



The Blazer Post

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



October 2016



School Office Hours

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

Useful Links

[School Website](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[School Handbook](#)

Upcoming Friday Spirit Assemblies

October 7
October 21
at 8:30am

In the
amphitheater



School Notes

Buchanan Families,

As we settle into Fall many activities are happening both during the school day and after school to promote our Buchanan community. PTA is sponsoring a family get together and the nation's largest drug prevention program. Our Movie Night, **Casper**, this year is on Friday, October 14 from 5 pm - 9 pm. Red Ribbon week activities is Oct. 25 - 28 which include our students pledging to be drug free, Think First assembly and pep rally with VMHS to help educate our students about the risks associated with drugs.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Oct. 17 through Oct. 21 for all grade levels. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet with their child's teacher and converse over the progress of their child. Conference notices will be sent home electronically or as a hard copy.

We hope you can join us for our fun filled Movie Night sponsored by our wonderful PTA and also our Parent/Teacher conferences this month.

Did you know.....

- Mrs. Caskey received the 2016 California Heroes Educator's Award.
- Second grade students culminating performance for ballroom dancing is Oct 27th.
- Our school wide Reading Incentive program begins this month. Take a moment and read with your student.
- Great Shake Out is Thursday, October 20th.
- PTA Reflection Entries due October 7th.
- October 31st—Halloween—**No Costumes worn to school**
- Attendance Matters! Be a HERO - Here Everyday Ready On time.

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

Parent Conferences - 1st Reporting Period October 17 - 21

Monday is an Early Release Day. Grades 1-3 are out at 1:40pm

Grades 4-5 are out at 1:45pm

Early Bird TK & K students attend 8:20-11:40am

Late Bird K students attend 10:15am-1:35pm—Monday only

Tuesday thru Friday are *Minimum Days*. Grades 1-3 are out at 12:05pm

Grades 4-5 are out at 12:10pm

ALL TK and K students attend 8:20-11:40am



"Challenges are what make life interesting. Overcoming them is what makes life meaningful." —Joshua J. Marine



Kindergarten News

Kindergarten "fell" into Fall, learning about the life-cycle of the apple and Johnny Appleseed. We celebrated Johnny's "day" with a variety of fun, apple-y activities. We are eagerly counting our Days in School because on 10/19 it will be Day 50! We'll enjoy some good 'ol fashioned fun - 50's style - including our annual Sock Hop with root beer floats. Start planning your outfits! Our K team is looking forward to sharing our students' progress at our conferences coming up the week of the 17th. Our Kindergarten growth mindset for this month is: "I want to try everything, even though I might fail!"



First Grade News

Happy Fall! First grade students have had several weeks to adjust to the demands of first grade and we are very proud of their perseverance in all areas. They are continuing to learn to use math talk, problem solve, and to use different mathematical strategies. The students are also finding success using the i-Read and FasttMath computer programs and are working toward meeting their goals. It's wonderful to see them showing that they have an "I Can..." mindset. Way to go, first graders!



Second Grade News

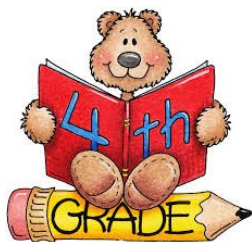
Second grade is excited about our October plans! Our ballroom dancing lessons are going very well. We can't wait for our evening performance on October 27th to show off our skills to our families. Our growth mindset for this month is to persevere and try new things. Second grade is moving forward!

Third Grade News



3rd grade has continued to focus on having a growth mindset and perseverance. In math, we have been focusing on multiple strategies to use in addition and subtraction. Students need to have a strong conceptual understanding of number sense versus learning a procedure. We are also practicing "math talk" to help students explain their thinking when solving problems in math.

Fourth Grade News



We are well into the swing of 4th grade and by now your child should have turned many routines into good habits! Reminder binders should have all assignments written in them nightly. Math facts, spelling, and vocabulary words should be practiced daily according to your teachers' instructions. October reading logs went home so please be sure to keep track of your minutes read! Thank you for your continued support of your 4th grader and we will see you at conferences!



