

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



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REFLECTIONS FROM THE COORDINATOR

Happy Spring PAT family!

The warmer weather and longer days provide great opportunities to get outside for some vitamin D and for littles to explore new environments and sensory experiences. For our littlest learners, a walk in the stroller outside presents new sounds, wind on their face, and new things to look at. For toddlers, walking outside helps reinforce their motor development as they navigate over less even terrain and learn to balance their bodies and strengthen new muscles. And for our 2's, an outdoor walk can be a scavenger hunt as they touch and notice new things, as well as a great opportunity to get some energy out in a healthy way! Getting outside is great for grownups' mental health as well. Research shows that 10 minutes of sun exposure first thing in the morning reaps both physical and mental health benefits.

We also know that in our world right now, a broad majority of parents are experiencing isolation, loneliness, and burnout. [Surveys](#) show that 66% of parents frequently feel isolated and lonely, and 79% would value a way to connect with other parents outside of work and home. It was equipped with this knowledge that Parent Educator Claudia Burford planned meet-ups at the park last month. No agenda, no fancy games, just time and space for families to meet and connect with other families. And the beautiful part was that families did indeed come. Social media, especially, can make us feel like we are the only ones experiencing this feeling of loneliness, and it can feel hard to be the first one to reach out and initiate interactions or make plans. We want to remind you that you are indeed not alone, and there are other parents out there who are yearning for that connection too! We want to keep providing opportunities that support these connections because we know the positive impact they have on not only parents' well-being but also on our children as well.

Two ways you can help us this month include checking out our Worm Walk, park meet-ups, and playgroups, and finding a place in your month to step out and connect with other families. And second, complete our Annual Parent Satisfaction Survey and share your input on ways we can continue to create relevant, meaningful experiences for families in our community. We read every response and use them to inform our planning for the upcoming year. You can find details about our April activities in this newsletter and on our website, and you can complete the survey [HERE](#).

As always, we wish you well!

Michelle Kelly

Program Coordinator

Blue Valley Parents as Teachers



MAY PLAYGROUPS



BV PAT is excited to welcome families to our playroom. In-person playgroups offer numerous benefits, including opportunities to connect with other families, introducing new activities for children to explore, and helping children learn to interact with one another.

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 2-4 week sessions. In MAY, families have the opportunity to sign up for one group that meets weekly at the same time for 2 weeks. You can choose to sign up for a group with children that are similar in age to your child (Baby Play, 1-Year-Olds, or 2-Year-Olds), or you can choose our multiage group (1's and 2's) if you have more than one child or would like your child to be around children of all ages.

MAY PLAYGROUP SIGN-UP WILL BE EMAILED ON APRIL 21ST

Each group will be limited to 10-18 children.

- Only one adult per child may attend. A nanny or grandparent is welcome to bring your child in place of a parent if necessary.
- No siblings are allowed in the Baby Play, 1-Year-Old, or 2-Year-Old playgroups. Siblings under 36 months of age are allowed to attend the multiage playgroups, evening, and Saturday playgroups. Non-walking/crawling babies are an exception.
- All adults must show a valid state-issued photo ID or passport to enter any BV building. Please plan to bring your ID to playgroup each time you come, or you will not be allowed to attend.
- Strollers and car seats are not allowed in the playroom. Please plan to wear or carry your baby while in the playroom when not on the floor playing.
- If a session is full, please add your name to the waiting list. Waiting list families will receive priority registration for the next month.
- If you miss two sessions in a row, your spot will be given to the next family on the waiting list.
- Please stay home if you or your child is ill.



BABY PLAY

Tuesdays 9:15-10am:
5/5, 5/12

Thursdays 12:15-1pm:
5/7, 5/14

2-YEAR-OLDS

Tuesdays 10:15-11am:
5/5, 5/12

Wednesdays 9:15-10am:
5/6, 5/13

EVENING

Wednesday 5:30-6:15pm:
5/6

1-YEAR-OLDS

Wednesdays 10:15-11am:
5/6, 5/13

Thursdays 9:15-10am:
5/7, 5/14

1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

(For children 9 to 36 months of age &/or families with more than one child under 36 months)

Thursdays 10:15-11am:
5/7, 5/14

TOUCH A TRUCK

Saturday 9-11am:
5/2

NOTE

NO
Saturday Playgroup



ANNUAL PARENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

Every May, we hold a long planning meeting to reflect on the past year, review the positive feedback from our annual survey, and start preparing for the next year. You can help us get ready for this year's meeting by sharing your feedback and PAT experiences through the survey. Please complete the survey and tell us what you love and share your ideas for growth. Thank you!

[Survey link here](#)

WORM WALK



[Click here](#) to sign up for a fun spring event.
Our annual Worm Walk and Nature Play
Saturday, April 25th, from 10 - 11 am.



At the **Wilderness Science Center - 5001 W 163rd Terrace.**

Enjoy story time together, exploring the environment for worms in their habitats, and participating in a sensory-rich art-making experience.

