

Note from the Principal

January 12, 2021

Dear Families,

Once again we find ourselves in a space of grappling with unimaginable events taking place in our country. We have all endured so much and are working so hard to navigate through new, unknown, and horrifying situations. We are rattled and grieving on many levels and yet we need to move forward.

As a school community our number one priority during times such as these, whether virtual or in-person, is to provide a safe and caring environment. Our children are listening to and watching how their caring adults respond to all that is going on in the world. They are depending on us to support them in navigating the big feelings that they are witnessing and feeling themselves.

In an elementary school we have a delicate balance to strike when addressing current events, especially scary events like COVID, the murder of George Floyd and others, racism and the insurrection at the Nation's Capitol. With all that is going on during these unprecedented times, Burroughs teachers are prepared and have resources to address the climate in which we are living. Our teachers do this through guided discussion during Morning Meetings, reading relevant stories, designing lessons to address such events, and responding to questions that come up authentically from students. In all of our classrooms this is done with compassion and in ways that are appropriate to the developmental stages of our students.

In the coming days and weeks we will continue to put one foot in front of the other. We will be discussing the state of our world while moving forward with social-emotional and academic instruction, and planning for a return to in-person school.

Thank you for all your continued support through all of this! Burroughs is an amazingly supportive community and we will need to continue to rely on one another as we move through the transitions to come.

Please see the important announcements below. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl
Principal

Announcements

- **Phases to Safe Learning** - Due to Governor Walz's executive order in December and the continued decreased rates of COVID infections, MPS is planning for an optional return to in-person learning in early February beginning with pre-k through 2nd grade students. Please refer to the communication from MPS for information and details about the timeline and process for this potential return to in-person learning. **Part of this communication included a survey about family preferences to return to school in-person or continue in distance learning.** Please take time to complete this as it will provide critical information for planning next steps as a school. I will follow up later this week with further details about what this means for Burroughs.
- **Tuesday Time with the Principal** - Each Tuesday beginning today Mrs. Bartl will be hosting an optional drop-in time for students from 12:30-1:00. This is an informal opportunity for students to connect with one another and Mrs. Bartl. We will do a variety of things during time from playing games, to reading stories, to just chatting. I look forward to the opportunity to spend more time with students. Students can participate through google meets using the nickname: mrsbartl.
- **Library Book Pick Up** -Library book pickup has changed! Library books will now be placed in the foyer before 1 p.m. on Thursdays and can be picked up any time between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Please email Ms. Hyrkas with any questions (desiree.hyrkas@mpls.k12.mn.us).

- **School board Meeting Agendas and Minutes** - Find the latest information and updates regarding distance learning, the Comprehensive District Design (CDD) and other district business here

<https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1807>.

- **Free School Meal Boxes for All Youth**- All families are invited to pick up free school meal boxes for their children. School meal boxes contain five breakfasts and five lunches and meet Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary & Wellness Services' (MPS CWS) high standards for nutrition and quality ingredients. In every box, children will find school favorites, whole grains, fresh fruits, and vegetables. Milk is offered on the side, up to ten milk cartons per box.
 - All youth 18 & under can participate.
 - Youth do not need to be enrolled in MPS.
 - Youth, parents, or siblings can pick up one box per child, per week.
 - **Pick up at any of the 29 school sites** - no registration required.
 - All sites are open Monday through Friday, most from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a few have extended hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MPS is able to offer these free meal boxes to all children, 18 and under, through a short-term waiver issued August 31 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (read the USDA press release [here](#)). After that, MPS will continue to serve food to MPS students, and will keep the community informed of all changes that will take effect at that time.

For questions, please call 612-668-2820 or [contact us](#).

- **Technology Resources and Support** - If you have questions or need support with student devices, please go to this site
<https://source.mpls.k12.mn.us/support-for-your-students>
- **Attendance** - During Distance Learning the top priority is that students are engaged in learning every day. As such, the definition of an absence is when a student, or parent/guardian for elementary students, does not have contact with the teacher on an instructional day. If your child will be absent, please notify the school by calling the attendance line at 612-668-3288.

Meet the Burroughs Staff

Betsy May, 1st Grade Teacher – Ms. May has been at Burroughs for 20 years, nine of which were teaching kindergarten in our former bilingual program. She is originally from Grinnell, IA. She received her B.A. in Bilingual Elementary Ed from the University of Iowa and my graduate work at UW-Madison and Hamline. Ms. May has been teaching for 35 years in four different states. She has a bilingual household as well! Her husband is from Guatemala, so they speak Spanish in their house. They also run a Spanish language school in Guatemala. Ms. May has two daughters. Maya is 29 and Quena (pronounced Kay-na) is 27. She loves to travel and has co-guided seven hiking trips in Spain during the summer. In her free time, she enjoys reading, yoga and biking and walking the lake.

Instructional Insights

Now that we have heard the news of a potential return to in-person learning, we are planning not only for the safety and technical aspects of what this means but also planning for how to support our students in yet another big transition. When we return to school, social-emotional learning in tandem with academic learning will be the work. In the initial days and weeks of the transition we will focus on establishing in-person classroom communities, and learning/relearning the rituals and routines of in-person school. We all will have much to relearn and learn as make this transition.

Dates to Remember

Monday, January 18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School

Tuesday, January 19 - Site Council 5:00 pm, PTA 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 28 - 2nd Quarter Ends

Friday, January 29 - Teacher Record Keeping Day - No School

Monday, February 1 - 3rd Quarter begins

Friday, February 5 - Coffee with the Principal 9:30-10:30 am
2021-22 School Request Deadline

Monday, February 15 - No School - President's Day

Tuesday, February 16 - No School - Winter Conferences

Tuesday, February 23 - Site Council 5:00 pm