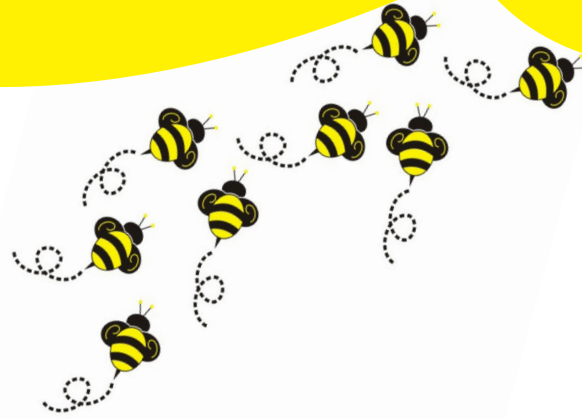


# What's all the BUZZ about?

A newsletter from  
Anne Brown  
Principal

Barron Park Elementary School

September  
9, 2016



## Buzz Worthy Updates

### SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Picture Day is on Tuesday, September 27th. Re-takes and make-ups will be held on Monday, October 17th.

### PARKING LOT TALK

I am thrilled to see so many people riding and walking to school every day. We are in the process of getting some more bike racks for our school. Please remember to drive attentively and slowly around school. We want everyone to be safe as they walk, ride or drive to and from school.

There have been some issues with people parking their cars in areas that are not parking spots. Please be mindful of where you are parking and do not park in crosswalks, our neighbor's driveways or on the sidewalks. Staff spots are reserved for our staff and those with the appropriate placard should only use the handicapped spots.

## Letter Home

It has been a wonderful start to a new year here at Barron Park. We opened our doors to 288 smiling and eager students this year. The students and faculty are settling into their daily routines and learning is happening everywhere. Music, PE, Library and Art have all begun. Back-To-School night was well attended. Every classroom is engaged in Responsive Classroom activities and students have set goals and dreams for their year. If you would like more information about Responsive Classroom, please visit their website at <https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/about/>

### ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A ONE HOUR JOB A DAY?

### WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME AT BARRON PARK?

We have one more paid lunch campus supervisor position to fill. If you are interested in hanging out on the playground every lunch or even a couple of lunches a week, please let Amy Love know. Our high need days for yard duties are Thursdays and Fridays, but we can use one more every day of the week.

If you would like to volunteer to help with campus supervision at lunch on any given day, please check-in at the office and Rene or Amy will give you a beautiful yellow vest to wear as you supervise. Everyone is welcome!

## Buzz Worthy Updates Continued

### 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.

### THANK YOU

I would like to thank the PTA for all the special events that were held over the summer and in these first three weeks of school. Thank you PTA for providing lunch for the staff the day before school started, the coffee cart on the first day of school and the fabulous dinner that was provided to the teaching staff on Back-to-School night. Thank you Laurie Beyer, Melissa Racz, Tish Loeb, Greta Olbrich, Mike Nanevicz and Joanna Rashid for setting up and cleaning up all of our special treats. We are so lucky to have such a caring PTA.

## REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

In order for all children to maximize their learning potential, one of our goals for this year is to partner with you, as we make sure that our students are at school, and on time, each school day. We all know that the more time students spend in school, the more they learn, but school attendance is also a protective factor, encouraging student engagement, inclusion, and overall well-being.

Research shows that consistent school attendance has a huge impact on a student's school success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

This year Palo Alto Unified School District will continue to focus on efforts to align and increase attendance notifications and communication to parents, using data to identify at-risk patterns in absenteeism to develop appropriate intervention strategies and help students build healthy habits around school attendance early on. It is expected that a collective focus on attendance that includes schools, parents, and the community will help students to be more successful academically, socially, and emotionally.

While we realize some absences are unavoidable due to health conditions or other circumstances, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason—it can cause them to fall behind academically, disengage from school or miss out on opportunities to promote social emotional learning. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for not completing their K-12 careers.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates better than 8th grade test scores.

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## REGULAR ATTENDANCE IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and become discouraged. As we partner with you, here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Prepare clothes and backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your child/ren go to school every day unless they are truly sick.
- Schedule vacations or doctor's appointments when school is not in session.
- Talk to teachers or counselors if your child/ren feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can be at school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school and in life! If you have any questions or need more information please contact us.

## Three School Site Council Members Needed For the 2016-18 School Year Term

Won't you Please Consider Joining The SSC?

What is School Site Council?

School Site Councils work as a team to make significant decisions affecting the school's instructional programs, curriculum, and budget. It is a way for those in the school community to work together toward the common goal of improving the school for all students by coordinating and directing the use of supplemental funds.

The School Site Council (SSC) is composed of representatives from all segments of our school community: the principal, staff members, and

parents. The SSC comes together to develop a comprehensive school plan to ensure that students of all ranges of ability are best served.

At Barron Park, the SSC meets generally from 5 - 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the Staff Lounge. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. Members serve for two years, with terms staggered so that about half of the council is re-elected each year to ensure continuity. The Site Council is an important communications link between parents and teachers to ensure that we all work together to meet the needs of all students in the school. The Site Council also works closely with the PTA to set priorities and coordinate our expenditures to benefit the maximum number of students.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the council, please submit a letter of interest to the office with the following information: Name, Grade Levels for your children, a brief statement for the reason you want to be a member of the School Site Council by Friday, September 23rd. Voting will occur the last week of September, via a home to school ballot, to elect our new members.

If you would like to speak to someone who served on the committee this last year, your SSC parent members were Jim Godfrey, Patrick Sullivan, Fei Wang and Marlo Kitch. You can also contact me for more information.

Below is a quote from Jim Godfrey who has served on the SSC for the last three years.

"Joining the Site Council is a great way to help improve our school and support the wider school community. Being on the Site Council gives you real insight into the decisions and issues impacting our school (at a school and district level) and the opportunity to make sure your voice - and the voice of parents - is heard as these decisions are taken.

"It's also a great way to support our amazing staff and principal and show them that you appreciate the hard work they put in every day to make Barron Park Elementary such a lovely place to go."

Jim Godfrey, a Site Council member at Barron Park Elementary