CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT:
Mrs. Prentis, ACP Primary

We are off to a great start to our school year in our new location! We welcomed several new students to our classroom. We have been learning our procedures and routines for the school and our classroom, and we practice every day. We have also been working hard learning our colors, shapes, numbers, alphabet and lots of social skills. Our classroom received some great new technology with our Promethean Board, and we use it for our social studies, numbers, handwriting, and lots of other activities. We also have been meeting and making new friends and learning their names in our general education classrooms.

We participated in Community Involvement Day with Skutt High School at Seymour-Smith Park earlier this month. We had a great time participating in several gross motor activities and fine motor activities with the help of our Occupational Therapist, Amanda, and our Physical Therapist, Emily. We also had a sack lunch and socialized with our new friends from Skutt. The weather was great and we had another successful day! We have been participating in Community Involvement Day for over 10 years.

Just a reminder: Parent-Teacher Conferences are coming up next week. Make sure to sign up for a time if you haven’t already. We hope you can make it out to see what amazing things your child is learning at school! There will be a reminder coming home soon. Also, be sure to check out all the fun activities our PTA has planned throughout the school year.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, October 24, 4:45 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 25, 1:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

If you have not scheduled a conference at Open House, please contact your child's teacher.
Fall Festival
Boyd Elementary

Wednesday, October 24, 2018
Starts @ 1:15 p.m.
Parade @ 3:35 p.m.

A fun filled afternoon of fall themed lessons including crafts, snacks, story time, singing, dancing, the monster mash and marching in a parade inside the building!

If students would like to wear costumes, please make sure that they are school appropriate. Costumes cannot be scary, have blood, or be gory. There will be time before the festival to change into costumes. Students are not to wear costumes to school.
Holiday Assistance Resources

Please call (402) 444-6666 for the most current holiday assistance information.
Each program has its own unique eligibility requirements. Please call to verify.

Thanksgiving

Open Door Mission Turkey N’ Fixins
Timberlake Outreach Center
2107 East Locust Street
Registration November 1-17, 9:30 am-5:00 pm on T – W – Th and 8:30 – 4 on F – S
Must bring: current photo ID, Social Security card (or medicare or birth certificate) for every member, and a piece of mail showing current address. One registration per household (address) Applicants will be able to choose their items for their Turkey n Fixin box from the Manna Food Pantry as well as supplement their income with free gently used clothing, shoes, toys, household items, toiletries, diapers and miscellaneous other items. Applicants must bring their own boxes or bags for their items.

Faith Works Pantry Place Turkey Dinner Giveaway
Faith-Westwood Church
4814 Oaks Lane
(402) 895-3394 x1012
Saturday, November 17
10:00 am until all bags are gone

Bellevue Christian Center Community Thanksgiving Dinner
1400 Harvell Dr
Bellevue, NE
(402) 291-0616
Wednesday, November 21, 5:30-8:30 pm
No reservations needed…Call for information about bus pick-up

Christmas

Operation Others
(531) 329-6003
Register by phone Saturday, November 3, 9:00 am-1:30 pm
Christmas food baskets for families

MUST CHOOSE EITHER SALVATION ARMY OR HEARTLAND – CANNOT DO BOTH
For either program you must apply in person with a photo ID, proof of income, a Social Security Card (or Birth Certificate or Passport) (no Copies) for each child and a current phone bill received within the last 30 days

Salvation Army Toyland or Adopt a Family Programs
Salvation Army Citadel Corps, 3738 Cuming Street
Location may be different depending upon zip code
(402) 898-7700
Registration on the following dates:
November 1, 12:00-3:00 pm and 4:00 – 7:00 PM
November 2, 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1:00 – 4:00 PM
November 3, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Holiday Assistance Resources

Christmas continued

Heartland Hope Mission Christmas in South O
2021 U Street
(402) 733-1904

Registration by legal guardian only on the following dates:
November 6, 6:30pm - 7:30 pm; November 8, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm; November 10, 9:00am-12:00 pm; November 13, 6:30pm - 7:30 pm; November 15, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm; November 17, 9:00am-12:00 pm; November 20, 6:30pm -7:30 pm; November 24, 9:00am-12:00 pm; November 27, 6:30pm -7:30 pm; November 29, 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Toys for children 0-15

Specific documents required to register—photo ID of parent/guardian, social security card, birth certificate, or passport for each child

Open Door Mission Project Santa

Registration is December 3rd through December 23rd at the Timberlake Outreach Center located on the Open Door Mission Campus (2107 East Locust). Project Santa serves children from birth to 18. To register, a parent or guardian must bring photo ID, proof of current address, and SS card for each child being registered. (Each child can only be registered one time for this program) Only one adult per household needs to register. For your convenience, (due to limited space), please do not bring children. Applicants will choose a date and time to shop in the Toy and Joy Shop before Christmas.

Open Door Mission Holiday Meals

2705 N. 20th Street
Meals open to the public
Christmas Eve Brunch-10:00 am New Years Eve Brunch-10:00 am
Christmas Day Banquet-4:00 pm New Years Eve Banquet-4:00 pm
New Years Day Banquet-4:00 pm

Attendance Matters!

