



TIGER TRACKS

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF BROKEN ARROW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Q&A with Dr. M

I received a lot of positive feedback from our question and answer session at our Back to School Kickoff in August. Many of you submitted great questions but, unfortunately, we ran out of time to cover all of them so I've selected a couple of those to cover in my Tiger Tracks column this week.

Q: If we have enough money to build new facilities and make improvements to existing ones, why can't employees receive a larger stipend?

A: It's important to remember that bond funds are responsible for the vast majority of our facility projects. Bond funds are approved by the taxpayers of our district for very specific projects and the funds can only be used for capital improvements, not employee salaries or stipends.

Employee stipends are paid from our general fund. Because district expenses fluctuate, we don't know until the end of the fiscal year whether we will be able to award a stipend and if so, how much that stipend will be. For the past four years, the Board of Education has given stipends to all returning employees as a way to thank employees for managing spending throughout the district. The amount of the stipend is contingent upon the amount of money available in our general fund at the end of the year. This year, the stipend was 3% and our hope is that with revenue and expenses meeting projections, we can continue to reward our employees with these one-time stipends each year.

Q: I've heard our enrollment numbers are larger than anticipated. Will our class sizes increase as a result of district growth?

A: It is true that we experienced larger growth than anticipated over the summer. While we normally experience a growth rate of approximately 250-300 students, this summer we grew by nearly 500 students. We attribute the growth to the great things going on in our district and that Broken Arrow offers residents a great quality of life.

The good news is that our school sites are not at capacity and we have more room to grow. Our average elementary class size this year is 22.5 students. We are confident that by utilizing our space efficiently and adding staff when needed, we can accommodate this growth over the next few years and keep class sizes where they need to be. However, we will need to add more classrooms and school sites to maintain this growth long-term which will require the passage of a new bond issue.



United Way kicks off with district, site activities

This year's United Way campaign, "United Together," kicks off this month, and BAPS staff will have a number of opportunities to support this organization with various activities and fundraising events.

"The Tulsa Area United Way plays such an important role in improving the lives of Broken Arrow residents," BAPS Superintendent Dr. Jarod Mendenhall said. "Most people may not realize that a good portion of the funds raised stay right here in Broken Arrow, supporting programs like Margaret Hudson and Broken Arrow Neighbors. If our district can unite together, I have no doubt we can reach our goal of \$110,000 this year to help the Tulsa Area United Way reach their goal of \$26.2 million."

Since its establishment in 1924, the Tulsa Area United Way has invested more than \$669 million into the surrounding Tulsa areas, providing services to thousands of people every year through 61 partner agencies. Last year, 31,986 residents of Broken Arrow received assistance from 43 United Way agencies in Broken Arrow and Tulsa, and a total of \$1.8 million was invested by the Tulsa Area United Way in Broken Arrow.

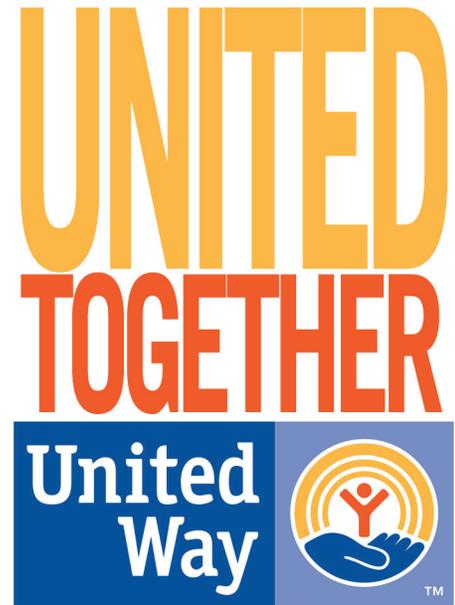
From September 9-19, district United Way team leaders will distribute information and campaign materials to all BAPS employees. This week is dedicated to gathering individual contributions, which can be made all at once or in payments through an option known as payroll deduct. By making a donation of \$75, it's "Jeans Day" every Monday for the entire school year. For \$500, staff members are inducted into the Key Club and receive a personalized parking space at their sites.

During the weeks of September 15-24, team leaders will organize fundraising activities for each site and department. From chili cook-offs to silent auctions, the options are endless.

The campaign concludes on October 9, after the first-ever "BA's Got Talent?" competition. This entertaining evening takes place at the Broken Arrow Performing Arts Center and begins at 7 p.m. From singers, dancers, magicians and more, BA's Got Talent will star some of the district's most talented individuals. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds support the United Way.

"No one is ever required to give, but each year, I am amazed at people's generosity," said Kim Vento, BAPS District Events Coordinator and this year's district United Way campaign chair. "Every dollar donated helps us inch closer to our goal, but more importantly, each donation improves the lives of those who are struggling within our own community. We truly have the opportunity to make a difference."

For more information about Broken Arrow Public Schools' United Way activities, please contact Vento at 918-259-5723.



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

There is a new spin on professional development at Broken Arrow Public Schools, and it's called "Choose Your Own Adventure." This participant-driven event is taking place September 19, and puts YOU in charge of your own professional development. With no pre-set schedule of speakers, "Choose Your Own Adventure" gives educators a platform to collaborate and network together, learning exactly what they want to learn and taking ownership of the topics discussed. These topics include classroom management, parent communication, enhancing the classroom with new technologies, Twitter for education, student engagement and more. Please check your inboxes soon for information on participating in "Choose Your Own Adventure." Want to know more? [This video](#) should help.

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

Tuesday, September 9 – BAPS United Campaign Launch

Thursday, September 11 – Reception honoring for Dr. Genell Coleman for her years of service to the BAPS Margaret Hudson program – 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Margaret Hudson, 751 W. Knoxville, BA

Friday, September 12

- Oakcrest Elementary Ribbon Cutting – 9:30 a.m.
- BA v. Bentonville varsity football game – 7 p.m. at Tiger Field

Tuesday, September 16 – 2015 Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year announced. Good luck Mrs. Boyle!

Friday, September 19

- Professional Day – No school
- BAPS EdCamp – Learn more [here](#).
- BA v. Union varsity football – 7 p.m. at Union

Friday, September 26 – Homecoming – BA v. Yukon varsity football game – 7 p.m. at Tiger Field

Saturday, September 27 – St. John Broken Arrow Community Health Fair – 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Broken Arrow High School. Learn more [here](#).

Friday, October 3

- Arrow Springs ECC Ribbon Cutting – 9:30 a.m.
- Freshman Academy Ribbon Cutting – 1:30 p.m.
- BA v. Putnam City varsity football – 7 p.m. at Putnam City

Thursday, October 9 – BA's Got Talent? United Way fundraiser – 7 p.m. at BA PAC

Friday, October 10

- BAPS Foundation Golf Tournament – 10 a.m. at Forest Ridge
- BA v. Norman varsity football – 7 p.m. at Tiger Field

Monday, October 13 – Board of Education meeting – 6 p.m. at ESC

Tuesday, October 14

- End of First Nine Weeks
- Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grades) – beginning at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 15 – Parent-Teacher Conferences (All Grades) – beginning at 8 a.m. No School.

Thursday, October 16 – BA v. Westmore – 7 p.m. at Westmoore

Thursday, October 16 – 17 – Fall Break – No School

Wednesday, October 22 – Sequoyah Middle School Ribbon Cutting – 9:30 a.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.*