



# TIGER TRACKS

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

➤ VOLUME FIVE, ISSUE 10 | JAN. 14, 2015

## From the Superintendent Recognizing Board excellence

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month – a time to salute the work of school board members serving throughout Oklahoma. The theme of this year’s celebration, “School Boards Make a World of Difference,” reflects our combined commitment to leadership and responsibility assuring that all children succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.

The Board is responsible for establishing policies under which the school system operates while acting within the framework of Oklahoma and federal laws. As citizen leaders, individual school board members face complex and demanding challenges as they contribute hundreds of hours each year to leading our district.

In Broken Arrow, we are fortunate to have five dedicated individuals— Cheryl Kelly, Steve Allen, Steve Majors, Jerry Denton and Dr. Theresa Williamson— who give a significant amount of time to serving as Board of Education members. Each brings a unique perspective to the decisions and policies we develop as a district, and I’m appreciative of the time and effort these individuals invest in improving our district.

Too often we neglect to recognize the hard work of these men and women. So this month, I invite you to make a special effort to tell each Board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly valued.



## Beyond & Above Award to honor support staff

Every April, Broken Arrow Public Schools honors its “stars” with an evening full of gratitude, laughter and applause during the Star Awards Gala, a dinner dedicated to Site Teachers of the Year, retirees and service award recipients. This year, one more group is being added to that list – support staff.

Known as the Beyond & Above Award, the new support staff recognition program will honor support staff who consistently demonstrate excellence, going that extra mile for Broken Arrow Public Schools’ goals and objectives.

Every year, a minimum of five support staff members will be selected as finalists with one being recognized as the Support Staff of the Year during the annual Star Awards Gala. The five recipients will be notified before spring break.

### Qualifications:

- All district support employees are eligible candidates.
- Candidates must have a minimum of two years of experience in the Broken Arrow school district.
- Candidates are eligible to repeat as Recognition Program recipients every three years.

### Selection Process:

- Nominations can be made by teachers, administrators, supervisors, students and coworkers.
- Nomination forms must be submitted to your building principal or supervisor by Friday, Feb. 13. See nomination form [here](#).
- A five member committee consisting of site and district administrators along with the previous year’s recipient will conduct a review of all candidate nominations. If the previous year’s recipient is unable to attend, a representative of district support staff will be selected. All references to individual candidate names will be eliminated during this “blind review.”

### Recognition:

- Recipients will be allowed to invite four special guests to accompany them at the Star Awards Gala held on April 16.
- Each recipient will receive an award symbolizing the receipt of Support Staff of the Year status and any other items deemed appropriate by the school district.

For more information, please contact your principal or supervisor.



BEYOND & ABOVE AWARD

## RETIREMENT SEMINAR JAN. 26

Because it’s never too early to start planning for the future, the Broken Arrow Public Schools Human Resource (HR) Department is hosting the third annual “Retirement Ahead” seminar in the Education Service Center’s board room on Monday, Jan. 26 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

“Retirement Ahead” is free and open to all current and retired employees, spouses, parents and Broken Arrow community. It will be an informational evening that will provide guests with the foundation needed to make informed decisions regarding their retirement future.

Multiple presentations will be given on a variety of topics, including Teachers Retirement System (TRS); insurance and Medicare at retirement; 403(b) and financial planning for retirement; and TRS form deadlines and Broken Arrow’s leave payout policy.

For more information, please contact the HR department at 918-259-5704.

IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A TIGER!  
*Broken Arrow Public Schools is an equal opportunity educational institution.*





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## DATES TO REMEMBER

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**January** – School Board Recognition Month

**January 19** – No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**January 25** – “Anything Goes” at the Broken Arrow PAC, 7:30 p.m.

**January 26** – “Retirement Ahead” seminar in the ESC Board Room, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**January 26** – PTA Parent Task Force meeting in the ESC Board Room, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**February 3** – “All Things Pre-K” parent meeting at the Broken Arrow PAC, 6:30 p.m.

**February 6** – Special Olympics Chili Dinner and Silent Auction in the BAHS cafeteria, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**February 9** – Board of Education meeting at the ESC, 6 p.m.

**February 10** – Vote on the BAPS Bond Issue, visit [baschools.org/2015Bond](http://baschools.org/2015Bond) for more info

**February 13** – “Beyond and Above” support staff recognition nomination forms due

**February 16-17** – No School, President’s Day and Professional Day

**February 19** – “All Things Pre-K” parent meeting at the Broken Arrow PAC, 6:30 p.m.

**February 24** – “Peter and the Starcatcher” at the Broken Arrow PAC, 7:30 p.m.

*\*The above list is not a comprehensive list of all district events but represents events that will impact a majority of our employees or campuses, or that are large in scale. For a comprehensive list of events, [click here](#) and apply the appropriate filters.*