



News from

School
Newsletter
Spring / Summer
2016

“The castle grounds were gleaming in the sunlight as though freshly painted; the cloudless sky smiled at itself in the smoothly sparkling lake, the satin-green lawns rippled occasionally in a gentle breeze: June had arrived.”

—J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Dear Burr Parents,

As we close the 2015-2016 school year, I wanted to take a moment to thank you. Thank you for your support – both financially and through the countless hours you spend helping us achieve our school mission. Thank you for your good cheer, and the close community spirit that you have helped cultivate at Burr. And, of course, thank you for sending wonderfully curious, kind, brilliant children to our school. We are proud to call them Burr students and are impressed and delighted with their insight, humor, and confidence.

Like many years at Burr, our staff continues to change. Congratulations to kindergarten teacher Mrs. Vigeant who will be moving over to Dwight to teach pre-kindergarten. Her contributions to Burr are extensive, and she will be missed greatly. Mrs. Vigeant’s replacement will not be determined until the summer. Three teachers who were on leave this past year - Mrs. Sadick, Mrs. Root, and Mrs. Miles are continuing to pursue other interests and will be extending their leaves for the 2016-2017 school year. Other staff changes include Bob Bove will be returning to Burr to teach physical education part time, and Brett Connor will be reassigned at other schools throughout the district. Band teacher Patti DiMeglio will also be reassigned throughout the district, and Brian Borrelli will be joining Burr’s staff as our new band teacher. Suzanne Sugrue is also being reassigned at other schools. Our new Spanish teacher will be Carmen Yordan. Finally, Laura Craighead, Burr’s social worker is leaving the Fairfield Public Schools. She has been an important member of our team for many years and will be missed. We have not yet chosen a replacement. We wish all of our departing staff members the best of luck and thank them for the awesome work they did at Burr. They will definitely be missed.

Due to enrollment changes that affect the amount of sections we have at Burr, Mrs. Uliasz will teach third grade next year, and Mrs. Noonan will teach fourth grade. All other teachers will remain in their current positions. Congratulations to Mrs. Beno who is pregnant with her first child and will be taking a maternity leave in the fall. We have not yet chosen a long term substitute replacement.





Another big change at Burr will be the departmentalizing of fifth grade. All students will have a homeroom teacher who will teach them social studies and science. However, Mrs. Phillips will teach reading to all fifth graders, Mrs. Beno will teach writing to all fifth graders, and Mr. Jasgur will teach them math. This will give teachers an opportunity to delve deeper into specific content areas and provide students with a transitional experience that bridges elementary school and middle school. Please note that unlike middle school (where class makeups vary), students will travel as a homeroom throughout the day. By doing this, our goal is to preserve classroom culture and friendships.

Our supply list for next fall is now up on our website. If you are interested in buying supplies well ahead of the late August crowds, hopefully you will find this convenient. Most supplies are provided by the Fairfield Public Schools. These are supplemental supplies that help support the classroom. Thank you for your help.

It's been a busy year. We are very proud of the work we do everyday at Burr. Some of the highlights of the 2015-2016-school year include:

- The teaching of updated reading and writing units.
- The implementation of instructional strategies that promote student agency and independence.
- A focus on student-to-student discourse across all content areas.
- A focus on craft (word choice) strategies in writing.
- The implementation of enrichment tasks for students in math.
- The implementation of a maker space in the library.
- The implementation of an enrichment cluster cycle in grades 1 and 2.
- The implementation of a parent career symposium in grade 4.
- The revision of library media projects that focus more and more on higher level thinking skills such as analysis, creativity, and synthesis.
- The implementation of health and wellness activities such as Yoga and ACES.
- The continued success of Reading Celebration Week and Diversity Day.
- The implementation of a variety of school wide positive behavior supports including whole school assemblies, Burr Paws, cross grade mentorships, and a five point behavior scale.

