



Blazer Newsletter

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



March 2015



School Office Hours

Mon - Fri

7:30am - 3:45pm

**Spring Forward One hour
at 1:00am on March 8th**

**Spring Break
March 30th
thru
April 10th
NO School**

*Stay up to date - Check out
our School Website
[www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/
buchanan](http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/buchanan)*

Upcoming Friday Spirit

Assemblies

March 6

March 20

at 8:30am

In the amphitheater



School Notes

Buchanan Families,

It is hard to believe it is already the month of March and Spring is just around the corner! There are so many exciting things happening at Buchanan this month. We will be celebrating the joy of reading, be entertained by our annual musical production, Shrek Jr., that includes a cast of over 100 students in grades K-5, exploring the wonders of science with our Science Fair, enjoying the annual PTA Mother/Son skating event and visiting our classrooms for our yearly Open House on March 26th. We hope you will join us for some of the activities planned for this month.

Did you know.....

- In recognition of Black History month, the following 5th grade students presented two poems at our Friday Spirit Assembly by the great poet, civil rights activist, and award-winning author who passed away this past May, 29, 2014 ... we remember Maya Angelou: Vivian Briese, Anaiya Boateng, Gavin Jones, Kaylee Harrison, Cheyenne Moore, Caroline Miller, Amelia Johnson, Brendan Jones, Hayleigh Penkert, Jayden Williams, Ryane Dorsett, Mia Standefer

Good things are happening at Buchanan Elementary!

Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis



-Bicycle and Scooter Reminders and Safety-

A couple of reminders: Please remember to wear helmets whenever riding. It can help protect your growing brain and....it's the law. Also, when pedestrians are present be courteous, they do have the **right away**. Don't zoom by or try to squeeze through if there is not much space. For example, after school, walk your bike or scooter to the crossing guards on either side of the bike compound because these are crowded areas that need to be used safely. Remember, doing these things shows good character and that you care. And, remember, character counts!

Tardy Bell Reminder and Procedures

Please remember to get up each morning with enough time to make it to the school before the Tardy Bell rings. School starts at 8:20am for Early Bird Kindergarten and 8:25am for 1st thru 5th grade. Each morning staff members will be at each entry gate when the **8:25am TARDY BELL** rings to give out tardy slips. Get here early to enjoy breakfast or have some play time on the playground. Gates open at 8:00am.



Character Counts!
AT BUCHANAN!

Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best
- H. Jackson Brown



Positive Behavioral Supports Moment

Bullying: Speak Up, Reach Out, and be a Friend

When we send our students off to school in the morning, one of the inherit givens we all want to have is that they will be safe. Safe as they ride their bike or scooter, safe as they play on the playground, and safe to learn life skills in their classrooms. One thing that can derail all of this is if they encounter another student or group of students that target them with bullying behavior.

At Buchanan we are attempting to teach social expectations that will equip our students to behave appropriately in several areas of their educational career. This month, as Buchanan students attend their social skills training they will be learning about bullying. The goal: to define bullying, describe the impact of bullying, and instruct on how to stop bullying. The hope, prevent bullying before it occurs.

It starts with defining bullying. Bullying is the **repeated, targeted, and intentional negative behavior** towards another person. There is a common misconception that when a student has a single experience where they are teased, hit, or threatened that they were being bullied. Now understand, teasing, hitting, or threatening are all incidents where a student will receive consequences for their behavior. They are potentially serious negative behaviors that need to be addressed as quickly as possible. However, a single incident is not bullying. It must be repeated over time. Additionally, students will also be exposed to the types of bullying from physical, to emotional, and also touch upon electronic or cyber bullying.

We also want to make sure students hear how bullying makes people feel, from both perspectives. First, there is the perspective of the victim and the isolation they feel along with the fact that extensive bullying can have a long lasting negative impact on their life. Secondly, why a bully becomes a bully? This includes a discussion about the fact that they may have an area in their life out of control or hurting them that causes them to use bullying to feel like they are in control of something.

Finally and the main purpose of our lesson about bullying, how can we make it stop. This is also a two pronged approach. Students need to understand how not to be a bully and what to do if they feel like they are being bullied. To do this we will have the students sign a pledge. The pledge's intent is for our students to be proactive, to not bottle emotion up until we feel alone or isolated. That pledge states:

1. SPEAK UP when I see bullying
2. REACH OUT to others who are bullied
3. BE A FRIEND whenever I see bullying

The Golden Rule:
*Treat others the way
You want to be treated.*



ELAC Meeting

The next ELAC meeting will be Tuesday, March 17th at 5pm in the library.

