

# **WELCOME TO DEER CREEK ELEMENTARY!!!**

Dear New Families,

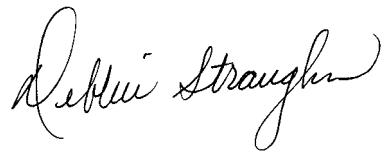
I would like to extend a hearty welcome to you from Deer Creek Elementary School. We are pleased that you have chosen to move into the Deer Creek School district and community. I know that you and your children will feel right at home. You will notice that Deer Creek Elementary is filled with dedicated teachers, staff, and parents. They are eager to welcome you into our school.

Our motto is "Excellence in Education." We pride ourselves on being a Blue Ribbon School, recognized by Washington, D.C. as a school of excellence and a model school by Great Expectations. Academics are a priority. Each child is very important to us. Our programs are exciting and enriched with challenging and rewarding activities. We strive to meet the intellectual, social, and emotional aspects of your child's growth and development while they are at Deer Creek Elementary School.

Our Parent Teacher Organization is an active one. Our parents are an important part of our community of learners. I hope you will get involved by attending PTO meetings, volunteering in classrooms, or attending field trips. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please call me at any time. I am very glad you are here, and we look forward to getting to know you and your children in the future.

Welcome to Deer Creek Elementary where the theme is "Celebrate Oklahoma – In Pursuit of Excellence".

Welcome,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Straughn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Debbie Straughn  
Principal  
Deer Creek Elementary School

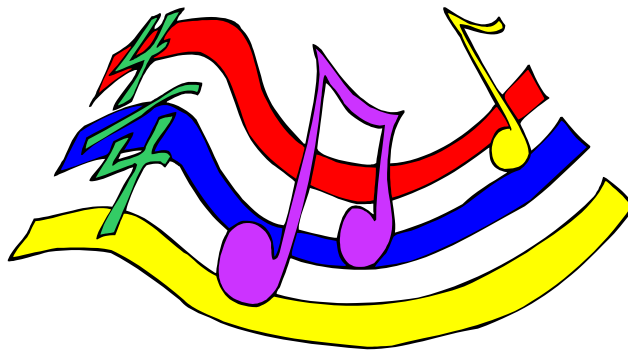
**Antler Alert**—The student body meets in the gym each Monday and Friday morning at 8:45 for singing, skits, announcements, and birthday recognition. Parents are always welcome to attend! Individual classes present a special presentation at many of the Antler Alerts.

**Accelerated Reader**—The Accelerated Reader program is a motivational computerized program where students read a book and take a computer generated test upon completion.



**Book Fairs**—The Media Center hosts annual book fairs each year in the fall and spring. Outstanding books and supplies are sold.

**Peer Mediator**—Selected 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are trained by the school counselor in problem-solving techniques. These students are available during recess to assist their peers in resolving minor arguments and disagreements.



**Downbeat Chorus**—The Downbeat Chorus is made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet two days a week before school. Students audition for a place on the chorus. It gives students extra opportunities to perform at programs, special singing engagements, and special events at school.

**PTO**—Our Parent Teacher Organization is an active one at Deer Creek Elementary. All parents are encouraged to belong. There are no membership fees.



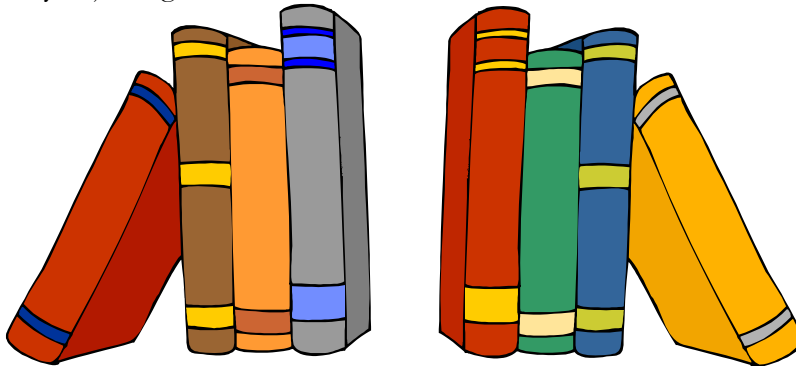
**Geography Bee**—The Geography Bee is held in the winter each year. It gives students the opportunity to show their knowledge of the world in a competitive arena that inspires them educationally.

**Camp Classen**—Fifth graders have the opportunity to experience an outdoor education week at Camp Classen in Davis, OK. The week includes hiking, water lab, fossil lab, fishing, crafts, boating, astronomy, hands-on geology, challenge course, sports, and lots of fun!



