



20 Years Strong!

Following last year's amazing fundraising that allowed our school to purchase two new playground sets, the PTO Board set a goal to make this school year a "year of gratitude." We wanted to return this spirit of generosity and to celebrate our 20th anniversary. What a fantastic year it has been!

We kicked off our 20th Anniversary with a celebration at Stop and Drop to include giving away 5 free bricks and 20 free yearbooks in raffle drawings. Our families purchased commemorative bricks to beautify the school and improve campus safety. Throughout the year, we also held several Playground Celebrations in the sun and snow where our children played and we chatted up one another.

PTO offered family support by hosting the first day of school Boohoo Yahoo Breakfast for kindergarten and new families to Buckalew. We went further and extended this support by launching the new Big Bear Little Bear program which partnered veteran families to new families, providing guidance to these new families throughout the school year.

We so appreciate our community which gives endlessly in time and effort. Our Buckalew Bash was a complete success in regards to fundraising, volunteers, room moms, teachers and staff, and more importantly community spirit. Even in the midst of rain storms and a 20-degree drop in temperature, the crowds rolled in, with over 1300 people attending our carnival and all of them played games, won prizes, created fun memories, and raised approximately \$35,000 for the school.

This wonderful community has also created family fun around our Field Day, Spirit Nights, Chalk the Walk and Walk to School Day. In addition, after school playdates provided extra fun for our kids while fundraising for the school. We have built service minded students with a successful Community Outreach program with our yearly coat drive, food drive, toy drive, Bear to Bear book drive and pet supply drive. Your support extended to our annual Boosterthon, earning approximately \$33,000. During this major school fundraiser, we were fortunate to also use it as an opportunity to teach our children about valuable character traits and running for a cause.

There are so many benefits that our school is privy to because of our parents' generosity. For example, our school has access to many types of programs and technology subscriptions, such as the Accelerated Reader program, Raz Kids, Brain Pop, Dreambox, and Super Teacher Worksheets. Our school also benefits from cultural activities that have enriched our students' education with activities like Reading Restaurant, author visits, and mini math projects, as well as, field trips to Oil Ranch, Rainbow Roller Rink, and Sam Houston State University.

Furthermore, this year's fundraising allowed for the purchase of much needed instructional supplies for science projects, writing materials, special education materials, and PE equipment. Funds were also allocated towards staff development which helped our teachers attend AGC, TMEA and Summer PLL conferences. Our successful fundraising stretched to non-budgeted, PTO Board approved items such as the Linda Crews Scholarship honoring our former principal and awarded to a Buckalew graduate/high school senior. We did not stop there! Permanent bookshelves were installed in every class room and over \$10,000 of books were purchased to support the new language arts program. Our students will have access to a campus literacy library for guided reading, table books to partner with units of study, weekly reader workshop books and homework readers as well.

The purpose of the PTO is to: (a) promote the welfare of children at Buckalew; (b) to foster cooperation between parents and teachers in the education of children at Buckalew; (c) to unite school and community efforts in securing for all children the best education; (d) to engage in fundraising activities for the educational and recreational benefit of Buckalew, its children, teachers, and staff as determined by the PTO and in accordance with the PTO by-laws. We succeeded in these goals together with our beautiful and collaborative community of school, families, volunteers, and children. Your dedication carries our efforts into next year with great gratitude. Thank you!

With Never Ending Appreciation,

2018-19 Buckalew PTO Executive Board

President- Nina Neal

VP of Fundraising- Shelly Alexander

VP of Parent Involvement- Heather Lozinak

VP of Communications- Natalie Ha

Treasurer- Melissa Tattoli

Secretary- Janelle Ray

Parliamentarian- Jill Gordley