

# BPAconnect

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE BROOKSTONE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## A Note From the President



Dear Brookstone Families,

What a fantastic start to the 2024-2025 school year! I've had a great time meeting new families, attending so many fabulous BPA events, and serving alongside the best volunteers around! The BPA Executive Board has been busy this fall revising some of our Executive Board positions to better serve you, implementing changes to how we connect with you, and updating how we let you know about volunteer opportunities around Brookstone.

Our new Board positions include Communication Chairs, Technology Chairs, Social Media Chair, and Volunteer

Chair. These chairs have made such an impact on our Brookstone community in so many ways—from ensuring we have the best technology for the Brookstone Spirit Shop, to revitalizing our ways of communicating with you (check out our Instagram and Facebook pages), to creating a new website dedicated to sign up opportunities for volunteers, and helping navigate the new look and feel of the BPA portion to Brookstone School's website.

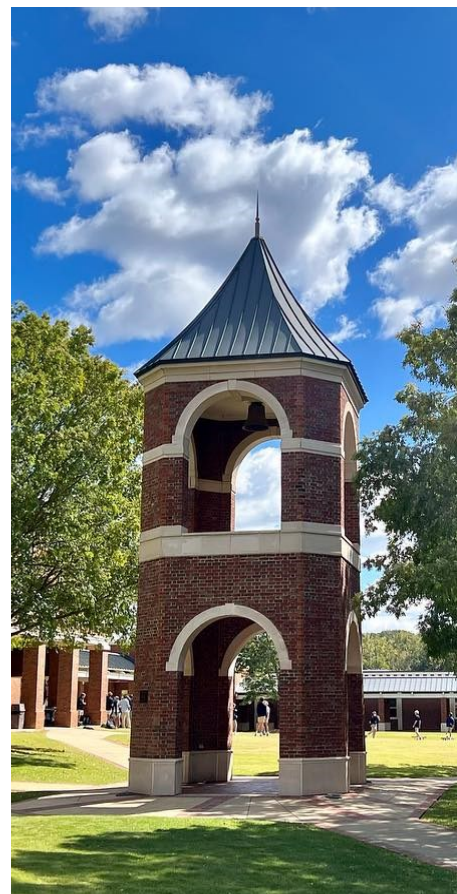
The BPA has also been busy cultivating a sense of community with so many wonderful events this fall including the All School Block Party, the Back to School Bash, Aladdin, Jr. Character Breakfast, Brookstone Under the Lights, and the BPA Book Fair. We've had a successful school supply drive with over 380 school supply packs delivered from 3K to 8th grade! Also, the BPA's Cougar Nation Athletic Booster Club had another great Cougar Cup in September!

We have continued with one of our foundational missions of providing financial support to our school community and students. We've made allocations for projects for all division levels. Plus, the BPA Board approved a very special endowment that's very dear to me—continuing the late Mitchi Wade's legacy of love.

Take a look inside the BPA Connect and learn all about what the BPA is doing for the Brookstone community! If you are interested in serving in a leadership capacity for the 2025-26 BPA Exec Board or as a committee chair for any of the many BPA committees, please reach out to me at [bpa@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:bpa@brookstoneschool.org). We welcome you! If you have any feedback or questions about the BPA, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you to all who have served—you are truly exceptional! Go Cougars!

Jennifer Adams, BPA President



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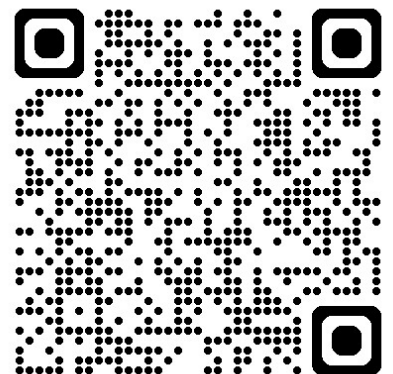
# Mitchi Wade's Legacy of Love



