

Parents as Teachers

Reflections from the Coordinator

How about a 60-degree day to start off the month! I hope you were able to take advantage and spend some time outdoors. I felt like it was a perfectly timed break from the cold and a reminder the Spring will be here soon! While we wait for spring, we have some great events coming up that I hope you will take advantage of.

First, Church of the Resurrection is hosting some parenting classes on Wednesday nights this month for free that include childcare! We believe these will align well with the Conscious Discipline concepts we have been weaving into visits this year. If you would like a chance to take a deeper dive, we encourage you to check it out. See more details and how to [register](#) in the newsletter.

Second, **Roll and Read** is back on February 22. This event is always a parent favorite. We open the huge Conference Center and provide a fun morning of gross motor activities tied in with literacy and it provides a great chance to get some winter wiggles out! This event is free and open to all PAT families.

I also wanted to invite you to join us for our weekly playgroups at Hilltop. We still have room for you to join us on Thursday mornings this month. Our birth to three session is open to all families with children of any age or who have more than one child under three. It tends to be our smallest session which is great for newcomers. We encourage you to check it out!

We also wanted to make you aware of the Blue Valley Education Foundations [Battle of the Bands](#) event. This is a fundraiser for the district and makes for a great date night! I would encourage you to get a babysitter and join us for this adult only night on Feb 21.

Finally, we would love your help recruiting new families to BV PAT. If you have friends, neighbors, coworkers, or family who live in Blue Valley and are pregnant or have a child birth to age three, please share your experience with them and invite them to enroll. Watch for social media posts that you can share on your page or write a blurb in your Nextdoor Neighbor or local HOA newsletter sharing what you love about PAT! The best way you can give back to our program is sharing our program in the community! You can include the following link your blurb: www.bluevalleyk12.org/parentsasteachers

As always, we consider it a blessing to come alongside you in your parenting journey. Thank you for inviting us into your homes!

Let's go Chiefs!!

Michelle Kelly

**FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!
SCAN THIS QR
CODE TO BEGIN.**



Facebook:

BlueValleyParentsas
Teachers

Twitter:

@BlueValleyPAT

Instagram:

parentsasteachersbv



February Conscious Discipline Topic

Connection

Connection with others promotes optimal brain development and helps improve cooperation, willingness, impulse control and resiliency.

“Connection leads to intrinsic Cooperation”

4 Key Components of Connection:

1. Eye Contact
2. Gentle Touch
3. Presence
4. Playfulness

I Love You Rituals

Choose 2-3 of the I Love You Rituals from your ring that you and your child enjoy and build them into your regular routines in the morning, before and after times of separation, diapering, mealtimes and/or bedtime. Cooperation always follows connection.

2025 Blue Valley Battle of the Bands

Date Night Alert! New Location! The 13th Annual Battle of the Bands is Friday, February 21, 2025, at Fiorella's Event Space at 9000 W. 137th Street in OP. This adult night out features popular metro-area bands made up of Blue Valley parents, teachers, and staff, all competing for bragging rights as “Best of Blue Valley” champion that YOU get to choose! Enjoy great live music, a silent auction, a wine and bourbon pull, games of chance, plus light appetizers and a chance to dance the night away while supporting a great cause!

So don't wait! Grab your colleagues, your discounted tickets, check out the silent auction items, and join us Friday, February 21, 2025, from 6:30-10 p.m. for a wonderful night out Rockin' the Valley at Battle of the Bands for performing arts programs in our schools! [Event Details](#)

2025 Blue Valley Special Needs Resource Fair

This is our 15th annual Resource Fair and we hope you can join us. This fair has become one of the largest resource fairs in the Kansas City metro area, providing wonderful resources to self-advocates and to families who care for individuals with intellectual/developmental and/or physical disabilities. The Resource Fair will be held the evening of Wednesday, February 19th from 5-8pm. This in-person event will be held at the spacious Hilltop Conference Center (7700 W 143rd St).

PTA

Thank you to all who made donations towards our Stock the Breakroom event. Your generosity was much appreciated by our parent educators as they return to work. If you are looking for indoor activities this month please consider joining the PTA. We offer monthly playgroups in the same room as your Parents as Teachers' playgroups. We also provide enriching activities like music times with stories and outings. This month we'll be visiting our local fire station for a tour! If you don't want to miss out on the fun [click the link](#) to see how you can become a member. Your PTA membership does so much more than provide enrichment for your children, it also gives back to the Parents as Teachers program you've come to appreciate. We hope you will join us this month!

