



Berenda Elementary

December 2021

From the Principal

Happy Holidays to everyone!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break.

Friday morning, before we left for vacation, I challenged our Broncos to go home and thank their mom or dad, grandma or grandpa, or whoever takes care of them. I let them know that they are very lucky to have someone who loves them and watches over them and it is important they let those people know how much they are appreciated.

Often kids don't even know how lucky they are. They don't understand the blessings they have. Sometimes they can even take things for granted. So, it is important to make sure that we remind them to say thank you for the blessings they have.

With Christmas coming, we have a wonderful opportunity to have our kids say thank you. How you ask? They can write Thank You cards for every gift they receive.

Writing thank you cards has many positives effects:

- 1 - Teaches you to be appreciative.
- 2 - The person getting the thank you card will LOVE it! (Think how happy it will make grandma when she gets a thank you note in the mail.)
- 3 - It's a great way to practice writing skills.
- 4 - It can be a great family activity to make your own cards.
- 5 - And think how much fun your kids will have making thank you cards together with you.

And now my thank you:

I want to say Thank You to all our families. I appreciate all your support and encouragement as we continue to work through some very difficult times. I truly feel blessed to be a part of the Berenda family. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas vacation and look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Jan 11, 2022.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

Important News

Our Parent Resource Center is excited to announce that our **5th Annual Parent & Community Engagement Conference** is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th (English version) and Friday, December 10th (Spanish Version). This conference will be held via Zoom and will have prizes after every workshop. You can contact the PRC at 416-5842 with any questions and here is a link where you can sign up: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScItVqmSliGZJSN4na2Uk9b_8MKQYNYo6S2zRCrqc9Jr53T9g/viewform

Event Highlights

Last month we partnered with Matilda Torres High School to **collect non-perishable food items** to support the Madera Rescue Mission. Your generous support was amazing. We collected 1,700 items! As a thank you...Matilda Torres Leadership Class will come one day to host some games and activities for our students during their lunch time. This is going to be a lot of fun for everyone.

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

December 7th - **Berenda Parent Club meeting**. 3:30 via Zoom. <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>

December 9th - **Berenda ELAC** (English Learner Advisory Committee) **meeting**. 3:00 via Zoom. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings. Zoom meeting link will be sent in a ParentSquare message.

December 11th - **Kids Craft Day** is back this year. You need to have turned in your order form by Dec 1st to attend the fun event.

December 17th - **Spirit Day**...wear your pajamas to school.

December 20 - January 10 - **Christmas Vacation**

January 11 - First day back to school in 2022. (7:55 first bell rings...and class starts at 8:00)

Student Health & Wellness

Please read this message from the department of School Culture and Climate at MUSD. It contains some fun activities that you can do with your kids.

Winter is the most magical of seasons. Between frosty days, winter break, and the holidays, it can be a joyous time. But it also can bring stress, loneliness, and unhappiness for some. One way you can support your children during winter break is by practicing social and emotional learning (SEL) while they are home for the holidays.

Social and emotional learning (SEL) includes skills that help students:

Stay focused and engaged in learning

Work through strong emotions

Remain connected with others at school and home

Achieve academic success

Linked here is a challenge of SEL activities developed by Aperture Education that your family can practice during break. The challenge is like bingo and can be completed many ways - straight across, diagonally, or complete every task for a "blackout." See how many challenges your children can do, and make it a whole-family activity. Take time with loved ones to relax and recharge during the winter break and create some joy!

((https://drive.google.com/file/d/1upY7z9n-wL3l2A5_8k7NU66AHNHbRsCt/view))