



# The Blazer Post

Jennifer Randel, Principal

Jim Curtis, Assistant Principal



March 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  
March 3  
March 17  
at 8:30am  
in the  
amphitheater**



## School Notes

Buchanan Families,

As we welcome in the month of March, we also welcome the spring season. We start off the month with our wacky Seussational celebration of Dr. Seuss and honor his birthday on Thursday, March 2nd. Throughout the week students will be exposed to Theodor Geisel's outrageously funny sense of humor through his creative literature. Please see insert for daily activities starting Monday, February 27th.

Take a journey out of the zoo and onto the stage with our annual musical "Madagascar Jr." which will be performed by our students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade on Saturday, March 11. Our young actors and actresses have been working hard since October to create this musical filled with outlandish characters, adventure galore and upbeat scores. We finish the month with our 5th grade band students performing their spring band concert on Wednesday, March 15th. Please plan to join us for one or both of our performing arts activities honoring our young and talented musically inclined students.

We continue to expose students to realia with enriching experiences both on and off campus. Our 2nd grade students will be exposed to "A History in a Trunk" assembly as they learn about how different children's lives were 100 years ago compared to their lives today. During this hands on assembly, students will get to experience the clothing, toys and children's responsibilities of this era. Students soon realize that school was a privilege, running water was not the norm, and children were expected to work at such a young age. This trek back in time definitely teaches children that today's modern world is filled with many conveniences.

Our 3rd grade students will be hiking the Santa Rosa Plateau to learn more about the diverse ecosystems that surround us in Murrieta. They will experience first hand the various adaptations plants and animals need in order to survive.

We are excited about the enriching activities our student body will be involved in this month to help them better understand the unique world in which we live.

Good things are happening at Buchanan Elementary!

Jennifer Randel and Jim Curtis

Did you know....

- March 12 Daylight savings time begins.
- March 20-31 Spring break
- March 17 Wear your favorite color dress up day

### Growth Mindset Quote

A great pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.

— Walter Gagehot



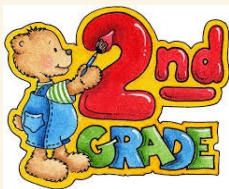
## TK / Kindergarten News

The month of February found us working on "kindness" and "friendship" as well as learning about our 2 most famous presidents: Lincoln and Washington. Our TK/K Team is excited about everything "Seuss" as we explore several of Dr. Seuss' beloved books. K students are working on strengthening reading skills as well as mastering those tricky "teen" numbers. K teachers report amazing growth in writing skills - thanks in part to the weekly Kinder Write lessons. TK Kiddos are learning about the 5 senses and how to stay healthy. We are all continuing to work on making our "Better . . . Best"!



## First Grade News

First grade is springing right into March with many exciting things planned. They will be celebrating reading and Dr. Seuss Day with many fun activities both in and out of the classroom. The students will continue to strive to meet both their i-Read and Fast Math goals. Additionally, they will be wrapping up many assessments for the third quarter reporting period. Just like a garden in spring, their minds are ready to GROW, GROW, GROW!



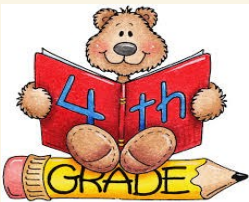
## Second Grade News

This month our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will research biographies of positive role models to learn how one person can make a difference in the world. This will prepare them for our second annual Living Wax Museum coming next month! We wish everyone a happy and restful Spring Break!



## Third Grade News

Ms. Corbett, Mrs. Morgan, and Mr. Nickoloff's classes will be taking a field trip to the Santa Rosa Plateau on Friday, March 3. Students will have an opportunity to hike and participate in other activities at the Nature Center. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will take the CAASPP in April and May this year. We have started looking at some of the practice tests in class to give students an idea of what the test will look like and how to navigate through it. This is an excellent opportunity to focus on having a growth mindset and learning from mistakes. Third grade is beginning to explore fractions, and that they are a part of a whole. You can help your child by allowing them to experiment with fractions at home using measuring cups, rulers and clocks. How many  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups make 1 cup? How many inches in a half of a foot? What is a half an hour, a quarter hour? Look for opportunities to share with your third grader how you use fractions.



