



Matthew Turner Newsnote



www.beniciaunified.org/turner

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August & September dates:

8/27	Back to School Night Gr. 5 @ 7 PM
8/28	PTA General Meeting @ 6:30 PM Back to School Night / Gr. K-4 @ 7 PM
9/1	Holiday – No School
9/2	Inservice Day – Non Student Day
9/4	BUSD Board Meeting @ 7 PM
9/10	Site Council Meeting @ 5:30 PM

Absences

Please use our 24-hour attendance line at **748-2982** to report your child's absence and request homework. Homework that is requested will be available after school in the office. Thank you.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We have had a wonderful opening of school and we are very full in all grades with just a few spaces in 4th and 5th and still enrolling. I want to thank the PTA for all their help with the Back to School Registration and the Welcome Back Tea. It was great to see all of our children back from summer break. We look forward to a new year working together at Matthew Turner with its magnificent relationship with our school community.

We are so fortunate to have four new teachers join our staff. Mrs. Angela Gramlick joins our 2nd grade team. She is an experienced teacher at the primary level and has most recently worked in the Vallejo Unified School District. Ms Rowena Velasco finished her credential work at UC Davis and has worked in some of our elementary schools with her coursework. She is a Benicia community member and has chosen to return to this area to further her teaching career. She joins our 2nd grade team. Mrs. Schmitt (2nd) is currently on maternity leave with a brand new baby,

term substitute and has worked in Chico. Cristina is from Benicia and has chosen to return to this community to further her educational career. Mrs. Brandy Shelton joins our 3rd grade team. She is experienced and most recently worked in the Fairfield Suisun Unified School District. She has been involved in the Benicia community in the sports programs so you may recognize her face. Our Kim Lunsford (2nd) is moving to the Rocklin area as her husband is relocating due to his employment. Kim has been a mainstay at our school and we will miss her. We have posted a 50% position for her partner Mrs. Bunch. We will be interviewing and hiring in September. Meanwhile, Mrs. Bunch is teacher full-time.

On August 14, our staff met with consultants Dr. Robert MacKenzie and Lisa Stanzione for staff development with "Setting Limits in the Classroom". We are in the process of redesigning our discipline policy – trying out some different ways of working with our students in class, in the cafeteria, and on the playground. Teachers will be sharing our new procedures with you at Back to School Night tonight for 5th grade and tomorrow night for K-4th. If you have been on campus in the mornings you have noticed that students are lining up on the playground after recesses. This as a recommendation by our consultants as it provides a safer and supervised transition for students from playground to classroom. Students are not in the courtyards where there is no supervision. We have noticed that our students are ready to learn when they enter class and teachers are not having to deal with playground issues after recess. You are welcome to be on the playground but please do not block the gates as students and staff need access. Additionally, we have trained the campus supervision staff for their work in the cafeteria at lunch and on the playground at recess. Thanks for your patience as we get used to some new policies and procedures. As we finalize our discipline

policy, it will be posted online in our student handbook.

You also probably noticed that students are walking (not running) at the close of school. All students are going through the front gate, and the three blue tables right inside the front gates are where younger students can safely wait for older siblings. There were no lost students for our first week of school! We ask that parents meet their children outside the gates. Once the traffic flow has subsided, you are welcome to visit with teachers in that area or in their classrooms. We are asking that parents and students not wait at the blue tables back by C wing as this area is unsupervised and is disruptive to our 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Thank you PTA for our new blue tables – you have so helped with additional spaces for outside use!

Our extended day kindergarten opened smoothly with orientation the first day and now on an AM and PM schedule. We have preserved the "overlap time" where there are two teachers in each classroom to assist with instruction. We are also offering kindergarten a lunch menu that is delivered to classrooms. Thank you to Donna Catrino and Roxanne Johnson in our food service department for making this work for our school.

We have four new portable buildings. They are a beautiful new learning environment. Rooms 20 and 21 have become our new learning center and have a connecting door so that our students can be serviced in reading, writing, and math in one center with support personnel. Room 19 is now our SDC K-2 room. Room 19 is our 2nd grade classroom with Ms Velasco. We expect cabinets to be delivered in the next 2 weeks and our maintenance crew is working on finishing touches – clocks, intercom, internet, and phones. Fencing between the buildings is currently being built. Our garden area was demolished during construction and yet to be rebuilt.

is poured. We have to reconfigure the sheds as we get things back in order. Most of my attention for the opening of school has been focused on the construction and making it safe for our students.

