



Berenda Elementary

November 2021

From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

How often do you have dinner together as a family? It is such a blessing to be able to sit around the table, talking, and enjoying each other's company. Share with your children what you do for a living, where you work, and how your day was. And ask them about their day, what they are learning, and who they played with during the day. What else can you talk about?

*Last week was Red Ribbon Week. We take this time each year to discuss with our students the importance of taking care of their bodies by keeping them safe from bad substances. I let students know that unless the 'medicine' comes from their parent and/or the doctor, they should stay away from it. During the year we are helping them learn about their bodies during PE - how their bodies work and how to keep them healthy. In class we are working hard to educate them and grow their minds. Their bodies are precious and we want to protect them. As a parent, talk to your child and let them know you are always available for them to ask questions.

*Ask your child what they are doing in their 'Special' classes? PE, Music, Library, Art, or STEM. I've been in all these classes and they are doing and learning some really interesting things. Ask them which day they have PE...and then help them remember to wear good PE shoes.

*National Gratitude Month in November encourages us to embrace the power of gratitude. Gratitude is more than simply saying "thank you." Gratitude's amazing powers have the ability to shift us from focusing on the negative to appreciating what is positive in our lives. Gratitude is considered by many to be the healthiest of all human emotions. People who are grateful experience more positive emotions, feel more alive, sleep better, express more compassion and kindness, and even have a stronger immune system.

We all have SO much to be grateful for, but often the days are long and leave us exhausted, so it can be hard to give ourselves and others some tender loving care. This month we challenge you to remind yourself to slow down, breathe, and think of something or someone you are grateful for, even if just for a few minutes each morning or evening...or at the dinner table.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

Important News

If your child is sent home due to COVID19 protocols, you will be offered Independent Study. What that means is that you will receive instruction on what your child needs to complete during the time they are home. Some grade levels have paper packets, some are all online, and most have a combination of paper and online. (If you need a Chrome book, we can check one out to you.) When your child returns to school, they will return any paper copies they have completed. The teacher will then look at the paper and online work to determine if they have completed the right amount of work to receive Independent Study credit for their days. There are specific requirements for the amount of time and work that need to be met to qualify.

The weather has finally turned towards fall. We are starting to see a lot of sweatshirts and jackets in our Lost and Found. Please take a moment to **write your child's first name** in the label...and maybe even the room number.

Did you know that you can receive **Parent Square messages** in your email and as a text message? Login to ParentSquare (www.parentsquare.com). Click on 'Your Account'. In the "Notification Setting" box click "change this". Here you will see a pop-up window. Select your notification preferences (Email and Text, Email Only, Text Only). Choose 'Email and Text' and you won't miss a single message.

If you are interested in increasing your computer skills...here is a great opportunity to attend some **online computer classes**.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A2_A8dKMHIQghinwdGXjyTbIEpH6M9PT/view?usp=sharing

Event Highlights

What a great time we had at our **Fall Festival**. It was wonderful to see all our families spending time together and enjoying themselves. We can't thank our families enough for making this event the great success that it is.

Our **Pumpkin Decorating Event** was a great success too. The students loved seeing them all. Every year I am amazed at the creative ideas and appreciate you sharing them with us all.

Congrats to our **Berenda Soccer** teams and their coaches. Mrs. Sanchez coached the girls, who came in First Place in the district, and Mr. Townsend coached our boys. They played hard, they played fair, and they represented Berenda proudly.

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

November brings us new sports opportunities for our students. **Volleyball** is open to our 5th and 6th graders while **Cross Country** is open to 3rd-6th graders.

During November, we will be working together with Matilda Torres High School to **collect non-perishable food items**. These items will be delivered to the Madera Rescue Mission. You may send items with your child or drop them off at school. Together, we can help make Thanksgiving a bit more special for some families in need in our community.

November 9th - **Berenda Parent Club meeting**. 3:30 via Zoom. <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>
Join us as we finalize plans for **Kids Craft Day**. We will need many parents to help out. Lots of help makes these events successful and fun for all our students.

November 11th - **Veteran's Day**. There is no school on November 11th as we honor those military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

November 17th - We will have a practice **Lock Down drill**. We are very careful to share what is age appropriate with our students. Basically, we let them know that they need to follow the directions of the teacher so we can keep them safe. Like when we have a fire drill, our goal is to prepare our students.

November 22nd-26th - **Thanksgiving vacation**.