Fifth Grade News

September was a busy month for the 5th graders. The students have been learning strategies for multiplication and division. Our 5th graders are using partial products and partial quotients to solve multiplication and division problems. The students took the MI for the first time this year. In Language Arts several classes have been researching severe weather and are preparing presentations regarding a specific type of severe weather. Mrs. Rench/Nechaev classes are studying the Solar System and discovering the relationship between the Sun and Earth. Some of the topics include shadows, gravity, and constellations. Mrs. Prario, Mrs. Woods, and Mrs. Lyda's classes are studying food chains along with the relationship between producers and consumers. The kids are working on building up their stamina for the mile run and completing stations to help strengthen their muscles. As the students continue to grow academically, socially, and physically they will encounter challenges. The students are reminded that mistakes help us to grow and mature.

Every mistake you make is progress. -- author unknown



Educational Specialists

At Buchanan Elementary we have a vast amount of resources to help all our students succeed. Along side our amazing Resource Specialists, we have another team of highly qualified Specialized Academic Instructors. Mrs. Caskey has been with Buchanan for 10 years and continues to provide support for students in grades K-2, Mrs. Henderson has a new title this year and is supporting grades 3-5. These teachers provide a rich environment for students to learn and persevere at various levels. We are also very lucky to have two Pre-school programs with Mrs. Lively and Mrs. De La Cruz. They ensure their students are ready for elementary school by enriching their curriculum with social skills, fine and gross motor activities.

Drama Club



It's time again to audition for Buchanan's annual school play Madagascar, Jr.!

When: Wednesday, October 5 - Grades K-3 Thursday, October 6 - Grades 4-5

Where: Buchanan Elementary MPR **Time:** 3p.m.-approx.5 p.m. (your child may leave after they audition)

Please come prepared with a 30 second song, monolog, poem or dance. All auditions are done 'acapella' (no music). You **MUST** bring your signed Permission Slip with you to the audition or you will not be admitted. This is YOUR time to shine so no buddy auditions. We are looking for outgoing, confident people with sparkling personalitiesso show us what you've got! Everyone who auditions will receive a part in the play either as a speaker or in the ensemble chorus!

Rehearsals begin Thursday, October 13 and will be from 3-4:30 p.m. for the speakers and from 3-4:00 p.m. for the ensemble chorus and will be every Thursday each week. There will be more rehearsal days added as we get closer to the production. The tentative date for the production is Saturday, March 11. We look forward to our fun adventure of "Madagascar, Jr".



October 24th is a non-student day
It is a Professional Development Day for the staff
Students—enjoy your day off.

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.



Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting September 13, 2016 3:15 pm Room E8



Attendance: Lena Meserve, Tricia Layne, Laura Prebay, Diana Knott, Jennifer Randel, Jim Curtis, Neilson, Fitch, Diana Poveda

Call Meeting to Order 3:19 pm

Approval of Minutes and Agenda-

Minutes of May 10, 2016- Mrs. Layne motioned to approve, Mrs. Knott seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda of September 13, 2016-Mrs Layne motioned to approve, Mrs. Prepay seconded. Motion carried.

Action Items-

School Site Council members introduced themselves.

Election of Officers - President - Mrs. Meserve, Vice President- Mrs. Layne, Secretary- Mrs. Knott

New Business

Role of School Site Council -reviewed

Buchanan Elementary Overview PowerPoint- 1. RTI and UA plan across grade levels, 2. SST review and role, 3. RI and MI assessments, 4. Interventions that address behavior, 5. Explanation of Common Core and goals for CC for ELA and Math

Next School Site Council meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed - 2016-2017 SPSA (School Plan for Student Achievement).

Next Meeting date - October 11th at 3:15 in room E8

Adjourn - 4:10pm

Buchanan Elementary SSC Meeting—Agenda October 11, 2016 3:15 pm Room E8

Attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes of September 13, 2016

Agenda of October 11, 2016

III. Action Items

Review SPSA plan

IV. New Business

Next School Site Council meeting the following will be reviewed and discussed - Parent

Involvement Plan, School Safety Plan and Technology Plan

Next Meeting date - December 13th at 3:15 in room E8

V. Adjourn



Coffee & Conversation with Our EL Families

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 5th at 8:30am in E03.

A Message from the Health Office

Head Lice



It is common at this time of year to have outbreaks of head lice in the community. The following information can help to prevent the spread of head lice.

