting Compassion and Acceptance in Crisis](#) - NASP
- [How to talk to children about conflict in Israel-](#)
ReformJudaism.org

If you have questions, families, please don't hesitate to contact us. I wish you a peaceful weekend.

Sincerely,

Erica McDonald
Principal



Save-the-Date

October

Friday, October 20: Skate Party at Skate City; 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Tuesday, October 24-Thursday, October 26: Scholastic Book Fair

Tuesday, October 24: Family Night; 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

Thursday, October 26: Donuts with Grownups; 7:15 AM-8:15 AM

Tuesday, October 31: Fall Celebration; details to come at a later date

November

Wednesday, November 1: No School | Professional Learning

Thursday, November 2: Hearing and Vision Screenings

Friday, November 3: PTO Board Meeting; 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

Monday, November 6: PTO Restaurant Night | Goodcents, 3:00 PM-8:00 PM

Friday, November 10: Veteran's Day Breakfast 8 AM | Assembly 9 AM

Monday, November 13-Friday, November 17: American Education Week

Thursday, November 16: Third Grade Music Program; Dress Rehearsal 2:30 PM; Performance 7:00 PM (OTMS)

Monday, November 20-Thursday, November 24: Thanksgiving Break



PTO Events | October

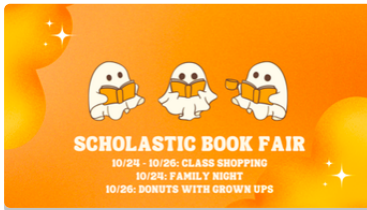
PTO Calendar of Events

For a complete list of all upcoming PTO events, visit [Overland Trail Elementary PTO - Upcoming Events \(otepto.org\)](https://otepto.org).



Coming up - OTE Skate Party – Friday, 10/20

Save the date! Grab your friends and head to Skate City on October 20th for a Glow Skate! A portion of sales for OTE skaters will come back to the PTO to support OTE.



Scholastic Book Fair – 10/24 – 10/26

In preparation for this eventful yet memorable week, we could use the support of volunteers. Please sign up to [volunteer here](#) to assist students and staff during the Fall Book Fair. Mark your calendars for our Family Night, 10/24 from 5:30-7:00 p.m., and our Donuts with Grown Ups shopping event on 10/26 from 7:15-8:15 a.m. Students will also shop with their class that week. For cashless shopping, load your child's [Scholastic eWallet](#) prior to their shopping day.



Calling all Veteran's and Veteran's Families

Our annual Veteran's Day Assembly is coming up on Friday, November 10th. If you are a Veteran or have a Veteran in your family, you are invited to attend the Assembly. We'd also love to feature our OTE-connected Veteran's on our Honor Wall. Please complete [THIS FORM](#) to submit pictures for the Honor Wall and to RSVP to attend the Assembly.

☆☆ DEI Spotlight

The feeling of helplessness is pouring over us. The waves of grief and loss are impacting us here in America. Like many, the sense of solidarity is what keeps us in stride. If you want to help Israelis where you are, here are a few ways to share your support.

1. Donate
2. Reach out to your Israeli and Jewish connections.
3. Join a local solidarity rally.
4. Talk to your children.
5. Unplug, unwind, and take care of yourself.

Parent-Student-Teacher Compact | Title I

Parent-Student-Teacher Compact

The school-parent compact is a written agreement between teachers and parents. It is a document that clarifies what families and schools can do to help children reach high academic standards. The compact is a written commitment and serves as a clear reminder of everybody's responsibility to act at school and home so that children can learn what is required. This agreement aims to help parents and teachers reach a consensus on the responsibilities of the individuals influencing student achievement. If the compact is taken seriously and implemented effectively, it will ensure that there will be support for the academic success of the student by enhancing effective communication between school and home.

