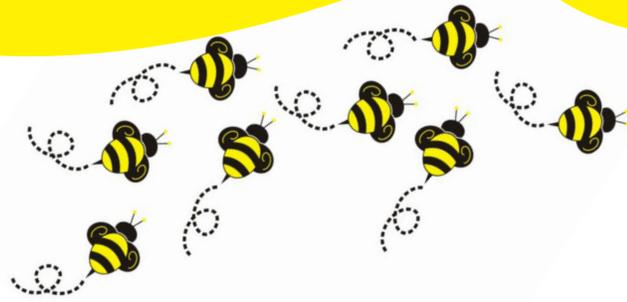


What's all the BUZZ about?

A newsletter from
Anne Brown
Principal

Barron Park Elementary School

October
6, 2016



Buzz Worthy Updates

Dear Barron Park Families,

This week brought a few sprinkles and cool weather reminding us all that Fall is coming! October is a busy month at Barron Park. During the month we will be involved in many activities including the following:

October:

7th

Staff Development Day - No School for Students

10th

Full day for Kindergarteners begins

11th

Second Cup of Coffee with Superintendent Dr. Max McGee, 8:30-9:30 in the staffroom

14th

PTA Meeting

20th

Unity Day - Wear Orange

17th - 19th

4th Grade Coloma Trip

21st

Family Literacy in a Digital Age Night/Leer en

October 7th Staff Development Day No School for Students

On October 7th, while you have your students at home for the day the staff and I will be spending the day at an all-day conference for teachers and aides, given by teachers and aides. The purpose of the conference is to encourage staff members' professional learning and to deepen their understanding of a variety of topics.

The staff development day will kick off with a keynote speaker, Chris Walsh, CEO of Zaption, Chris is a nationally recognized expert in digital learning. Prior to Zaption, Chris led product development and strategic initiatives for New Tech Network and was the co-founder of Brightstorm. Chris also co-founded the Google Teacher Academy and created the Infinite Thinking Machine - an internet TV show focused on innovation in education.

After this wonderful speaker, teachers will choose from a selection of educator-led sessions.

Don't Forget to Label All Your Child's Sweaters and Jackets

As the weather begins to get cooler, and hopefully wetter, I would like to remind everyone to make sure your child's sweaters, jackets, hats and other items are labeled with your child's name. When items are found, we first search for a name and if we find one, we can get the item back to the owner. With no name, the item will be placed on the Lost and Found cart outside the front gate. Items on this cart are donated to charity a few times of year. Please make a habit of checking the lost and found on a regular basis.

Buzz Worthy Updates Continued

21st

Family Literacy in a Digital Age Night/Leer en Familia en la era tecnológica, 5 - 7 PM,

Dinner and childcare provided

31st

Halloween Parade, at 8:30 am on Blacktop

It will be a busy and fun month!

Congratulations to Jennifer Schmidt, David Suh and Isabelle Peltier, Our New School Site Council Members

Thank you to everyone who voted for our new school site council (SSC) members, at the Heritage Potluck. Our SSC is now set for the year with the following people representing our families from Barron Park.

Marlo Kitch
Isabelle Peltier
Jennifer Schmidt
David Suh
Fei Wang

At our SSC meeting this week, we reviewed the data from the Smarter Balanced test from the 2015/16 school year. I will share those findings in next month's newsletter.

Our next meeting will be held on November 1st. Everyone is welcome to attend.

INTERNATIONAL WALK, ROLL, CAR-POOL or BIKE to school DAY! Wednesday October 5, 2016

On October 5th, Barron Park students chose alternatives to solo driving to school by walking, biking, riding the bus, skating and carpooling to celebrate International Walk to School Day.

The City of Palo Alto, Palo Alto USD and the Palo Alto Council of PTAs have formed a Safe Routes to School partnership focused on improving safety for students on their school commutes and encouraging more families to use alternatives to driving to school more often.

WALKING & BIKING IS A HEALTHY HABIT: The healthy lifetime habit of getting regular exercise is more fun when we do it together.

"SAFETY IN NUMBERS" WORKS: Drivers are more alert to pedestrians and bicyclists when they are present in numbers. Most importantly, fewer cars on school routes mean less risk and reduced congestion for everyone.

MAKE GREENER CHOICES MORE OFTEN: Reduce carbon emissions. Do it once or twice a week if you can't do it every day. Live too far to walk or bike to school? You can still make a difference in the air quality and traffic congestion around school by sharing the ride - carpool with another family or take the bus whenever possible!

Every Wednesday, for the rest of the year, will be Walk/Ride or Carpool to school day!

