

Burr Elementary School
1960 Burr Street
Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Jason Bluestein, Principal

Phone (203) 255-7385

Fax (203) 255-8244

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Dear Burr Parents,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year at Burr Elementary School. I hope you had the opportunity this summer to relax, travel, swim in the ocean, roast marshmallows, and spend some high quality time with friends and family.

Like last year, class placements are being communicated to parents through Infinite Campus (IC). Below is the link to the parent portal. Please be aware that you need an activation code in order to create a user name and password. Once the school secretary returns on Monday, August 24, Burr's main office can provide you with an activation code if you have not yet set up an Infinite Campus account. Below is a link to IC's parent portal.

<https://campus.fairfieldschools.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp> Please note that the parent portal will open on **Tuesday, August 25**, so you can access your child's class placement.

An Infinite Campus account is very important. Throughout the school year, much of the communication we do is done electronically through IC. Below is a link to a manual that offers suggestions on how to set up your account. I would recommend that you include e-mail and text as contact preferences. Links (such as school letters or newsletters) are only accessible through e-mail. http://fairfieldschools.org/parent_resources_infinite_campus.htm

The first day of school is Thursday, September 3, 2015. Students in **grades K-5** will begin at **8:55 AM and be dismissed at 3:30 PM**. Bus service to and from school will begin for all children on the first day of school. You can access your child's bus number through Infinite campus. Please be sure to consult the bus schedule on the Fairfield Public Schools website to locate your child's bus stop and time. Please have your child at the stop at least five minutes before the scheduled pick-up time. Also, please be aware that the bus routes are notoriously late the first few days, as the drivers become more familiar with their routes.

As a reminder, all students taking the bus are to enter Burr through the *rear entrance of the building* where the bus drops them off and walk directly to their classrooms. If you are driving your child, please be sure to use the *student drop-off area in the front of the school (to the left when you enter Burr's driveway)*. Staff members will be at both entrances to greet students and help them find their classrooms. Students begin entering the building at 8:45. For safety reasons, Burr's doors are locked until 8:45. Also, students who are driven to school are considered tardy if they enter the building after 8:55.

If you plan to pick up your child during the school day (and it is not an emergency), we would greatly appreciate it if you could do so before 3:00 and sign them out at the front desk. Please be

aware that secretaries will ask any visitor to Burr a few basic questions to ascertain why they are visiting our school. Please be patient with them. This is a safety procedure implemented at all of Fairfield's schools and is not meant to prevent parents from accessing Burr. Additionally, if you are picking up your child at our dismissal time of 3:25, please be sure to send the teacher a note ahead of time, park your car, and meet your child in the cafeteria. If your child is a permanent pick up, please provide their teacher with a note, and we will give them a permanent pass that they can keep in their backpack. For safety reasons, the doors to the cafeteria are kept locked until 3:25. Staff members are in the cafeteria to greet parents and check notes.

Students at Burr are expected to read throughout the summer. Thank you for the work you did this summer to help build your child's reading life. As a follow up to summer reading, we are asking every student at Burr to return the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge brochure to their homeroom teacher by Friday, September 12. This log of books that students read over the summer can be accessed at the following web address:

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/ctread/SummerReading2015_journal.pdf

Please help us reach our goal of 100% participation! We will also be asking all students to complete a short task in September about one of their summer books. This will be an opportunity for students to share their thinking (and passion) about what they read as well as give teachers some information about your child's reading comprehension. More information will follow once your child returns to school in September.

Finally, there have been a lot of changes at Burr this summer, so please join me in welcoming new staff. Breda O'Sullivan will be joining Burr's third grade team. She has been a third grade teacher at North Stratfield and brings a wealth of experience with her. Brianna Lauria will also be joining Burr's third grade team. Ms. Lauria comes to Burr from the Trumbull Public Schools. Haley Vitko will be joining Burr as a special education teacher replacing Fran Torrani who took a reading teacher position at the middle school. Ms. Vitko has spent the past two years as a special education teacher in Derby. Laura Alderucci will be a long term substitute in grade 4 for Kelly Sadick while she is out on leave. Mrs. Alderucci did some terrific long term substitute work at Burr this past year. Kristen Kurimai will be moving to second grade for Sharon Miles, who is taking a leave to pursue a higher education degree.

In summary, grade level assignments are as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten – Susan Totilo - Smith

Kindergarten – Lori Thompson, Stacie Vigeant, Kate Schallau

Grade 1 – Julie Sherwood, Alison Taylor, Karen Musante

Grade 2- Susan Cinquegrana, Mei Ling Uliasz, Kristen Kurimai

Grade 3- Lauren Noonan, Breda O'Sullivan, Brianna Lauria

Grade 4- Nicole Passero, Nancy deRegt, Laura Alderucci (Kelly Sadick)

Grade 5 – Brian Jasgur, Karis Beno, Sabrina Phillips

Also, Cary Lynn Pedicini and Nicole Brower will be joining Burr's paraprofessional staff for the upcoming year. As this letter goes to press, we are interviewing for a special education position at Burr to replace Jody Harkins. Mrs. Harkins will be leaving Connecticut to pursue her career in

another state. She has been a tremendous asset to Burr for many years and will be greatly missed. I am very excited to welcome Judy Salemme as Burr's new library media specialist. Mrs. Salemme comes to Burr from Redding where she has been a library media specialist for the past seven years. She is replacing Carolyn Shea who left Burr to take a high school media position in another district. Finally Kerry Abramson is Burr's new math/science teacher replacing Lisa Sherman who left Fairfield to take an assistant principal position in Woodbridge. Ms. Abramson comes to us from Sherman Elementary School where she was most recently a first grade teacher. Kerry is also pursuing a leadership degree in math at Central CT State University.

As a reminder, staff members will be attending a number of meetings on August 31st, September 1st, and September 2nd and will be unavailable for classroom visits. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as they prepare for the new school year. Pre-K warm up is scheduled for Monday, August 31st. The AM session will be between 1:00-1:45 and the PM session is scheduled for 2:00-2:45. Kindergarten warm up will occur between 11:00-12:00 on Wednesday, September 2 and will be followed by an informal play date for all kindergarten students on Burr's playground. All parents are invited to join the members of the PTA Executive Board and me in the Cafeteria for a welcome-back reception, "Tears and Cheers," beginning at 9:15 AM on the first day of school. See you then, and have a wonderful last few days of summer!

Warmly,

Jason