



# The Blazer Post

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



April 2017



## School Office Hours

Mon - Fri

7:45am - 3:45 pm

## Useful Links

[School Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[School Handbook](#)

[Peach Jar Flyers](#)

**Upcoming  
Friday Spirit  
Assemblies**  
**April 7**  
**April 21**  
**at 8:30am**  
**in the**  
**amphitheater**



## School Notes

Buchanan Families,

Welcome back from Spring break! We hope you had a safe and relaxing break with family and friends. April starts the countdown to the end of the school year with many activities planned, both educational and recreational. We begin our State testing this month along with an educational astronomy night. Our fabulous PTA is also sponsoring two fun filled evenings. We hope to see many of you on campus during these events & making memories with your family.

### CAASPP testing:

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in the CAASPP testing starting April 10<sup>th</sup> – May. Students and teachers have been working hard getting ready for these assessments. These assessments provide challenging tasks that require our students to provide reasoning, support arguments with evidence and persevere in problem solving. We have staggered the testing subjects to allow students a break in between testing. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also be taking a pilot computerized science assessment this year. Please see CAASPP article for more details.

### Evening events:

We kick off spring with three fun filled evenings for our wonderful Buchanan community. This Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> PTA is hosting our first ever **Blazer Country Fair** from 5 – 8 pm. There will be games, face painting/balloon art, food for purchase, music and dancing, pie eating and chili cook-off contest, health and safety fair. PTA is also hosting their annual **Mother/Son** event with a 50's dance on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team is sponsoring an **Astronomy Night** on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful time to bring the whole family and enjoy the wonders of the sky and our amazing solar system.

We look forward to a busy month of April and hope our Buchanan community joins us for the activities that we have planned.

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

Did you know....

- April 4th - Spring Pictures (no make-up date)
- April 28th - PTA Spring Book Fair Opens.
- April 11th - ELAC Meeting
- May 15th - Kinder Here I Come Info night

### Growth Mindset Quote

Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. — Thomas Edison



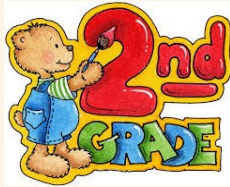
## TK / Kindergarten News

Welcome to Spring! Team K is all rested up from our break and ready to tackle the rest of our Kindergarten standards. Students will have fun exploring "life-cycles" and working in our "kinder"-gardens. Please calendar our Annual Open House on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30. All classrooms will be open for visitors. We can't wait to show you what we've been working on!



## First Grade News

First Graders are blooming in all areas. They are learning many phonics rules and are applying them in their daily reading and writing. They are exploring with tens and ones in math and are growing leaps and bounds with their addition and subtraction skills with larger numbers. We are gearing up for studies in Rainforest, Space, and Living Things. They are proving to their teachers, and most importantly to themselves, that they know what it means to persevere by showing commitment to learning and knowing that practice makes permanent! Happy Spring!



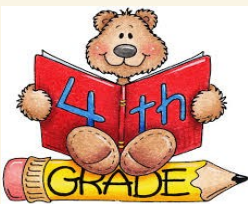
## Second Grade News

Happy Spring! Our second graders have been busy researching biographies of positive role models to share with the school at our second annual Wax Museum. We are actively learning how one's character and actions can change the world. We are also excited to be getting our class gardens ready for spring planting. We hope everyone had an enjoyable spring break and are ready to finish out the school year strong!



## Third Grade News

Some 3rd grade students have been sharing their biography reports in class this month. Others will begin this project after Spring Break. This project gives students an opportunity to explore the lives and accomplishments of many people who have influenced our world in civil rights, science, engineering, math, writing, and many other ways. This connects to our goal of teaching the students to have a growth mindset. These people all have traits of a person with a growth mindset...never give up, persevere, and failure is success in the making. Today, take some time to discuss some ways your child is using a growth mindset this year.