Parent-Teacher Conferences Begin

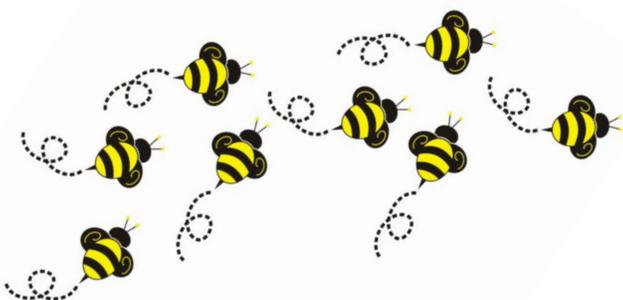
Teachers have started, or will start soon, parent teacher conferences. Your child's teacher will be in touch with you to schedule a time to meet in the coming weeks. This is the time to ask questions and share your insights, concerns and goals that you have for your child. Home and school-everyone shares the goal of helping children learn and feel successful. Research has proven that when parents and teachers work together, everyone benefits: students tend to earn higher grades, perform better on tests, attend school more regularly, have better behavior, and show more positive attitudes toward themselves and toward school.

Please Join Superintendent Dr. Max McGee for a Second Cup of Coffee Meeting at Barron Park Tuesday, October 11th at 8:30 in the Staffroom

Please join Dr. McGee and myself next Tuesday the 11th for a cup of coffee and good conversation. Dr. McGee will be at Barron Park to talk with, listen to and share with the parents of Barron Park. If you are available, please plan on attending.

Kindergarten Full Day Begins October 10th

We are excited to have our kindergarteners begin full days of school on October 10th. Please remember that your kindergartener will need a lunch now that we will be on a full day schedule. If you like, you can also purchase hot lunch for your child. Our kindergarteners will be eating first and then playing. Upper grade students will be volunteering to help the kinder students during both the eating and playing time. We are always looking for someone who would like a paid position to help supervise noon duty, either on the main playground or in kindergarten. And as always, we welcome any parent who wants to help with yard duty on any day. Come help at lunch and get the chance to wear a special vest and carry a walkie-talkie. Just stop by the office, sign in and ask Rene or Amy for your supplies.



Halloween Parade Monday, October 31st at 8:30 AM

The Barron Park Halloween Costume Parade will be at 8:30 am on Monday, October 31st, 2016 on the blacktop. Many parents and other family members traditionally enjoy this event with us. We hope this tradition continues. Since the parade begins right after the start of the school day, it is appropriate for your child to come to school in costume. Please send your child with a change of clothes to change into after the classroom celebrations are over.



Please Wear Appropriate Costumes

We do not want to get into pre-approving all costumes, but we do ask that parents and students please consider the appropriateness of the costume for school. If you are in doubt of the appropriateness of your child's costume, feel free to ask me either in person or by email.

Children MAY NOT BRING

- Toy guns, toy knives, or any other pretend or real weapons
- No blood or gore is allowed as well

After Halloween, children may bring a maximum of two pieces of candy to school, which may only be eaten at recess or lunch at the tables. I look forward to seeing all the wonderful costumes worn by students, staff and parents.

Heritage Potluck, A Fantastic Event!

Last Friday's Heritage potluck was a huge success. It was amazing to see and taste all the wonderful food from across the world. The performances from Ms. Foley's Kindergarteners, Ms. Kunitake, Ms. Smith and Ms. Quistad's third graders and Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Moore's 4th graders was the highlight of the event. We had such a wonderful turnout, and it appeared that everyone was having a very good time.

Thank you to the PTA for setting up the event and for everyone chipping in and participating in the set up, choices of food and clean up. It was a great night of community building. I look forward to many more evenings together as a community.

And speaking about our next community event...

Barron Park Parent Ed Night October 21st, 5 pm - 7 pm Family Literacy in a Digital Age

Join us in the Celebration of Reading! Learn how to help build your child's literacy skills in many different ways, and in any home language.

We'll show you how to use your technology tools: smart phones, student iPads, and TVs, to access stories and practice critical thinking skills with your children. Share in reading and talking about an award-winning bilingual story with your children, Uncle Nacho's Hat, El Sombrero de Tío Nacho. You'll get your own copy to take home. A family dinner will be provided. After dinner parents and school-aged children will participate in literacy-based activities.

Family dinner provided!

The New Walk and Run Club To Start at BP

Starting October 17th, Barron Park will have a Walk and Run Club that will be held before school and during lunch. Students can come to school at 7:55 for a quick 15 minute run in the morning to get the blood bumping, to help activate their bodies and minds for the day ahead.

Then at lunch students can continue to walk and run if they wish.

All students will receive a necklace with a tennis shoe token to kick off the club. Students will then earn tokens for every five miles they walk/run. As a school we will be monitoring the number of miles we walk/run on a map of the United States. Stay tuned for more updates as the Walk/Run Club gets started.

Don't forget to wear your school colors every Friday!

We are encouraging everyone to wear our school colors, yellow and black, on Fridays. Wearing your school colors is a great way to show your school spirit. If you would like to buy a school shirt for Fridays, the PTA has them on sale. See the display in the office.

