



TIGER TRACKS

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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From the Superintendent BAPS represented at Capitol rally

Welcome back! I hope you were able to enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled Spring Break. Although the weather was not perfect throughout the entire week, it was certainly nice to spend a bit of extra time with friends and family.

By now, you have likely heard about a special event taking place at the Oklahoma Capitol for educators, parents and patrons. On Monday, March 30, the Brighter Future education rally will focus on providing high-quality teachers in every Oklahoma classroom while tackling testing issues with a common sense approach. Those who plan to attend are asked to take the opportunity to meet with their senators and representatives during the earlier portion of the day, and in the afternoon, join the rally which will take place on the south steps of the Capitol.

This year, based upon discussion with our education association as well as a survey offered to staff, we have chosen to send delegates from each school site to represent Broken Arrow Public Schools at the rally. These individuals will travel as a group to Oklahoma City and express support for the rally's mission on our district's behalf.

I would like to extend my appreciation to these delegates for representing BAPS in an effort to improve the outlook for public education in Oklahoma. There is no doubt, Oklahoma students and teachers deserve it. For those of you who will not be attending the rally, thank you for dedicating your day to serving our students. It truly takes everyone working together as a team to make this day happen.

No matter what happens at the Capitol, I appreciate your efforts to make a difference at your school site and inside your classroom each and every day. Together we can provide an exceptional experience for our students, and at the end of the day, that is what matters most.

Beyond & Above Award recognizes 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 honors support staff who consistently demonstrate excellence, going that extra mile for the district's goals and objectives.

Nominations were made by teachers, administrators, supervisors and coworkers. A five member committee consisting of site and district administrators conducted a review of all candidate nominations before spring break.

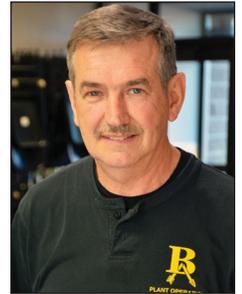
Congratulations to this year's five Support Employee of the Year finalists:

- **Terry Austin, custodian at Leisure Park Elementary – 29 years at BAPS**
- **Jim Leonard, custodian at Vandever Elementary – 29 years at BAPS**
- **Steve Moos, custodian at Country Lane Intermediate – 3 years at BAPS**
- **V.A. Morgan, custodian at Park Lane Early Childhood Center – 35 years at BAPS**
- **Patty Sutton, principal's secretary at Centennial Middle School – 25 years at BAPS**

"Our district could not reach the desired level of excellence without the help of our support staff," said Dr. Jarod Mendenhall, Superintendent of Broken Arrow Public Schools. "I am pleased that we have added the Beyond and Above Award to the honors presented at the annual Star Gala and look forward to recognizing these individuals for their dedication to our students and staff."

The Support Employee of the Year selection committee congratulates each of the five for the difference they make in the lives of Broken Arrow students, employees and many others every day. The finalists will be recognized at the Star Awards Gala April 16 and the Support Employee of the Year will be announced at that time.

Gala tickets are available now through April 3. Tickets are \$10 each, cash or check only, and can be purchased at any school site or the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center box office.



STAR GALA DEADLINE APPROACHING

The second annual Star Awards Gala is less than a month away! If you are retiring, we'd love to celebrate your dedication to this district and the positive impact you've made throughout your career. Please notify the Human Resources Department at 918-259-5740 by Wednesday, April 1, if you'd like to be recognized at the Gala. This event is taking place in the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel's Grand Ballroom on Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner is included. Tickets are on sale now and seating is limited.





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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 23-27 – Districtwide Food Drive (goal: 18,000 pounds of food/1 can per student)

March 23-April 3 – General admission Star Awards Gala tickets on sale at any school site or BAPAC

March 26 – Multicultural Diversity Festival at Tulsa Technology Center, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (more info: [click here](#))

March 28 – Margaret Hudson Sweet Cravings Fundraiser, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel at Warren Place

March 30 – Oklahoma Education Rally at the Capitol

April 6 – Board of Education meeting at the ESC, 6 p.m.

April 9-April 11 – BAHS Spring Musical, “Oliver”

April 12-April 18 – National Library Week, Librarian Appreciation Week

April 13-April 17 – Districtwide Art Show at NSU-BA, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

April 16 – Star Awards Gala at Tulsa Renaissance Hotel Ballroom, 6:30 p.m.

April 17 – The Midtown Men, Spotlight Series show at the BAPAC, 7:30 p.m.

April 19-April 25 – Administrative Professionals Appreciation Week (April 22 is Administrative Professionals Day.)

April 20 – BA PTA Parent Advocacy Task Force meeting at the ESC, 7 p.m.

April 27 – Board of Education meeting at the ESC, 6 p.m.

May 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week

**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.*