With the greatest love and respect, the Brookstone Parents Association (BPA) Board is honored to announce the unanimous approval to establish the **Mitchi Wade BPA Endowment Fund for Tuition Assistance** with a gift of \$50,000 from BPA funds to Brookstone School. In November 2023, the Brookstone community and the BPA lost our dear friend and then BPA President, Mitchi Wade. As BPA President, Mitchi served with quiet dignity fostering genuine connections with Brookstone families and remaining steadfast in her mission to engage the entire Brookstone community. In her work with Columbus Young Life, Mitchi could often be heard saying, "Come and hear that you are loved." She brought this belief to all parts of her life including her servant leadership within the BPA, and the BPA Board wanted to honor our friend in a meaningful and lasting way.

Earlier this fall, BPA President Jennifer Adams and immediate Past President Katie Bickerstaff met with Mitchi's husband, Travis Wade and Ed Martin, Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement, to discuss the possibility of honoring Mitchi through an endowment fund in her name. Both Travis and his daughters, Ruthie '22 and Martha '26, were deeply touched by this gift and felt it was a fitting way to honor Mitchi. The Wade family, working in collaboration with Brookstone, will determine the specific designation of the fund's annual support of Brookstone students that best captures Mitchi's spirit and her love for our school community.

The BPA is grateful for Mitchi and her service to Brookstone School and hopes to preserve her legacy of love for future generations of students. The BPA and the Wade family welcome additional tribute gifts to the Mitchi Wade Endowment Fund. **You can make a gift online at <https://www.brookstoneschool.org/support/brookstone-fund> by selecting "Other", followed by "Tribute Gift", and then typing "Mitchi Wade BPA Endowment Fund for Tuition Assistance."**



Scan here to donate in loving memory of Mitchi. See instructions above.



# ALL SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

## All School Block Party

On August 13th, Chair Avery Wolff and Co-Chair Lauren Johnson coordinated the All School Block Party to kick off the school year with over 200 delicious treats from the Icy Girl, \$11,000 in Spirit Shop sales, and a visit from Bubba the Cougar and Brookstone cheerleaders! Thank you to the chairs and volunteers for starting the school year off right!



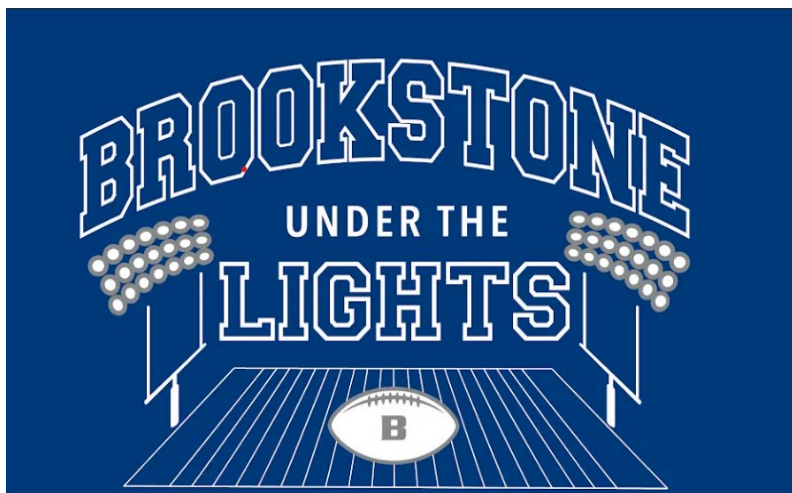
## Back to School Bash

Chair Ashley Turner and Co-Chair Anna Park turned up the heat with the best all-school tailgate at the Back to School Bash this past August. Families enjoyed a raffle for fun prizes, \$10 in Bubba Bucks to enjoy at the Cougar Plaza Concession stand, and facepainting by Cougar cheerleaders. Thank you to Ashley & Anna- a great team!