June --- Facts about School Attendance

When 90% Does Not Earn An “A”

95%-100% Not Chronic (Satisfactory Attendance)—Missing <5% (9 days) or less of school in an academic year.

91%-95% At-Risk Attendance—Missing 5% - <10% (10 -17 days) of school in an academic year.

90%-81% Chronic Absence—Missing 10% -<20% (18 days) or more of school in an academic year.

80% or less Severe Chronic Absence—Missing >20% (36 days) or more of school in an academic year.

80% or less Habitually Chronic Absence- Missing 20% (36 days) or more of school, year after year

July --- Facts about School Attendance

Many of our youngest students miss 10% of the school year—about 18 days a year or two days a month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists more than a year.

Aug. --- Establishing Good Attendance Habits

Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.
Introduce your child to his/her teachers and classmates before school starts to help his/her transition.
Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Starting in the early grades, the number of students missing 10 percent of school can reach remarkably high levels. Early absences can rob students of the time they need to develop literacy skills.
Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night’s sleep.
Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.
Sept. —Scheduling Appointments and Vacations
Remember that there are about 180 school days out of 365 total days in the year. Families are encouraged to take
vacations during the ten weeks of summer vacation, two weeks near the holidays, or over the week break in
the spring.
Schedule appointments after school hours or on the weekend. If you need to schedule an appointment during
school hours, consult the school calendar to choose a day when students have the day off.

Oct. ——Getting to School On Time Every Day
Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school themselves. Start building this habit early they
learn right away that going to school on time every school day is important.
Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
If missing school is unavoidable, talk to your children’s teacher in advance to create a plan for making up missed
work. But remember, a homework packet cannot make up for the interaction and learning that goes on in the
classroom.

Nov. —— Attendance During the Holiday Season
Every year, school absences spike in the weeks before and after winter break, as families squeeze a few more days
of vacation out of the holiday season. Let’s break that cycle. Make sure your child is in school every day.
Because the best gift you can give your child is a good education.
We recognize that holidays are an important time for reconnecting with families far away and exposing your
children to your home and language, whether you grew up in another part of the United States or a different
country. The cost of travel, including plane tickets, can influence when you decide to travel. But keep in mind
the costs to your children’s education if they miss too much school.

Dec.— Attendance During Inclement Weather
Dress your child warmly for the cold weather and make sure they’ve got hats, gloves and boots.
It’s important to find a way to get your child to school even when the weather is bad. If you’re having trouble
getting to school, reach out to other families, or call the school to explore other options.
Jan. --- When Is My Child Too Sick to Attend School?
Keep your child home if he or she has a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.
Keep your child home if he or she is throwing up or have diarrhea.
Keep your child home if he or she has pink and crusty eyes.
Don’t let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache
can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
Talk to your doctor or school nurse about when a sick child should come to school. Most health care providers
allow a child to attend with a cold, but not with a fever.

Feb. —— Attendance During Flu & Cold Season
Encourage hand washing, and using hand sanitizer, particularly in winter months.
Children will get coughs and colds during the winter, but it does not mean that they need to miss school.
Collaborate with the school nurse if your child needs medication or cough drops to be comfortable during the
day. Remember that a doctor’s order or prescription is required to give a student any medicine or even cough
drops.

March - Healthy Habits
Stress the importance of eating a good breakfast every morning and getting at least 9-11 hours of sleep at night.
Minimize screen time for your child.
Encourage physical activity for your child.
Encourage your child to read by taking them to the library and by reading to them.

April --- Finish the year strong
Just a few days missed here and there, even if they’re excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning
time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school.
Too many absent students can affect the whole classroom, creating commotion and slowing down instruction.
Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and a lost opportunity to learn.

May --- Balancing School and Activities
Remember that school should take priority over extra-curricular activities. While participation in outside
activities is encouraged, be mindful that students may require guidance with time management and
balancing school and their chosen activity.

Resources
attendanceworks.org   United Way of the midlands
Every Day Counts-A Manual for Increasing School Attendance 2014
Goals-center.org
SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE 2019-20 SCHOOL YEAR

