

# PANTHER PRIDE

School Principals: Shawna Coplen, Lynn Cragg

<http://osb.k12.ok.us/>

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter** (Elem. & MS) & **1. Semester** (HS)

## Honor Roll & Students of the Quarter



### “A” Honor Roll

#### Elementary (3-5 Gr.)

**1. Qtr. & 2. Qtr.**

Payton Crum  
Noah Dougan

#### Middle School (6-8 Gr.)

**1. Qtr.** Julio Valdez  
**2. Qtr.,** Ocie Webster

#### High School (S1)

Joey Owens  
Kaylee Ragon  
Ariana Richardson  
Tai' Yauri Thomas  
Richelle Zampella

### “B” Honor Roll

#### Elementary

**1. Qtr. &/or 2. Qtr.**

Dayton Baccus  
Treysen Brown  
Jaylee Burnside  
Julia Cisneros  
Gavin Day  
Xerek Hitchcock  
Hunter Kelley  
Blake Priddy  
Quanté Sellers  
Stephanie Story  
Alyn Walker

#### Middle School

**1. Qtr.**

Lorie Cox  
Skyler Moore  
Rayce Phillips  
Ocie Webster  
Katelynn Zampella

#### Middle School

**2. Qtr.**

Jerelyn Black  
Anthony Bloemer  
Skyler Moore  
Julio Valdez  
Katelynn Zampella

#### High School (S1)

Lydia Bradley  
Johnnie Davidson  
Audrey DeBrosky  
Morgan Hudson  
Nick Jackson-  
Morrison  
Malerie Levens  
Gianna Loep  
Jake Marsh  
Jillian Matthews  
Benjamin Middleton  
Thomas Raines

## Oklahoma School for the Blind

2018 - 2019, Issue 4

January 31, 2019

Editor: Maggie Mattox

### Special points of interest:

- Louis Braille
- Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma
- Homecoming
- FCCLA
- Scouts / Venture Crew
- Spirit Week
- Academic Team

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## Students of the 1. Qtr. & 2. Qtr.

### 1st Quarter

Elem. - Julia Cisneros  
MS - Kaylie Minter  
HS - Malerie Levens

### 2nd Quarter

Elem. - Stephanie Story  
MS - Lorie Cox  
HS - John Duong



# Social Services Department - News, Tips, etc.



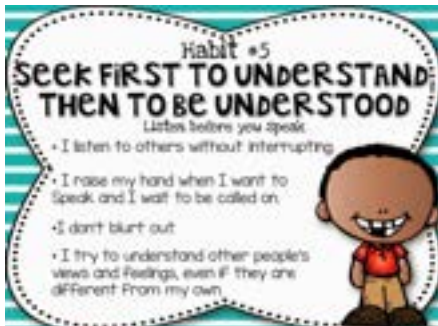
It's never too late to be caught being good....  
So keep up the good work students!!  
We are proud of you all!

## "Caught Being Good"

- ◆ Malerie Levens helped hanging the large Homecoming signs on the back wall of the gym.
- ◆ Thomas Raines helped clear out trash, sweep and move furniture in the gymnasium to get ready for Homecoming.
- ◆ Jacelynn Shields helped out in the cafeteria with other students.
- ◆ Mannon Moore helped a teacher solving a problem situation.
- ◆ Stephanie Story made the best of free time during her classes.
- ◆ Jaylee Burnside helped out a fellow student.
- ◆ Lydia Bradley helped Miracle find a book to read, then helped her read and increase her reading skill.
- ◆ Tyler Duong helped the little kids in the hall (even when not getting paid).
- ◆ John Duong helped the little kids navigate in the cafeteria.
- ◆ Shannon Winter protected little faces from obstacles in the hall. She put her hand in the way and warned one little to "use your cane".
- ◆ Johnnie Davidson made place at the lunch table for Ariana's wheelchair.
- ◆ Jacelynn Shields read to Mrs. Young Mock. Her reading skills are growing rapidly

Sylvia Sterling,  
Social Services Dept.

## Phrase of the Month for February "Seek First to Understand, ..."



We need to know how to listen. It is the **most important** communication skill of all.

Less than 10% is contained in the words we use. The rest comes from body language and the tone and feeling reflected in our voice.

