

## Note from the Principal

November 13, 2018

Dear Families,

We are happy to announce that our 'Vote YES Twice' for Minneapolis Public Schools campaign passed in last week's election. We are so grateful for the support of our voters. Thank you for believing in Minneapolis Public Schools and Burroughs Community School!

There was a wonderful turnout at the Minneapolis Events Center on Friday evening! Thank you to all who attended the auction! Also, thank you to our PTA Auction Committee who put so much time and effort into making this a fun and successful event. Again and again I am in awe of the support our families and community provide for our students and staff. Without you, so many of the experiences we provide for our students simply would not be possible.

As we launch into the 2nd quarter of the school, I find myself reflecting on our Burroughs Community School Mission:

*Our mission is a commitment to inspire all students to be College, Career and Life Ready, well-educated with a sense of determination, bravery and the capacity to fulfill their aspirations. Burroughs students will be Global Citizens who give back to society and continue to be life-long learners.*

How are we working towards and upholding this mission in all we do with our students? is a question I ask myself on a daily basis. Our staff works every day to create safe, nurturing, engaging and non-judgmental learning environments where our students can share their feelings and as a community we can come together to support one another in this journey of school and life. We expect that each child is treated with kindness and respect and sees themselves a valued member of our community.

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl  
Principal

## Instructional Insights

**Homework** is a controversial topic in schools these days and a topic that we are discussing here at Burroughs. What should be assigned for homework? How much homework should be expected? What should we expect from families in regards to homework? Should homework assignments impact a student's grade? These are all questions we grapple with as we attempt to strike a balance and have homework, if assigned, be a tool that supports student growth and learning.

This year, our Site Council is working to create a school wide philosophy around homework. Although we are still in the development phase of this philosophy, grade level teams are expected to be consistent with their homework policies and come to consensus as a team about how they will handle homework. If you have questions about homework for your child, please contact your child's teacher.

### Meet the Burroughs Staff

**Betsy May, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher** - Ms. May has been at Burroughs for 18 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. She has been teaching for 33 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 28 and lives in Washington D.C. and Quena (pronounced Kay-na) is 27 and lives in Seattle, WA. 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.

## Announcements

- **Weather** - As the weather turns colder, please make sure that your children are coming to school with appropriate attire to be outside for recess and P.E.
- **Drop-off Circle** -The drop off circle is for families of students in K-2 grades only. Please do not park in the drop off circle or in the designated handicap drop off/pick up area at any time. **Please drive slowly, pull all the way up, adults stay in the car, and students exit the car from the passenger side only.** Safety is

our number one priority at arrival and dismissal. In order to ensure safety for all of our students it is important that we work together to follow these guidelines.

### Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, November 13** - Site Council 5:00 pm, PTA 6:30 pm
- **Thursday, November 15** - Native American Family Involvement Day
- **Wednesday, November 21-23** - No School, Thanksgiving Break
- **Friday, December 7** - Sinfonia, 12:30-3:00 pm
- **Monday, December 10-14** - Family Fun Run Week
- **Friday, December 7 (Change of Date)**- Coffee with the Principal, 9:30-10:30 am
- **Monday, December 24- Friday, January 4** - No School, Winter Break