

Note from the Principal

May 23, 2017

Dear Families,

Last week culminated with a staff appreciation breakfast hosted by our PTA. It was a lovely opportunity for staff to celebrate the end of another school year and be acknowledged for all of the hard work they do to create a school where our students feel welcomed, safe, and valued for who they are and what they bring to our learning community. Thank you again to our PTA for the endless support you provide us!

This week kicked off with the 3rd annual 'Change for a Change' campaign organized by some of our 4th graders. This has become a beautiful tradition of giving for Burroughs. If you have any spare change you are willing to donate, classrooms will be collecting all week. Other events this week include Field Day on Wednesday (weather permitting) and our rescheduled Wacky Hat/Crazy Hair/Backwards Day on Friday. Thank you to our amazing PE teachers and volunteers who organize our Field Day event every year! It is a fun opportunity for our kids to get out and be active.

To close, I'd like to draw your attention to an additional section in my weekly note. Please see below for the new 'Instructional Insights' section. In this section, each week I will attempt to highlight relevant information regarding best practice instruction. My hope is that this section will support our community in developing a common understanding of what rigorous and engaging instruction looks like at Burroughs.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise and I look forward to seeing many families at the events of the upcoming weeks. Have a wonderful and safe Memorial Day weekend!

Sincerely,
Ana Bartl
Principal

Instructional Insights

- **Differentiation** –A commonly used term in education. This relates to what teachers do to meet the needs of the diverse learners in their classrooms. In a differentiated classroom, rather than relying on whole group instruction (which is often too low for some learners and too high for others), everyone in class has a chance to use learning strategies that are appropriate to their needs. Students work in flexible groups that keep them interested and challenged. This link, from the Winnetka School District in Illinois, is great for describing what differentiation looks like in classrooms.
https://www.winnetka36.org/sites/default/files/curriculum/Differentiation_FAQs.pdf
- **Cluster Grouping** - Cluster grouping is a strategy for making the process of differentiation easier for teachers and more effective for learners. Students work in flexible groups that keep them interested and challenged. Through differentiation and cluster grouping we can ensure that every student is receiving targeted instruction appropriate to their current instructional level in order to meet our goal **every** student achieving to their potential and making a years-worth of growth.

Announcements

- **Burroughs Bobcats** - We have finally decide on a logo to go with our mascot! After a rigorous process of our very artistic and talented students submitting drawings and student voting, the winning drawing was from one of our 2nd graders, Adnan Mohamed. When you are visiting the building over the next few weeks, you can check out the entries and see the winner on the T.V. in our atrium. Go Burroughs Bobcats!
- **Volunteers Appreciation** - Calling all volunteers! So much of what we do could not be done without your support. Please join us on Tuesday, June 6th from 4:00-5:00 pm in the courtyard to celebrate all you do to support our students and staff.
- **James Avenue**- For the safety of all students, if you drop off or pick up on James Ave., please do so at bus sign #8, closer to the bridge. Children can walk to the building from there. Also, please do not pull into the loading dock driveway to turn around.
- **Drop off Circle** - The drop circle is for families with children in grades k-2 only. Please review the procedures at http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/pick_up_drop_off.

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, May 24**
Track & Field Day

Morning ~ Grades 3-5
Afternoon ~ Grades 1-2
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

- **Friday, May 26**
Track & Field Day 'Rain Day'
- **Monday, May 29**
Memorial Day Holiday NO SCHOOL
- **Thursday June 1**
5th Grade @ Biz Town- *all day*
- **Friday, June 2**
2:30 - Room 232 Performance in Auditorium
- **Wednesday, June 7- Friday, 9**
3rd Grade Overnights at Voyageur Environmental Center Rooms/
7-8th Rooms 346 & 357
8-9th Room 348, 351 & 353
- **Wednesday, June 7**
9:15-3:15 2nd Grade to Lowry Nature Center
Rooms 203 & 231
- **Thursday, June 8**
9:15-3:15 2nd Grade to Lowry Nature Center
Rooms 205-206-233
- **Tuesday, June 13**
9:45 am - 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
4th Grade Choir will perform
- **Wednesday, June 14 Last Day of School**
5th Grade Picnic
1:30 Kindergarten Program