Try to go **one whole hour** without talking even once.

Instead, just watch the people around you and listen to what they are saying.

**Good luck!**

Think of someone in your life who you think is a good listener. Your grandma? Your Dad? Your best friend? What do they do that makes them a good listener?

The next time one of your friends is sad, notice the way he or she hold their body.



Tell them you know they are sad and you want to help.

### **SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND**

Because you so often listen autobiographically, you tend to respond in one of four ways:

**Evaluating:** You judge and then either agree or disagree.

**Probing:** You ask questions from your own frame of reference.

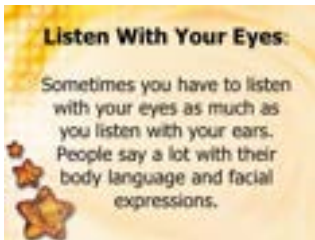
**Advising:** You give counsel, advice, and solutions to problems.

**Interpreting:** You analyze others' motives and behaviors based on your own experiences.

# Social Services Department - Parent Corner

## Habit 5 - Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood

We need to know how to listen. It is the **most important** communication skill of all.



Less than 10% is contained in the words we use.

The rest comes from body language and the tone and feeling reflected in our voice.

What a great blessing it would be if we could teach our kids how to listen while they're young!

If you're like most people, you probably seek first to be understood; you want to get your point across. And in doing so, you may ignore the other person completely, pretend that you're listening, selectively hear only certain parts of the conversation or attentively focus on only the words being said, but miss the meaning entirely.

So why does this happen? Because most people listen with the intent to reply, not to understand. You listen to yourself as you prepare in your mind what you are going to say, the questions you are going to ask, etc.

You filter everything you hear through your life experiences, your frame of reference.

You check what you hear against your autobiography and see how it measures up.

And consequently, you decide prematurely what the other person means before he/she finishes communicating.

Does any of this sound familiar?



Sylvia Sterling

## Annual Abstinence Tea



The **2019 Spring Abstinence Tea** is coming up for our 7th

grade girls or any new girl/s that are interested in attending this event.

The event will be at the First Baptist Church in Muskogee on **March 14, 2019 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Permission slips are being sent out as we speak and will need to be completed by the parent/guardian and be

returned to Mrs. Sterling prior to the event, for a student to be able to participate.

Thanks for your time.

Sylvia Sterling

## Ask a Senior

By Thomas Raines



For this edition's "Ask a Senior" Mrs. Daniels had two interesting questions for the Senior students: "What are you most

afraid of and/or what skill would you like to learn most and why?"

The answers provided were interesting to say the least:

- ◆ Jake Marsh would like to learn more workplace and job seeking experience.

- ◆ Tai Thomas wants to learn how to cook other than in the microwave.
- ◆ Thomas Raines wants to learn how to cook.
- ◆ Trinity Lewis would like to get better at Braille.

## Louis Braille

Louis Braille's birthday was January 4, 2019 and the Oklahoma School for the Blind has a display at the Muskogee Public Library.



If Louis Braille lived, he would be 210 years old now.

During his lifetime he was determined to come up with a system of dots whereby blind and visually impaired individuals would be able to write and read.

He did not stop until he invented "Braille", a system of six dots in a cell used with a combinations of characters, symbols, numbers, and letters to create letters, words, sentences, and paragraphs.

This method has allowed blind and visually impaired Individuals to become more independent in everyday life situations.

We want to thank Susan Jackman for putting up such a nice display at the Muskogee Public Library in recognition of Louis Braille and Braille Literacy.

Ruby Barker,  
Chairman of the  
Braille Committee

## Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma - Interactive Theater at OSB

By Tai Thomas



On January 10th, the **Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma**, sponsored by Devon Energy, performed an interactive play about Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "**Oklahoma**".

They talked about how Oklahoma was divided up into two territories: Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory.

The panhandle was called "**No Man's Land**".

It was also mentioned, if people wanted to get out and participate in activities, their means of transportation was a surry. A surry was a carriage drawn by a team of horses.

One of the biggest social events they had, was a Box Social. The Box Social was a fundraising event, where people would bring food and create a basket with it.

People had to bid for the basket and the highest bidder, who won the basket, also won a meal with the prettiest lady.