## Fourth Grade News

By now your fourth grader should be well into working on fractions. Please continue to encourage your child to use their fraction tiles, draw models, and most importantly; be able to explain their answers to all their mathematical reasoning! Also, as your child completes projects, please have them check to be sure all parts are done to show their best effort! It is great to see our fourth graders take pride in projects they take care and time to complete! We are still collecting clean, empty water bottles for recycling to earn money for our end of the year field trip to Mission San Luis Rey. Thank you families for your support!



## Fifth Grade News

The fifth grade students have been learning about Black History Month. Students from Mrs. Williams class presented a skit based on the movie Hidden Figures. The girls performed at a Friday Spirit Assembly and also a School Board meeting. On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the fifth graders will be participating in a Book Fair to celebrate Read Across America. Within the next few weeks, the students will be given information about the annual Science Fair and Invention Convention. We are excited to see the projects students will be turning in.



## Educational Specialists

The Special Olympics have come to Murrieta! We are excited that Murrieta is able to host this event at our local high school Murrieta Mesa on May 19<sup>th</sup>! Flyers should have gone home for Registration that starts February 27<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in signing up your child please contact their teacher directly. This event is for ALL students with an IEP ages 3-22. We look forward to a wonderful turn out. Lets GO MURRIETA!



**Spring Break is March 18th - April 2nd**

**No School**

**Students return - Monday, April 3rd**

## Coffee and Conversation with Our EL Families



Join us on Wednesday,  
March 1 at 8:30am in  
Room E1

Don't forget - Daylight  
Savings Starts

Sunday, March 12th

So Spring Forward and set  
your clock ahead 1 hour on Sunday Morning



## 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.



*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 2016-2017 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 17, 2017.** 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](mailto:buchananPTA.yearbook@gmail.com).

## **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 \$25! Cash or Checks accepted (Make checks out to Buchanan PTA).

After March 17th, the price goes up to \$30, and CASH ONLY will be accepted at that point.

Only a limited number of yearbooks have been ordered for print, so get yours before they're sold out!



## **Calling all 5th Grade Parents Dedication Orders Due 3/17/17**

The Yearbook Committee is offering you the opportunity to write a special note to a 5th grade student to be published in the 2016-2017 Buchanan Yearbook. Information and forms were sent home last week. **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT YOUR ORDER and PHOTOS IS FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017.** Sorry, late orders cannot be accepted.

Any questions, please contact Cynthia Valdez-Kelly at:  
[bes.5thdedications@gmail.com](mailto:bes.5thdedications@gmail.com)



## Positive Behavioral Supports Moment

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

What does it mean to be respectful? One meaning is to be careful not to do anything against someone's wishes or rights. This definition reminds a person of a very old saying called the golden rule which says, "One should treat others as one would like others to treat one self." Think of how positive our school might look if we all took a moment to think of the kind of respect we would want others to treat us with.

This can also refer to how we care and respect school property and the property of others. Think of these steps as the 'Golden Rule' of caring for others' property:

1. Use others' property only with their permission.
2. Make an appropriate request if you want to use something that belongs to another person.
3. Use others' property only as it is supposed to be used or according to instructions.
4. Take care of others' property as if it was your own.
5. If something gets broken, apologize and offer to replace it.



So many times being respectful means thinking about others first. The same can go for school property and the property of others. If we treated the property of others' with more care than even our own property, then people would be more comfortable sharing. As many teachers and parents will say, sharing is caring. Remember, Be Respectful is a core value of the Blazer Way. When we show others that we can respect property, then we have built something that makes us a Trail Blazer.

Dear Buchanan Families,

As we stated in February, the 2017 California state assessments start the weeks following spring break (**April 10<sup>th</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup>**). All Buchanan students who are grades 3-5 will participate. Teachers will communicate individual grade testing schedules as testing gets closer.



How can students prepare? At school the students already are. The teachers have been designing lessons all year that meet state standards and help students progress towards the goal of being college and career ready. The Reading Inventory and Math Inventory assessments have helped students monitor their own goals for learning. Students and teachers have begun to work through CAASPP practice tests that look and feel like the real thing. They are also completing what are called Interim Assessments. These short assessments use the same format as the state assessments this April and May. The difference is that they focus on individual skills in the areas of Language Arts or Math.