## Fourth Grade News

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

We hope your 4<sup>th</sup> graders got some much needed rest over the vacation. We have one last tough push and then summer will be here before we know it. We will begin CAASPP testing this month and again in May. Please continue to help reinforce new skills at home, as well as review previously taught skills that will be reviewed before testing. Also, Science Fair projects should be well under way if not already completed. They will be showcased at Open House on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for encouraging your children to always do their best and show their Growth Mindset, not only that they can learn, but some of their best learning will come after some difficulty!



## Fifth Grade News

The month of April will be a busy one in 5th grade. The students will be working on their Science Fair or Invention Convention projects at home. These projects are due in early May. We are all excited to see what creative inventions and scientific discoveries our students uncover. The students will continue the DARE classes and be reminded about how to make good decisions even when faced with a difficult situation. The second week, the 5th graders will be taking the Language Arts portion of the CAASPP test. As we enter the last few months of school, it is important for our students to remember that they are in charge of their learning and that having a growth mindset will help them to interpret the situations and events they participate in. Henry Ford reminds us that "whether you think you can or you think you can't - you are right." The students have been working hard all year. They are growing socially and academically, and as a grade level we are very proud of the work our students have accomplished.



## Educational Specialists

This month special education would like to highlight our Amazing Mental Health Department who provides wonderful trainings for parents who have students who have Special needs and for those who do not, they are offered to all families within the district. A blackboard message went out regarding the upcoming events: Depression in Children and Adolescents April 4<sup>th</sup>, Parenting the ADHD Child April 14<sup>th</sup>, Family Growth Group

April 18<sup>th</sup> (also on that same day is EQUIP Parent Support Group), and Common Sense Parenting on various dates in April. We hope to see you there. If you are not aware of these programs and would like more information please contact the school or your child's case carrier.

## Coffee and Conversation with Our EL Families



Join us on Wednesday,  
April 5 at 8:30am in  
Room E3

## ELAC Meeting

A meeting with parents of children acquiring English as a second language.

When: Tuesday, April 11, 2017 5:30-6:30pm  
Where: Buchanan Elementary Library  
Refreshments provided

## Celebration Policy

Per MVUSD policy regarding food allergies, any food brought on campus to be shared with other students needs to have prior approval from school personnel.

As an alternative suggestion to food for student celebrations (i.e. birthdays), you may donate a book to the classroom or school library honoring your student. Another idea is to bring in a goody bag (**with no food items**) or a **non-food treat** for each student in the class.



Thank you for adhering to this policy for the safety of all students and staff.

## Field Trip Chaperones and Volunteers

All volunteers and chaperones must register every year with the district ***BEFORE*** they may volunteer in a classroom or chaperone on a field trip. Please see the office to complete the necessary forms and bring your government issued ID as they need to photocopy it.

Thank-you for taking the time to volunteer!



## The Blazer Way - Be Safe ~ *Bicycle & Scooter Information*



If you ride a bike or scooter to school, **bring a lock** and **lock it up** in the bike rack. We would love to trust that everyone is honest and will leave other people's possessions alone, but this is not always the case. The best way to keep your bike or scooter safe is to lock it up.

Also, California law requires that all **students must wear a helmet** when riding a bike or scooter. Students without a helmet will be sent to the office to call home for a helmet. Remember, this is to protect that incredible brain inside each student. Wear a helmet and be safe!

## 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](http://www.fma.murrieta.k12.ca.us) or you can pick up an application in the school office. Parents can make payments to lunch accounts at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com)

## Buchanan's Reading Round-Up School Wide Incentive Program

This month the Reading Team announced the winners of the Dr. Seuss door decorating contest. All participating classes were entered into an opportunity drawing. All the doors, window displays, and bulletin boards were amazing!

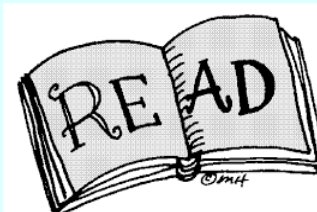
The following winning classrooms will celebrate with a popcorn party!

