



# Blazer Newsletter

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



April 11, 2014



## Upcoming Important Dates

**Mon Apr 14**

Early Release

**Tues Apr 15**

Imagination Machine  
Assemblies

**Fri Apr 18**

Spirit Assembly

**Mon Apr 21**

Early Release

**Tue Apr 22**

5th Grade Panoramic  
Picture

**Mon Apr 28**

Early Release

**Tue Apr 29**

2nd Grade Awards

**Wed Apr 30**

3rd Grade Awards

**The Next Friday Spirit**

**Assembly is**

**April 18, 2014**

**at 8:30am**

**School Office Hours**

Mon-Fri 7:30am-4:00pm

Website

[www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/buchanan](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/buchanan)



## School Notes

Did You Know.....

SBAC testing is coming for grades 3-5. Please see attached flyer for dates and additional information

Joshua Goldsmith (5<sup>th</sup> grade) has won First Place in the Buchanan Science Fair since Kindergarten!

Our fabulous PTA will be hosting our Buchanan Talent show in June. More details to follow.

12% percent of our First graders have already completed their addition operations in FASTT Math!

Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Morgan will be presenting technology usage in a classroom at Murrieta Community Expo on April 16, 2014.

Good things are happening at Buchanan Elementary!  
Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis



## Mad Scientist Science Fair

In March, many of our students participated in the Science Fair at Buchanan exploring the world of science. Students had the opportunity of exploring a concept of interest to them by choosing a topic, creating a hypothesis and working through the scientific method to learn if their original hypothesis was valid or not. A variety of projects were submitted for judging in each grade level and below are the overall grade level winners:

TK/Kindergarten: Julia Ortiz & Jimena Cardenas (tie) 1st Place, Isabella Korodini - 2nd place, Esteban Bolanos - 3rd Place.

First Grade: Daly Hodge - 1st Place, Christian Tyndall - 2nd Place, Emerson Vincent—& Nicholas Poppalardo (tie) 3rd Place.

Second Grade: Megan Colburn - 1st Place, Jaden Pitman - 2nd Place, Haris Faruqi - 3rd Place.

Third Grade: Bella Mardisich - 1st Place, Emily Nunez - 2nd Place, Marcelo Curbelo - 3rd Place

Fourth Grade: Garrett Fitch - 1st Place, Austin Sword—2nd Place, Karly Turner—3rd Place.

Fifth Grade: Joshua Goldsmith - 1st Place, Aryon MMurray—2nd Grade, Zeke Hueter - 3rd Place.

## Be Ready for the SBAC Field Test by Practicing at Home

Being responsible can mean a great many things. Students show responsibility by following directions, following school rules, and by completing their class work and homework. In this newsletter we will discuss taking responsibility a step further by discussing how students can go beyond normal expectations by preparing for this year's SBAC Field Test and practicing at home.



### What is SBAC?

To start, SBAC is the abbreviation for Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. These assessments will replace the former STAR and CST assessments taken every spring by students all across the state. However, this year 5<sup>th</sup> graders in all of California will also take a CST Science Assessment.

### What are the differences between SBAC and STAR/CST?

One, the SBAC assessments will be taken nation-wide in nearly all states. Also, the format of the assessments will look a great deal different from the former state assessments. For example, multiple choice questions may have more than one correct answer, students will have to write short responses to questions, and students will have to complete what is called a performance task where they will write a multi paragraph response after reading or watching materials provided by the SBAC exam. Finally, and perhaps the biggest difference from the former assessments, SBAC will drop the paper and pencil model of assessment and be completed on computers using an online interface. That's right. Our students will be taking these new SBAC assessments entirely online.

### Will this year's SBAC count for Buchanan?

Since this will be a huge adjustment, the state has eliminated official testing for this 2013/14 school year. Instead, they have put together a Field Test so that schools can test their technological resources and students and teachers alike can start to see what is expected of them as we head to the future of state assessment. It is important to note, this year's Field Test will not be scored.

### When is the SBAC Field Test?

-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: April 21 – 25

-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: April 28 – May 2

\*This is to accommodate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade CST Science Assessment. Only 5<sup>th</sup> graders take this assessment.

-5<sup>th</sup> grade California Science CST/CMA: May 13-15

-4<sup>th</sup> Grade: May 5 – 15

### Back to what students can do at home to be responsible

Knowing there is such a large learning curve as we move from paper and pencil assessment to the new online assessments, the state has provided a website for students to practice these assessments in preparation for the Field test. Our teachers at Buchanan will do their part in preparing our students for this Field Test. However, there is the opportunity for students to make a positive choice and begin to explore the SBAC assessments on their own.



