

THE

# Scratching Post

01/13/23

Auburn Elementary – 810 N Commercial St – Auburn, KS 66402

(785) 339-4400 [www.usd437.net](http://www.usd437.net)

Melinda Patterson, Principal

Dear Auburn Families,

Happy New Year! It is so good to be getting back into the swing of things with your students. There are a lot of smiles and hugs from students who are glad to be back as well!

I need to ask for help from those of you who drop off students in the carpool lane in the morning. Beginning on Tuesday, January 17, I would like you to pull up as far as you can before dropping off your student. I will put a cone out so you know where to pull up to. Hopefully, this will make the busiest times of the carpool lane move a little smoother. Right now, people are dropping off under the canopy and only one student at a time can get out of the car and it holds up the line.

In addition, I have seen times when a car pulls up to the left of the carpool lane and drops students off in the crosswalk and the students then have to walk across oncoming traffic. Please stay in the carpool lane and do not cut. This is a huge safety concern. We want all students to arrive safely to school.

I appreciate you all for helping me out with this request!

Sincerely,  
Melinda A. Patterson, Principal  
Auburn Elementary



## LIBRARY NEWS

These winter months create a great time to explore people who have made a positive difference in society. Martin Luther King Day is celebrated January 16<sup>th</sup> and students at Auburn will be exploring human right activists who were a lot like Martin Luther King in their library. A few we will explore is: Abraham Lincoln, Cesar Chaves, Rosa Parks, and **Mahatma Gandhi**. These activists' stories can be found in the non-fiction section of any library. They are called Biographies and they have a special call number on the spine of the book that makes it easy to locate. Encourage your child to look for the special call number B on the spine so they can learn about great people who made the world a better place to live.

Happy Reading

Rachel Dial

Librarian

Auburn Elementary School



# WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY!

Each of our grade levels partner with one of our wonderful community businesses. There have been some great things going on throughout the first semester!

**Preschool:** Preschool has taken field trips to the library, fire station, post office and bakery. They have had police officers with a canine partner visit their class and have provided both the fire-fighters and Auburn Police Department with painted pictures.

**Kindergarten:** Kindergarten helps keep the floor free of black marks and they had the Auburn Fire Department out to discuss fire safety. They also created holiday decorations for the fire station.

**1st grade:** First grade partners with the Homestead of Auburn and they sent them hand-made decorations. They also collected gloves and mittens for the Rescue Mission. First grade also helps keep the courtyard clean.

**2nd grade:** 2nd grade collaborated with J&W Construction to create Christmas cards to send to their customers. Billie Baker (owner of J&W) recently told me how much she loves this connection to the school!

**3rd grade:** 3rd grade has created and delivered seasonal decorations for Gambino's. (As a frequent Gambino's customer, I love seeing these sweet decorations when I pick up our pizzas!) They also take turns picking out and sending the link for the Friday song each week.

**4th grade:** 4th grade is partnering with Clinks. They have made decorations for Clinks and have talked with Stacy Clinkenbeard (owner) about coming out to talk to their grade-level about opening and running a business. They also help with the pledge and morning announcements.

**5th grade:** 5th grade invited Dr. Karma Loughney to the school right before winter break to discuss the Auburn Vet Clinic. The kids LOVED the presentation. 5th grade also has plans to gather collections for the Helping Hands Humane Shelter.

**6th grade:** 6th grade is working hard to keep our community informed of the happenings of Auburn Elementary by taking pictures and creating slides that are put on the Auburn Facebook page as well as our school website. 6th grade has also picked up trash at both city parks as well as the streets around them. Later this year, 6th grade plans to clean up the Auburn Cemetery in partnership with the Auburn Lions Club.

## In Other Community News:

\*STUCO and staff adopted 13 families for Christmas and were able to provide these families with gifts and resources to help them enjoy the holiday season.

\*STUCO also organized our Giving Tree and we were able to donate boxes and boxes worth of non-perishable goods to those in need.