Items to leave at home

Just a reminder the following items should NOT be brought to school: toys, (this includes kendamas), electronic devices, games or CD players. Please keep them at home, safe and unbroken.



TOYS & GAMES



Come out and see all the wonderful things your student has done this year.

Thursday, March 26th 5:30-6:30pm

Reading Incentives Program



All students who turn in their pledge sheet on time and meet their grade level reading goal are given a gift certificate to Famous Dave's BBQ. The names of students who have met their goal are entered in a raffle and the following students are the latest winners of a reading book and book bag.

Kindergarten – **Evan Hill, Bella Zala**

2nd grade – **Madison Veenstra, Kail Bodnar**

4th grade – **Anastasia Dennis, Isaac Owusu Banahene**

1st grade – **Amber Mendoza, Amari Jensen**

3rd grade – **Sophia Liu, Jackie Duncan**

5th grade – **Karly Turner, Aakif Iqbal**



Author and Artist of the Month

The following students were honored at our February 20th Friday Spirit Assembly. Their work is being showcased in our Library.



Artist of the Month

TK/Kinder: **Kellen Guinn (McKenzie)**

3rd: **Leilani Galarneau (Corbett)**

1st: **Isaiah Velasco (Cato)**

4th: **Evan Jones (McCandless)**

2nd: **Isabella Acosta (Richardson)**

5th: **Keanu Galarneau (Williams)**

Author of the Month

TK/Kinder: **Tyson Claybrooks (McWhorter)**

3rd: **Matthew Bick (Morgan)**

1st: **Kienna Smith (Davis)**

4th: **Kaiden Bean (McCandless)**

2nd: **Arianna Lantz (Ogawa)**

5th: **Logan Moreno (Williams)**



PTA Mother & Son Event

Moms and Sons...time to get your Aloha on!
Save the date for the Mother / Son Event to be held at
EPIC ROLLERTAINMENT

Come dressed Hawaiian style! (appropriate clothing for a school event please)
When: Grades Preschool thru 2nd Monday, March 9th from 5:30 to 8:00pm
Grades 3-5 Tuesday, March 10th from 5:30 to 8:00pm
(if you can't make one night, feel free to attend the other.)

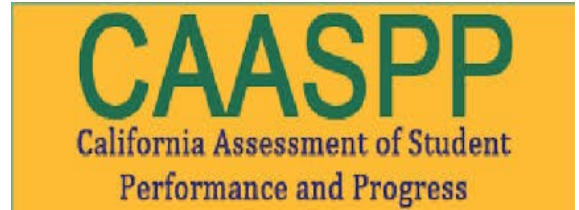


*Entrance to the Rink is Free! Skates are available for purchase for \$4.00 per person, or bring your own roller blades or skates at no charge. *Food is available for purchase. *Look for a flyer to be sent home soon with your child.

State Assessments are Back for Grades 3-5

After taking a year off from state assessments, we start again in spring of 2015. After spring break all Murrieta students grades three through five will be taking the first ever SBAC assessments in the subject areas of English Language Arts and Math.

Additionally, fifth graders will be taking a CST Science assessment.



Buchanan's Science Fair



The Science Fair will be held during Open House on March 26th. Students in grades TK—3rd that are interested in participating in the Science Fair can get a packet of information from their teacher. An experiment science project is required of all 4th and 5th grade students. 4th grade projects are due March 23rd and 5th grade projects are due March 20th. The top five projects from each 4th & 5th grade class will be entered into the Science fair.



2015/2016 Enrollment Timeline

December 9 District accepts NEW Intra-district Transfer requests (K-12)

January 13 District accepts NEW and RENEWAL Inter-district Transfer requests.

January 13 Online Enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten and new students begins. Registration packets are also available at school sites.

February 13 Last day to submit RENEWAL AND NEW Inter-district Transfer requests during Open Enrollment.

February 13 Last day to submit NEW Intra-district Transfer requests to school sites during Open Enrollment.

March 9 Online Enrollment for NEW elementary students -parents may begin to submit requested records to school sites to complete registration. See the school websites for more information.

June 12 Parents/guardians of Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will receive notification of placement at the home school and morning or afternoon session. The notification of determination on Intra-district and Inter-district transfer requests will be sent.

The 3rd reporting period report cards go home on March 27th.