## Brookstone Under The Lights



On a beautiful Thursday evening in October, over 127 boys in grades 3k through 5th and their moms participated in the beloved BPA community event–Brookstone Under the Light. Varsity football players and coaches ran a variety of football drills for the boys, and volunteers ran a smooth mother/son throwing competition that unveiled top familial athletic talent in the Brookstone community.

Chair Samantha Blair and Co-Chair Callie Hecht helped create lasting memories for all the boys including varsity football players and their moms. To top off the evening, everyone was treated to a delicious meal of pizza, donuts, and ice cream.

This unique and joyful event is eagerly anticipated every fall, and this year's BUTL did not disappoint!



Check out Morgan Duke's photography from BUTL





## BROOKSTONE SCHOOL ARTS ALLIANCE

- *The Arts Alliance is a division of the BPA dedicated to supporting the fine arts. Meghan Blackmon is the Arts Alliance President.*
- *The Arts Alliance has purchased all of the rights for all plays performed by the Brookstone Fine Arts!*
- *The Arts Alliance hosted a reception for Aladdin, Jr. in the Turner Center Gallery, decorating it for Arabian Nights!*
- *The Arts Alliance also hosted the receptions for the One Act Play performances and the Mary Schley Holiday Concert.*

## Aladdin, Jr. Character Breakfast

On September 18th, the Arts Alliance hosted 80 Preschool and Lower School students for breakfast with the incredible Middle School cast of Aladdin, Jr. The kids were taken to a whole new world with the cast members delighting them with skits and games and thought the breakfast was "genie-us"!





# COUGAR NATION



The Cougar Nation Booster Club is a division of the BPA charged with supporting the specific needs of the Brookstone Athletic Department. Rik Lane is the President of Cougar Nation.

On September 30, 2024, Cougar Nation hosted 132 golfers, 32 tennis players and 36 pickleball players at Green Island Country Club for its largest fundraiser—the Cougar Cup.

Thank you to over 60 sponsors and army of volunteers! Special thanks to Chair Gayla Arrington and Co-Chair Edie Evans.

## Cougar Nation approved the following requests for this fall:

- ◆ Tennis Court resurfacing—Spring 2025
- ◆ New Heart Rate Monitors for Cross Country
- ◆ Competition Cheer Training Material
- ◆ Logo imprinted golf balls
- ◆ Custom Flag Football flags



Thank you to Chair Gayla Arrington and her team of volunteers for their effort in executing 3 top notch tournaments in one!



During Cougar Cup 2024, Brookstone Head of School Henry Heil and Upper School Division Head Cindy Todt hit the courts for an exhibition game against Brookstone Seniors Mae Blanchard, Blakely Waddell, Bo Christopher, and Bo Caves.



Athletic Director Rance Gillespie, Cougar Nation President Rik Lane, Cougar Nation Past President David Blanchard, and Head of School Henry Heil pose during the check presentation for the proceeds 2023 Cougar Cup.

**The Cougar Spirit Shop chaired by Nicole Reigel and Polly Fowler has had over \$110,000 in net sales in 2024! Amazing work, ladies! Follow the Spirit Shop on Instagram @brookstoneschoolspiritshop.**

## 2024 Cougar Cup Winners

### Tennis

2.5—Martha Meador  
3.0—Britt Pyle  
3.5—Kathleen Chancellor  
4.0/4.5—Carol Patillo

