



Berenda Elementary

September 2021

## From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

It's been great having students back on campus and seeing them interact with each other. You can see that your children are really enjoying being back in class and with their friends.

**We are continuing our focus on student safety.** Your children are doing a great job of keeping their masks on when they are in line and in class. We are working closely with the California Department of Public Health and following their guidelines for what steps we take when we do have a positive COVID19 case on campus. If it happens, and affects your child, you will be notified. I know these are not good calls/messages to receive, but just know that we are working hard to keep all our Broncos safe.

Along the line of safety, **we want students to stay home if they are not feeling well.** In the past, there was a big emphasis on perfect attendance. And, don't get me wrong, attendance is important! But, we want to make sure we are doing all we can to keep everyone safe. So, if your child isn't feeling well, keep them home, contact the office, and we will let you know about next steps. (You can call 674-3325 or email [rosanaviaramirez@maderausd.org](mailto:rosanaviaramirez@maderausd.org))

When you read further on in this newsletter, you will see we are continuing to plan many exciting events and activities for our students and families. Soon you will hear your students talking about their Art class, their STEM class, and their trip to the Library. Right now, you can ask them what they have been learning in their PE class. (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders...ask them about 'left and right'. K-3<sup>rd</sup> ask about the 'Chasing Kindness' game they played with bean bags.)

We are going to be teaching students about **online safety** for the next few weeks. We call this Digital Citizenship. There are so many wonderful things that can be learned online...but there are also many dangers. So, ask your child what they are learning and discuss with them your expectations in regards to social media and being online. They need to know what their boundaries are...and I would recommend you keep those boundaries very tight. Here is a link to a great website with many resources and answers to many of your questions: <https://www.common sense media.org/>

We've had a great start...and we can already see so many of our Broncos beginning to **THRIVE!**  
Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

## Important News

**Car pickup has been going great.** Thanks for letting the cars turn into the school and out of the parking lot onto Club Drive. If you are able to turn right out of the parking lot and circle around the 'block', it really does help the flow.

I appreciate all the parents waiting in our **Parent Waiting Area** at the east and west end of the campus. This helps us to reduce the number of parents on campus at the end of the day. If you are parking across the street from the school, please respect the property of our neighbors and don't block their driveways.

Please **continue to monitor your ParentSquare.** In addition to important information from your child's teacher, and messages from me, the district will continue to send updated information about any changes in COVID-19 protocols as well as weekly updates.

**Berenda is a PBIS school.** In fact, Berenda received state recognition from the California PBIS Coalition. **We received their highest level award - Platinum.** As I told the students...not Bronze, not Silver, not Gold, but even higher than Gold...we earned the Platinum level! I am very proud of our staff and students and all they have done to earn this award!



PBIS stands for **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports** and is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. PBIS is a way for schools to encourage good behavior. It is our goal to teach kids about behavior, just as we teach other subjects like reading or math. The focus of Berenda's PBIS program is prevention, not punishment. We realize students will make mistakes and we will use a **PBIS note to inform you** when this happens. We would like you to take this opportunity to speak with your child about what happened. Have them tell you about the school wide or classroom matrix and which rule they didn't follow. Then, sign the PBIS note and have your child return it to school. Again, this is just a simple way for us to communicate with parents and keep you informed. We feel that communication is important! Working together, we can help all our Broncos learn the value of being a cooperative part of fabulous team.

If your child was in our Summer S'Cool, you can find one of their project on display **at the Madera Fair.** We also have a couple of classes that have made projects this year. It's always fun for students to see their work on display...so if you have a chance, stop by and check them out.

**Upcoming Events** - Mark your calendar.

Your should have seen a flyer about our **Popcornopolis Berenda Parent Club fundraiser.** The company had some hiccups in their delivery, so we are starting a bit later than planned. Orders are due by Sept 10<sup>th</sup>. Students can bring back on of the coupons on Thursday to get a Coop. The

money raised will go into our BPC account and is used to support Berenda in many ways. There is an online option for those relatives who live far away.

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** at 3:00 is our first ELAC (**English Learner Advisory Committee**) meeting. We will be electing new officers. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings. Zoom meeting link will be sent in a ParentSquare message.

**Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** is **Picture Day**. You will receive a packet in your child's backpack and can also access information [online at this link](#). Make sure to wear your favorite outfit and bring your smile. 😊

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 will be our next **home basketball game**. Spectators will be allowed on campus at 12:50. They will need to sign in. Masks are not required, but social distancing is encouraged.

**Sept 14<sup>th</sup>** at 3:30 is our next BPC (**Berenda Parent Club**) meeting. We will be finalizing details for Jog-a-thon as well as making other plans. Jog-a-thon is our big fundraiser for classroom field trips and activities. We need lots of help for a couple of hours to help make this event a success!

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup>** at 3:05 is our first SSC (**School Site Council**) meeting of the year. I need to elect five parents to be part of our SSC. If you are interested...please let me know. There are only 5 meetings a year. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings and learn more about our school. Zoom meeting link will be sent in a ParentSquare message.

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>** is our **Annual Jog-a-thon**. Your child will be receiving information soon. I would like to challenge every student to get pledges of \$20 or more. I know we have students who raise a lot more...which is fabulous and really helps our school. But, if we can get everyone to bring in \$20, it would allow us to continue to fund many of the special activities at each grade level that we know are the memory makers for our Broncos.

## Staff Highlight

We had a fabulous **Kinder Parent Night**! Parents learned the importance of reading nightly with their child - both to practice skills their children are learning, but even more importantly, to develop a love of reading. During the math presentation, they learned the value of play and even got to make some games that they took with them to help build math skills and promote family time together.

We went virtual for our **Back to School Night**. All our teachers had Zoom sessions and presented a bit about their classrooms and what you can expect this year. We will be working on uploading the presentation to our website so parents who were not able to attend can view the presentation.

We had our first **home basketball game** on Friday. I was very proud of our student athletes and what great sportsmanship they displayed during the game. I was also impressed with our students and how they cheered on their fellow Broncos. It was great to see all the Berenda School Spirit!!

## Student Health & Wellness

Medication prescribed by a physician for a child may be administered during the school day by a registered nurse or other designated school personnel. Medication brought to school must be provided in a properly labeled container along with the name of the supervising physician. This authorization needs to be renewed annually (BP 5141.21). Without such authorization, no district employee will assist in the administration of any medication.

Visit the district's webpage at <https://www.madera.k12.ca.us/page/42> for more information from our nursing department.