March

Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Early Release Day	3	4 5th Grade Band	5 Drama Club	6 8:30am Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band	7 Time Change - Don't forget to Spring Forward 1 hour tonight.
 Dr. Seuss Read Across America Celebration						
8	9 Early Release Day	10 3:30pm School Site Council meeting	11 5th Grade Band	12 Drama Club	13 5th Grade Band	14 12pm and 4pm Shrek Jr. Performances in MPR
15	16 Early Release Day	17 5pm ELAC Meeting	18 5th Grade Band	19 6pm 5th Grade Band Concert at Alta Murrieta Elem	20 8:30am Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band	21
						
22	23 Early Release Day	24	25 5th Grade Band	26 5:30pm Open House & Science Fair Exhibit	27 5th Grade Band Storm Baseball Bookmarks Due Pictures for the Yearbook are due	28
PTA Book Fair in the Library this week 						
29	30	31	 March 30th - April 10th Spring Break - No School			

Buchanan's Jump Rope for Heart - Update

You're the cure and together, we CAN save lives!!

This year our school raised \$1467.00

Awesome Job Blazers!!! Thank you for your support!



MILITARY CORNER

Valentine's for Vets was a school district wide event. 16 schools participated with 22,748 valentines cards made that were distributed to various organizations.

Put your Military ID to use. Some local business offer a Military discount which is a great way to save. A few of those businesses include Kahoot's feed store, Payless Shoes, Lowes, Home Depot, CPK, Party City, Auto Zone, Wetzels Pretzels, IHop, Pep Boys, and Cold Stone Creamery. Most business will not tell you that they offer a Military discount so it never hurts to ask!

Please contact Melissa Mendoza at momamendoza@yahoo.com for resources available to our military families. Tutor.com is free to Military Families. For more info go to www.tutor.com/military

Hey BLAZERS! Get your YEARBOOK BEFORE THE PRICE GOES UP!



Order envelopes went out last week! If you order your book NOW, it's only \$20! Cash or Checks accepted (Make checks out to Buchanan PTA). After April 27th, the price goes up to \$25, and CASH ONLY will be accepted at that point. A limited number of yearbooks have been ordered for print, so get yours before they're sold out!



Are you a Shutterbug?

Submit photos for the yearbook!

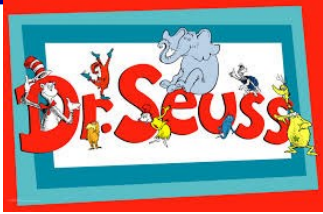
The Yearbook Committee will gladly accept photos from Buchanan families *for consideration* to be included in the 2014-2015 school yearbook. We need photos from all grade levels, from class activities, extra-curricular activities, school events, field trips, etc.! **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015.** You can submit photos one of two ways:

Submit your photos on a disk or memory stick to the office.

OR

E-mail pictures to buchananPTA.yearbook@gmail.com.

Check out the flyer that went home last week for further details!



Buchanan's Seussational Celebration!

Oh, the thinks he could think! Theodor Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss, will be remembered all over the world on his birthday March 2nd. In the spirit of Dr. Seuss who continues to inspire young readers and to celebrate the joy of reading, Buchanan will have a week-long Seussational Celebration. Our friends at Target along with Buchanan's Reading Team have planned some fun for our students which include dress up days, guest community readers during library time, lunch with The Cat and the Hat, and much, much more. Please see the schedule of events below.

Monday, March 2nd: Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

1. Dress like your favorite Dr. Seuss Character

Tuesday, March 3rd: Fox in Socks

1. Crazy Sock Day: Wear your crazy socks

Wednesday, March 4th: There's a Wocket in my Pocket

1. Wear clothes with pockets

Thursday, March 5th: 1 Fish, 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

1. Wear Red & Blue

Friday, March 6th: Oh the Places You'll Go

1. Career Day Dress up: Come dressed as the career of your choice.
2. Eat Lunch with the Cat and the Hat: Cat in the Hat will visit during student lunch times; Kindergarten too!



Student Lunches and Cafeteria Meals

Due to parent concerns and health/food allergies, students and parents should not share lunches with other students. Parents who join their student during lunch time will eat with their student at the tables under the blue canvas cover.



Student Meal Prices:	Breakfast - Full Pay \$1.50	Reduced price \$.30
	Lunch - Full Pay \$2.50	Reduced price \$.40
	Milk or Juice - \$.50	Bottled Water - \$.75

Free and reduced lunch applications are to be completed online at www.fma.murrieta.k12.ca.us
Parents can make payments to lunch accounts at www.myschoolbucks.com

PTA Box-Tops Contest Update



Thank you to all you AMAZING Blazers who have kept the Box Tops Program alive by bringing in your Box Tops! Every Box Top helps support our school, your classes and you! Keep turning in Box Tops and at the end of the school year, top classes will earn something special!! Extra collection sheets can be found in the school office, or coming to you soon if you have already submitted Box Tops this year!





Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting March 10, 2015



Attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes of February 10, 2015

Agenda of March 10, 2015

III. Action Items

Review of Buchanan's Technology Plan

IV. New Business

Next Meeting date - May 12th at 3:30pm

V. Adjourn

We Need Your Help in the Parking Lot



Student safety is our number one concern. It is extremely important that parents and students use the crosswalk when walking to and from the parking lot.

If you are picking up your children in your car please ask them to wait for you in front of the Multi Purpose Room and not by the kindergarten gate area. Remember to keep moving forward so we can get as many cars as possible into the loop. Your help keeps the students safe. Please take your time when entering and exiting the parking lot and remember the loop is a NO cell phone use area. Safety is our top priority.





Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting Minutes February 10, 2015



I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes of December 9, 2014 - minutes approved

Agenda of February 10, 2015 - agenda approved

III. Action Items

Review of 2014 - 2015 Safe School Plan - Mr. Curtis reviewed the plan and the committee approved

IV. New Business

Review 2014 - 2015 Disciplinary Dashboard Summary - Mr. Curtis reviewed the data

Next School Site Council meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed - Technology Plan.

Next Meeting date - March 10th

V. Adjourn at 4:20pm

Drama Club's Performance of Shrek Jr.

Come join us and have a fun afternoon with ogres, princesses, fairy tale characters, kings and dragons!!! Buchanan Elementary Drama Club's production of Shrek, Jr. is on Saturday, March 14 in the Multi-Purpose Room. There will be 2 performances at 12:00 and 4:00 and admission is \$1.00 for adults and children over 12. Children under 12 are free. There will be concessions for sale and a silent auction with some awesome prizes. We have over 100 actors who have been working hard to bring you a fantastic show!!! Please come support Drama Club and all of our great students!



Helping at Home with Mathematics Homework

by Paul Giganti, Jr., CMC Math Festival Program



As a parent, you will want to help your children with homework—but you may not feel prepared to help with mathematics, especially as they get older and the mathematics becomes more complex. If that is the case, here is something you will be happy to learn: you do not have to be an expert in mathematics to help with mathematics homework!

Providing a well-lit table and comfortable chair is an important place to start. Remember, the best location for homework is not necessarily your son or daughter's bedroom. If your child studies at the kitchen or dining room table instead, you can help without having to sit down the entire time. You can assist when help is needed and still go about your own tasks. At the same time, you will have the opportunity to keep homework time focused by giving your child support, encouragement, and gentle reminders.

A good strategy is to pass by your child's work area and periodically "check in." A quick glance will often tell you if it is time to stop and provide some extra support. When it is clear that your child could use some assistance, take a deep breath and relax. If you stay calm, it will help your child stay calm.

Many parents worry about not knowing the mathematics their children are studying. In this case, the way to provide homework help is actually quite simple: ask questions and practice careful listening. Simple, generic questions can help your child gradually make sense of mathematics, build confidence, and encourage mathematical thinking and communication. When given the opportunity to talk about mathematics, children are often able to remember what they learned in class and see the solution themselves. A good question can open up your child's thinking about the problem at hand.

Here are some useful questions for parents to try. Remember that listening to your child's answers and providing calm responses are as important as the questions you pose.

When your child isn't sure how to begin a problem, ask:

- Can you tell me what you know now? What facts do you have?
- What do you need to find out? Can you estimate the answer?
- How might you begin? What can you try first?
- Can you make a drawing or picture to get started?

While your child is working on a problem, ask:

- How can you organize your information? Will a list or table help?
- What would happen if . . . ? Show me what you did that did not work.
- Can you explain the strategy you are using to solve this? Why did you . . . ?
- What could you do next? Do you see any patterns?

When your child finds an answer, ask:

- Does that answer make sense? Why do you think that?
- How did you get your answer? Do you think it is right? Tell me more.
- Convince me that your solution makes sense. Explain it in a different way.

When questions alone just will not do, another strategy for helping your child is to identify a friend or relative who knows more mathematics than you do. Find out if that person would be willing to answer an occasional phone call from your son or daughter.

The Internet is also a great resource. Here are three web sites that offer homework assistance in mathematics:

- ❑ Bigchalk.com: www.bigchalk.com
- ❑ The Math Forum's Ask Dr. Math: mathforum.org/dr.math
- ❑ Tutor.com: www.tutor.com ●

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HOMeWORK **HOTLINE**

HARVEY MUDD COLLEGE

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

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