

## Note from the Principal

### September 15, 2020

Dear Families,

I hope that overall the first week of school was a positive experience for you and your children. I know that it was not without glitches yet each day things seemed to run a bit more smoothly. Throughout the first week I had the opportunity to spend time in many classroom Morning Meetings and Closing Circles. It was wonderful to spend time in virtual classrooms and witness students and teachers getting to know one another and beginning to build strong classroom communities. Even virtually Burroughs felt like a joyful place to learn, collaborate and grow!

The first week of school reaffirmed for me that we can do this! Our students along with our adult community have risen to the occasion and this is going to be a great year! We can build positive relationships and establish essential rituals and routines while in Distance Learning. The Morning Meeting, small group instruction opportunities and Closing Circle are essential parts of our school day. It is through these live opportunities that relationships will gel, and we will learn how to best meet the social emotional and academic needs of each of our students.

In the week ahead, the focus will continue to be on building a positive classroom environment. As teachers work to get to know their students, beginning of the year assessments in reading and mathematics will begin to take place. Teachers will be communicating with families about when and how these will take place. Beginning of the year assessments are an important tool for teachers to know where their students are academically so that they can plan for instruction that will support them in moving forward.

Please feel free to reach out by phone, email, or in person, with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl  
Principal

## Announcements

- **Annual Forms** - Please take a few minutes to complete these annual back-to-school forms

For English please use this link: <https://forms.gle/dpH3SRTFGCDt1Yfy6>

For Spanish please use this link: <https://forms.gle/HPD2exLWXT98UuGy9>

- **Become a member of the Burroughs Site Council** -The Burroughs Site Council is looking to recruit two new members, one voting member and one alternate, for the upcoming 2020-21 school year. It's a great way to be involved in your child's school. Please use the link below to learn more about Site Council and how to become a member.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GNWGu9tGmNOQ05Bo2GjG9OZLKj1U1f2V/view?usp=sharing>
- **Burroughs Distance Learning School Wide Schedule** - The student day during Distance Learning begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Detailed schedules will be communicated by homeroom teachers. Students will not be online for six hours. The school day will include a combination of screen based and non-screen based learning activities.
- **Morning Piano Playing** - Mr. Hensley will continue the morning piano playing tradition. Tune into the [Burroughs School Facebook page](#) mornings from 8:50-9:00 am to see Mr. Hensley. This is a great way for students to get energized for the day ahead.
- **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.

- **School Spirit Fridays** - Celebrate your Burroughs Spirit every Friday. Encourage your children to wear our Burroughs Colors (navy blue and yellow) or any 'Burroughs Wear' they have.
- **Virtual Coffee with the Principal** - Beginning in October, I will be hosting a monthly 'Coffee with the Principal' via Zoom. This will be an opportunity to connect with myself and others in the community throughout the year. The first event will be held on Friday, October 2 at 9:00 am. Zoom invites will be sent approximately one week prior to each monthly event. The times for this event will alternate between morning and afternoon throughout the school year.

## Meet the Burroughs Staff

**Clara Dockter, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade** - Clara is thrilled to be joining Burroughs Community School as a First Grade Teacher! She was born and raised in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she obtained a B.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies. After four years in Madison, she moved to Milwaukee for three years where she taught Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade while obtaining a Master of Arts in Urban Education from Cardinal Stritch University. After seven years as a Wisconsinite, Clara moved back to Minnesota and has been teaching at an elementary school in St. Paul. She is passionate about teaching early elementary grades. As an educator, she cares deeply about her students and their success both inside and outside the classroom. Her hope is that each of her students develops both an academic skillset and a social-emotional skillset that help them become an active member in their community. She takes great pride in creating a classroom community with students that is filled with academic discovery, critical thinking, exploration, friendship, joy and respect! Clara lives near Lake Nokomis with her partner, Bradley and dog, Cooper. When she is not teaching, you might find her running along Minneapolis' beautiful network of trails, cooking in my kitchen, reading, discovering new restaurants or spending time with her family and friends!

## Instructional Insights

**Morning Meeting and Closing Circle** - In alignment with the Minneapolis Public Schools priority of Social Emotional Learning, all classrooms at Burroughs are expected to have a Morning Meeting and Closing Circle each day. These structures provide a dedicated opportunity for students and staff to begin and end each day in a positive way by focusing on relationships, daily reflection and community building. The Morning Meeting is made up of four components - Greeting, Sharing, Activity and Morning Message. The Closing Circle is an opportunity to reconnect and reflect at the end of each day.

## Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, September 22** - Site Council 5:00 pm, PTA Meeting 6:30 pm