Head lice are small insects that are generally found on the scalp, around the ears, and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be the color of your hair. Nits (eggs) are smaller and silver in color. Nits stick to the hair shaft and do not easily flake off hair.

Head lice do not transmit disease. Head lice are not a sign of poor hygiene. Lice cannot jump and cannot fly. Lice may spread from one person to another if there is direct head to head contact, or by sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, hats, or helmets. Lice usually die within two days without a human host.

The most common symptom of head lice is itching and head scratching, particularly at night. Redness or sores from scratching may also be noticed. If you suspect that your child has head lice, we suggest you contact your health care provider. Safe and effective products to treat head lice are available both over the counter and by a doctor prescription. It is important to follow the directions carefully. In addition, use a fine-tooth comb or special nit comb to help remove the nits. You can also check your child's scalp weekly when the hair is wet to see if there are any new head lice. Wash in hot water all recently worn clothing, hats, used bedding and towels. Personal care items such as combs, brushes and hair clips should be washed in hot water. Toys, such as stuffed animals, can be put in a tightly closed plastic bag for fourteen days or placed in a hot dryer for 30 minutes.

Notify the School Health Office if your child has head lice. The best treatment is prevention.



Give your child the best start to the day— Be a H.E.R.O. Here, Everyday, Ready, On time

Remember, the bell rings to line up at 8:20 am each morning for grades 1-5. Please be sure to drop your children off at school on time. Prompt attendance is crucial to maximize student learning. Arriving to school just five minutes late each morning adds up to nearly *three full days* of missed instruction over the course of the school year! Thank you for your support.

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 or you can pick up an application in the school office

Parents can make payments to lunch accounts at www.myschoolbucks.com



The Blazer Way Moment Staying On Task

The 2016 and 17 school year is now in full swing. Our first progress reports are around the corner. What can we do to make sure our students' efforts are all they can be?

The answer is one that can be borrowed from sports and performing arts: practice the same routine time and again. Keeping routines and practicing them day in and day out are what create success. Creating an academic routine is just like a dance routine, learn the steps and you on your way. Try these for staying on task:



The school year is a marathon. Without training it can be very difficult to reach the finish line. By teaching students specific study habits and social skills, like staying on task, we are preparing our students for a successful academic career and the life that follows.

Children's Chorus

The Buchanan Choir is off to another exciting year with a lot of exciting news to share.

The choir now goes by the new name of:
Kaleidoscope Choir.



Kaleidoscope is a group of five school choirs that will perform at the District Showcase Choral Festival at Mesa H.S. in February. Along with the new name, we also have new choir spirit shirts. So you may see them on campus Thursdays when we rehearse.

You will have a chance to hear the Choir when they perform for the Spirit Assembly on Oct 21.

Keep on Singing, Mr. Tikasingh

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. Please do not leave your car unattended. With your help, we can keep the students safe. Please be patient and take your time when entering and exiting the parking lot. Remember, the loop is a NO cell phone use area. Safety is our top priority.



Upcoming School Spirit Day

October's Spirit Day is October 21st

College Day - Wear Your Favorite College Clothes!



Box Top Contest



Our first contest period ends on October 28th. The classroom from each grade that submits the most box tops will get to play a nation ball game with Mrs. Randel and Mr. Curtis. Our Mr. Keith will be the umpire! Send in those box tops now!!

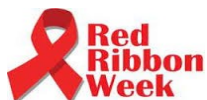


The Blazer Way Means - Being Safe

Every October schools all across the state of California participate in the "Great Shake Out" earthquake and evacuation drill. This year this will occur on October 20th. The purpose is to test the schools procedures and make improvements in the event of a real disaster. These procedures include but are not limited to evacuation, location and treatment of missing or injured staff and students, and student check out. We, as staff, place a great value in this because it allows us to assess one of our primary goals, keeping your students safe in all situations.

Buchanan's 4th Annual ASB Jog-a-Thon

This month students will be able to participate in our Fourth Annual Jog-a-Thon to raise money for field trip admissions, buses, and other enriching activities. All funds donated for laps ran will go directly to your student's grade level. The Jog-a-Thon will be held October 18th and 19th with the pledge money due October 21st. This event is also held to encourage physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle, while raising funds for enriching and memorable activities. More information will be coming home with your students this month. Thank you for your support!



