

## Note from the Principal

### September 18, 2018

Dear Families,

It was great to see so many of you last week joining your children for our "Week on Wheels" and "Beachcombers Week"! What a perfect week of weather we had for these amazing events that our P.E. department coordinates. These events are such a wonderful part of the Burroughs tradition and they could not happen without the collaboration of our P.E. teachers, other staff, and our families.

Over the next few weeks, our students in grades 1-5 will be taking the FAST assessments in both reading and math. These assessments will provide us with important information about students' math and reading skills. Teachers use this information as a baseline to inform their instruction and design classroom experiences that meet the learning needs of all students. As a school we use the data we gain from screener assessments such as the FAST to look at academic growth and to help us make programmatic decisions that are in the best interest of our students. Teachers will be sharing individual results of this testing with families at Fall Conferences in mid-October. More information on the FAST assessments can be found at [www.fastbridge.org](http://www.fastbridge.org) or at our district assessment information page at [http://rea.mpls.k12.mn.us/assessment\\_info](http://rea.mpls.k12.mn.us/assessment_info).

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

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl  
Principal

## Instructional Insights

**Balanced Literacy** - The MPS K-5 Literacy Framework is a balanced literacy approach using Reader's and Writer's Workshop. This approach is an integrated and comprehensive standards-based literacy program for all elementary students. A Language Skills Block allows a teacher the opportunity to target specific language skills. This approach seeks to find an appropriate balance of all components and elements of literacy instruction. For the purposes of the MPS Literacy Framework, balanced literacy includes an articulation of grade level standards for reading, writing, speaking and listening that utilizes the instructional strategies below:

- Modeled reading and writing ("to" students)
- Shared reading and writing ("with" students)
- Guided reading and writing (small group instruction)

## Announcements

- **CORRECTION Fall Assessments** - On Wednesday, September 12 we began administering FAST assessments in both reading and math for grades 1-5.
- **Parking Circle** - To ensure a safe arrival to and dismissal from school, please review the drop off circle procedures on our website at [http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/pick\\_up\\_drop\\_off](http://burroughs.mpls.k12.mn.us/pick_up_drop_off). Below are a few main points to keep in mind when using the parking circle.
  - ✓ It is vital to the safety of our students that **ALL** families adhere to the rules.
  - ✓ Drive slowly.
  - ✓ The drop off circle at the main entrance is for children in **grades K-2 only**. See below for safe drop off locations for grades 3-5.
  - ✓ Be sure to pull up all the way up to the '**Drop Off**' Sign.
  - ✓ Students must be let out of the **passenger side** right onto the curb.
  - ✓ Adults, **DO NOT** get out of your car.
  - ✓ Students need to **hop out quickly** so you can depart immediately.
  - ✓ **Remember, you can only make a right-hand turn out of the Burroughs lot between 8:30-9:30am.**
- **Coffee with the Principal** - Beginning in October, I will be hosting 'Coffee with the Principal' on the second Friday of each month from 9:30-10:30. This will be an

opportunity to connect with myself and others in the community throughout the year.

- **Community Visioning Event** - Thank you to all who came out to be a part of this conversation on June 14 and August 16! I am feeling inspired and energized by the conversations. We will be holding one final input gathering event on Thursday, October 11 from 6:00-8:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others in our community and provide input into what we envision for our school community over the next 3-5 years. If you were/are unable to attend the event in person, and would like to provide input, please use this link to share your ideas using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7NF3X9D>.

## Meet the Burroughs Staff

**Amy Zitur, Kindergarten Teacher** - Amy comes to us with a strong background in elementary education and a variety of experiences working with school aged children and adults. In addition to an elementary teaching license, Amy is a licensed k-12 reading specialist, holds a k-6 certificate in technology curriculum and has earned her master's degree in curriculum and instruction. Prior to teaching for Minneapolis Public Schools, Amy was a YMCA Summer Camping Program Director. Amy describes herself as a lifelong learner and who is energized by new challenges. She looks forward to working with the families and staff at Burroughs Community School.

## Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, September 18** - School Pictures
- **Tuesday, September 25** - PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Tuesday, October 2** - Mindfulness Family Night 6:00-7:30 pm
- **Saturday, October 6** - Book Fair 11:00am-2:00pm
- **Thursday, October 11** - Community Visioning Session 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Saturday, October 13**- Campus Clean Up (Times to be determined)
- **Tuesday, October 16** - Conferences 4:00-8:00pm
- **Wednesday, October 17** - Conferences 8:00am-4:00pm (No School Students)
- **Thursday, October 18** - No School
- **Friday, October 19** - No School