As a Parent – I promise to:

- Let the teacher know if my child has any problems with learning
- Use reading materials the school sends home each week to help my child
- Read to my child 20 minutes a day
- Keep a list of new words, and link letter to sounds
- Help my child see how to use reading to pursue his/her interests and goals

As a Student – I promise to:

- Let my teacher and family know if I need help
- Read on my own and with my family every day
- Work on reading skills at home, using the materials my teacher sends home
- Write down assignments, do my homework every day, and turn it in when it's due

As the Teacher – I promise to:

- Create a partnership with every family in my class
- Monitor student progress in reading and update parents
- Make sure all students get help as soon as it's needed
- Send home learning materials in reading
- Explain my approach to teaching, expectations, and grading system to students and their families
- Continually work on my teaching strategies so that I can successfully teach all children
- Assign work that is relevant and interesting

This document has been adapted from the "School-Parent Compact: Action Guide for Parent and Community Leaders, Public Education Network."



End of Quarter | Report Cards

End of Quarter Information - Viewing Canvas Courses and First Quarter Grades

At the end of each quarter, courses in Canvas will conclude and will no longer be visible on the Canvas app and website. Courses for this year's first quarter will conclude on October 12th at 11:59 p.m.

Report cards will be generated, and families can view first-quarter grades on ParentVUE at the end of the day on Tuesday, October 24th.

How do I view my child's report card?

- Log in on [ParentVue](#).

- Select your elementary student's name.
- In the left navigation bar, choose Report Card.

If you have questions about Standards-Based Grading as you view your child's report card, please review the information on the [Elementary Report Card resource page](#).

Each new quarter, classroom teachers will publish their next quarter Canvas course. As courses are published, students and families will again be able to see current courses on the Canvas app and Canvas website. For Canvas parent resources, visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/canvas.



Community Celebrations and Observances - to promote awareness and appreciation of our Blue Valley families.

Some October Celebrations and Observances

- **Down's Syndrome Awareness Month** - celebrates those with Down syndrome and raises awareness of their abilities and accomplishments. The colors blue and yellow symbolize support for the Down syndrome community.
- **Learning Disabilities / Dyslexia / Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Awareness Month** - raises awareness and encourages sharing resources to support students who experience learning disabilities and attention issues.
- **Filipino-American Month** - celebrates the heritage and achievements of the second-largest Asian American population in the U.S.
- **World Blindness Awareness Month** - educates and raises awareness of the realities of living without sight and advocates for what is needed to live equitably.
- **International Day of the Girl** - October 11. Adopted by the United Nations in 2011, this day promotes girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.

Fall Book Fair | Volunteers and More

Parents and Caregivers,

Get ready for the Fall Book Fair at Overland Trail Elementary, October 24-26. In preparation for this eventful yet memorable week, we could use the support of volunteers. Please click the link below to assist students and staff during the Fall Book Fair.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0B4EA8A628A0FD0-44848780-book>

Thank you,

Abby Ford
Julie Joyce
Sue Clevenger

FALL BOOK FAIR

••• at OTE, October 24 - 26 •••

Multiple
ways to
shop!

Family Night

Oct 24th 5:30-7:00pm

PTO member VIP shopping 5:00-5:30pm

Join us Tuesday evening to shop with your family at the book fair. We will have Halloween themed games, spooky crafts, and chances to win FREE books!

Donuts with Grown Ups

Oct 26th 7:15-8:15am

Join us before school on Thursday morning to shop the book fair and enjoy a donut with your student!



*All parents and non-OTE students need to be exited from the building by 8:15am. OTE students will be supervised in the gym from 8:15 until the first school bell at 8:25am.

Shop ONLINE from 10/23 until 11/5

Get free standard shipping on book-only purchases over \$25 and all orders ship direct to home.

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/ote2023fall>



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FALL BOOK FAIR

..... at OTE, October 24 - 26

CLASSROOM SCHEDULE			
TIME	Tuesday, Oct 24th	Wednesday, Oct 25th	Thursday, Oct 26th
9:00 AM	Thomas – 2 nd	Nead – 2 nd	Moriarty – 2 nd
9:30 AM	Karst - K	Sloan – 2 nd	
9:45 AM			Boeckmann – K
10:00 AM	Puccetti - K	Fletcher - K	
10:30 AM	Dominguez – 3 rd	Her – 1 st	Saysoff – 4 th
11:00 AM	Swearegin – 1 st		Schooley – 5 th
11:15 AM		Granitz - K	
11:45 AM	Fegan – 1 st		
12:15 PM	Reeder – 3 rd	Sachs – 3 rd	
12:30 PM			Rossetti – 3 rd
12:45 PM	Hafford – 4 th	Franchett – 2 nd	
1:30 PM		Heston – 4 th	
1:45 PM	Franey – 4 th		
2:30 PM	Moore – 5 th	Thomas – 5 th	
3:00 PM	Voge – 1 st	Schwabauer – 1 st	

Set up an eWallet for your Student!