Pre-School - 2nd Grade: Mrs. Caskey's class

3rd Grade - 5th Grade: Mrs. Kingston's class

For the month of January, Buchanan read 277,151 minutes and for the month of February 270,251 minutes were read. To date, Buchanan has read a total of 1,227,012 minutes! With less than two months to go, Buchanan only has 272,988 minutes to meet our school wide goal of 1,500,000 minutes!

Way to go Blazers! Keep on reading!





## Author and Artist of the Month



The following students were honored at our March 17th Friday Spirit Assembly. Their work is being showcased in our library.

### Artist of the Month

TK: Student in (McKenzie)  
K: Student in (McWhorter)  
1st: Dylan Melendez (Cato)  
2nd: Storm Williams (Vesneski)  
3rd: Voleaktepy Song (Morgan)  
4th: Student in (Zeitman)  
5th: no entries

### Author of the Month

TK: Jackson Boonstra (McKenzie)  
K: Maddisen Rechnitzer (McWhorter)  
1st: Emma Moorhead (Fitch)  
2nd: Austin Dockendorf (Knott)  
3rd: Ava Wasco (Morgan)  
4th: Kail Bodnar Rivas (Kingston)  
5th: Madison Lewis (Nechaev/Rench)



# April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Murrieta Mesa High School  
24801 Monroe Ave, Murrieta, 92562  
Free & Open to the Public

Check Out Booths & Vocational Outreach Presentations

from the following industries:

Information, Communication & Technology (ICT)

Manufacturing / Engineering

Medical / Healthcare

Hospitality

For Questions Please Contact Murrieta Chamber of Commerce:  
Pellis@MurrietaChamber.org | 951.677.7916 office



# Positive Behavioral Supports Moment



## Positive Behavioral Supports Moment – The Blazer Way, It Is More Fun

Sometimes we need to reflect on past life lessons and relearn them again and again. At the beginning of each year we discuss what it means to Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Follow KAHFOOTY. At Buchanan we call this the Blazer Way. Now, as we return from Spring Break and head into the final months of the school year, it is important to remember why these principles of good behavior are so important. Yes, they keep our classrooms a place for students to learn; and, yes, they keep our playground a safe place to play; but they also do something we all enjoy. They keep our Buchanan campus a fun place to be.

When we follow the Blazer Way on the playground, more people will want to play with us. And let's face it; games like kickball, soccer, basketball, or wall ball are more fun when more people participate. However, if we tease, yell at others, push, or are just plain mean; people will stop playing with us. Think about it, what kind of fun is a kickball game with only a few people?

Having fun is a big part of coming to school. We want you to have fun at recess and we also want you to have fun learning in the classroom. This goes for every individual student at Buchanan. Every student deserves the opportunity to come to school and fall in love with learning. How can you help? You can help by being generous; caring; trustworthy; playing fair; and most of all being kind. Remember, a true Trail Blazer follows the Blazer Way every day!

P.S.

A special message for Buchanan students grades three through five. The computerized state assessments start in April. Part of being responsible is trying your best at everything you do. So, good luck third, fourth, and fifth graders; show how much perseverance you have developed and show off how much you have learned.



Dear Buchanan Families,

CAASPP Update for April!

Following Spring Break Buchanan students, grades 3-5, will participate in the state assessments for the 2016/17 school year. The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP will

begin on April 10<sup>th</sup> and will continue until end of May. Below is the grade level schedule for Buchanan:

Grade 3:	ELA April 24 - 28	Math May 8 - 12
Grade 4:	ELA April 17 - 21	Math May 1 - 5
Grade 5:	ELA April 10 - 14	Math May 15 - 19
Grade 5 Science CAST:	The week of May 22	

We have staggered the assessments for two reasons. One, it gives the students a rest between subjects of these rigorous assessments; and two, it provides an opportunity students who need extra time to not feel hurried or overwhelmed by two consecutive weeks of testing.

