

Cougar Connect

October 27, 2023



Newsletter Table of Contents

Recurring News:

- A Note From Mrs. McDonald, Principal
- FYI and Save-the-Date
- Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) News
- ✨ DEI Spotlight

Recent News:

-

Repeat News:

- End of Quarter | Report Cards
- 🎃 Halloween Celebration | October 31
- Reporting Religious Absences
- Important Travel Outside of the USA
- OTE Library | "The family that reads together grows together."
Carmela Dutra
- Nut-Safer Guidelines
- Helpful Links (i.e., School Supply Lists, Family Handbook, etc.)

A Note From Mrs. McDonald

Dear families,

Report cards will be released next Friday, October 24, at 4:00 PM. Please read below about how to access your child's report card.

I hope you have a spectacular weekend, families!

Sincerely,

Erica McDonald
Principal





Save-the-Date

October

Tuesday, October 31: Please read below for additional details about how we will proceed through this day.

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).



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.



SPIRIT WEAR UPDATE

The PTO is transitioning to a new vendor for our Spirit Wear for a more efficient and dependable experience. We have a LARGE inventory of *last year's designs* and will be having a **BLOWOUT SALE** to clean out that inventory. You may purchase these items during **Family Night at the Book Fair (Tuesday, 10/24) at 60%-80% off**. T-shirts and shorts \$5, sweatshirts for \$10. Any remaining inventory will then be available for online purchase following the Book Fair. If you are still awaiting an order of this year's new designs, those orders will be refunded soon. We will be re-launching this year's spirit wear designs soon for an opportunity to re-order those refunded items. We apologize for this inconvenience but are hopeful for a smoother shopping experience to come!



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

"Heart to Heart's hygiene kits headed to those impacted in the Middle East are being carefully prepared and packed. These kits contain essential items such as shampoo, towels, soap, and medical supplies. Kim Carroll, CEO of Heart to Heart International, said their goal is to provide immediate assistance to those affected by the crisis, ensuring that the most vulnerable members of the community receive the help they need."

"The [Heart to Heart International](#) organization relies heavily on volunteers. They are hosting a Hygiene Kit Pop-up event to help prepare more essential kits headed to the Middle East. To support Heart to Heart's mission or get involved in their humanitarian efforts, visit their [website](#) to learn how you can make a difference."

By: [Marlon Martinez](#), KSHB 41



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.

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.



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



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 bluevalleyk12.org/OTE



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Office Staff

@OTECougars

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

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full of family

Overland Trail Elementary