In the play, one of the characters was trying to persuade/serenade one of the ladies to go to the Box Social with him.

They ended the play by having everyone sing the Oklahoma song.

It was fun for all.

## OSB Book Club

by Jake Marsh

Put your reading glasses on!

On **Wed., Feb. 6 at 5:45 pm**, OSB's book club will be meeting in the library for

snacks and discussion about the book for February.

If you have any suggestions, please see Mrs. Jackman, Ms. Goins, or Richelle Zampella.

**Keep reading!**



# 2018-2019 OSB Homecoming

By Tai Thomas

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 OSB held its annual Homecoming ceremonies.

Six lovely ladies represented the Homecoming Court in which three Seniors were candidates for Queen.

**Freshmen attendant:**

**Shannon Winter** escorted by John Duong

**Sophomore attendant:**

**Morgan Hudson** escorted by William Winston

**Junior attendant:**

**Emma Saunders** escorted by Nathan England

The **senior attendants / queen candidates** were:

**Malerie Levens** escorted by Dee Willis, **Ariana Richardson** escorted by Preston Fenton, and **Tai Thomas** escorted by Austin Wade.

## FCCLA Update

by Richelle Zampella

Christmas may be over, but the spirit of giving is still in the air around OSB.

Before Christmas break, FCCLA had a dinner and holiday movie night to catch up and share in the joy of the holidays.

The group is already plotting endeavors for the new year:

Flower girl and crown bearer were Hayden Bruzzini and Braylen Fuller, who were escorted by last year's Queen, Trinity Lewis.

All of the ladies were dressed to the nines in their beautiful formal gowns and Mr. Braylen Fuller looked extra handsome in his three-piece suit.

With much excitement,

**Ariana Richardson**

was crowned **2018-2019 homecoming queen.**

After the ceremony, we switched gears with a few wrestling matches.

The duel was between OSB and Okmulgee, to which the cheerleaders brought encouragement and spirit.



The wrestlers who competed were: Tyler and John Duong, Kentrell Wallace, Nathan England, Dee Willis, and Allen Alender. Tai Thomas and Preston Fenton received forfeits, but John ended the night with a win.

It was an awesome night for the panthers, and the wrestlers are looking forward to their upcoming duels.



- ◆ With Valentine's Day approaching, they are making valentines for the veterans at the VA in Muskogee and collecting items such as toothbrushes and sugar-free candy to donate.
- ◆ Kaylee Ragon will be taking her book "Izzy Goes to Camp" to compete in the Children's Literature STAR

Event at regional level on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

- ◆ They have plans to donate blankets to several local entities according to where need is highest.

Stay posted for their updates and progress!

# OSB Scouts Update

By Thomas Raines

The OSB Cub Scouts are going to experience some interesting things in the near future.

During the month of February both the Scouts and Venture Crew will be travelling to Welling's Camp Darby for Merit Badge Fair weekend.

This event will help grow skills, such as outdoor sports, Engineering, Art, Archaeology, Law, Robotics, Cooking and Finger-painting.

Girls are now being accepted into Troops.



Scouts through Ventures will also be collecting canned and nonperishable food items until **February 25, 2019.**

The donations should be placed into the boxes located at the OSB Front Lobby, West Lobby and/or East Lobby.

OSB Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venture Crew are participating in **"Scouting for Food"**

to support the Indian Nations Boy Scouts and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in collecting nonperishable goods **throughout the month of February 2019.**

**Donation Boxes** are located at the Front Lobby, East Lobby, West Lobby and A2 Dorm

Barbara Collins, sponsor

# WE HAVE SPIRIT, YES WE DO!

By Trinity Lewis

This year the students were excited to support their teams going to SCASB by having a **SPRIT WEEK!**

Everyone dressed up and had a good time supporting the Jazz Band, Cheerleaders, and Wrestlers.

**Tuesday** was Pajama Day and everyone wore their most comfy pajamas and house shoes to class.



Malerie L.

because they always have crazy hair and others found creative ways to use hair bows and color.



Dayton B.

**Thursday** was School Spirit Day and everyone wore their favorite OSB shirt dressed in Blue and White.

It was a fun week full of spirit and encouragement for our teams traveling to SCASB.