This is most appropriate for children 20 months and up.

SAVE THE DATE



Our Annual Touch-a-Truck will be held Saturday, May 2nd, from 9-11 am in the Hilltop Learning Center parking lot (7700 W 143rd St). This is a drop-in event, so no registration is required. If you own a business that has a truck and would like to participate, please email [Mandi](#). We anticipate over 250 people, so it would be great visibility for your company.

Thank you for considering!



PTA NEWS

Hello families! On **Monday, April 13th at 6:00 PM**, the PTA is hosting its general membership meeting, and we would love to invite you to join us. Our guest speaker is Katie Haberberger, a former Blue Valley Elementary Teacher and Instructional Coach. She will be presenting on the “Reading Brain,” exploring how the brain learns to read and what that means for young learners. She will share fun and easy ways parents of early childhood students can support early literacy skills at home, along with insights into the science of reading and how instruction today differs from when we were in school.

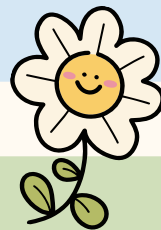
We will then launch into our official meeting at 6:30 to share ways you can get involved with us next year, and discuss our plans for the upcoming month (including Teacher Appreciation).

Pizza will be provided for dinner, so please sign up [HERE](#) so we know how many people to plan for!

This event is for PTA Members Only--if you are not yet a member and would like to join us, please sign up [HERE](#). As of **April 1st**, your \$30 membership allows you to participate in playgroups/events the rest of this school year and goes through June of 2027!

Executive Board Positions—we will have some open positions on our executive board as current members little, transition to Kindergarten! We will also have lots of one-time volunteer positions open as well! Consider if you'd like to join us in some capacity next year! Kristen Byers is happy to answer any questions about roles/commitment, etc., parentsasteachersvp@gmail.com

Getting involved with the PTA can be a great way to meet and connect with other parents with young children.



BORROW A NANA

Looking for intermittent childcare?

Date nights, long weekends, out of town/country trips, or a parent's day off!

One of our parent educators, Claudia Burford, is offering childcare beginning this summer and welcomes your call or text.

[Click Here](#) to see her “Borrow A Nana” flier for additional information.



PAT AT THE PARK - PART 2

What: Simple---just come and play, knowing that you may bump into old friends or meet new ones---no RSVP needed. An email will be sent to BV PAT families should the event be canceled due to weather concerns. We will **only** cancel in the event of heavy rain or thunderstorms.

A Parent Educator will be present to welcome your family to the park and answer any questions parents may have about BV PAT.

Who: All ages welcome, including friends and neighbors who may want to learn a bit more about Parents as Teachers.

When/Where:

9:00 - 11:30 am:

Tuesday, April 28th - [Meadowbrook Park - Shelter 4:](#)
9101 Nall Ave, Prairie Village, 66207

4:00 - 6:30 pm:

Tuesday, April 28th - [Meadowbrook Park - Shelter 4:](#)
9101 Nall Ave, Prairie Village, 66207



SUMMER CAMPS

SUMMER STARS CAMP AT WOLF SPRINGS ELEMENTARY

Early Childhood Teachers Christy Hill and Carrie Wright provide a developmentally appropriate summer enrichment program! Carrie and Christy both have their Master's in Early Childhood Special Education and have been teaching in the field for many years! The program will target preschool and kindergarten readiness skills with lots of summer fun!! *Summer School Stars* is for students ages 3-6. Activities will be literacy-based and supported by a variety of music, movement, motor, cognitive, language, and social opportunities. We've had a very successful summer program for many years, and we look forward to another great summer!!

Sign up for as many sessions as you want! Enrollment is limited!

LOCATION: Wolf Springs Elementary, 9300 178th, Overland Park, Kansas

Each session \$175 Days/time - Mon-Thurs 8:30 - 11:30 and/or 12:30-3:30

Session 1 - Morning-8:30-11:30 - Land Before Time (dinosaurs) - **June 29-July 2**

Session 2 - Afternoon-12:30-3:30 - Once Upon a Time(knights/princesses/dragons) - **June 29-July 2** **Session 3 -**

Morning-8:30-11:30 - Super Friends(superheroes) - **July 6-July 9**

Session 4 - Afternoon-12:30-3:30 - Blast Off(outerspace) - **July 6-July 9**

****There is an option to do both sessions each week and stay for lunch between. If you choose this would be an additional \$25 and you would send a lunch for your child.***

Please note enrollment will not be held until payment is received! Thank you! [CLICK](#)

[HERE](#) to register for sessions

Submit payment: Checks payable to Carrie Wright or Christy Hill, mail to: 14763 S.

Symphony Dr., Olathe, KS. 66062 **QUESTIONS CONTACT:** Carrie Wright -

cwright@bluevalleyk12.org or Christy Hill cmhill@bluevalleyk12.org