

***Burr Elementary School***  
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Dear Burr Student,

I am so excited to be writing to you today! I hope you had an awesome summer. Whether you spent a lot of time at the beach or traveled to a faraway land or just sort of casually hung out, I hope your summer was filled with all kinds of really cool adventures. During July and August, I played a lot of tennis, read some great books, ate a lot of ice cream, and spent time with my family and friends.

I would encourage (and challenge) you to think about two very important ideas this year.

**First**, work hard. Success in school (and in life) is often not about being the smartest. It's about working the hardest. Do your homework (and do it well.) Write more than you did yesterday. Read books that challenge you to think and wonder and question. Be someone that takes ownership over your learning life. This happens through hard work and perseverance.

**Second**, be kind. Treat others the way you want to be treated. Respect (and try to understand) people who are different from you. Include others at recess. Listen to your bus driver (the first time they tell you to do something.) Talk to someone who looks like they need a friend.

I hope you found time this summer to learn. Whether you visited a museum or studied the moon through a telescope, learning is constantly happening all around you. I hope you had the opportunity to read – and read a lot. Not because it is an assignment but because reading makes you a more thoughtful, creative person. I also hope that you had the opportunity to complete the summer math packet which was filled with a lot of awesome games and activities. When you return in September, please make sure to give the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge brochure to your homeroom teacher. This is a log of the books you read this summer. (Your parents have a copy.) Our goal as a school is for every student to return a brochure! Also, please make sure to give your teacher the contract included in the math packet.

Whether you are new to Burr or someone who has spent all of their school years here, it's going to be an awesome year! Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I can't wait to see you soon.

*Mr. Bluestein*

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