

# BALDWIN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1, 2025



## HEY BOBCATS!

Happy New Year! We are excited to kick off the spring semester and make 2026 the best one yet. Baldwin truly is the best place to be, and we look forward to welcoming students back on **January 6th**. Please note that teachers will be in professional development on January 5th.

We understand that many families travel during the break; however, *regular attendance is essential for student success*. Every day of learning matters, and we appreciate your partnership. Please refer to the attached information for important attendance details. We also ask for your help with **dismissal safety**. It is extremely important that parents closely supervise students in the parking lot. Students playing in the parking lot is a serious safety concern, as cars are coming and going for the onsite daycare and teachers leaving for the day. Together, we can ensure a safe end to each day!

Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to see everyone back at Baldwin on January 6th!

Warmly,  
Jamie Eubanks and Julie Ozuna  
Baldwin Elementary School

## IMPORTANT DATES

-  Return to School! - January 6
-  New to Baldwin Campus Tour - January 7 @ 4 pm
-  CAC Meeting - January 12 @ 3:30 pm
-  Pre-K Field Trip - January 14
-  PTA Meeting & STEAM Family Night - January 15 @ 6-8 pm
-  Principal's Coffee - January 16 @ 8 am
-  No School for MLK Day - January 19
-  Class Pictures - January 21
-  5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical - January 22 @ 8 am & 6 pm
-  5th Grade Field Trip to Gorzycki - January 23
-  5th Grade Field Trip to Small - January 23





## Slide Into the Waves of Pages Reading Program!

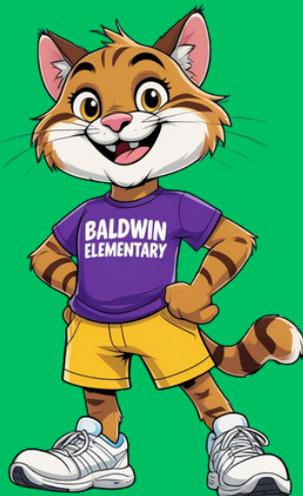


The Waves of Pages Reading Program encourages students to read for pleasure by providing a chance to earn 1 FREE admission to **Schlitterbahn New Braunfels**. Each student who reads for 10 hours (600 minutes) during the 10-week program will be awarded a FREE admission to the park and a special discount offer to purchase additional tickets for family and friends.

*Information and reading trackers came home in folders in December. If you need to print an extra, [click here](#).*

*They are due no later than February 20.*

Read to self!  
Read to others!  
Listen to a book or audiobook!



### TEACHER & STAFF BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Shaun Reid
- 1/3 Jamie Eubanks
- 1/20 Kelley Najera
- 1/20 Gretchen Magana
- 1/22 Stephanie Durbin
- 1/26 Kylie Schantz
- 1/31 Eileen Brady

# COUNSELING CORNER

## Happy New Year!

In January, students will be learning about growth mindset—the belief that abilities and skills can grow and change with effort, practice, and perseverance. We'll talk about how our brains grow stronger when we try new things, practice skills, and work through challenges. Students will also learn that mistakes are not failures, but an important part of the learning process that helps us improve over time.

During classroom counseling lessons, students will explore the difference between fixed mindset and growth mindset thinking. They will practice recognizing negative or limiting thoughts, such as "I can't do this," and learn how to reframe them into more helpful thoughts like "I can't do this yet." Through stories, discussions, role-playing, and hands-on activities, students will focus on the value of effort, positive self-talk, problem-solving, asking for help, and trying again—even when learning feels difficult or frustrating.

### How To Support at Home:

- Praise effort, strategies, and persistence rather than results.
- Encourage your child to add the word "yet" when something feels hard.
- Talk about mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Model growth mindset by sharing something you're still learning

**A strong growth mindset helps students build confidence, resilience, and a willingness to take on new challenges—perfect for starting the new year!**

### Contact Info:

Email: [kaitlyn.pruet@austinisd.org](mailto:kaitlyn.pruet@austinisd.org)  
 Phone: 512-841-8900, ext.72673  
[Baldwin Counseling Website](#)

SHORTFORM

Fixed  
Mindset



Growth  
Mindset

I can't do that.



