

News from Burr

Principal's Newsletter

September 2014

Dear Burr Community,

I wanted to officially welcome you to the 2014-2015 school year. It's been a terrific first few weeks. As always your children are curious, engaged, and happy, and I so much enjoy interacting with them every day. They definitely make our school community proud.

I wanted to use this principal's newsletter to update and remind you about some school and district initiatives, so here goes.

- Infinite Campus – Please make sure you register. Most (if not all) of our school communication will come through Infinite Campus. In order for you to receive attachments, you must click the e-mail option for how you want to receive messages. (You are able to receive messages in multiple ways at once.) Also, if you need to make any informational changes to your IC account (for example, your emergency contacts), you can do this yourself. There is a parent guidebook that we have attached to our website under *School Related Links*.
- Anti- Bullying Policy – The district has adopted (based on state guidelines) some new procedures about reporting possible bullying incidents. First, it is the school's responsibility to notify the parents of any child being accused of bullying about an investigation. (We already do this at Burr.) Second, we need to offer both students and parents an opportunity to make an anonymous bullying report. Thus, we have placed a box in the library called a *Heads Up Box*. Both students and parents can write a note (or complete a form that will be next to the box) alerting us to any specific concerns they may have related to potential bullying. This note/form can be completed anonymously or with a name attached to it. Either way, Bret Henkel (the IIT) and I will check this box on a weekly basis and follow up on any specific concerns. Within the next week, teachers will be letting students know about this procedure.
- Safety – Some basic safety procedures you should be aware of include: 1) The building does not open until 8:45 and remains locked between 9:00 and 3:25. If you are entering the school, please make sure to sign in at the front desk and get a visitor's badge. Finally, as you know, any visitor to Burr will be screened by the secretaries using the buzzer safety system. Please be patient with them when they ask you why you are visiting Burr.





- Arrival and Dismissal – If you are dropping your child off during morning arrival, please make sure that you drop them off on the sidewalk at or near the circle. A staff member will be directing traffic and will help you determine a safe drop off point. (Please do not allow your child to walk through the parking lot.) Also, if you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please avoid parking in the bus zone. I know parking is a challenge at Burr, but parking or driving in the bus lane (while the busses are there) is unsafe and carries a hefty fine. Thank you for your cooperation.
- School Climate Survey – Please be aware that all parents are invited to take a School Climate survey between October 20 and 31. It will be located in Infinite Campus and is an important way for us to get feedback about Burr’s school climate. I will be sending out a separate notice with details about the survey. If you wish to see the survey before it is electronically distributed, you will be able to view it at Central Office between September 29, 2014 and October 10, 2014. Additionally, students in grades 3-5 will take a student version of the survey at school. Their feedback is extremely helpful as we continue to develop school climate procedures.
- CMT Science and SBAC – We recently received our fifth grade science CMT results. Please be aware that even though the CMT has been replaced with the SBAC assessment, as of now, grade 5 students will continue to take the CMT science assessment. As always, Burr’s students did very well. Seventy one out of eighty-seven (82%) students met the benchmark goal. Additionally, 44% of Burr’s students scored at the highest level (advanced). We continue to be very proud of their hard work and effort. Finally, I have no updates on how Burr’s grade 3-5 students performed on SBAC. We may get limited information from the State of CT in December. I will let you know if/when we do.

Enjoy the beginning of fall.

Warmly,

Jason Bluestein

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