MARCH PLAYGROUPS - NO PLAYGROUPS MARCH 17-21

BV PAT is excited to welcome families back to our playroom. In-person playgroups offer many benefits including connecting with other families, new activities for children to explore and children learning to interact with each other.

In order to help facilitate connections between children and families, we run playgroups in 2-4 week sessions. In March, families have the opportunity to sign up for a group that will meet weekly at the same time for 3 weeks. You can choose to sign up for a group with children that are similar 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 you child to be around children of all ages.

MARCH PLAYGROUP SIGN UP WILL BE EMAILED ON FEBRUARY 11th

Each group will be limited to 10-18 children.

- Only one adult per child may attend. A nanny or grandparent is welcome to bring child in place of 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 ID with you every time you come to playgroup 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.

March Playgroups

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months)– Thursdays 12:15-1pm: 3/6, 3/13, 3/27

Baby Play for non-walkers (4-12 months) - Tuesdays 12:15-1pm: 3/4, 3/11, 3/25

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Wednesdays 10:15-11am: 3/5, 3/12, 3/26

Playgroup for 1-Year-Olds (12-23 months) - Thursdays 9:15-10am: 3/6, 3/13, 3/27

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Tuesdays 10:15-11am: 3/4, 3/11, 3/25

Playgroup for 2-Year-Olds (24-36 months) - Wednesdays 9:15-10am: 3/5, 3/12, 3/26

Playgroup for 1's and 2's (9-36 months) *This is a playgroup for children 9 to 36 months of age and/or families with more than one child under 36 months*– Thursdays 10:15-11am: 3/6, 3/13, 3/27

Evening Playgroup Wednesday, 3/12 6-6:45pm

Saturday Playgroup, 3/8 9:15-10am



This is a drop in event on Saturday, February 22nd from 9:30-11am in the Hilltop Conference Center (7700 W 143rd St). YOU WILL HAVE TO PARK AND ENTER THE CONFERENCE CENTER ON THE **WEST SIDE** OF THE BUILDING. No registration is needed. This event is designed to be educational and full of fun for all families and kids of all ages enrolled in our program. With Roll & Read focusing on two important goals for families - early literacy and physical well-being, the event will include:

Book Trade Station - Give a book, take a book

Large track for walking, riding and rolling

Nursery Rhyme activities

Puppet Play & Pretend Play

Music and Dance

Parachute Play





SEEKING TODDLER SCIENTISTS!

What is this study about?

A study about learning and memory with toddlers from 18 to 40 months, with or without a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder

Learn More

✉ brainlab@ku.edu

☎ 785 - 864 - 4461

🌐 brainlab.ku.edu



Testing will be conducted at the KU Edwards Campus. All procedures have been approved by our local Institutional Review Board. Participants will be compensated for their time.



**GO CCHAT:
Growth Of
Communication
in CHildren
with AuTism**

Help us learn more about how young children with autism learn to talk

Who: 18- to 30-month-old children who have concerns for or have been diagnosed with autism

What children will do: Complete research assessments that evaluate communication and language skills every 3 months (1-2 hours per visit) until they turn 3 and then one final session when they turn 5 (1.5 to 2 hours)

Where: Testing locations available in Lawrence, Topeka, and the greater Kansas City area

Participants receive \$75 at the initial visit and follow-up, and \$100 for the final visit. Participants traveling more than 25 miles will receive an additional \$15 compensation per visit.

Contact the Communication Success Lab to learn more:

Suzanne Martell, Project Coordinator
785-813-1862 or martell.s@ku.edu

Find us on:



Graphic design support provided by the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development. Photo by Adobe Stock.



Parenting Class

Wednesdays | Feb. 5 - 26 | 6:30 PM

Resurrection Leawood

Resurrection
kids

PAT Families-

We are excited to share an opportunity in the community with you. Church of the Resurrection is hosting a Free Parenting Series on Wednesday nights in February. The philosophy shared will align with the Conscious Discipline materials that we have been sharing with you throughout the year. The best part is they are providing free childcare during these sessions. There is also choice to register and receive free digital downloads if you are unable to attend in person. See more information and the link to register below. (This course is offered through a faith-based organization and may include religious beliefs and values that align with their church, so we strongly encourage you to consider this prior to registering. Blue Valley Parents as Teachers does not endorse or have any affiliation with Church of the Resurrection. You can find more information about Church of the Resurrection [HERE](#).

More information about the classes and to register click [HERE](#).