

Cougar Connect

October 6, 2023



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A Note From Mrs. McDonald

Dear families,

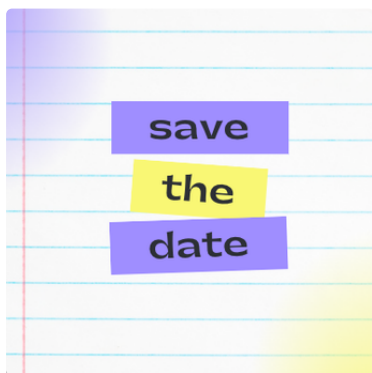
The Fall Book Fair will be here soon--don't forget to read below to check out the details! Additionally, our annual Halloween Celebration is soon approaching. Please read below for more information about the memorable day.

I hope you enjoy your weekend, families!



Sincerely,

Erica McDonald
Principal



Save-the-Date

October

Wednesday, October 11: PTO Community Service

Friday, October 13: No School | End of Quarter 1

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).



Wednesday, 10/11 – October Community Service

Join the Community Service crew to discuss homelessness and organizations you can help that provide support care. We will also start making car kits that students can take home and finish to give to a homeless person. The meeting will be held after school, 3:45-4:30 p.m., in the Art Room. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) to attend.



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.



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.

☆☆ DEI Spotlight

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic American Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month offers an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the diversity and resilience of American Latinas and Latinos. Throughout our country's history, the Latino community has been groundbreaking in [shaping U.S. culture and democracy\(link is external\)](#).

Latinas and Latinos have transformed their communities as activists, writers, scientists, entertainers, athletes, military veterans, entrepreneurs, and more.

One key figure in Latino history includes Supreme Court Justice Sonia Soto. You may read below to learn more.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, Sotomayor earned degrees from Princeton University and Yale Law School through her determination and discipline. Sotomayor continued demonstrating resiliency and broke boundaries in 2009 as she became the first Latina and third woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States.



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>



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	Swearengen – 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.

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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.

ROCK THE STABLE
\$25

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

PURCHASE AT
BVNMUSTANGS.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

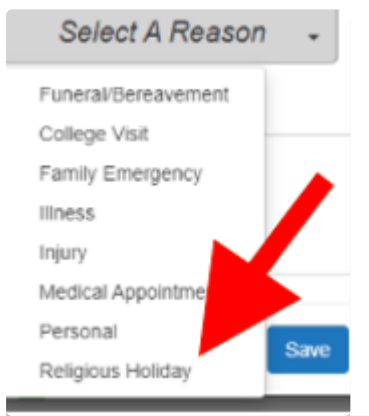
Each month, Children's Mercy will offer a free online educational event to provide parents and caregivers a chance to connect with Children's Mercy Kansas City experts on a variety of topics. Each event will include information about a specific topic followed by questions from attendees submitted via 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

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 (913) 239-7000


 bluevalleyk12.org/OTE



Alicia Anderson, Assistant Principal

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 (913) 239-7000

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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