### Pickleball

**4:30 Time Slot**  
1st Place—Kevin McPherson and Rand Jones  
2nd Place—Boo and Abby Miller

### 6:30 Time Slot

1st Place Cody Phillips and Brant Knox  
2nd Place—Jason Pease and Gordy Peace

### Golf AM

**1st Place Gross:**  
Jonathan Shuskey, Adam Cooper, Henry Heil, Rance Gillespie

**1st Place Net:**  
Nick Dudley, Bart Childers, David Lane, Turner Butterfield

**2nd Place Gross:**  
Philip Park, Jack Turner, Trip Reynolds, Sam Buracker

**2nd Place Net:**  
Josh Greer, John Braxton, Josh Colson, Curt Cope

**Closest to the Hole**  
#2—John Braxton  
#8—Rand Jones  
#11—Bart Childers

**Longest Drive #3**  
Millie Holbrook

**Closest to Line #12**  
Bart Childers

### Golf PM

**1st Place Gross:**  
Patrick Coleman, Adam Pease, Bo Taber, Jason Fober

**1st Place Net:**  
Adam Powers, Jamey Jackson, Kyle Lovejoy, Blake Meeks

**2nd Place Gross:**  
Sean Knox, Kyle Albright, Ryan Gates, Sim Knox

**2nd Place Net:**  
Todd Kalish, Mark Morrison, Colt Miley, Eathan Barfield

**Closest to the Hole**  
#2—Sim Knox  
#8—Jason Pease  
#11—Corey Cooper

**Longest Drive #3**  
Stan Copelan

**Closest to Line #12**  
Kyle Albright



# BPA IMPACT

- The BPA's efforts for the 2024-25 school year began in early 2024 with a school supply fundraiser through EPI. Chair Robin Gosling and Co-Chair Stevie Cryar updated teacher supply lists, coordinated sales, unpacked 8 pallets of school supplies, distributed over 380 school supply packs to classrooms on campus and raised over \$5,600 in profit for the BPA! Way to go, ladies!
- The BPA celebrated the launch of our rebranded Instagram and new Facebook pages with five \$50 Brookstone Spirit Shop gift cards. One winner from each division of the school was selected.
- The BPA gave out 173 Target gift cards in addition to delicious homemade cookies to welcome back our faculty and staff this year.
- The BPA gifted each new faculty member swag from the Cougar Spirit Shop this fall to freshen up their wardrobe with Cougar kit.
- The BPA approved the following submitted requests this Fall:

## Preschool

- ◆ Easels for Pre-K classrooms
- ◆ Lego play expansion items
- ◆ Gaming to learn board games for 3K
- ◆ Counting materials for 3K

## Lower School

- ◆ Science exploration for Kindergarten
- ◆ Chromebook cases for 3rd grade
- ◆ Classroom rug for Kindergarten
- ◆ Reading games for Kindergarten
- ◆ Math and language games for 3rd grade

## Intermediate School

- ◆ 15 Chromebooks for 4th grade

- ◆ Weather, Light and Sound items for IS science

## Middle School

- ◆ 4 Petanque sets for French (MS/US)

## Upper School

- ◆ Equipment for video production and photography classes
- ◆ 20 music stands

## All School

- ◆ 4 Panini Presses
- ◆ Piano Lab—3 additional digital pianos



The 2024-2025 BPA Executive Board

Left to Right: Cam Addison, Ellen Lane, Katie Bickerstaff, Samantha Blair, Dori Jones, Lizzie Moore, Carson De Mars, Amy Spencer, Robin Gosling, Jennifer Adams, Jennifer Shaw, Eileen Halter, Ansley McKnight, Liza Boykin, Meghan Blackmon, Hannah Mize, Tanisha Colbert, Sally Norman, Carrie Beth Wallace, Whitney Waldrop, Whitney Pease. Not pictured: Melissa Martin, Becky Miller, Sean Knox and Rik Lane

