

Burr Elementary School

Jason Bluestein, Principal
1960 Burr Street
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: (203) 255-7385 Fax: (203) 255-8244



August 21, 2017

Dear Burr Families,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a terrific summer filled with family game nights, flip flops, and some great books! I had mostly a staycation summer although my family spent a great week in the Poconos. I also read some great books, saw some interesting movies like *Spiderman* (surprisingly good), played tennis, and tried to forget about how the Mets are doing.

Like previous years, class placements are being communicated 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. For new families, this should have been provided during registration. If not, Burr's main office can provide you with an activation code. Below is a link to IC's parent portal. Please note that the parent portal will open on **Thursday, August 24th**, so you can access your child's class placement.

<https://campus.fairfieldschools.org/campus/portal/fairfield.jsp>

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

Also, please be aware that Burr uses IC for contact information and the acceptable use of technology in school. It would be very much appreciated if you could update contact information (if necessary) and check the box that you agree with the Computer and Internet Acceptable Use Policy (AUP.) This will allow us to use different technology tools with students including Google Docs.

The first day of school is Thursday, August 31st. 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,

Burr Elementary School

Jason Bluestein, Principal
1960 Burr Street
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: (203) 255-7385 Fax: (203) 255-8244



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.

Fairfield's Elementary Schools are implementing a six day schedule this year (A-F.) A calendar is included in our student handbook. Please note which two days during each six day cycle your child has physical education because they will need to wear sneakers to school on those days.

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. Our school goal was for students to log 60,000 minutes on the Fairfield Public Library's website. As a school, we read a total of 82,000 minutes. Way to go Burr! Additionally, thank you for the other learning opportunities you provided your child this summer. Whether they wrote letters, visited a museum, or did math in the grocery store, we appreciate your commitment to helping your child be a lifelong, engaged learner. We would also appreciate it if your child could return their math packet to their teacher on the first day of school.

There have been a number of changes at Burr this summer, so please join me in welcoming new staff. Lydia McCarthy joins us from Middlebury as our new language arts specialist. Alison Partridge is taking a leave of absence for the year, so please welcome Leslie Gorzkowski to our first grade team. She joins us from West Haven. We have a brand new CLC (Complex Learner Cohort) program at Burr. Jordanna Ardizzone will be our CLC teacher and Nicky Baird and Hannah Riccobono will be supporting our CLC program. Mrs. Ardizzone joins Burr after having taught for many years in both the United States and internationally. Kenya McVey will be a part time physical education teacher at Burr and Cidalia Kettles will be teaching part time music. Our new World Language Teachers are Laura Williams and Susan Welch. Caitlin Carmenati is Burr's new speech and language teacher. Our building subs this year will be Briana Curran and Lauren Garella. A special welcome back to Kelly Sadick who is returning to Burr to teach fourth grade. I am so excited to have her back!

Congratulations to the following people who have moved on to new endeavors for the 2017-2018 school year. Susan Cinquegrana – as you know – has retired and I'm sure is having a lot of fun. Joy Lawrence, Burr's speech teacher, will be working at Riverfield and Osborn Hill Schools this year. Cary Pedicini got a position as a special education teacher in Bridgeport, and Rebecca Rivera is off to do an internship. Kelly Silva is returning to Fairfield Woods Middle School to be a paraprofessional. Elaine Malone, Burr's

Burr Elementary School

Jason Bluestein, Principal
1960 Burr Street
Fairfield, CT 06824
Phone: (203) 255-7385 Fax: (203) 255-8244



building substitute last year, is currently seeking employment for a full time position.

In summary, grade level assignments are as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten – Susan Totilo - Smith
Kindergarten – Lori Thompson, Kate Schallau, Kelsey Hegarty
Grade 1 – Julie Sherwood, Karen Musante, Leslie Gorzkowski
Grade 2- Lauren Noonan, Olivia Zaleski, Kristen Kurimai
Grade 3- Mei Ling Uliasz, Breda O’Sullivan, Natalie Ciancetta
Grade 4- Nicole Passero, Nancy deRegt, Kelly Sadick
Grade 5 – Brian Jasgur, Karis Beno, Sabrina Phillips

This past year we started career presentations for our fourth grade students. This was an opportunity for parents to come to Burr and speak with students about their careers. It was a great opportunity for parents to spend time at Burr, and it was an important chance for students to make real world connections to the work they do at school every day. While most students are years away from knowing what they want their careers to be, this is a great first step to build excitement and a sense of possibility about their futures. If you are interested in sharing what you do for a living, please send me an e-mail at jbluestein@fairfieldschools.org We would love to have your participation! Your commitment would involve approximately 30 minutes sometime during the school year, and we have flexibility to work around your schedule. While it is not necessary to prepare a formal presentation, anything “hands on” you can do with students would definitely be engaging to them.

We also began literary lunch bunches last year with our third and fourth graders. Our goal this year is to continue this fun and exciting project. If you are able to facilitate a book club, please let me know. The commitment is approximately 30 minutes a week for four weeks in a row. Groups are small (3-5 students), students have many great things to discuss, and it is definitely a lot of fun. Parents that participated last year had a great time.

As a reminder, staff members will be attending a number of meetings on August 28th, August 29th, and August 30st 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 28th. The AM session will be between 1:00-1:45 and the PM session is scheduled for 2:15-3:00. Kindergarten warm up will occur between 1:00-2:00 on Wednesday, August 31st and will be followed by an informal play date for all kindergarten students on Burr’s playground. An orientation for Burr’s new families will also occur on Wednesday, August 31st – starting at 10:30 in the library media center. 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 approximately 9:15 AM on the first day of school. See you then, and have a wonderful last few days of summer!

Warmly,
Jason