

Note from the Principal

January 22, 2019

Dear Families,

Last week culminated with so many engaging learning events! Publishing celebrations and Elder Interview reports in 2nd grade, the Wax Museum in 1st grade, and the 4th and 5th grade ski trip just to name a few. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate the work and learning of our students!

With yesterday being the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and with all that is going on in our world, it is as important as ever to talk to our children about who he was and his legacy. Given the fact that we are an elementary school, I know that students wonder and ask their teachers and families about why we have this day off from school. This is an important question for our kids to be asking and a wonderful opportunity for us as adults to teach our children.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education." As an educator, these words of Dr. King resonate deeply with me. Providing children opportunities on a regular basis to think deeply about their learning, ask their own questions, and be supported academically and socially as they grow and develop is what yields children who grow into adults who can contribute to society in positive ways. As parents and educators, we should never lose sight of this.

Remember that there is no school for students on Thursday and Friday this week. These days are important days for our staff to engage in professional learning opportunities, to plan for the upcoming semester, and to work on report cards. You can expect report cards to come home sometime late in the week of February 4 or early in the week of February 11.

Please make sure to check out the announcements and important dates below. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise.

Sincerely,
Ana Bartl
Principal

Instructional Insights

Critical Thinking Skills - These are the skills that give us the ability to analyze and synthesize information in order to make reasonable decisions or judgements. Critical thinking skills are learned and developed through practice over time and not fully developed until adolescence. The development of these skills allows us to be creative and flexible thinkers and problem solvers. Even before kindergarten teachers and parents can support the development of critical thinking skills for our children. Below is a link to a very short article that outlines some of the approaches adults can take to teach these important skills to children.

<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/family-life/creativity-and-critical-thinking/learning-skills-for-kids/think-about-it-critical-thinking.html>

Meet the Burroughs Staff

Anna Lemon, Kindergarten Teacher - This is Mrs. Lemon's fifth year teaching at Burroughs and 6th year teaching for Minneapolis Public Schools! Mrs. Lemon loves teaching kindergarten because it is such an exciting time. She loves watching the growth that takes place during their first year at school and the excitement, curiosity, and joy of the students. Mrs. Lemon was born and raised in Minneapolis and grew up just a few blocks from Burroughs! She now lives in Edina with her husband Chas, and their two sons. When she is not teaching, she loves spending time with her family, her nieces, cooking, and playing with her boys. Mrs. Lemon received a BA in Elementary Education at St. Ben's and recently received her Master's degree from Saint Mary's University in Education, focusing on Culturally Responsive Teaching. She is a constant learner and loves to continue her own education whenever possible.

Announcements

- **Strategic Planning Committee** - In February we will be convening a strategic planning committee. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please complete an application. The application can be found at http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/burroughs_visioning_notes
- **Family Budget Survey** - School budget season will soon be upon us. Your input is important to us! Please use this link, <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VKM2Z2G>, to take a short survey to provide

us with input that will help guide us as we make budget decisions for the 2019-20 school year.

- **Dismissal** -For the safety of all students and adults, please do not cross the street between the buses on James at dismissal time. Please use the crosswalk at the corner of 50th and James.

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, January 23** - 2nd Quarter Ends
- **Thursday, January 24 - 25** No School Teacher PD and Record Keeping Day
- **Wednesday, January 30** - Read-a-thon Opening Ceremony 9:30
- **February 4-8** Ice week in P.E.
- **February 11** National African American Parent Involvement Day
- **February 14-15** Winter Conferences
- **February 18** NO SCHOOL President's Day
- **February 19** Site Council