I can't do that yet.

I give up.



I'll find another way.

Mistakes mean  
I have failed.



Mistakes mean  
I am learning.

Success comes  
from talent.



Success comes  
from effort.

Attention 5th Grade Parents!

# MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION DATES

**JAN  
23**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade students  
(*who are zoned to GMS*)  
visiting Gorzycki Middle School  
**9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

**JAN  
23**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade students  
(*who are zoned to SMS*)  
visiting Small Middle School  
**9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

**JAN  
29**

Counselors from GMS & SMS visiting Baldwin  
to go over 6th Grade Choice Sheets  
**9:15 am - 10:15 am**

**FEB  
13**

6th Grade Choice Sheets due for students  
attending **Small Middle School**

**FEB  
16**

6th Grade Choice Sheets due for students  
attending **Gorzycki Middle School**

If you have any questions regarding the transition to middle school, please contact **Kaitlyn Pruet** at [kaitlyn.pruet@austinisd.org](mailto:kaitlyn.pruet@austinisd.org) or 512-841-8900 ext. 72673



## Celebrate your child's birthday with a Bobcat Birthday Book!

Consider donating a book to the Baldwin Library to celebrate your child's special day. All donations help fund book purchases and author visits. Your donation makes a BIG difference! After donating, your child will be invited to choose a book from our special birthday bookshelf. We will add a commemorative bookplate inside the cover, and your child will have the opportunity to check the book out first.

Summer birthdays will be celebrated on their half-birthdays.

To donate a birthday book, please visit the library website at <https://tinyurl.com/4cc64puv> or scan this QR code and choose "library".



***Thank you so much for supporting the  
Baldwin Library!***

Thank you



Thank you to the  
Evans Family for  
being the December  
Golden Spoon  
Lunch Sponsor!

**VOLUNTEERS**

**NEEDED**

**SUBS-R-US!**

Help support our teachers by volunteering to substitute  
in the classroom.

Read more about the program [here](#).

Sign up to volunteer at this [link](#)!

For more information, contact [julie.ozuna@austinisd.org](mailto:julie.ozuna@austinisd.org)

one  
great **BIG**  
Thank  
you!



# MEET OUR NEW BOOK NOOK VENDING MACHINE!



We are thrilled to share the wonderful impact your support of the Book Fair has made. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our families during the past several Book Fairs, we were able to purchase a brand-new book vending machine! This exciting addition to our school will help spark a love of reading by making books feel like a special reward and celebration.

The vending machine will be used to recognize students who are working hard to achieve their academic, behavioral, and social-emotional goals. Every book a child earns from the machine represents their dedication to learning.

If you'd like to help us keep the vending machine stocked, you can visit our [Amazon Wishlist](#).

Every donation helps us continue inspiring a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you again for being such an important part of our school community!

# Attendance Matters!



Every Student, Every School, Every Day

## ATTENDANCE in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



### Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

#### 1 in 10 kids

in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.<sup>1</sup>



**2 in 10**  
low-income kids  
miss too much  
school. They're also  
more likely to suffer  
academically.<sup>1</sup>



**2.5 in 10**  
homeless kids  
are chronically  
absent.<sup>2</sup>



**4 in 10**  
transient kids  
miss too much  
school when  
families move.<sup>2</sup>



### Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.<sup>3</sup>

#### Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?<sup>3</sup>



### What We Can Do



#### Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



#### Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



#### Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



#### Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?

<sup>1</sup> Chang, Hedy, Romero, Marijose, Present, *Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY: NY, September 2008.

<sup>2</sup> *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.



Baldwin needs

Y O U

City of Austin is hiring  
Crossing Guards for Baldwin

For more info  
click [here](#)