October 25-28. Our theme this year is "You Have the POWER to be Drug Free!"
Look forward to a fun week as we encourage Buchanan students to say no to drugs.



Dear MVUSD Parent,

This school year, we will be implementing new reporting tools, including new progress reports and report cards. We have worked hard during the past year to develop these tools, including teacher and parent representation in the process. Here is an overview of what you can expect:

Progress Report: The Progress Report will be given out in October (at conferences) and in March (prior to Spring Break). The Progress Report will be reflective of the standards reported out on report cards, but it will be a less formal tool. It will communicate to you, as the parent, how your student is doing in the key content areas and in his/her work habits. Additionally, the progress report will contain a brief, individualized narrative in regards to your student's Strengths and Areas for Growth, as well as the School Supports in place and the Suggested Home Supports you can put in place for the remainder of the semester/school year.

The Progress Report represents the district belief that through communication and collaboration between school and home, all students can make growth towards achieving the academic standards. It supports a "growth mindset", where we strive for growth for all students. The Progress Report will frame the Parent-Teacher Conference in October and enable us to have valuable, collaborative conversations in regards to your child's progress.

Report Card: The Elementary Report Card has been updated to align to the new California Standards. It will be distributed at the end of each semester, in December and June. The Report Card will provide you with a more detailed picture of where your child is, at the given time, in meeting the end of year standards.

Standards based grades will be provided for each of the key domains in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The grades will be based on the following scale:

- 4 Standards Exceeded
- 3 Standards Met
- 2 Standards Nearly Met
- 1 Standards Not Met

Key areas of concern will also be identified to give you a more detailed understanding of your student's needs.

The Report Card will also provide you with a mark to represent your student's effort in Social Studies, Science, and other Curricular Areas. This effort grade will also be used to communicate progress in Work Habits and Social Skills.

We are excited to begin using these new tools during the 2016 – 2017 school year. We will be evaluating these tools throughout the school year and welcome your input. If you have any questions about the new progress report or report card, please see your student's teacher and/or the school administration.

Faythe Mutchnick-Jayx
Executive Director of Elementary Education

Jennifer Randel
Principal, Buchanan Elementary

Counselor Corner

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

SAFE COSTUMES

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he stumbles or trips.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Do not use decorative contact lenses without an eye examination and a prescription from an eye care professional. While the packaging on decorative lenses will often make claims such as "one size fits all," or "no need to see an eye specialist," obtaining decorative contact lenses without a prescription is both dangerous and illegal. This can cause pain, inflammation, and serious eye disorders and infections, which may lead to permanent vision loss.
- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they ever have an emergency or become lost

PUMPKINS

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers. Then parents can do the cutting.
- Consider using a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. If you do use a candle, a votive candle is safest.
- Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.

HOME SAFE HOME

- To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.
- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.

ON THE TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Remind children to stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
- Remember reflective tape for costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- Carry a cell phone for quick communication.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.



HEALTHY HALLOWEEN

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.



October Happenings

Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Early Release Day	4 Running Club 4th Gr Recorder Lessons	5 5th Grade Band Lessons Drama Auditions for K-3rd Grade PTA Fundraiser Items delivered	6 7:45am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade Running Club Drama Auditions for K-3rd Grade	7 Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band PTA Reflection Entries Due	8
9	10 Early Release Day	11 Running Club 4th Gr Recorder Lessons	12 5th Grade Band Lessons	13 7:45am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade Running Club Drama Club	14 5th Grade Band PTA Movie Night at 5:00pm	15
16	17 Early Release Day	18 Running Club Jog-a-thon K-2nd 4th Gr Recorder Lessons	19 Jog-a-thon 3rd-5th 5th Grade Band Lessons	20 7:45am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade Running Club Great Shake Drill	21 Spirit Assembly Dress Up Day—College Day Jog-a-thon Envelopes due	22
Minimum Day Schedule for Parent Conferences - Oct 18-21						
23	24 No School for Students Staff Development	25 Running Club 4th Gr Recorder Lessons	26 5th Grade Band Lessons	27 7:45am Chorus for 3rd-5th Grade Running Club Drama Club 2nd Grade Ballroom Dancing Performance	28 5th Grade Band Box Tops Contest Ends	29
Oct 25—28 Red Ribbon Week Activities						
30	31 Early Release Day No Costumes worn to School					