Smartboards arrived and were installed in five classrooms. Thanks to your generous auction donation last May, our 6th smartboard is on order! Our teachers were sent to training and we are onboard for this new learning tool this year for 4th and 5th grade. Sadly, one of our classrooms was broken into over the summer and 2 student computers and one laptop were stolen. The smartboard and the LCD projector were thankfully not stolen or damaged. I will be working with the district and the police department about possible replacement through the district insurance company.

Finally, on September 2nd our teachers are being offered staff development on our new Science Adoption (Scott Foresman) and Data Director (a new computer system that tracks student progress). We also have a new attendance system called Power School and attendance will be online. Teachers received training on this new system just prior to school opening.

As you can tell – it's been a very busy summer and beginning week of school. Glad to see all of you....and thank you all for your patience as we open school "under construction".

Sincerely,
Barbara Sanders

Lunchboxes & Jackets 

Please label lunch pails and clothing. We want to be able to return lost items to their owners. Lost and found is located in the office. Check for lost items before and after school.

Mom, I forgot my homework, book, etc.

Students and parents are reminded that items forgotten in the classroom after the teacher has left for the day will not be retrieved by the custodian. Thank you.

Cell Phones 

Cell phones must be turned OFF during school hours and kept in your child's backpack. Children are allowed to use them after dismissal. Teachers may take phones away if they are turned on during school hours and disrupting the class.

Adults volunteering in classrooms – please turn the phones off while in classrooms as not to disrupt instruction.

Food Allergies 

A reminder to parents that BUSD has students attending school with a wide variety of food allergies varying from mild to severe (potentially causing life threatening reactions). In an effort to help children avoid exposure to allergens please check with your student's teacher prior to bringing in birthday treats or food for classroom parties. As a general guideline, avoid sending any foods with nuts, including peanut butter as this is one of the most common allergic reactions. As always if you have questions please call the school nurse at 747-8300 ext. 1224.

Dress Code Reminder 

Students are to wear clothing appropriate to the elementary school setting that allows them to participate in classroom and playground activities. Students may not wear short shorts, short skirts, half shirts that do not cover the stomach, or tank tops with spaghetti straps. Students are not to wear flip flops or sandals with no backs, or any other types of shoes that do not provide substantial foot protection for playground and physical education activities. Hats are to be worn outside only (facing forward) if needed for protection from the sun. Hats will be taken if not worn appropriately.

Planning Days 

Parents are reminded that teacher-planning days are **EVERY FRIDAY** for grades 1-5. **Dismissal is at 12:40 PM.**

4/5th Grade Band Parent Informational Night

The Band Parent Informational Night time has been changed to 5:30 PM on Thursday, August 28th.

Matthew Turner Student Council 2008-09 Election Timeline

Aug.29- Sept. 5	4 th & 5 th Students interested in running for a Student Council Office pick up a guideline sheet from Mrs. Seymour in Rm. 25
Sept. 5	Candidates turn in signed permission slips to Room 25 by end of day.
Sept. 5	Candidates begin work on poster / speeches. Posters are no larger than 12x18 inches Only one poster per candidate All posters and speeches approved by principal & advisors Informational Speech length limit: 3min. No music or gimmicks

Sept. 12	Turn in speeches and posters to Rm. 25 by the end of day.
Sept. 23	Candidates present speeches in school assembly @ 1:45
Sept. 23	3 rd , 4 th , & 5 th grade students vote for candidates.
Sept. 24	Student Council officers announced!



Auction Date change - Auction is April 25

PTA General Meeting on August 28, 6:30. Parents please come to the PTA General meeting and hear a presentation from the Benicia Education Foundation and vote on the 2008-2009 PTA Budget.

Library Volunteers Needed! - Please see Bambi in the library if you have any time to help out in the library over the next 2 weeks.


Art Day Chair Needed - We are looking for a chair for Art Day (scheduled for March 26). Please contact Judith Barrall at jsbarra@msn.com if interested. Thank you.

Help Matthew Turner "GO GREEN"
Please help keep plastic water bottles out of our landfill! The bottles that you send to school with your child are not recycled and end up in the landfill (although we hope to start a recycling program soon).

- Alternatives to plastic bottles are
 - Send a reusable plastic or stainless steel bottle or Thermos to school
 - Have your child bring home the water bottles for recycling at home
 - Remind your child that there are water fountains at school

- Also, other "green" ideas include
 - Instead of plastic bags, wrap sandwiches in waxed paper
 - Send sandwiches and other lunch and snack items in reusable plastic containers

Thanks from your PTA

Ice Cream Sales 
Ice Cream Sales will begin after school on August 28th. Cost is \$1.00.