As we continue to grow as a school, I am interested in getting more of your feedback. Below is a link to a Google Survey that offers you an opportunity to help us get better. If you have a few extra minutes, I would really appreciate your thoughts.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tOPhVsntjJl_apkSRZmInBvITluPoN1Rq-yhQzFekbU/viewform

I wish all Burr families a relaxing, fun summer filled with roasted marshmallows, toes dipped in the sand, and barbecue hamburgers and hot dogs. Look for more communication from me in the months ahead and have a fantastic summer.

Best,

Jason



News from Kindergarten

Mrs. Schallau, Mrs. Thompson, and Mrs. Vigeant

Kindergarten has been a year of learning, friendship, responsibility, problem solving, growth, risk-taking, and fun. We have watched your children grow as readers, writers, mathematicians, and members of our classroom communities. We are all proud of their accomplishments and know they will continue to blossom as first graders.

You can help your children continue to grow over the summer by keeping their skills sharp in fun ways. Talk to them. Tell them stories about summer days when you were their age. Ask them to tell you stories. Introduce your children to window shopping on the Post Road. Can they figure out what a store sells from the display in the window? How do they know? Pretend you don't understand. Let them be the teacher and explain things to you.

Read to them. Have them read to you. Talk about the books, the characters, the author's message and how they would change the story if they could. Enjoy reading magazines, letters, billboards, etc. Visit the library often.

Write with them. Make a list of things you want to do this summer. Write journals, poems, postcards, a neighborhood newsletter, and a list of directions for the babysitter, etc. Let your children write in the ways that suit them best.

Play games. Dice, cards, and board games that require counting help keep math skills sharp. Inventory the shells on the beach (Just kidding!) Study volume by pouring water from bucket to buckets etc. Throw water balloons at sight words on the driveway.

Take the time to be six again. Predict the weather by watching the clouds in the sky. Watch a popsicle turn from a solid to a liquid. Feel the wind and the sun. Walk in the rain. Enjoy your summer with your children!

News from First Grade

Mrs. Musante, Ms. Sherwood, Ms. Taylor

We are so pleased with the success of our students this year! Below are some suggestions for incorporating learning throughout your summer days.

Reading aloud can become a family adventure. Enjoying chapter books together is a wonderful opportunity to get everyone involved and reading. Try reading a chapter a night. Make predictions, talk about the characters, summarize the chapter and discuss the author's message. Look on Burr's website for Summer Reading resources. Visit the library together to find books for places your family is visiting. Find the area on a map. Subscribe to a children's magazine such as *National Geographic for Kids*, *Ranger Rick*, or *Sports Illustrated for Kids*.





Build opportunities for writing over the summer. It would be fantastic if your child kept a summer journal to write about different summer experiences. It will help them hold on to the spelling and grammar rules, as well as concepts of print and other writing conventions they have learned this year. This journal may also be valuable for writing ideas to be used next year in second grade.

Go outside. Create a huge number line on your driveway with chalk. Skip count by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, or 10's. Play math games that involve counting and strategy planning.

Help your child develop his/her organizational skills by incorporating chores and responsibilities into their daily routine. Putting clothes in drawers, setting/clearing the dinner table, putting toys away, are just a few examples.

The students have worked very hard throughout the year, and we are very proud of them!

News from Second Grade

Mrs. Cinquegrana, Mrs. Kurimai, Mrs. Uliasz, Ms. Zaleski

It has been a wonderful year of exploration, discovery, creativity, and friendship in second grade. Though the exciting year is coming to a close, it is our hope and wish that every child continues on with their learning this summer. The best way to ready your child for third grade is to read, write, do math, and explore interests all year. Below is a list of ideas and resources to use over the summer. Enjoy!

Reading

Read, read, read! Record your summer reading to share with your 3rd grade teacher on the summer reading log. Take part in Fairfield Public Library's summer reading program. There are many great incentives. <http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/childrens/summer-reading-2016/> Tell stories around the camp fire or with flashlights during warm summer nights.