No cash on hand the day of your Scholastic Book Fair? No worries - our school offers Book Fair eWallet as a digital payment option.

Easy Steps to Set-up and Share!

- Scan the QR code or visit our school's Book Fair homepage:
www.scholastic.com/bf/ote2023fall
- Create an account for each child and add funds which are immediately available
- Once the eWallet is created, you can print the eWallet for your student to bring to school with them, or it is available to look up in the Book Fair register system at check-out. Make sure to create the eWallet under your STUDENT'S NAME



🎃 Halloween Celebration | October 31

On Tuesday, October 31, we will have our school-wide Halloween celebration. We are excited to welcome our families to the school parade, but due to space constraints, **we will only have room parents and three volunteers per class** to enter the building to facilitate class parties. Please look forward to communication from your room parents soon providing more details about volunteering for this year's class celebrations.

We request that room parents implement **one game or craft** to accompany the food for each classroom celebration.

Food

Provided food will need to come from our district-approved [Nut-Safer Guide](#). Please refrain from bringing homemade items for class celebrations.

Costumes

All students look forward to the Halloween Celebration; we have specific guidelines for these parties.

1. At classroom parties where costumes may be worn, violent or gory costumes are unacceptable.

2. Costumes should not take away from instructional time. If a costume distracts self and others, the student will be asked to go to the nurse to change.
3. No costume “weapons” or look-alike weapons may be brought to school, e.g., light sabers, swords, or toy guns.
4. Costumes will be worn to school and should not depict violence or gore.
5. Students should have costumes that do not require time-consuming assistance with makeup, dressing, etc. Also, masks and face paint should not be worn or brought to school.
6. Costumes must respect the Blue Valley dress code policy – BOE policy 3513.

Halloween Parade and Celebration

1:45 PM: Room Parents Enter and Parade Prep

- Room parents and three volunteers for each class will be invited to begin setting up for the class party and supporting costume adjustments. Please look forward to communication from room parents, who will facilitate communication with families to gather volunteers for this year’s celebrations.

2:15 PM: Parade

- We will have a school-wide parade that includes the fifth grade leading all grade levels out the bus-cut doors, walking on the west side of the Early Childhood playground, and circling the track counterclockwise before entering the exterior gym doors. Families are invited to watch the parade from the field.

2:30 PM: Monster Mash

- Teachers will guide students into the gym for the Monster Mash, a short sing and dance-along led by specialists. When the Monster Mash concludes, students return to class for the class celebration. Parents and caregivers will not enter the building for the Monster Mash.

2:55 PM-3:25 PM: Class Celebration

- The class celebration will consist of one game **or** craft and treats. Only room parents and their volunteers can attend the class celebration. Room parents and volunteers will submit dismissal changes through PUP if they apply. In addition, you will need to sign out on the provided sign-out sheet in the room you are supporting.

Ticket Tee for Future Mustangs

PURCHASE A
'TICKET TEE'
TODAY FOR
FREE ENTRY
INTO ALL BLUE VALLEY NORTH HOME GAMES DURING
THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.



WEAR YOUR SHIRT
TO SHOW YOUR
MUSTANG PRIDE
AND TO GET INTO
EACH EVENT FOR
FREE.

\$25

PURCHASE AT
BVMUSTANGS.COM



Safe Schools Reporting

Blue Valley Schools is committed to promoting and fostering a safe environment in and around all of our schools. Through the convergence of physical and intellectual security measures, we are continuously working to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from a wide range of emergencies. Please check out [available ways to report safety concerns](#).

Battle of the Books

OTE Battle of the Books

We are looking for parent helpers to coach our 3rd - 5th grade teams!