## 2024-2025 BPA Exec-Board

### **President**

Jennifer Adams P'24, P'26, P'30

### **Past President & Cougar Nation Liaison**

Katie Bickerstaff P'25, P'27, P'30

### **President Elect**

Eileen Halter P'21, P'24, P'27

### **Secretary**

Samantha Blair P'33, P'34

### **Treasurer**

Amy Spencer P'24, P'26

### **Technology Chair & Co-Chair**

Jennifer Shaw P'23, P'26  
Carson DeMars P'30, P'32

### **Communications Chair & Co-Chair**

Robin Gosling P'31, P'31  
Cam Addison '02, P'28, P'32, P'35

### **Social Media Chair**

Carrie Beth Wallace P'31, P'34

### **Volunteer Chair**

Ellen Lane '97, P'30, P'32

### **Arts Alliance Pres. & Pres. Elect**

Meghan Blackmon '99, P'23, P'25, P'31  
Tanisha Colbert P'26, P'29

### **Cougar Nation Pres./Pres. Elect**

Rik Lane P'24, P'26  
Sean Knox P'23, P'26, P'31

### **Preschool Division Rep & Co-Rep**

Ansley McKnight P'36, P'38  
Sally Norman '07, P'36, P'38

### **Lower School Division Rep & Co-Rep**

Hannah Mize P'36, P'38  
Lizzie Moore '04, P'35, P'37

### **Intermediate School Division Rep/Co-Rep**

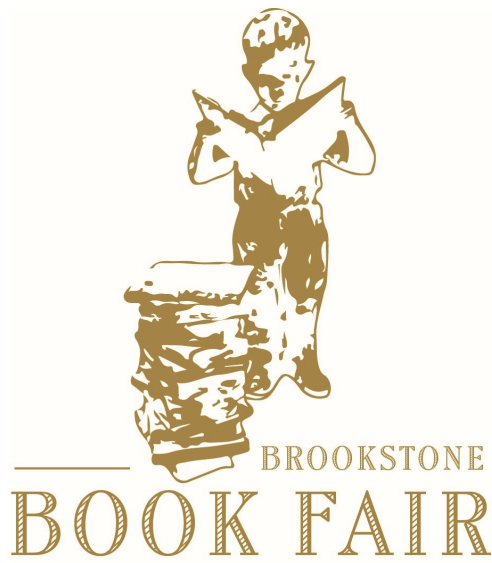
Whitni Waldrop '01, P'26, P'30, P'32  
Becky Miller P'33, P'34

### **Middle School Division Rep & Co-Rep**

Whitney Pease '96, P'23, P'26, P'29  
Liza Boykin P'25, P'30

### **Upper School Division Rep & Co-Rep**

Melissa Martin P'26, P'31  
Dori Jones P'25, P'28



## BPA Book Fair

The BPA Book Fair is the capstone to fun fall festivities, and this year was our most successful book fair yet. The reason the book fair was such a great success was the dedication of our Book Fair Chairs Whitney Waldrop and Melissa Martin, and Brookstone Media Specialist Erin Trotter, along with a dedicated group of volunteers. You could find Melissa and Whitney along with a superset of volunteers working hard at fulfilling wish lists and making sure that the annual Grand Event ran smoothly.

With your generosity, we were able to provide over 410 books to Fox Elementary ensuring that every student at Fox received a new book for Christmas. The BPA gifted over \$2,500 in books to fulfill the remaining books on our teachers' wish lists, and the BPA Book Fair made a record of \$31,000 in sales. The BPA will receive 50% of those sales back in scholastic dollars for classroom purchases for Preschool, Lower School, and Intermediate School teachers. What an amazing week!





## More BPA Fall Photos



Scan here for more pictures of Brookstone events taken throughout the year!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE**

# ***BPA SPRING EVENTS***

## ***JANUARY***

***January 10 - Brookstone Voices at River  
Dragons Game***

***January 21–BPA Open Meeting***

## ***FEBRUARY***

***February 7–Sweetheart Dance***

## ***MARCH***

***March 7–9–Upper School Musical***

***March 20-23–Bidding for Brookstone***

## ***APRIL***

***April 17–Arts Alliance Mystery Dinner Theater***

***April 20-25–Spring Arts Festival***

***April 24 & 25–Market on the Quad***

***April 25–Blue & White Day & Country Fair***

## ***MAY***

***May 7–Teacher Appreciation Breakfast***