Writing

Write letters and send cards to friends, family members, and teachers. Keep a journal of your summer adventures. Write poetry to explore your creativity.

Math

Visit Burr's STEM websites to practice math skills all summer. <http://burrmathscience.weebly.com/> Continue with your fact fluency practice to ready yourself for third grade. Create word problems for family members and friends. Make them challenging and check their work for accuracy after they've answered the questions.

Science/Social Studies/Heath

Go online and look for healthy snack recipes. Cook together with your family and identify the food groups in your meals. Here is one place to get started: <http://allrecipes.com/recipes/1659/appetizers-and-snacks/snacks/kids/>



Visit one of the many Connecticut attractions the students learned about in second grade. Our state has a wealth of places to go! Below is a link to our Connecticut projects. Go and explore! <https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1ziEJ-7PcEpzQOrEbxXy6MyzCxQC5c2HIunX7HUX8tuY/pub>

Keep a nature log. While visiting the beach, woods, or even your backyard, record animals and their behaviors. Sharpen your ability to observe by using all of your senses.

Character/Friendship Skills

Have a playdate with a person you've never had a playdate with before. Take a chance. You can make a new friend! While eating, talk about times in the day when you've noticed the CARES traits. Make a goal each day to better yourself with one of the letters. For example: Today, I will be responsible and make my bed without being asked. At the end of the day, reflect and see if you reached your goal.

Take risks and try new things. Explore things you're passionate about. Take an interest and dive deep into it, like we did during enrichment clusters. Practice, practice, practice until you get better at a skill. Make mistakes (everyone does), smile, and learn from them. Try to do things independently. Before going to your parents, ask yourself if you can solve a problem on your own. Keep on challenging yourself and you will grow!

Enjoy every moment of your summer!

News from Third Grade

Ms. Lauria, Mrs. Noonan, Mrs. O'Sullivan

Now that summer is but a breath away, the third grade team would like to thank you for all your support for your children's learning throughout the year. Your support

has helped make it a successful year for all of us. So much wonderful work has taken place in all areas of the curriculum. In order to keep up the momentum and to maintain some of the strong work habits established this year, we encourage you to have your children read, write, and practice some math over the summer. This will make the transition to fourth grade so much easier in August and September. Below you will find a number of links that should make this ongoing practice quite user friendly.

Log onto the Burr website and follow the link for burrmathscience.weebly.com. Miss Abramson has put together some great links for practice across a range of topics and grade levels. You can also follow the link for parent resources that will guide you to some **iPad resources**.





Here are some further suggestions:

Participate in the **Public Library summer reading challenge**.

Complete **FPS reading, writing, math packets**.

Create **scrapbooking journals** where children can write poetry, small moments, reading responses, and include graphics to enhance their writing.

Continue to utilize **Frontrow** math.

Work on some **grectang** math challenges and MOST important of all....

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!

Although your children will be in 4th grade next year, we look forward to seeing them in August and staying in touch with them as they progress through to graduation from Burr in June 2018!!!



News from Fourth Grade

Mrs. Alderucci, Mrs. deRegt, Ms. Passero

Your child is almost a 5th grader! Can you believe it? This year has flown by. It has been wonderful to watch your children learn and grow over the year. We are so proud and impressed by all their accomplishments. This summer it is important to keep your child's education going strong to insure that the start of their last year here at Burr goes well! Here are some suggestions:

Math: Please be sure to have your child practice his/her math facts. This can be done via websites, apps, flash cards, around the world, product/Sum War-Card Game, skip count by 6, 7, and 8s up to 72, 84, and 96, and putting post-it's with tricky facts around the house.

