

# Arkansas Elementary School

## Newsletter

MARCH 2017



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TOSA

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**TOGETHER WE ARE ARKANSAS:**

An inclusive Community where every learner achieves.

Our job is to accelerate the learning of every Arkansas student, every day.

SCHOOL HOURS:

7:45 a.m.—2:15 p.m.

Preschool

7:45-10:30 & 11:30-2:15



## Let's ROAR!

We have lots of exciting events coming up in March! Picture Day is March 15th for grades K-5; be sure to bring your best smile. Dancing with Dads; sponsored by our Student Council is on March 17th. Culture Night is March 23rd! Our Kindergarten students will be visiting the Zoo on March 24th!

## Testing Information

**Our Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade Students will start their standardized testing on March 13th! It is very important that they arrive at school on time and avoid absences. Make-Up tests can be uncomfortable for the students as they are not in their familiar classroom with their own teacher. Testing will continue into April for our Fourth and Fifth Grade Students.**

### Student Council News

Pennies for Patients ran through February. All money collected will go to the Ronald McDonald house and the Pennies for Patients Foundation. Our Student Council is hosting the Dancing with Dads on Friday, March 17th! A Buddy Bench will be installed on the playground thanks to the hard work and big hearts of our Student Council Members.

### MARCH EVENTS:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
3/1		Read Across America Wear Pajamas and READ
3/10	NO SCHOOL	Teacher Workday
3/15		PICTURE DAY! (K-5 only)
3/17	6:00-7:30 pm	Dancing with Dads
3/23		Culture Night!
3-27 thru 4-3		SPRING RECESS NO SCHOOL

### FACEBOOK

Arkansas Elementary School has a Facebook page. We like to use this Facebook page to communicate quickly with our parents, fans and the community! Visit Facebook and like our page so you are connected to Arkansas!

Follow us at [facebook.com/arkansaselementaryschool](https://facebook.com/arkansaselementaryschool) or scan the QR code to go right to the Arkansas Facebook page.

Thanks for Visiting!



# The Counselor's Zone

## with Mrs. Dzurko

Teaching kindness to students can reduce bullying.

Instead of teaching kids what not to do, teaching them what they CAN do is important to create change. Teaching and encouraging kindness is related to many of the following outcomes:

- ◆ Happy children! There is a natural good feeling that results when we do an act of kindness.
- ◆ High self-esteem. The good feeling that comes with helping others comes from endorphins in our brains and increases our sense of belonging. Children can feel they have an impact.
- ◆ More friends. Kindness increases connections with others on a deeper level and makes us feel accepted by our peers.
- ◆ Improved academic success. The feel good effects of being kind help increase concentration and memory which greatly impacts learning.
- ◆ Improved mental health. Acts of kindness increase serotonin levels, the natural brain chemical that improves mood. Encourage children to look outside themselves and help others to improve mood.

To learn more about the effects of kindness: <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie>



### Watch for our Buddy Bench!

The buddy bench is a simple idea to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship on the playground. Let's spread the message of inclusion and kindness!

**No children anywhere in the world should be held back from reaching their full potential.**

**NO ACT OF  
KINDNESS,  
*however small,*  
IS EVER  
WASTED.**

*Aesop*



Please make sure to send your student with warm coats, hats and gloves. We will go outside for recess everyday; weather permitting!

Please go to our school web site for more information— <http://arkansas.aurorak12.org>

Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/arkansaselementaryschool](https://www.facebook.com/arkansaselementaryschool)

Follow us on Twitter: [@arkansaswildcat](https://twitter.com/arkansaswildcat)



## READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY—MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>

**WEAR YOUR PAJAMAS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> WE WILL BE SPENDING EXTRA TIME READING THROUGHOUT OUR DAY!**

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2017/18

Registration for the upcoming school year (2017-18) will begin **March 1, 2017**. Centralized Admissions will begin accepting **online** registrations for all new and returning inactive students of all grade levels (K-12) registering into the district. Please be prepared to complete enrollment for students at your building beginning **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

All families should register online from home on any computer or smart phone with internet access. Families may visit the APS website at [aurorak12.org](http://aurorak12.org) to access the online registration application at the following link <https://webapps.aps.k12.co.us/CentralAdmissions/welcome.asp>.

When visiting our office to register, families will be asked to complete the registration application from a chrome book in our office. Please do not give out paper registration forms. We are a paperless office and no longer accept paper registrations. Families will need to upload all required documents during the registration process.

### Kindergarten

Kindergarten age students who are **NOT** active in an APS preschool program may register on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**NOTE: Current ACTIVE APS preschool students entering kindergarten for the 2017 school year will not need to re-register. Beginning March 1, 2017, they may enroll at their designated school based on the address in IC. To determine which school they should attend they may use our online address lookup tool located on our website at aurorak12.org.**

## School Hours

Our doors open for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The students should be in their classrooms at 7:45. When students arrive after 7:50 they are considered tardy and must report to the office for a pass. Please encourage your children to arrive to class on time. When students arrive in the classroom late this disrupts not only their learning, but the learning time of the classmates.

THANK YOU!



March 15th

Grades K thru 5

April 14th

Pre K

**March:** the month of madness and that is even without NCAA tournament brackets! Though I rarely have luck picking the Final Four, one thing I do know for certain is that Arkansas Elementary is the place to be. As stated above in the newsletter headlines, we are going to complete our round of standardized tests this month. I am optimistic that our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will show growth this year. Those PARCC/CMAS results will be back in your hands later this summer.

As a community, we will spend the month completing mini-brain challenges each Friday. They'll be friendly competitions that engage our minds and foster creativity. I encourage you to come on in and take a look at what we're doing. We will also post the activities on Facebook so you can see your kiddos in action. This is part of our "Making Thinking Visible" focus during the month of March.

March also brings about one of my favorite community events, the Culture Fair. Yes, yes, yes! Culture Fest is a blast! Last year, we had over 300 families swing through the fair. This year, I would love to have 400 families attend. It is a night of learning, activities, and food. Mark your calendars for March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I am biased when I say that Arkansas Elementary has the best students in Aurora Public Schools. Look, let's be honest: it is easy to build a structure, put a name on it, and call it a school. We have lots of schools across our nation. I am proud to call myself a Wildcat because we are one supportive and united community. We are in a quiet little pocket on the planet, where strangers say hello and look after not only their children but the children of others. Each and every one of us looks different and has a life story that makes us who we are; while some folks use such characteristics to divide, I've witnessed nothing but compassion from the parents in our neighborhood. I love being here and I know that all of us—from the staff to the students to parents—are all doing the **right** work for the **right** reasons.

If this newsletter finds you a little ragged after February closes, consider this to be your notice to take a deep breath, dust yourself off, and stretch. Folks, we have work to do and I am proud to work alongside you and your students.

Let's go to work, folks!



Proud Principal of the MIGHTY Wildcats, ROAR!