So what can parents do to help prepare their students? You can have the students look at practice tests as well. 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>

Don't be afraid to look over their shoulder as they navigate the different types of assessments and the tools they can use to assist them in answering the challenging questions. The additional link below will take you to the California Department of Education website with information about CAASPP. Read about it, take practice tests, and being at school every day; these are the ways Buchanan students will be ready to excel this spring!

CDE website link: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>



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



Attendance:

I. Call Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Minutes of December 13, 2016

Agenda of March 14, 2017

III. Action Items

Review School Safety Plan - Randel/Curtis

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 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:15 in room E8

V. Adjourn



## Buchanan Drama Club Performance

Come and "Move it, Move it!" with us for an afternoon of music, entertainment and adventure! Buchanan Elementary Drama Club's production of Madagascar, Jr. is on Saturday, March 11 in the Multi-Purpose Room. There will be 2 performances at 12:00 and 4:00 and admission is \$2.00 for adults and children 12 and older. Children under 12 are free. There will be concessions for sale and a silent auction with some awesome prizes. All proceeds go directly to the Drama Club and help make this performance the "Broadway" of Murrieta. 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!

## 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.

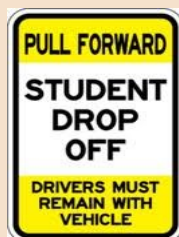
**Pick-up** is 2:35 pm for grades 1-3.  
Grades 4-5 is 2:40 pm. Afternoon K is 2:35 pm. **No staff** is available to watch students **before** 8:00am and **after** 3:00pm.

**Students need to be picked up by 3:00pm.**

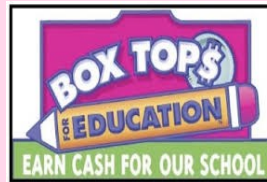
If you need supervision after 3pm, child care is available on campus for a fee. Please call our Family Services at 951-304-1623 for more information if you are interested in before or after school child care.

### 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!



## Box Top Contest



The current contest ends today, Feb. 24th. The winning classrooms will be announced next week and will get to play Nation Ball with Mrs. Randel, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Keith.

### Who is going to win?

The next contest will end on 5-26-17.

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

For additional ways to earn Box Tops.

## 5th Grade Band Spring Concert

**Hello Blazer Families!!!!**

**We have a band concert approaching on Wednesday, March 15th!!! The band students have made some incredible progress this year and are super excited to show off their talents at their performance! Please take note: The Buchanan Band concert is at Alta Murrieta MPR at 6:00pm – start time (Alta Murrieta band performs at 7:00pm). Buchanan Band students are to report to Alta Murrieta at 5:15pm to prepare for their 6pm performance time. Please make sure you give yourself extra driving time.**

**The Buchanan band is also doing a special performance on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am (during school) for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes. See you all at the concerts! — Mr. Newton**



March's  
School Spirit  
Dress Up Day

March 17th

Wear your Favorite Color



# Counselor's Corner

## How to Help Your Child Overcome Test Anxiety

Ms. Richardson (M, T) &

Dr. Rieger (Th)

RAIN Counselors

951-696-1428 ext 2723

In a typical school day, several students will experience at least a small bout of anxiety when it comes to testing to one degree or another. Here are some strategies that can be used to successfully help your child overcome test anxiety.



### **Step 1:**

When a student is preparing for an exam, they should devote a certain amount of time each day to studying the material that the test will cover. Time management skills often play a large role when it comes to actually studying, and comprehending the material. If your child tends to procrastinate a little in this

area, then attempts to absorb all the material in at once, it is quite likely that they will encounter anxiety when the actual test is put on their desk.

### **Step 2:**

You should encourage your students to keep any and all notes and other materials organized in a folder or binder. This way, while they are preparing for their test, they can easily reference material that has been covered. Creating a "study space" that is organized. This will allow them a dedicated location for reviewing and learning new material.