Fact Fluency Building Websites

<http://www.multiplication.com/students.htm>

http://www.sadlieroxford.com/math/mathgames/mad_minute_game/navigation3.htm

<http://www.factmonster.com/math/flashcards.html>

http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/math/mathminutes/addition/add0_18.htm

http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/math/mathminutes/subtraction/sub1_20.htm

<https://www.xtramath.org/>



Math Apps

Math Planet

Math Racer (2.99)

Sushi Monster

Reading: Continue to have your child read every day. The library has wonderful incentives for reading over the summer. The link for the Fairfield Library Summer Reading Program 2016 is <http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/childrens/summer-reading-2016/>.

Writing: Keeping a journal is a wonderful way to keep your child writing over the summer. They can choose to zoom in on a moment in their day, a special meal they've had, camp experience, summer adventures, opinions they may develop, and they can create fiction stories. There is a great writing program offered by Fairfield University called *Summer Labs for Young Writers* that is worth looking into. Their website is <http://cwpfairfield.org/summerlabs/>.

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in the fall!

News from Fifth Grade

Mrs. Beno, Mr. Jasgur, Mrs. Phillips

The end of the year is an exciting and busy time for fifth grade!

We recently visited the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford. Students interacted with exhibits on force and motion, the human body, and space exploration, among others. If you're feeling adventurous, there are many exciting museums within a short drive that we recommend for you this summer. For some day-trip excursions visit the Peabody Museum in New Haven, Mystic Seaport, MoMath, the Tenement Museum, and the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island in NYC. These are all places that would enrich your child's fifth grade experience.

Students also visited Tomlinson Middle School and had the opportunity to tour the building and meet some teachers. They are very excited to start a new chapter in their lives! Some things that you can do this summer to prepare your child for a smooth transition are to complete the summer math packet (available at FPS website), encourage your child to keep a journal, and to read voraciously and talk about the themes and big ideas in their books. The Fairfield Public Library will introduce the summer reading program in school. There is information about this on Burr's website. We encourage students to take advantage of this resource so they are confident when the new school year begins.

We wish all students moving up to middle school a fun and safe summer and a wonderful start to their middle school experience. Thank you for a fabulous year!





Art Room Happenings

Mrs. Yessenow

With summer break approaching the opportunities for creating and appreciating art are endless!

You can keep your child on the creative track with minimal effort. Save recyclable materials like egg cartons, cardboard tubes and boxes. These items with a little tape and glue (and maybe paint) provide a wealth of ideas for your youngsters!

The library has books on many subjects such as origami paper folding and cartooning. Check out easy children's crafts online at [Pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com) The more you encourage your children to draw, paint, and build the more they will become creative, innovative thinkers!

Consider a family trip to a sand sculpting event in Fairfield on 8/13 at Penfield beach. Or go to an art museum! The library offers free passes to 49 museums! Go to this website <http://fairfieldpubliclibrary.org/my-fpl/museum-passes/>

If you're by car you can bring many fun art and craft activities along for entertainment! Scratch papers, Pipe cleaners, Wikki-stiks, gimp and Model Magic are always a hit and travel well too. Whatever you do, remember Art is Smart! Have a great summer.



PE Happenings

Mr. Hilinski

I can't believe another year is ending!! It has been a pleasure to watch your children grow physically, socially and emotionally. Each student has made tremendous strides in improving their gross motor readiness. Each class as shown CARES through various activities and how they cooperate with each other and provide empathy when necessary.

Attention 3rd graders... in the fall we will begin our state mandated physical fitness test. All 4th graders are required to take this test. Over the summer, please spend 1 hour each day involved in some type of physical activity such as riding bikes, swimming, hiking, jogging, playing sports, or just playing outside with friends. In addition, 3rd graders should begin to practice each component of the test (push-ups, sit-ups, curl-ups and running a mile). Everyday pick an exercise and try to do 3 sets of 10. Parents please help your child practice so they can have as much success as possible when they return in 4th grade.

To all our Burr families, physical activity is such an important part of every student's development, both mentally and physically. Many studies have been conducted that have shown a direct correlation between kids who regularly exercise and academic achievement, so encourage your child to play every day for at least 60 minutes...they will be happier, healthier and smarter!!!