The Omaha Public School’s Student Assignment Plan for elementary and middle school students called the Partner Plan (grades K-8) consists of eight (8) elementary partner zones and four (4) middle school partner zones within the district. Your residential address and corresponding neighborhood school determine your partner zone. A student’s residence and distance to school determines transportation eligibility. If you have had a change of address, please contact your child’s school immediately as this could impact your Partner Zone and transportation eligibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 1</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 2</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 3</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belvedere PK-5</td>
<td>Boyd PK-5</td>
<td>Benson West K-5</td>
<td>Adams K-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence K-5</td>
<td>Lothrop PK-4</td>
<td>Central Park PK-5</td>
<td>Druid Hill PK-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fullerton PK-4</td>
<td>Miller Park PK-5</td>
<td>Dodge PK-5</td>
<td>Fontenelle PK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Masters K-5</td>
<td>Minne Lusa PK-5</td>
<td>Hartman PK-5</td>
<td>King PK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Wind K-5</td>
<td>Pinewood PK-5</td>
<td>Mount View PK-5</td>
<td>Skinner PK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saddlebrook PK-5</td>
<td>Ponca K-5</td>
<td>Rose Hill K-5</td>
<td>Picotte PK-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wakonda PK-5</td>
<td>Sherman PK-5</td>
<td>Western Hills K-6</td>
<td>Standing Bear PK-4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Springville K-5</td>
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<td>Sunny Slope PK-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Wilson Focus will continue as a District wide Specialty School. Families may apply to Wilson Focus starting in grade three. Applications available through the website at wilsonfocus.ops.org or by calling the school at 402-733-1785.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 5</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 6</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 7</th>
<th>Elementary Partner Zone 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belle Ryan PK-6</td>
<td>Conestoga PK-6</td>
<td>Ashland Park/Robbins PK-6</td>
<td>Bancroft PK-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catlin K-5</td>
<td>Edison PK-5</td>
<td>Beals PK-6</td>
<td>Castellar PK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dundee K-6</td>
<td>Franklin PK-6</td>
<td>Crestridge K-5</td>
<td>Chandler View PK-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Club PK-5</td>
<td>Harrison PK-6</td>
<td>Gateway PK-6</td>
<td>Columbian PK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson PK-6</td>
<td>Joslyn PK-5</td>
<td>Highland PK-6</td>
<td>Gilder K-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty PK-6</td>
<td>Kellom PK-6</td>
<td>Indian Hill PK-6</td>
<td>Gomez Heritage PK-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walnut Hill PK-6</td>
<td>Kennedy PK-5</td>
<td>Jefferson K-6</td>
<td>Pawnee PK-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington PK-6</td>
<td>New School K-6 (32nd St &amp; Burt St)</td>
<td>Oak Valley PK-5</td>
<td>Spring Lake PK-4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Middle School Partner Zones

Zone 1: Davis (6-8), Hale (6-8), King Science* (5-8), McMillan (6-8)
Zone 2: Alice Buffett (5-8), King Science* (5-8), Monroe (6-8), Morton (6-8)
Zone 3: Beveridge^ (6-8), King Science* (5-8), Lewis & Clark (6-8), Norris (6-8)
Zone 4: Beveridge^ (6-8), Bryan (7-8), King Science* (5-8), Marrs (5-8)

*King Science is a district magnet school and is therefore a partner school in each zone; however, students who live in the King Science neighborhood are in partner Zone 2 and only eligible for transportation to schools in that zone.

^Beveridge is a shared partner school in zones 3 & 4; however, students who live in the Beveridge neighborhood are in partner zone 3 and are only eligible for transportation to schools in that zone.
January, 2019, starts the annual school choice application process for the 2019-20 school year. Students enrolled in a transition grade (last grade at the current school), will receive a school choice application.

Visit: sap.ops.org to determine your Partner Zone and transportation eligibility.

SCHOOL CHOICE UNDER THE PARTNER PLAN

Families may apply for their child to attend any OPS school. Approval of a request depends on the availability of space at the student's grade level in the requested school and these priorities:

- Neighborhood school (guaranteed placement).
- Siblings residing within the Partner Zone are selected first, followed by siblings residing outside the Partner Zone (not eligible for transportation).
- Students residing in the Partner Zone. OPS remains committed to diversity in our schools. Applications are prioritized within the Partner Zone between schools with significantly different neighborhood characteristics.
- Students residing outside the Partner Zone (not eligible for transportation). Applications are prioritized for any remaining space between schools with significantly different neighborhood characteristics.

TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY (The school choice application must be received by January 29, 2019)

- Students are eligible for transportation IF they attend their neighborhood school and reside more than 1.0 mile from their elementary school or more than 1.5 miles from their middle school.
- Students are eligible for transportation IF they attend one of their Partner Zone schools and reside more than 1.0 mile from the elementary school or 1.5 miles from the middle school.
- Students are NOT eligible for transportation IF they attend any school outside of their Partner Zone.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INFORMATION

If your child is currently enrolled in an early childhood program and will be age-eligible for kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year, she/he will be enrolled at the neighborhood school. If you would like to be considered for placement at a non-neighborhood school, you must complete the school choice application that will be provided by your child’s current school.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UPS will be held in January, 2019. Please attend Round-Up at your neighborhood school based on your residential address. School Choice Applications will be available at Round-Up and throughout the month of January for families who wish to request a non-neighborhood school(s). Round-Up dates will be posted on the OPS Web page or check the date with your neighborhood school.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT LETTERS will be mailed in December to families of students currently in the last grade level of their school. The purpose of the letter is to provide information about middle schools and their respective Open House dates.

If you have questions about the Omaha Public Schools Partner Plan or the School Choice process, please contact the Student Placement Office at (531) 299-0302.