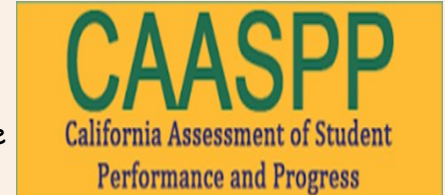


Students have continued to prepare for these assessments during the month of March. Now, as we return back from Spring Break, we need to focus on what can be done at home the weeks of testing. Here is how you can help:

- 1) Maintain a normal bedtime (no late night movies during testing)
- 2) Serve your student a solid and well-rounded breakfast. Remember, too much sugar can cause students to crash with fatigue.
- 3) Most Important!!! BE ENCOURAGING. Encourage your student to keep trying even when the test seems too hard.

If you want extra practice over Spring Break, you can still have your student take a practice test. Fifth (5th) grade parents, this includes science practice for this year's field test. The link below will take you directly to the login page for the CAASPP practice tests:

<http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>





**Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting**  
**March 14, 2017 - Minutes**  
**3:15 pm Room E8**



Attendance: Lena Meserve, Christy Neilson, Tricia Layne, Laura Prebay, Diana Knott, Carolyn Fitch, Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis. Absent: Diana Povedo

I. Call Meeting to Order Mrs. Meserve called the meeting to order at 3:16

II. December 13, 2016 minutes Mrs. Prebay and Mrs. Neilson motioned to approve- all approved.

Agenda of March 14, 2017 - Mrs. Prebay and Mrs. Knott made motion to approve- all approved.

III. Action Items

Review School Safety Plan - Mrs. Randel/Mr. Curtis- passed out safety plan for council to review. He shared mission and vision statement, reviewed discipline and referral policy, reviewed data, reviewed possible consequences, he reviewed the RTI supports for students that are needing additional interventions on top of the supports the school offers to students and then council reviewed the rest of the hand out. He reviewed Physical Environment and added in Monthly Safety Drills column, Universal Prevention/Primary Prevention and Early Intervention/Secondary Prevention/Tier 3 Intensive Intervention. Mrs. Prebay and Mrs. Fitch made motions to approve- all approved.

California School Dashboard -Mrs. Randel- being released this week and will be talking about the new CAASPP assessment. Mrs. Randel explained the new data that schools will be using to evaluate schools success and growth. The first four categories will be the main issues we will be evaluating, the data will be shown through colors and pie charts. In LA we are green (high) for All Students, EL green, Foster/Homeless N/A, SED, SWD and Hispanic yellow, two more races green, White green. Mrs. Randel shared the programs that are helping to support students' growth. Math- we are at green for All Students, yellow for EL, Hispanic and SED, orange for SWD, blue for two or more races and green for White. It is no longer one number that defines a school there are multiple categories and we always have room to grow.

IV. New Business Next School Site Council meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed - 2017-2018 BES Site Funds Budgets

2017-2018 Parent/Student Handbook

2017 - 2019 Members

Next Meeting date - May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 in room E8

V. Adjourn- 4:09

## Important Safety Reminders

**Drop-off** is 8:00-8:25am for grades 1-5. Morning TK/K begins promptly at 8:20 am, Afternoon TK/K begins promptly at 11:00am.

Each morning when the **8:25am TARDY BELL rings**, staff members will be at each entry gate to give out tardy slips and teachers will send any student not in class or on their line to the office for a tardy slip.

**Pick-up** is 2:35 pm for grades 1-3. Grades 4-5 is 2:40 pm. Afternoon K is 2:35 pm. **No staff** is available to watch students **before** 8:00am and **after** 3:00pm.

**Students need to be picked up by 3:00pm.** If you need supervision after 3pm, child care is available on campus for a fee. Please call our Family Services at 951-304-1623 for more information if you are interested in before or after school child care.