### **Step 3:**

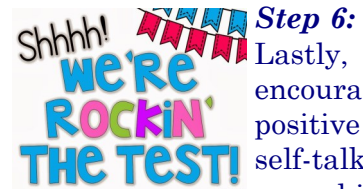
Students may experience anxiety due to lack of self-confidence, a low amount of motivation, pressure in the classroom and/or at home, or they may simply be afraid of performing to the extent in which they fail. If you uncover any of these issues, it is important to fully support your child to help them overcome the issues at hand. By doing this, you are also helping them overcome their test anxiety.

### **Step 4:**

Many kids refrain from asking questions in class in front of other students for fear that they may become made fun of, or they may not fit in among their peers. Let your child know that by not asking questions for clarification, they are not learning the information. Asking questions can not only benefit them but also their classmates who may have similar questions.

### **Step 5:**

Practicing relaxation and breathing exercises if students start to feel anxious during testing can also be helpful. These types of exercises will help the student relax and focus on the questions without going blank. If they seem to still have an issue with it, it may be best to inform the child to let their teacher know of the complications that they are having.



### **Step 6:**

Lastly, encourage positive self-talk to your child.

When they start to feel as if they "can't", tell them to tell themselves that they "CAN!" Let them know that while fear is an important part to keeping us safe, that they do not have to fear a test. Using positive self-talk and using calming strategies they can overcome test anxiety.

To read the full article go to, <http://education.more4kids.info/87/helping-kids-overcome-test-anxiety/>



## Let's Save Lives Together!

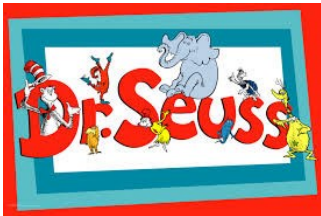


On **February 14 & 16, 2017** Buchanan students participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program. Blazer students as well as teachers jumped to their *heart's* content during their morning recess while they learned a few important facts about good *heart* health.

Additionally, the American Heart Association asks those who have a desire to help to take a look at the information taken home by Buchanan students. Buchanan will be taking donations through Tuesday, February 28th. The program offers a few items as a thank you, but the Jump Rope for Heart Program is about keeping our students healthy and raising a small amount for those who have *heart* disease or other heart related issues.

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!



## 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. Buchanan's Reading Team have planned some fun for our students which include dress up days, guest readers from the community during library time, lunch with The Cat and the Hat, and much, much more. Please see the schedule of events below so your reader can take part in the celebration!

### Daily Spirit Events

**Monday, February 27th:** Fox in Socks - Crazy Sock Day

**Tuesday, February 28th:** There's a Wocket in my Pocket- Wear clothes with pockets

**Wednesday, March 1st:** Green Eggs and Ham - Wear Green

**Thursday, March 2nd:** Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss - Dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss Character

Guest Readers all day in the library

Lunch with Cat in the Hat

**Friday, March 3rd :** Oh the Places You'll Go! - Career day dress-up





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**



# Buchanan Elementary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>Dr. Seuss Week</b> See article for details and activities Feb 27th - Mar 3rd</p>			<p><b>1</b> Coffee &amp; Conversation with EL parents 5th Grade Band</p>	<p><b>2</b> Running Club Drama Club</p>	<p><b>3</b> Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> Early Release Day</p>	<p><b>7</b> Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir Drama Club</p>	<p><b>8</b> 5th Grade Band Drama Club</p>	<p><b>9</b> Running Club Drama Club</p>	<p><b>10</b> 5th Grade Band</p>	<p><b>11</b> Drama Club Performance 12pm 4pm  Ticket price: \$2.00 for 12 yrs and older</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> Early Release Day</p>	<p><b>14</b> Running Club Kaleidoscope Choir</p>	<p><b>15</b> 5th Grade Band</p>	<p><b>16</b> Running Club  Storm Baseball Reading for rewards bookmarks due</p>	<p><b>17</b> Spirit Assembly 5th Grade Band  Spirit Dress Up Day Wear your Favorite Color  Progress Reports Go Home</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
 <p><b>Spring Break - No School</b></p>						
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	
<p><b>Spring Break - No School</b></p>						