\*We have exceeded our goal of collecting 500 pounds of plastic. The plastic collected will be made into a park bench for the Auburn Cemetery. We will continue collecting plastic to provide another bench somewhere in the community. Thank you to the Auburn Lions Club for working on this project with us!

\*In addition to these service projects, I know several students are volunteering their time to help with meaningful work activities: from helping the custodians with their workloads, to helping kindergartners zip their coats before recess, there are lots of good things happening here at Auburn Elementary. Thank you all so much!

## Notes from the Nurse

Cold and flu season is upon us so a few reminders to keep ourselves healthy.

- ☑ Good hand hygiene is crucial. Use soap and water when available before and after eating, after using the bathroom, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water isn't available use hand sanitizer.
- ☑ Stay hydrated. Drinking plenty of water daily can help keep you healthy.
- ☑ Eat a well-balanced diet and supplement with a multi-vitamin if necessary.
- ☑ Make sure to cover your cough or sneeze.

Please make sure each of your students has these things daily at school

- ☑ Coat, hat and gloves for recess.
- ☑ Water bottle (drinking fountains are open but water bottles are optimal)
- ☑ If lips are chapped send ChapStick as I do not have ChapStick in the health room.
- ☑ If skin is dry send lotion.
- ☑ Cough drops (must be accompanied with district request for medication administration form) or mints (isn't required to be kept in the health room and doesn't need administration form filled out) to soothe coughing and sore throats.

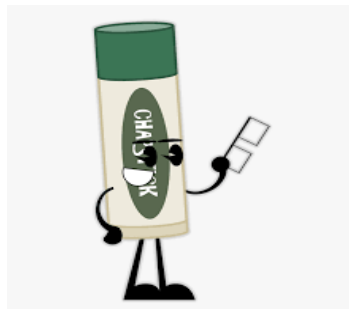
If your child is ill, please call and report symptoms to the office by 9am. I look at the daily absences to track illness that could be passing throughout the school.

If your child has a fever 100.4 or greater, they will be sent home and will need to remain home until 24 hours fever free without fever reducing medication.

If your child vomits or has diarrhea, they will be sent home and will need to remain home until 24 hours without a vomiting or diarrhea episode.

Any medication including Tylenol or Ibuprofen will have to be sent specifically for your student from home with the request for medication administration form filled out. This form can be found on the district website main page. On the right-hand side under QUICK LINKS tab, select HEALTH INFORMATION, scroll down to the middle of the page under MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS, and you will find the REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION link. Fill out that form and turn it in to the health room with medication.

Rachel Seitz  
School Nurse  
785-339-4422



## Attendance and Transportation

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit early so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and beyond.

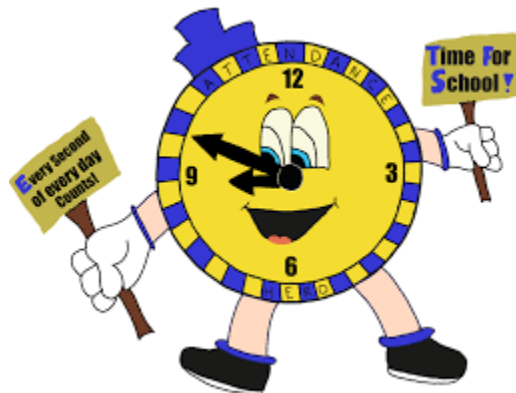
Good attendance has a positive connection with academic skills, social skills, and social emotional learning. Missing as few as two days per month can have a profound negative impact on achievement and a student's self-esteem. Help your student understand the importance of good attendance.

Good attendance is an important part of our ROAR expectations. AE has set our goal for a student absence to be four days or less by semester break. We will not include days required for quarantine. If your student is struggling with wanting to attend school, please contact the teacher, Ms. Boyd or Ms. Golden to discuss ways that the school can support your student.