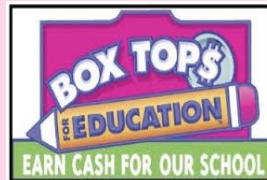
### Safety in the Loop

Please remember to keep moving up in the loop as cars leave and do not leave your car unattended. Our goal is to keep our children safe!



April's  
School Spirit  
Dress Up Day

April 21st  
Dress as your favorite  
movie character



## Box Top Contest

The current contest ends May 26th. The winning classrooms will get to play Nation Ball with Mrs. Randel, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Keith.

### Who is going to win?

[Check the Box Tops for Education website](#)

A few reminders and tips. Box Tops cannot be expired. Box Tops missing the expiration date or the manufacture code in the upper left corner are not accepted, so cut carefully. Box Tops can be turned in loose in a Ziploc bag or glued 10 on a sheet of paper.

Thanks for clipping!

### 5th Grade Band

#### Blue Area Concert

**District Blue Band concert is April 20<sup>th</sup>, Thursday! Vista Murrieta Band will perform with their feeder school bands from Warm Springs and DMMS – and Mails, Alta Murrieta, Buchanan and Monte Vista Elementary Bands!**

**It's an awesome show of musical talent that should not be missed. Event is in the VMHS Gymnasium. Doors open at 6:45 – concert starts at 7:00pm**

— Mr. Newton







# Counselor's Corner

## Kids serve too



April is the Month of the Military Child. This awareness month was established to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. There are approximately two million military children, ranging in ages from newborn to 18 years old; 1.3 million military children are school-aged. Care of military children sustains our fighting force, and strengthens the health, security, and safety of our nation's families and communities.

Buchanan hosts a Military Kids Friendship Club once a month for the last hour of school where students are able to meet other military connected students and participate in activities to support each other and celebrate being a military child. If you would like your child to participate, please contact the school for more information and a permission slip. Military family events are also planned throughout the year. Look for more information on the upcoming event on June 1st.

Military families make remarkable sacrifices as they deal with separation from their families and make adjustments to new living situations and communities. However, most military families exemplify strength, resilience, and courage. We appreciate and acknowledge the incredible contributions our military families at Buchanan make to our Nation.

Article excerpt from <http://www.nctsn.org/resources/public-awareness/month-military-child>

### Military family resources

-- **Military OneSource** is what it sounds like -- the one place to go to for information. A Military Youth on the Move section offers information for children who are preparing to move to a new home or dealing with the aftereffects of a recent move.

-- [www.Militarykidsconnect.org](http://www.Militarykidsconnect.org) is a site where military children can connect with other children who are facing similar challenges. There are also tips for parents and teachers.

-- **The Military Child Education Coalition** is a non-profit organization focused on the academic and emotional needs of military children in public schools. They offer a variety of programs and resources for students and parents.

Ms. Richardson (M, T) &

Dr. Rieger (Th)

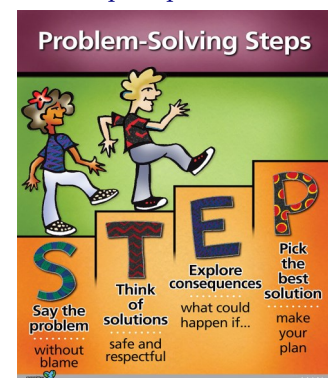
RAIN Counselors

951-696-1428 ext 2723

## Second Step Class Lessons

In February and March in grade 4, class lessons consisted of learning how to manage anxiety and the beginning of problem solving when conflicts with peers occur. Emotion and language are processed in different parts of the brain. Using language helps engage the thinking part of the brain. Simply naming a feeling can help decrease intensity, which can help children when they are upset or overwhelmed by a strong emotion. Then a student can use the rest of the calm down steps to regain self-control.

In grade 5, classroom lessons focused on problem solving skills to deal with gossip and peer pressure. Students who are more skilled problem solvers get along better with peers, and have fewer conflicts and problems with aggression. Fifth grade students used STEP, to come up with a positive solution to issues involving gossip or peer pressure.



