



Berenda Elementary

May/June 2022

## From the Principal

Hi Broncos,

We are entering the last month and three days of the school year. We have many exciting events and activities planned for our students to finish out the year.

Awards assemblies will be in person again. Your teacher will share dates and times for those students who are being recognized.

This summer...keep your children busy.

\*We have Summer School at Berenda. Sign up now if you are interested.

\*Keep your eye out on your Parent Square app for messages from the district regarding some really exciting new opportunities for your children.

\*Practice math facts every day, read every day, and get outside and be active every day!

\*Check out BrainPop.com for fun learning opportunities.

User name: berendamadera

Password: pop1

Do you need another fun idea for this summer? Get your child a **Library Card from the Madera County Library**. This card is free and provides you access to books at our Madera library and 9 other libraries. Here is the link to the information you need. [Library Website](#). This is a great way to provide lots of free literature to your child. When you go and get your card, send me a picture through Parent Square of your child at the library with their new card. I'd love to see the smile on their face! [Application English](#) [Application Spanish](#)

I want to end this year with a big thank you to all our families. It has been a very challenging year in so many ways. But, as is typical for Berenda, we worked through this together, with grace and understanding. I hope to see many of our students attend summer school. It is going to be a very exciting and educational few weeks.

For everyone, I wish you a safe and enjoyable summer vacation.

Be Safe, Give Grace, and Thrive!

Mr. Christiansen

## Important News

Last month I wrote about **being to school on time**. I appreciate everyone who is leaving a few minutes earlier in the morning to make that happen. Getting your child to school on time helps to start their day off on the right foot!

I would also **ask that parents not pick up students early from school** unless you absolutely have to. Teachers have their day planned and know what information and items they need before they go home. If you come early, teachers have to stop teaching and quickly give that information to your child.

If your child is **bringing their own lunch to school**, please take a look in their lunch box before they leave for the day. We seem to find that students don't always have a nutritious lunch with them. We all know the value of eating healthy, so I'm assuming they are packing their lunch on their own.

**Perseverance is our PBIS focus** for the month of May. We teach students that it is important to persevere when a task is difficult. For example, when taking a hard test, we want them to show courage, to work hard, and be productive with their time.

The weather is going to be getting hot very soon. Even though it is hot, we are still going to follow the district dress code expectations. It is also advisable to wear tennis shoes on PE days.

Looking for other things to do as a family?

Check out the **Madera Unified Health Fair on 5/6**, virtually or in person. ([link](#)) Raffles for both and free tacos for the in person event.

Or the **MCSOS ArtsFest!** on 5/7. ([link](#)) Students' artwork from our school and others will be on display in the gallery.

## Event Highlights

It was great to see so many families on campus visiting classrooms for Open House. We had a great turnout and I spoke with so many families that were excited to see all the great things happening at Berenda. We really appreciate the support we get from our families!

We had a fun rally for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders to get our students excited about the CAASPP test! We used the opportunity to remind students about a few important things. Pace yourself and don't give up. Don't panic. Take each question one step at a time. Stay focused. And my favorite: Don't be a Ding-Dong...Eat a good breakfast.

At the **MUSD Battle of the Books**, our Berenda team competed against all the other schools in the district. I'm proud to report that our 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Congrats to all the participants and to their coaches, Mr. Garica and Mrs. Hansen.

## Upcoming Events - Mark your calendar.

- May 5 - 3:00 ELAC meeting via Zoom. Link will come via ParentSquare
- May 6 - Madera Unified Health Fair - virtual or in person. ([link](#)) Times are on the flyer.
- May 7 - 10:00-2:00 ArtsFest! ([link](#)) @ Madera County Superintendent of Schools  
(1105 S. Madera Avenue)
- May 8 - Mother's Day - Celebrate with that special mom/grandma/care giver in your life.
- May 16 - 3:30 Berenda Parent Club meeting via Zoom <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/86042099959>
- May 18 - 3:05 School Site Council meeting via Zoom 3:05 <https://maderausd.zoom.us/j/88274705436>
- May 30 - No School - Memorial Day
- May 31 - Regular 2:45 exit
- June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> - Parent/Teacher conferences if requested by teacher or parent
- June 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> - 1:10 Early exit
- June 3 - Report cards go home
- June 8 - First day of Summer School

## Student Health & Wellness

May is **Mental Health Awareness Month**. NAMI's, the National Alliance for Mental Illness, message for 2022 is "Together for Mental Health," or **#Together4MH**. Talking with children about emotional topics, such as their mental health, can feel uncomfortable. It seems much easier to talk about other medical problems, such as food allergies, asthma or diabetes. However, talking openly about feelings and emotions with your children is a great way to help decrease this negative perception. It can be tough to know how to start the conversation — below is a great way to explain mental illness to children.

The "Meet Little Monster" Coloring & Activity Book, created by NAMI-Washington, gives parents and kids a tool to help express and explore feelings in a fun, creative and empowering way. This activity book was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and includes a list of mental health resources; available for download at no-cost in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). There are many ways to complete the activities in this book and while it can be done alone, it's more fun to do as a family. Encourage your children to be honest and make it a routine to talk about feelings at home. Help your children practice asking for help and advice, just like *Little Monster!* The cover pages of this activity book are meant to be printed out and kept as a resource. Make your **Feelings Plan with Little Monster** and keep the list of helpful community resources! Have fun!

