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November 30, 2015

Dear SBPSD Families,

I trust you all had a beautiful Thanksgiving season and were able to reflect upon all for which you are grateful. One of the things at the top of my list, besides my family and friends, is absolutely the gift of being part of the San Bruno Park School District and community. I am thankful to be here and thankful to get to work alongside such incredible staffs and parents and families. Thank you from my heart.

Looking ahead to the month of December, I see that it will be a very busy month! Schools have various events and programs planned, and Christmas is right around the corner. Christmas vacation is from December 19 through January 4. Our students will be back in class Tuesday, January 5, 2016!

As we prepare for the new year, I want you to know we will be looking to pilot new language arts programs for the district. We have utilized a new math and a new writing program this year, and we are in need of new language arts materials since our last adoption in ELA was in 2000. When we have decided what the best course of action is for our district in language arts, we will look at science and history materials, since we have new science standards to address also, entitled New Generation Science Standards that focus on integration and rigor, and the principles of STEM.

When I started in SBPSD it was suggested that I develop two advisory committees to focus on relationship building and partnerships across the community. One of the committees was an Educational Advisory Committee that quickly turned into a much larger outreach for our district! I am thrilled to say that it has turned into The San Bruno Education Coalition. We have educational leaders from our district, Capuchino High School, the San Mateo High School District, and Skyline College in this group. The first goal we are tackling is to meet with math and English experts from our districts to create a continuum of courses Pre K through Skyline College. We are backwards mapping from Skyline to Parkside first, and then we will add our Pre K through fifth grade representatives to finish the continuum. Our goal is to provide our youth with a seamless transition from grade to grade, level to level, and to utilize similar terminology and language in our learning targets and educational goals across the grade levels so that our students are adequately prepared for CHOICE in their future. I will keep you apprised of our progress along the way.

Don't forget to be watching for your K-5 grade student report cards. They will come before Christmas vacation. If you did not receive a parent handbook on Standards Based report cards, or you would like a new one, please contact your school office. This document will help you understand and navigate the new report cards.

If you would like to be on the committee to plan and help with our annual DAY OF THE CHILD, which will be held April 30 this year, the first planning meeting will be Wednesday, December 2 at 5:30 pm at the district office! We would LOVE to have your ideas and help! Please come!

I would like to give you a quick reminder about the Superintendent Coffee Hours scheduled. The second Wednesday of the month we meet in the Entrepreneurial Center on San Mateo Avenue from 10:30-11:30. We are also hosting evening chat times at the district office from 6:30-7:30 on January 6, February 18, and April 7. We'd love to have you for one or all!

Lastly, take a look at the programs and events scheduled across our district this month. We'd love to have you attend!

- December 1: Running Club at John Muir in am and Rollingwood in pm
- December 8: Running club at Allen in am and Belle Air in pm
- December 11: Parkside music concert at Parkside at 7 PM
- December 6-12: San Bruno Education Foundation Fund Raiser at Barnes and Noble!
- December 12: Our students will perform and participate in the Barnes and Noble fund raiser! Come support our students and district!
- December 15: Running Club at Portola in am and El Crystal in pm
- December 17-18: Portola makes their famous Gingerbread Houses!
- December 18: Rollingwood music program from 8:30-9:30
- December 18: Allen Music Concert 9:00-10:00

I desire for each of you and your family to experience a joyous Christmas season as you celebrate what it means to you. Thank you for being a part of our collective family. You are appreciated. We are grateful to be able to serve you and your children. Enjoy the holiday season.

Most Sincerely,

*Cheryl Olson*

Cheryl Olson

