



Berenda Elementary

February 2022

From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

On Wednesday, Punxsutawney Phil will let us know if we will have an early spring or if we will have another 6 weeks of winter. Either way, February is here and spring is just around the corner.

I hope you were all able to meet with your child's teacher for a parent/teacher conference. In these meetings, we get to share strengths and areas that need some more work. This communication allows us to work as a team to help your child have a successful year. For all of our students, it is important that they work on their math facts and read every night. For many, they also need to practice their sight words to help build their foundational skills. If you don't know what you can do to help your child be successful, reach out to their teacher and ask. This is a great use of the ParentSquare app.

Speaking of ParentSquare - I hope you are all finding the app beneficial. Did you know you can choose how you are notified that you have a new message? You can have the message show up on your app, be sent as a text, and also be sent to your email. I recommend having all three of the options turned on. It is important that you monitor your ParentSquare messages. Here is a [link to some FAQs](#).

Thanks for talking with your children about social media and how to filter out good ideas and bad ideas. The internet is full of wonderful information...but it is also full of content that is not appropriate for our children. Continue to monitor what they are watching, what apps they are using, and who they are communicating with. They are young and need us to help them learn to make good choices.

Finally, I want to thank our families for all their efforts to keep our students safe from COVID19. There continue to be changes in how we are dealing with the virus at school. I know it is frustrating and I know it is not easy! But, I also know that we are doing the best we can to keep all our Broncos safe.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!
Mr. Christiansen

Important News

Parent club will be holding one more **fundraiser** this year. We will be selling cookie dough. More information coming soon. Come to our next Berenda Parent Club meeting to see how you can help and be a bigger part of your child's school experience.

We will soon be selling **Valentine Grams**. These are a fun way to send a message to your child, or allow them to send a message to a friend or teacher. Watch for a flyer with more information.

Our annual Bus Evacuation Drill will be happening soon. I will send a ParentSquare message that morning to let you know when you can expect students to be delayed getting home. Have you downloaded the **Traversa Ride 360 Student ID Card**? Here is the [How To link](#). We should have ID cards to all bus riders soon.

Right now we are in the middle of our NWEA testing. These tests help us monitor student learning and provide information that helps to plan their lessons. We will soon begin testing our English language learners. They take the ELPAC assessment each year. It is important that they try their hardest on this test. We use the information from the ELPAC to help determine if our English language learner students can be reclassified and also to determine which classes they take as they move on to middle school. Please encourage your children to do their best!

Event Highlights

We just started **football season**. Our teams had a lot of fun on Friday. Our boys' team won and our girls' team played hard and came within one touchdown of winning.

In February, we celebrate **Black History Month**. We will join our fellow Americans to reflect on both the history and teachings of African Americans, and to focus on the progress, richness and diversity of African American achievements.

Our **PBIS** focus for the month of February will be on citizenship and what it takes to be a good citizen. Our goal is for our students to demonstrate good citizenship by fulfilling their civic and social responsibilities and contributing to the well-being of the communities in which they are a member - including their home, school, neighborhood, country, and the greater world.

Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

February 2 - Groundhog Day. Will we have an early spring??

February 4 - Spirit Day: Support your favorite team by wearing a jersey or hat.

February 11 - Spirit Day: Wear pink or red.

- Progress reports sent home.

February 14 - No School

February 15 - Berenda Parent Club meeting 3:30 via zoom <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>

February 16 - Picture day (packets will be coming home)

February 18 - No School

February 21 - No School

Student Health & Wellness

Please read this message from the department of School Culture and Climate at MUSD.

February is Black History Month. This month-long observance in the US and Canada is a chance to celebrate Black achievement. Interestingly enough, the field of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) was developed by a black college professor.

Dr. James Comer was the first African-American to become a full professor at the Yale School of Medicine. Since 1976, he has served as the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale Child Study Center and the Associate Dean at the Yale School of Medicine.

His pivotal research paved the way for the eventual emergence of social-emotional learning. SEL is the process through which people acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. In Madera Unified, kindergarten-eighth grade students receive weekly SEL instruction through our board-adopted core curriculum: *Second Step*.

Thank you Dr. Cromer for over 45 years of work to advance these important social-skills.