# Let's Save - Lives Together!



March concluded the Jump Rope for Heart events and fundraiser. We want to take time to thank our Buchanan community for its generosity during this event. Not only did our Blazers participate in exercising their hearts through jump roping, they also raised a tremendous amount of money to help those with not so healthy hearts.

Our final total...\$737.00. Thank you all who participated in the event through exercise and donation. We will be receiving all the remaining prizes for donations 4-6 weeks after Spring Break.

American Heart Association Mission: **to build healthier lives free from cardiovascular disease and stroke**

**MISSION FOCUSED:** When your child talks about his/her reason for participating in Jump Rope For Heart (such as a lost loved one or a family history of heart disease), it helps them to connect the dots to a healthier life and might even inspire a few other family members to live heart healthy too!



## ASTRONOMY NIGHT

**Thursday, April 27th 6:45-8:30pm**

Buchanan will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Astronomy Night. The evening will begin with a presentation in the MPR with the Temecula Valley Astronomy Club. After the presentation, members of the club will have several telescopes set up on the blacktop for viewing various objects in the sky.



Murrieta Valley Unified School District

*Presents*

### **“Kindergarten, Here I Come!”**

***Ease the transition to kindergarten for your child.  
Join us for an informative afternoon of information.***

**Monday: May 15, 2017**

***Buchanan Elementary MPR***

40121 Torrey Pines Rd  
Murrieta, CA 92563

**Time: 6:00 – 7:00pm**

*For parents of 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***
  - ***Short campus tour for those who are new to Buchanan***



# Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Early Release Day	4 Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir  Spring Picture Day	5 Coffee & Conversation with EL parents  5th Grade Band	6 Running Club	7 Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band  PTA's Blazer Country Fair 5-8pm	8
9	10 Early Release Day	11 Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir  ELAC Meeting 5:30-6:30pm	12 5th Grade Band	13 Running Club	14 5th Grade Band	15
<b>5th Grade ELA CAASPP Testing</b>						
16	17 Early Release Day	18 Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir	19 5th Grade Band	20 Running Club	21 Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band  Spirit Dress Up Day Dress as your Favorite Movie Character  Mother/Son Dance	22
<b>4th Grade ELA CAASPP Testing</b>						
23	24 Early Release Day	25 Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir	26 5th Grade Band	27 Running Club  Astronomy Night	28 5th Grade Band  PTA Book Fair Opens	29
<b>3rd Grade ELA CAASPP Testing</b>						
30						



Murrieta Valley Unified School District  
**2017 -2018 SCHOOL REGISTRATION TIMELINE**

- November 7 School Sites Accept **NEW** Intra-District Trans requests.  
*\*Intra-District = A transfer between schools in the MVUSD*
- January 3 District accepts **New** and **Renewal** Inter-District Transfers
- February 1 Online Pre-enrollment begins for all students new to the Murrieta Valley Unified School District, including Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten students.
- February 13 Final day of Open Enrollment for New or Renewal of **Inter**-District transfer requests.
- February 13 Final day to submit **(NEW) INTRADISTRICT** transfer requests at the School Site.
- March 6 Onsite enrollment appointments begin for Transitional Kindergarten, Kindergarten and **New** enrollees. Please contact the school site to make an appointment to complete registration and turn in documents *such as*, birth certificate/verification of age, immunization records, verification of residency and more depending on the grade level of your student.
- June 09 Open Enrollment **INTRA**-district and **INTER**-district Transfer notifications to parents will be sent no later than this date.  
**\*All other transfers that are turned in after 2/13/17 will be considered case by case**

**NOTE: Intra Transfer Requests between schools within the Murrieta Valley School District are processed at the school site. Please submit the request at the school site that you are requesting.**

Please check the district website for Enrollment/Registration Information. \*Listed under Parents @ <http://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us>

We hope that this information will help in your planning for the 2017-2018 school year. If you have any questions, please contact your school office.

Thank you,

**Administrative Team**  
**Murrieta Valley Unified School District**