- 5 books will be read by each team
- all questions/materials provided
- meet once a month during lunch
- Runs Nov - April
- "Battle" will be end of April

If you are interested or want more information

Email Mrs Mason@

jmason02@bluevalleyk12.org

Children's Mercy--Powering Families Webinar

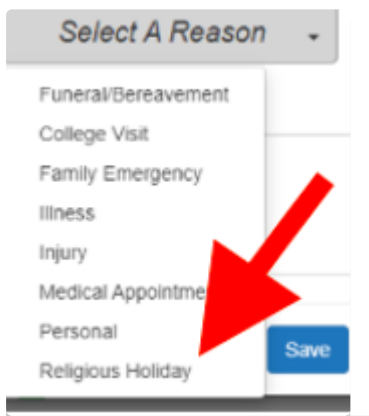
Each month, Children's Mercy will offer a free online educational event to provide parents and caregivers a chance to connect with Children's Mercy Kansas City experts on a variety of topics. Each event will include information about a specific topic followed by questions from attendees submitted via chat. Each event will be presented monthly at 12:00 noon. Webinar topics will include healthy eating, financial resources, anxiety and depression, kids' safety, and more! Participants will need internet access and a phone/tablet/computer to participate. These webinars are free, but registration is required. If families cannot attend virtually at noon, the webinar will be recorded and posted on the [Powering Families homepage](#) for later access.

These webinars are free, but [registration](#) is required. Once you have [submitted your registration](#), you will be emailed the link to join the event.

Upcoming sessions:

- Preventing Unintentional Childhood Injuries – Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 12-1 pm

To access the full list of recordings, view all upcoming webinar topics, or register for a session, visit the [Powering Families webpage](#).



Reporting Religious Absences

Did you know? Families can select "Religious Holiday" as an option for a child's absence in ParentVue, when applicable. This notation could be helpful to our school staff so they can plan accordingly for your student's absence.

Important Travel Outside of the USA

This important message is for any family or staff that will **travel out of the United States** during the school year. Please [click here](#) to read the restrictions and recommendations for Out of the Country travel. Blue Valley resources such as Canvas, Classlink, and school email are not accessible out of the country unless you have a **personal device** with a **VPN** on it.

OTE Library | "The family that reads together grows together." Carmela Dutra

Mrs. Mason is looking for pictures of you and your family reading together to include on a bulletin board across from the library. Email your pictures to jmason02@bluevalleyk12.org.



Nut-Safer Guidelines

At OTE, we have a wide variety of food allergens and restrictions. To remain safe and to prevent exclusion, we don't accept food, including items from the Nut-Safe List, to serve in school or send home with students for birthday celebrations. This complies with our **non-edible birthday celebration**. Essentially, we must remember that sending food home is a risk for children as they transition between school and home, putting our families in an undesirable position when they cannot eat what is provided.

Blue Valley (BV) School's Nut Safer Guidelines for daily snacks will be implemented throughout the school year.

- Classroom snacks must be from the Nut Safer list.
- Nut Safer seating is available in the café during lunch.

We appreciate your support as we work to be more preventative with food safety measures to enhance student and staff safety.

The complete **Nut Safer Foods** and BV Guidelines can be found [here](#).

School Supply Lists

District Calendar (2023-2024)

Overland Trail Elementary's Homepage

Family Handbook



Erica McDonald, Principal

 @OTEMcDonald

 6225 West 133rd Street, Overla...

 ECMcDonald@bluevalleyk12.org

 (913) 239-7000

 bluevalleyk12.org/OTE



Alicia Anderson, Assistant Principal

@OTEAnderson

6335 West 135th Street, Overla... ARAnderson@bluevalleyk12.org
 (913) 239-7000 bluevalleyk12.org/OTE



Office Staff

@OTECougars

- Robin Warren, Administration Assistant/Bookkeeper
- Yolonda Merritt, Administration Assistant/Registrar
- Debby Alexander, Attendance

6225 West 133rd Street, Overla... (913) 239-7000
 bluevalleyk12.org/OTE

full of family

Overland Trail Elementary