**Go Panthers!**



Ms. Tonya

**Staff showing spirit...**



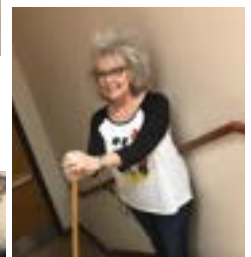
Jaylee B.

**Wednesday** was Crazy Hair Day. Some students didn't have to do anything special

Please watch for our **SCASB update** in our **next edition!**



Mrs. Leatherman



Ms. Lisa

## Smarticle Particles

by Jake Marsh



On January 12, 2019 OSB's Academic Team competed in OSSAA Area competition.

They competed at Kremlin-Hillsdale high school near Enid, OK.

In their first game they played against - and sadly lost to - Pond Creek-Hunter moving them to the consolation bracket.

The second game they played was against Pittsburg and they won 210 to 60.

The last game of the season they played against Kremlin-

Hillsdale and lost against them, ending their season.



The Academic Team would like to thank Mrs. Barrett for traveling with them this year and all who participated in making this season possible.

## Question of the Month - New Year, New Opportunities

by Richelle Zampella & Jake Marsh



For the January question of the month, we asked OSB if they had any new year's resolutions they were willing to share.

Here's what some students had to say:

- ◆ Priscilla Diaz said "get good grades."
- ◆ William Winston said he would like to "go to the NBA."
- ◆ John Duong said for 2019, he wants to "make life better and motivate other people to strive for more."
- ◆ Ariana Richardson said that this year, she wants to

"speak up and advocate [for herself] more."

OSB wants to make 2019 a great new year, let's keep these resolutions up.



## Think Win Win

By Newsletter Team

The January motivational phrase of the month was "**Think Win Win**".

Franklin Covey says that a person or organization that approaches conflicts with a win-win attitude possesses three vital character traits:

**1. Integrity:** sticking with your true feelings, values, and commitments.

**2. Maturity:** expressing your ideas and feelings with courage and consideration for the ideas and feelings of others.

**3. Abundance Mentality:** believing there is plenty for everyone.

Win-win sees life as a cooperative arena, not a competitive one.

Win-win is a frame of mind and heart that constantly seeks mutual benefit in all human interactions.

Win-win means agreements or solutions are mutually beneficial and satisfying. We both get to eat the pie, and it tastes pretty darn good!

# Recreation Activities by Belinda Thomas

## 8 Jan 2019 - Homecoming



The Rec closed this night due to the epic wrestling matches that were held in the gym!!!

The night began with our Panther Court. Regal ladies dressed in riches, and escorted by a proud wrestling warrior. **All Hail Queen Arianna Richardson!!!!!!!!!!**, who was escorted by Preston Fenton. The other beautiful ladies of the court were: Malerie Levens escorted by DePoris "Dee" Willis, Tai'Yauri Thomas escorted by Austin Wade, Emma Saunders escorted by Nathan England, Shannon Winter escorted by John Duong, and Morgan Hudson escorted by William Winston. **All Hail OSB's lovely Homecoming Ladies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



### Now, TO BATTLE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our brave panther warriors fought against the vicious Okmulgee fighters. They growled, they roared, they fought with teeth and claws. Our panther warriors were very brave and strong, and demonstrated much endurance and stamina!

**GOOD JOB PANTHERS!!!!!!**

## 9 Jan 2019 - Sorority Thank You Letter Craft Night



Each year, our students receive a plethora of gifts from local Sororities and organizations. It is our students' jobs to write letters back stating their thanks and appreciation for each gift.

All the students have great respect for these sororities and organizations that love and donate to OSB, and will forever gift our LOVE to them!

Thank you all again for your time.

## 15 Jan 2019 - Goalball with Ms. Thomas/Open Rec for Rest of School



The Goalball Fellowship escaped the Shire to journey to the Land of

Fun!

We played one game for each of our teams.



We got to play regulation standard games that were fully timed. We also had

plenty of subs (new students to our team) to put into the

game, so that our new players could get experience.

After we played our epic games, we headed to Quik Trip to celebrate!



Left to Right: Malerie, Trinity, Raven

## 16 Jan 2019 - Blanket Craft Night for Those in Need



This year I wanted to try a new type of craft night.

