



Berenda Elementary

October 2021

## From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

September was an exciting month at Berenda! And October is looking to be the same. I told students at our whole school flag salute last week that we have fun at Berenda, and we learn! We want students to grow academically and socially and we want them to have fun while they grow.

For students to Thrive, they need to feel safe and loved. This is true at home and at school. We are still following our COVID19 protocols. I know it can be hard when you receive that call telling you that your child is being quarantined for a period of time. I know it isn't what your child wants, it isn't what you want, and it isn't what we want either. We want to thank our parents for their understanding and for working together with us to keep our Broncos safe.

I'm going to ask for your help with another issue we are having. We have a few students who are **making bad choices and following a social media challenge**. Right now, they are messing up and damaging the restrooms. I realize this is not everyone. But, if we all have the conversation with our children and discuss that we need to make sure we use the restroom, wash our hands, throw our trash in the garbage can, and exit quietly...then every student will know that mom and dad are expecting that I do the right thing at school, just like my teachers expect of me.

The next part of this social media challenge is even worse. It encourages students to 'smack a staff member'. Please! Please talk with your children about 'Hands, Feet, and Objects' to yourself. This is serious. I don't want anyone to get in trouble for making a bad choices.

We have been learning about internet safety these last few weeks. Ask your child what they have learned about staying safe while they are online. Let them know what your expectations are for places they are allowed to go online and places they are not. Let them know which apps you will allow them to download and which you don't feel are appropriate for them. There is a lot out there, but that doesn't mean that all the apps are good for children.

Communicating with your child is important. Asking them what they learned and what they did at school shows you value their education. You can ask them what they did in their Art class, their music class, their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) class, the library, and while out at PE. They should be excited to share their experiences with you. There are lots of exciting learning opportunities happening here at Berenda.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

## Important News

Last month I complimented our parents on car pickup! Keep up the good work.

This month I'm going to ask that we work on morning drop off. It is vitally important that your child be at school on time and ready to learn. The first bell rings at 7:55 and school starts at 8:00. But, many of our students are being dropped off after 8:00. This means they have to get a note from the office and are then walking in late to class - not knowing what the teacher has introduced to the students. NOT a good way for anyone to start their day.

Let's be honest about this. It is usually not the child's fault they are late. So, let's do our part as parents and make sure our children are at school and ready to have a great day!

If your child is not coming to school because they have one or more COVID19 symptoms, please fill out the ParentSquare survey for that day. We only want you to fill out the PS survey on the first day your child is not in school. We will then contact you to confirm your child's return to school date.

## Event Highlights

Our **Popcornopolis fundraiser** was a great success. We raised almost \$15,000 for our Berenda Parent Club. These funds are used for many activities that support our students and staff. I know we couldn't have done this without the support of our fabulous families...so Thank You!

**Jog-a-thon** was a lot of fun with multiple tracks, students everywhere, music blasting, and running with friends. Again, thank you to our parents for supporting their children with these activities. We use these funds for grade level/classroom activities throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

October 12<sup>th</sup> - Berenda Parent Club meeting. 3:30 via Zoom. <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>

Join us as we finalize the plans for our Fall Festival. We will need many parents to help out that night. Lots of help means everyone only has to help for a short period of time.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> - Fall Festival.

This is the most anticipated night of the year for many of our Broncos. We will have food, games, entertainment, a costume contest, and fun for all. We have lots to do to make this event a success. Please let me or someone from our Berenda Parent Club know if you can help.

October 27<sup>th</sup> - Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting. 3:05 via Zoom. <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/88274705436>

The Title 1 meeting will review Berenda's program and how funds are allocated on our site.

After the Title 1 meeting is over we will begin our SSC meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more about the Berenda and our funding.

## October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> - Pumpkin Decorating Contest

This is a fun event for students. They love showing off their creativity in decorating their pumpkin. Pumpkins need to be dropped before school on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. We will display them for students. Then, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, they need to be picked up at the end of the day.

## Staff Highlight

Congrats to our Berenda basketball teams and their coaches. Mr. Townsend coached the boys and Mr. Cordero coached the girls. Their seasons started off with losses, but through their hard work, dedicated practice, and teamwork, they improved. How much did they improve? The girls took second place in the championship tournament and the boys came in first place. I shared with the teams that I was very proud of them, not only for winning, but for the way they behaved on the court. They played hard, they played fair, and they had fun. (They truly "Thrived" this season!)

Mrs. Neely and Mrs. Gunter took our MiniPom and Spirit Team to the Old Timer's Day Parade. This is a fun event where they get to dance and cheer their way down Yosemite Ave before cheering crowds. I am proud to announce that our MiniPom took 3<sup>rd</sup> place and our Spirit Team took 1<sup>st</sup> place. Congrats to everyone!