If your student(s) are going to be absent or late to school, you need to call the front office by **9:00AM**. You can also email our front office secretaries. This way we can document you student(s) absence or late arrival to school. This will also allow our lunch room staff to know if they need to prepare a lunch for your student(s).

If your student(s) will be having a change in transportation for the day, please contact the front office staff by **3:00PM**. If the school is having an **EARLY RELEASE DAY**, please call the office by **2:00PM**. This way the secretaries will have enough time to deliver the message to your student(s).

Auburn Elementary Phone Number 785-339-4400  
Melodee Walder (Head Secretary) [waldemel@usd437.net](mailto:waldemel@usd437.net)  
Robin Long (Assistant Secretary) [longrob@usd437.net](mailto:longrob@usd437.net)





Get involved with the Auburn Elementary PTO! There are many ways to be involved and does not require a huge time commitment. Come to a meeting and see what the PTO is all about!

All meetings are in the school library at 6:30 pm.

February 28, 2023

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

The PTO is excited for what we have accomplished so far this year and the plans that we have!

- \*\*Held the Welcome Back Cookout at the beginning of the year
- \*\*Provided dinner for AE Staff during teacher conferences
- \*\*Helped provide snacks for various departments
- \*\*Helping to facilitate the Watch Dogs program
- \*\*Providing food for Family Fun Night
- \*\*Held a successful school wide fundraiser
- \*\*Purchased playground balls and bases for each grade

Auburn Elementary PTO



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### January

16 NO SCHOOL – MLK Jr. Holiday  
23 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spelling Bee  
2pm – 3:30pm  
25 EARLY RELEASE – 3pm  
27 WRHS Orchestra Tour TBD

### February

8 EARLY RELEASE – 3pm  
14 Valentines Class Parties  
2:45pm – 3:30pm  
15 Parent Teacher Conferences  
4pm – 8pm  
16 Parent Teacher Conferences  
8am – 8pm  
17 NO SCHOOL  
20 NO SCHOOL – Staff Work Day  
28 PTO Meeting  
6:30pm – 7:30pm

### March

6 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Chorus Concert  
6:15pm – 7:30pm  
7 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus Concert  
6:15pm – 7:30pm  
9 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Orchestra  
Concert 7pm – 8pm  
10 NO SCHOOL – Staff Work Day  
13 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK  
14 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK  
15 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK  
16 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK  
17 NO SCHOOL – SPRING BREAK  
21 PICTURE DAY 9am – 3pm  
22 EARLY RELEASE – 3pm



Don't forget to like us on Facebook. Make sure you look for the Auburn Elementary Icon to "Like" the school. Stay informed of activities and events happening throughout the school year.

## NEW/REPLACEMENT BUS CARDS

Complete the [New or Replacement Student Bus Cards Form](#) to order a new or replacement bus card. After the first new or replacement card requested, a fee may apply.

**\*Kindergarten students do not need to order their first card.**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxZlJYhexiU9e6Yx3pstmzfAGPMiyQljny6YudLPrE1wKBWA/viewform>

In order to improve access and efficiency, The Scratching Post will be posted to our school website and emailed through campus portal for future viewing (<https://usd437.net/schools/auburn/>).

## LUNCH PRICES

Guest Breakfast: \$1.65  
Guest Lunch: \$3.65  
Extra Milk: \$0.50

**To purchase a school lunch for yourself, you will need to contact the front office by 9:30am. Please bring exact currency for a guest lunch.**

## HELPFUL LINKS

### Calendar

<https://usd437.net/calendars/auburn.html>

### Breakfast and Lunch Menu

<https://www.schoolcafe.com/auburnwashburnusd437/menus>

## TRANSPORTATION REMINDERS:

Items **not** allowed on the bus:

- Balloons of any kind
- Large stuffed toys
- Skateboards
- Glass containers
- Animals, bugs, snakes
- Firearms, explosives, or other dangerous objects
- Skates of any kinds must be inside a bag and only then can they be transported on the bus.

**Students are not allowed to ride home with other students.**