I wanted to complete a craft night that would be donated to those in need in our local area.

I am proud to announce that our students completed



seven fleece throw blankets, and were proud to be able to help our community!

Everyone, please give all these students a round of applause!

*(Continued on page 9)*



## Recreation Activities (continued)

(Continued from page 8)

### 22 Jan 2019 - Impromptu Bingo Night



Originally, this day was allotted to our craft night/s for this month,

just in case we didn't complete them all. But our students are so awesome that they finished all the crafts in the same night!!!!!!!!!!

So, in order to rock it like it is hot, we had an **IMPROMPTU BINGOOOOO NNNIIGGGHHHTTTTTT!!!!!!**

### 23 Jan 2019 - Panther Pride and Prep Rally Dance

This Prep Rally started off with a BOOM!

Our Cheerleaders displayed their chants and battle cries for the school at the beginning to get everyone railed up!

We introduced our wrestlers, band members, and the cheer squad, and then we kicked it! We played our music loud and proud with our brand new sound system.



And then we partied the night away.

### 29 Jan 2019 - Happy Birthday January



On this day we celebrated our January Birthdays by eating the best thing ever, **CUPCAKES!!!!!!**

We introduced our lucky contestants, singing loudly as a huge group, laughed wildly, and then passed out the lovely morsels of cup cakey goodness.



# Birthdays February

### Students

Branson Leonard	2	1
Genevieve Fitzgerald	2	6
Delilah Howell	2	8
Jerelyn Black	2	24
Adan Duran-Gonzalez	2	25



### Staff

William Greyson	2	9
Brian Culver	2	18
Susan Young Mock	2	18
Sherry Holder	2	21
Laci Goins	2	24

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE -



Following employees / staff members were nominated for their devoted support of our students, staff and school:

- ◆ **THANK YOU** to below listed staff members for helping make Homecoming a success:
  - ◇ **Tonya Givens** for reminding me about things and helping me keep money straight for decorations and flowers.
  - ◇ **Ruby Barker** offered help more than once for homecoming.
  - ◇ **Mike Bynum** worked hard to do anything he could to help for homecoming, including a very tedious job of cleaning my balloon weights to make them like new again.
  - ◇ **Marcella Bynum** was a great help covering my class and helping with balloons.
  - ◇ **Rob Culie** covered classes while I was decorating, running errands, etc and he also helped with balloons and other decorations.
  - ◇ **Laci Goins** worked to oversee and create the signs with all the participants' names and the large homecoming sign. Plus, she came out to help in any way she could with decorations.
  - ◇ **Belinda Thomas** ran errands, helped with

balloons, hung up decorations, created a team to clean up after homecoming and was just all around a great help.

- ◇ **Cassie Shelton** volunteered to help in any way needed and also helped cover my classes, so I could work on preparations for homecoming.
- ◇ **Jana Ross** helped with coverage and was math help to a student catching up on work.
- ◇ **Chris Ferrell** helped with my class after lunch, so I would have time to eat.
- ◇ **Jeremy Jackman** popped into the gym many times to see how he could help.
- ◇ **Lynette Cooper** helped hang signs in the gym and offered to help in any way she could with decorations.
- ◇ **Allison Garner** helped me finalize the dress descriptions when I had run out of my creative words.
- ◇ **Laura Leatherman** and **Jennifer Eckerson** helped make the back wall of the gym look awesome with the participants signs.
- ◇ **Kim Thomas** made sure the roles of the crown bearer and flower girl were successful, and man they were a beautiful pair that did a wonderful job.
- ◇ **Shawna Coplen** was the design queen of the homecoming decorations and made the gym look lovely with her ideas.
- ◇ **Rachel**, Lynn Cragg's daughter, helped make Shannon look like a princess for homecoming.

- ◇ **Tressie Anderson** helped Ariana with her hair and it looked stunning for her crown!
- ◇ **Jasmin Laengrich** (volunteer from Germany & Ms. Maggie's god-daughter) helped hanging the large homecoming signs on the back wall.

