

Note from the Principal September 25, 2018

Dear Families,

We had an eventful week last week with school picture day and the start of after school classes. In the week ahead, we look forward to 'Peddle, Paddle Fish Week' for our 3rd graders and our first Site Council and PTA meetings of the school year. We hope to see many of you at the PTA meeting as this is a wonderful opportunity to network and get involved in the many wonderful things that go on at Burroughs.

I want thank all of the family members who have shared their time with us over the last couple of weeks. Whether volunteering to help out in classrooms, in the lunchroom, or with Week on Wheels and Beachcombers Day, we so appreciate the time and energy you give. So many of the things that we do at Burroughs simply could not be accomplished without your generosity. Thank you!

It will be October before we know it! Please watch for information coming out soon regarding conference dates, times and the link for signing up to meet with your child's teacher.

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

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl
Principal

Instructional Insights

Guided Reading - Guided reading as an instructional approach to literacy will be a focus for our staff this year. This is a teaching approach designed to help individual readers build an effective system for processing a variety of increasingly challenging texts over time.

Guided reading is not an exercise to practice reading skills. It is research-based, professionally energized, highly targeted, scaffolded reading instruction that propels all students toward confident, independent reading of high quality grade level books across a diverse array of literature and informational genres. Reading well means reading with deep, high quality comprehension and gaining maximum insight or knowledge from each source.

Using benchmark assessments or other systematic observation, the instructional reading level of each student is determined. The teacher forms a temporary group of students that are alike enough in their development of a reading process that it makes sense to teach them together for a period of time. In selecting a text for the group, the teacher uses the level designation; thinks about the strengths, needs, and background knowledge of the group; and analyzes the individual text for opportunities to support students' successful engagement with the meaning, language, and print of the text. The teacher uses the text to help the children expand what they know how to do as readers.

- **Independent Reading Level** - The independent level is the level at which the child can read easily and with pleasure. This is the highest level you would ask a child to read with only a small amount of assistance.
- **Instructional Reading Level** - Most students are taught by their teacher at their instructional levels during their guided reading time. This is the level at which the teacher 'stretches' the student in his/her thinking and reading. This is the highest level at which a reader is not independent, but has adequate background knowledge for a topic, and can access text quickly with no or few errors.

Announcements

- **Teacher Emeritus** - I am happy to welcome Meredith Halsne and Donna Nordin to our team this year as our Teacher Emeriti. Both Meredith and Donna are former Minneapolis Public School teachers. Currently, they have been working to help us complete initial math and reading assessments. In the next week or two they will be transitioning to support students and teachers with delivering academic interventions.
- **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. 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

Kenza Sahir, Kindergarten Teacher - Ms. Kenza comes to us having recently completed her teaching residency at Bancroft Elementary School in Minneapolis. Prior to completing her residency and licensure, Kenza worked as an Associate Educator for Minneapolis Public Schools. We are so happy to have Ms. Kenza as a part of the Burroughs team and she is loving getting to know her kindergarten students and families!

Dates to Remember

- **Tuesday, September 25** - Site Council 5:00 pm
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