To our 5th graders, it has been a pleasure watching each and every one of you grow into the person you are today. I have seen you learn compassion, teamwork, sportsmanship, and care for each of your classmates. I wish you all the best on your new adventure as you transition into middle school. Remember to be nice to each other and your teachers. Good luck!!

News from Music

Mrs. Maravich

The **Fifth Grade Choraleer Ensemble**, which has met with me on Friday mornings at 8AM, and for the past month on Wednesday mornings as well, continues to expand their choral music repertoire. They are beginning to master the art of “tonal blend” in singing. They have accomplished so much this year and I will miss them with all of my heart. They are eager to perform and have expanded their taste in music to songs from many different genres. They have reminded ME that they remember what I have taught them (“You get out of it, what you put into it!”), and so they have asked to learn yet another song before their moving up ceremony! Their love of music and song and their excitement about singing is nothing short of electric! BRAVO to all of them and thanks to all of their parents for getting them here to school so early each week.

Then I must praise our **BOYS ENSEMBLE** who also met with me before school at 8AM to form a group and to sing none other than The BEATLES for their concert premier. There are some very talented singers here.....we may see some names in lights in the years to come!

The **lower grades** have expanded their exploration of spatial relations moving safely in space. Their beat competency has come a long way and they have quite an extended song repertoire. They have learned much about playing well with others through dance and song creation.

Meanwhile, the **Third graders** are officially playing their recorders and what a cacophony of sound!! I do believe their biggest challenge is remembering that the left hand is on top (knowing their right hand from their left hand has been a challenge!) They have really advanced in their ability to read and to write rhythms in duple meter. They have been exploring folk songs, ballads, and cumulative songs.

NOTE to THIRD GRADE and FOURTH GRADE PARENTS: Each year I advise 3rd grade and 4th Grade children to put their music notebooks, folders and their recorders in a clean plastic bag in the bottom of their “underwear drawers” at home! We all laugh, but should they return to school without these materials they will have to purchase a new music notebook, pocket folder and a new recorder. Often this happens and when they say, “I don’t know where I put it and/or my mom, the dog, or the cat threw it away, “ I have no way of helping them. But, if they can’t find it and they have followed my directions, I can at least say “by George, I know where you put it.....check your underwear drawer”!!!!

Fourth grade students are becoming accomplished recorder players and good music readers. I am very proud of their progress! Most important is their achievement as composers!! Please look outside the music room to see their original 12-16 measure compositions. BRAVO!!



Best is that each musician can play his/her original song on the recorder.

The Fifth Grade is a wonder when it comes to singing....they have mastered a high level of ear training and the ability to *audiate* and to sing two and three part music. They have accomplished much in a very short amount of time. They are wonderful children and some of my very favorite. Hopefully you didn't miss the opportunity to see this group perform in concert....WOW! I wish them and their families a wonderful transition to Tomlinson School.

OVER THE SUMMER.....I am asking all incoming 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to keep a Summer Music Listening List. Each child should listen to and log at least 10 different music selections they have heard over the summer. The list of listening experiences should NOT be just what is presently popular on the music stations, which can become lazy listening. I'm sure parents and other family members have favorite pieces of music that they can share with their children.

To all of our BURR students and families..... please take time to sing together....make music together as a family, and parents please expose your children to different genres of music. Singing together in the car is a fun family activity, so unplug those electronics and close the screens!

Have a great summer and keep singing !

Noticias de la Clase de español!

Mrs. Sugrue



Grade 4 students have used their *pasaportes* to travel to México where they are choosing to visit either *La ciudad de México* or *Acapulco* based on their interests. In this unit entitled, *Leisure and Sports: México*, students are keeping in mind the question, *How does what I like to do influence where I choose to vacation?* In addition to acquiring useful vocabulary related to expressing likes and dislikes, students are learning how to talk

about when they will go to Mexico by using the days of the week, seasons, and weather expressions. They have designed *Me Gusta* t-shirts to wear on their trip to México and have written acrostic poems about "LA PRIMAVERA".