**Art Club**—The club is sponsored by our art teacher. Students participate weekly before school in special projects and contests.

**New Students Club**—The school counselor meets with new students at the end of the month in which they enroll. Each student receives a special booklet with coupons for school supplies that are redeemable by frequently encountered staff members throughout the school. The school counselor additionally meets with new students who may be experiencing difficulty adjusting to a new school.



**Sequoyah Books**—Students in third, fourth, and fifth grade who read 10 or more books from the current Sequoyah Children’s Book Award Master List, and who successfully complete an Accelerated Reader test on each, qualify to attend a special celebration in the media center at the end of the school year.

**Red Ribbon Week**—Drug Awareness activities are planned during Red Ribbon Week.

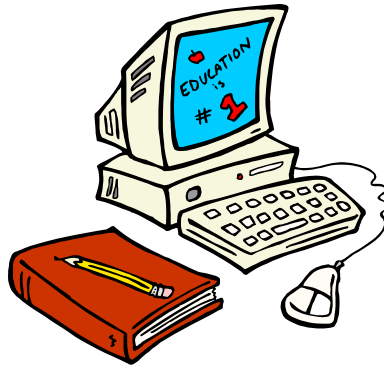
**Testing**—Each spring students in grades 2-5 are given Standardized Achievement Tests or Criterion Referenced Tests. Depending on their grade level, students take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS), or the Criterion Referenced Tests (CRT).

**Terrific Kids**—Students are recognized on Mondays in special school-wide assemblies for outstanding character. Parents are notified by their child’s teacher when they have been chosen to be recognized. The recognition is related to our “Six Pillars of Character” guidance program and the Great Expectations Life Principles.

**Student Store**—The student store is open before school each Wednesday during lunch.

**Student Council**—The Student Council is a service based program. Student Council Representatives from each classroom meet monthly to plan community service and school spirit days.

**Spelling Bee**—Students are given the opportunity to participate in the school spelling bee in January each year. During the fall, study booklets are provided to all students interested. Students in grades K-4 are eligible to participate in the Pee Wee Spelling Bee. This program is sponsored by the Daily Oklahoman. The winner and runner-up qualify for a written regional competition. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade participate in the Scripps Howard/Daily Oklahoma portion of the Spelling Bee. This is part of the National Spelling Bee Program. The winner and runner-up qualify for regional competition.



**Computer Lab**—Deer Creek Elementary has a state of the art technology lab. Students attend computer lab three times a week. Students of grades 1-5 work on keyboard and academic skills.

**Latch Key “On-Site”**—Latch Key “On-Site” is a unique before and after school program which seeks to bridge the gap between home and school in a way that provides care for all who need it. Further information is available in the school office. You can contact them at 236-2069.

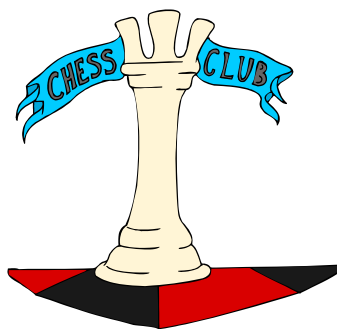
**Yearbook**—The Deer Creek Elementary Yearbook is published once a year for the students and their families. It includes highlights of the school year activities, students, and staff.

**Music Programs**—All students in grades 1-5 have an opportunity to participate in at least one musical throughout the year. The student body enjoys a dress rehearsal and an evening performance is scheduled for parents.

**Specials’ Classes**—Art, Music, and Physical Education classes are provided several times a week for all students. Spanish classes are also taught at the elementary level.

**Title 1 Language Arts/Math**—Deer Creek Elementary supports a Title 1 Language Arts/Math Program for students who could benefit from extra help in reading, writing, and math.

**Antler Day**—Described as a track/field/fun day, Antler Day is organized by the P.E. coach and parent volunteers. This fun in the sun day combines athletic skills with games for an event where everyone is a winner! Look for Antler Day in the spring and sign-up to help!



**Chess Club**—The Chess Club is sponsored by our Gifted and Talented Teachers and supervised by parent volunteers. Over 100 students participate during lunch recess from beginning to advanced levels.

**Academic Teams**—The Academic Teams are for students in grades four and five. Students try out for these competitive teams. Our Gifted and Talented teacher sponsors the teams and contests. The teams compete against other teams in the state.

**Special Invitation to Lunch**—Parents are welcome to eat lunch with their children. Please call or send a note the morning that you will be coming, so that we can make a reservation for you with the kitchen staff.