**THANK YOU ALL for your help.**

Tera Webb

- ◆ I would like to thank
  - ◇ **Mrs. Barbara Collins** for helping out in the cafeteria.
  - ◇ And **Ms. Zeta** for going beyond the call of duty in the classroom and in the dorm.
- ◆ Thank you to
  - ◇ **Mr. Dennis Read** for helping out in the cafeteria during lunch hours and for all the other "unexpected" tasks you got thrown at you lately.
  - ◇ **all other staff** that helped in our cafeteria, while the kitchen was short staffed.
  - ◇ **our awesome kitchen crew** for stepping up and keeping things going, while faced with numerous obstacles.

Sylvia Sterling

Maggie Mattox




**Thank you guys for going the extra mile. It is highly appreciated.**





# February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

 Dorms Open    
  NO School    
  School In Session

## Schedule of Events

Date	Time	Event
Feb. 5	8:00-3:00	FCCLA Region STAR Events, Wagoner
Feb. 7	9:00-2:00	Sapulpa Bean Dinner, Sapulpa
Feb. 12	11:30-1:30	Sophomore "Potato Bake" fundraiser
Feb. 14	8:00-1:30	Math & Engineering Comp., Muskogee Civic Center
Feb. 18	2:00-4:00	Group Pictures for Yearbook (org., clubs, etc.)
<b>Feb. 19</b>	<b>12:30-2:00</b>	<b>Counselor Day for SRs &amp; JRs, Rec. Ctr.</b>
Feb. 20	10:00-11:00	OSB Spelling Bee, OSB auditorium

### Upcoming March Events:

Mar. 7	Braille Challenge
Mar. 12	Disability Awareness Day, Oklahoma City
Mar. 13	Manufacturing Day @ NewView - High School students -
<b>Mar. 18-21 - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL -</b>	
Mar. 24	Dorms Open - Bus Routes Run
Mar. 25	Classes Resume
Mar. 26	District OHCE meeting at Western Hills Lodge (FCCLA volunteer work)
<b>Mar. 27</b>	<b>PROM</b>

# Recreation Activities

## FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 <b>Dorms Open Open Rec</b>	4 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	5 'Be My Valentine' Card Craft Night at 6:30 pm	6 Bowling 7th Gr. & Up 6:30-8 pm	7 <b>Home Going</b>	8	9
10 <b>Dorms Open Open Rec</b>	11 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	12 Trivia and Riddles 6:30 pm	13 'Love is in the Air' Dance 6:30-8:45 pm	14 <b>Home Going</b>	15	16
17 <b>Dorms Open Open Rec</b>	18 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	19 Open Rec 6:30 pm	20 Dance with First Baptist Church Youth Group 6:30-8:45 pm	21 <b>Home Going</b>	22	23
24 <b>Dorms Open Open Rec</b>	25 Boy Scouts 5:30-6:45 pm Open Rec 6:45 pm	26 Happy February Names Day 6:30 pm Open Rec to follow	6 Bowling ELM - 6th Gr. 6:30-8 pm	28 <b>Home Going</b>		

**Recreation - 918-781-8200 - Ext. 8278**

ALL Calendars are "subject to change". - Please visit our website <http://osb.k12.ok.us> for updates.

## Oklahoma School for the Blind

3300 Gibson Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

Toll Free: (877) 229-7136  
Voice/TTY: (918) 781-8200  
Fax: (918) 781-8300

**It takes more than sight to have vision!**

Please check out  
our website at:



## OSB Employee / Staff Changes:

### New Hires:

Keosha Lewis, Food Service

**Welcome on board.**

**Glad to have you !**



## **UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS !!! - Save the Date/s !!!**

- Feb. 12** Sophomore "Potato Bake" fundraiser, at OSB
- Feb. 19** Counselor Day for SRs & JRs, Rec. Ctr., at OSB
- Feb. 20** OSB Spelling Bee, OSB auditorium
  
- Mar. 7** Braille Challenge, at OSB
- Mar. 12** Disability Awareness Day, at Oklahoma City Capitol
- Mar. 18-21 - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL -**
- Mar. 27** PROM
  
- Apr. 22** NO SCHOOL - Dorms Open - Bus Routes Run -
  
- May 7** Spring Concert & Awards Ceremony
- May 15** Elem. Awards Assembly
- May 16** MS & HS Awards Assembly and Graduation - Last Day of School