First, click on the link below and scroll down the page until you see a green button like the picture to the left. There are two green buttons, so be sure to select the one entitled 'Student Interface Practice and Training Tests.' Second, sign in as a guest. There is no need to register, so you can strictly click 'Sign In' and go to the next page. Next, have the students select their grade level and click 'Yes.' Finally, the student can click the type of assessment they would like to practice.

It is not scored, so students can explore the different buttons to click on and try different responses with no fear of how it might affect their overall performance. In short, let your student have fun trying to figure out how to work through this new style of assessment, and let them know what a positive choice they are making by taking responsibility for their own education.

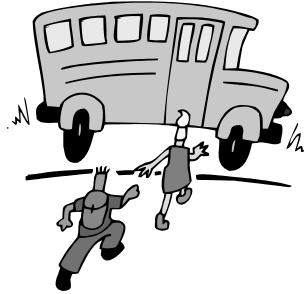
### SBAC Practice Test Link:

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

Murrieta Valley Unified School District

*Presents*

## **“Kindergarten, Here I Come!”**



***Ease the transition to kindergarten for your child.  
Join us for a fun filled afternoon of education and activities!***

**Monday: May 12, 2014**

***Buchanan Elementary***

40121 Torrey Pines Rd

Murrieta, CA 92563

**Time: 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm**

*For children attending*

*Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten in the Fall.*

***Introduction to Kindergarten & Transitional Kindergarten  
Meet Kindergarten Teachers, Principal & Assistant Principal  
Learn about School Readiness Preparation  
Receive a Readiness Calendar to Work on over the Summer  
Tour Kindergarten Classrooms***

Parents AND kids go to designated classroom to begin rotations (There will be 6 activities to rotate through, changing about every 7 min, with 3 min passing)



## Positive Behavioral Supports Moment

### Positive Behavioral Supports Moment

Being responsible can also keep students safe. Parents, please talk to you children about the importance of using the crosswalks when crossing the street. Please have students exit the curb side of the vehicle when unloading and please be mindful of pedestrians having the "right away" when they enter the crosswalks. We want all our students, staff and parents to arrive and leave school safely each and every day.

### Safety guidelines for children to follow when walking to and from school:

1. Always walk to and from school with a friend, a group of friends or an adult.
2. Always leave school and go straight home when school is over.
3. Never let a stranger get too close, whether he or she is in a car or walking.
4. Never accept candy, a present, a ride, or anything else from a stranger.
5. Never tell a stranger your name or address.
6. Never go with a stranger for any reason, even if he/she says they know your parents.
7. Never go into deserted places alone.
8. Never keep secrets from your parents about strangers.
9. Stick to the same safe route when you walk to and from school or a friend's house.
10. If a stranger tries to grab you, yell as loud as you can and run away.
11. Report any incidents to a trusted adult immediately.

# MURRIETA *Community* EXPO TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

*From Kindergarten to Advanced Manufacturing  
...and Everything in Between!*

**April 16, 2014**

**4:00 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Murrieta Mesa High School**

Please join us as we explore the ingenuity, innovation and collaboration in Murrieta!

This event will showcase the tech/advanced skills coming out of Murrieta's schools as well as the innovations by our business community.

Innovation Cluster Areas:

- Sciences
- Innovation
- Multimedia / The Arts
- Manufacturing / Engineering
- Medical / Sports Medicine
- Hospitality





**CALL 1.877.8ASKHMC  
(827.5462)**

**FREE  
over-the-phone mathematics  
and science tutoring  
Grades 4–12**

**askhmc.org**

**6–9 p.m.  
Sunday–Thursday**

This online tutoring program (Program) was developed by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (RHIT). Harvey Mudd College is licensed by RHIT to use the Program, but all rights, titles and interests in and to the Program, including intellectual property rights, are owned by RHIT. Marilyn and James Simons and Harvey Mudd College sponsor the Homework Hotline at Harvey Mudd College. This is not a district-sponsored activity, and this material was not prepared at district expense.



## Free and Reduced Lunch Applications

Many families have not applied for free or reduced breakfast/lunch for the 2013-2014 school year. Applications are available in the school office or online at <https://fma.murrieta.k12.ca.us/> Please take the time to come by and pick one up, you never know, your child/ren may be eligible for free or reduced lunch.