Please ask your child, *¿Qué te gusta hacer?* or *¿Adónde vas en México?*

In Grade 5 Spanish classes we have updated our *pasaportes* and have traveled to *Las Islas Galápagos*, off the coast of Ecuador, where we have encountered many interesting animals! Students are participating in a virtual tour of the islands. They are learning vocabulary to describe the unique ecosystem and are developing an awareness of the need to protect the environment. They can name various animals, describe them, and talk about where they live, all in *español*.

The question we are keeping in mind is, *Why do we need to protect the environment?*



Please ask your child what the following expressions mean.

Hay que ser responsable.

Hay que proteger los animales.

Hay que cuidar la tierra y el océano.

In the near future your child will be bringing home the Spanish folder that has been used this year. A wonderful way to maintain the language skills we have acquired would be for your child to review the material enclosed; in particular, the unit dictionaries.

Also, look for the brightly a brightly colored sheet entitled, *Preguntas para conversación*, Questions for conversation. Ask your child to have a conversation with you using this as a guide!

I wish you all a wonderful summer! *¡Espero qué tengan un verano maravilloso!*

News from Language Arts

Mrs. Felberbaum, Mrs. Henkel

Reading Celebration this year was fantastic! The school-wide effort to read and enjoy *The World According to Humphrey* and the Humphrey series, was so much fun. Little hamsters were hidden around the school and students loved that little guy. We especially want to thank our PTA committee for the outstanding work they did preparing, designing, and promoting this family event.

With summer break soon to begin, we hope that all students and families will continue to grow as readers and writers. We cannot stress enough the importance of reading each day with and to your children and taking time to explore and enjoy new books. There are many different genres your child can read, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, realistic fiction, fantasy, biography, and many more. You can check out Barnes and Noble's Summer Reading Program too. Your child can earn a free book for tracking their reading! <http://freebies.about.com/od/familyfreestuff/p/barnes-noble-summer-reading.htm>



This summer we are partnering with the Fairfield Public Library for our summer reading program. It is called "**On Your Mark, Get Set... READ!**" The link to register for this wonderful program is www.FAIRFIELDPUBLICLIBRARY.ORG/CHILDRENS. We were very lucky to have the librarians from the Fairfield Public Library come this month to stir up excitement about the activities, prizes, and promotions they are offering.



Our hope is that all students will return in the fall ready and eager to share exciting stories they have read.

There are also many ways to support writing at home over the summer. Take advantage of opportunities to have your child practice writing with notes, lists, letters, stories, poems, etc. They can use their Writer's Notebook to add to entries or create new ones. We all know that summer is a great time for making memories, and writing about them is a great way to capture and treasure those moments. We wish you all a wonderful, relaxing and enjoyable summer with your children. Happy reading! May the adventures continue!

News from Math/ Science

Ms. Abramson

Our mathematicians have worked hard this year and are looking forward to a long and well-deserved summer vacation. We are very proud of their successes and look forward to working with you to help them progress even more next year. During summer vacation, it can be difficult for students to stay motivated to do school work and they tend to lose educational knowledge during this time. In addition to your child's summer math packet, here are some fun ways for you to incorporate math into your summer routine:

1. Note numbers: Increase your child's awareness of numbers by looking around the house to find examples: the kitchen clock, the calendar, a cereal box, a TV dial, a stamp or inside her shoe. Boost your older child's awareness of how numbers are used by pointing out the movie times, weather forecasts and sports statistics in your daily newspaper.
2. Play grocery store math: The supermarket is an ideal place to use math skills, particularly for older children. Point out that yogurt is \$2.59 a six-pack. Ask how much it would cost to buy 3? Your child can round up to \$2.60 or \$3.00 and figure this out. Talk about how he arrived at that number, and point out how the estimate differs from the true cost. Or get the latest advertisement announcing sales from the grocery store. Have them look at the specials on fruit and determine how to spend \$10.00. Supply your child with paper and pencil, and maybe a calculator, as well, so they can practice using calculators.
3. What's on the menu: The next time you go to a restaurant, hang on to the menu while you are waiting for your meal and play some math games with your child. Ask them to find the least expensive item on the menu, then all the items that cost between \$5 and \$10, or three items whose total cost is between \$9 and \$20. This will not only fill the time while you're waiting to eat, it will show your child how math is used every day.
4. Measure the distance: You don't have to leave home for this game, although it's ideal for vacations. Get out a map that indicates the distance in miles between cities. Measure the distance between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and between Phoenix and San Francisco. Which is greater? How does that compare to the distance between New York City and Chicago?
5. <http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/build-math-skills/>

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer vacation!



Pupil Services

Mrs. Craighead, Ms. D'Onofrio, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Montgomery,
Mrs. Antoniou, Mrs. Shea, Ms. Vitko

We are so very, *very* proud of all the accomplishments your children have achieved and applaud their efforts, motivation, and persistence over this past school year! While we wish you a wonderful and most relaxing summer break, we also encourage you to keep your child's passion for learning *red hot* during the steamy summer months. Here are some **Summer Suggestions from the Special Education Staff:**

- Continue to read to your child – they are never too old to hear a good reader read with fluency and expression!
- Talk about how the story makes your child feel or how the characters might feel.
- Take your child to the public library. Let them get their own library card. Get involved in a parent – child book group or start one!
- Give your child a journal or diary and encourage them to write every day.
- Encourage your child to write about special events or a family vacation.
- Look for fun ways to include math in your daily activities. For example; counting change from the ice cream man/woman.
- Create a scrapbook of your vacation and encourage your child to write subtitles below each picture
- **PLAY!!!** Did you know that good social skills are a key predictor for success as an adult?! Remember to get your children off the computer, and away from the television. Unstructured time to hang out is one of the best summer gifts. There is a big, wide world out there! Play continues to be a cornerstone for social development throughout elementary school and beyond. Through play your children are developing essential skills including self-regulation, problem solving, negotiation, and compromise—all key components of good social skills. You are the best judge of how much support your child will need. Even with older children, your participation in planning and facilitation can really set the stage for success.

Prepare. Plan ahead. Have play materials and snack ready.

Limit number of peers. With younger children, start small, one or two peers.

Appropriate activity. Choose an activity that your child both enjoys and can share.

You facilitate. Be available to model and coach.





Day and time? Choose a day and time when your child is rested and has an open schedule.

Act it out. Role play to practice language and skills needed for success. Older children particularly benefit from practice with conflict resolution.

Time limited. 1 ½ -2 hours for younger children, longer for older children. End while it's still fun!

Expectations. Be realistic. Conflict will happen, use it to teach.

Have a wonderful summer!!!!

ESL News

Mrs. O'Neill

It's been a busy and productive year with our English Language Learners here at Burr! As we go into summer and many families will be traveling, here are some ideas for all of our bilingual families, whether you are still mastering English or already an expert.

Most important: Please don't let your child decide to drop your home language! Your child's knowledge, concepts and vocabulary that are already developed in your first language help in the learning of English as a second language – and also provide a more flexible brain for excelling in other areas too!

Continue to use your own language at home and encourage your child to speak, read, and write in their own language. The development of one language supports the other.

Share songs and poems from your own childhood. Get story books in your language or use on-line sites to read together in your first language. Make it fun! If you read a story together in your own language that your child doesn't understand, discuss it in English, then read it together again for fun. Just be careful not to mix languages together. That can get difficult for a young brain to figure out. Have a wonderful summer – and enjoy the cultural experiences that have been precious in the past to you and your family.



End of Newsletter—Thank you for reading!