



Berenda Elementary

"Home of the Broncos"

26820 Club Drive, Madera, CA 93638
Ph: 559.674.3325 Fax: 559.674.5617

Carsten Christiansen - Principal
Michelle Watson - Vice Principal

Bronco students, families, and staff.

We have just finished a very difficult school year and I want to thank everyone for all their efforts to help us continue to provide an education to our Broncos.

As we moved to a distance learning model, we learned many things: We learned the value of being flexible and how to adapt. We learned that technology doesn't always work the way we want it to. And we learned the value of community and connecting with others. Together, we overcame obstacles that we never would have imagined.

We are now heading into what we traditionally call '**summer vacation**'. In many ways, our children won't understand the difference. They don't understand all that is happening in the world...and to be honest, we adults don't understand it all either. When questions come up, take the time to have those open and honest conversations with your children. They will hear things on the news and from friends, but it is through conversations with you that they will learn to think and make decisions on their own.

My recommendation is to have your children continue their learning over the summer. It doesn't have to be 'work'. Let it be fun.

- *Research something that interests them...and then have them teach you.

- *Let them go on a virtual field trip...and then write about the trip, determine how far they would travel to get there, and then compute the cost of gas for the trip.

- *Continue to utilize some of the educational websites they have been using or others we have listed on our Berenda website.

- *Make it a challenge to learn their sight words, their math facts, or to read for 30 minutes a day.

- *Play board games that require thinking and talking.

- *Spend time being active outside together.

- *Ask your child about their goals and dreams.

We don't know what school will look like when we return in August, but we do know that education is important.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." ~Nelson Mandela

We all agree we want our Broncos to learn and grow so they can achieve their dreams. Moreover, we have learned that when we work together, we can accomplish anything. So, no matter what 'school' looks like when we return, together we will continue to provide the best education possible for our Broncos.

As we say at Berenda...Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible.
Have a great summer and we will see you all when we return in August.

Mr. Christiansen