

Note from the Principal

October 9, 2018

Dear Families,

Wow, it's hard to believe that we are in our seventh week of the school year! I love this time of the school year. With the rituals and routines of school in full motion, it offers us a time to pause and reflect. How are our children doing? What are we doing to support their growth? How are we fostering joy, a love of learning and building our students up to be responsibly independent? These are just a few of the questions on my mind now and as we move through the year.

With conferences coming up, these are questions that are also on the mind of teachers as they prepare to talk with you about the progress of your child. Keep in mind, that conferences are not only an opportunity for teacher to share with families but also for families to ask questions and share with teachers. It is through these opportunities for dialogue that we all learn about how to support our children as they grow academically and socially.

Thank you to all who joined us last week for Mindfulness Family Night! We had a great turn out and hopefully we all left with a little more knowledge of Mindfulness as a practice and its benefits. Also, thank you to all who participated in our annual fall Book Fair! It is always fun to see so many families come together around reading. This week on Wednesday is Bike and Walk to school day and Thursday evening is our third of three Community Visioning sessions. We hope to see many of you at these events as well.

Family and community engagement are instrumental components of a successful school and I am grateful every day for the support and participation of our community. Burroughs is a community of true partnership and there are many things that we would not be able to do without your support. Thank you!

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

Sincerely,

Ana Bartl
Principal

Instructional Insights

Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) - This is the difference between what a learner can do independently and what a learner cannot do independently. This concept was developed by psychologist and social constructivist Lev Vygotsky. Many of the instructional models that we use in education today, including the workshop model, are grounded in this concept. The idea being, that providing students with experiences within their ZPD will advance students learning. This concept plays out in the classroom when students are guided by the teacher to use tools and strategies, and through questioning that provides students the opportunity to talk about why they are using particular strategies. This approach enables students to move from dependence to independence.

Announcements

- **Volunteers needed to support GEMS (Girls in Engineering Mathematics and Science)** -Ms. Robin Weber will be offering GEMS as an afterschool opportunity for our 2nd and 3rd graders this year. WE have received a very positive response from students and families who have expressed interest in participating in this opportunity. In light of this, we are looking for a couple of parents who would be interested in assisting Ms. Weber on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:40-5:15 throughout the year. If you are interested in more details regarding this opportunity, please contact Ana Bartl at ana.bartl@mpls.k12.mn.us.
- **Conferences** - Sign up for conferences using this link <https://tinyurl.com/BurrMasterListFall2018>.
- **Dismissal** - This is an extremely busy time of day. Please communicate to the teacher or office in person or in writing well in advance of dismissal time if your child will be going home in an alternative way i.e. instead of taking the bus home they will be picked up or have permission to walk to their destination, etc.
- **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

Maggie Nelson, Secretary - This is Maggie's first year at Burroughs and it's been a fabulous start so far! Prior to Burroughs she was a high school Spanish teacher at

Roosevelt and an Operations Manager at a charter School in St. Paul. She enjoys working alongside teachers, students and families and supporting the school in its daily operations. She views herself as a life-long learner and has a passion for mental health awareness and access to resources. Outside of Burroughs she enjoys going to the dog park with her dog (Sophie), practicing yoga and meditation, and searching for those perfect thrift store finds.

Dates to Remember

- **Thursday, October 11** - Community Visioning Session 6:00-8:00 pm
- **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
- **Saturday, October 27**- Campus Clean Up 10:00 am-1:00pm
- **Wednesday, October 31** - 1st Quarter Ends
- **Thursday, November 1** - No School, Professional Development Day for Teachers
- **Thursday, November 2** - No School, Record Keeping Day for Teachers
- **Monday, November 5** - 2nd Quarter begins
- **Friday, November 9** - Fall for Burroughs Auction