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December 22, 2015

Dear Families of San Bruno Park School District,

HAPPY 2016! Here's to a brand new year for us all. We look forward to our journey through it with you as partners. 2016 promises to be exciting and full of new programs and things to make our students' education deeper, more rigorous, and meaningful.

We will be piloting new language arts materials and English Language Development materials this spring so we can adopt and have the new programs in place for the 2016-17 school year. These materials will be aligned to Common Core and designed to develop critical thinkers, writers, and navigators of complex text across content areas! We are very excited. We will also be learning to use our new data management system, Illuminate. This system will allow us to collect and enter assessment data at each grade level, analyze it, and use it to determine specific intervention groups for students needing gaps filled, or give us information as to which students need enrichment and a challenge.

Other exciting news for our district includes word that we were awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Peninsula Health Care District! This will help us continue services for all families in our district through the Health Center and also as we implement programs to promote a healthy life style for our students. We are also working with various community members to write a grant proposal to be part of the Big Lift through the county. This would be a tremendous resource for our district that would assist us in meeting early childhood needs academically. More information will follow as we complete the process of applying!

It is important to me to communicate effectively with you. I have a list of families for whom we do not currently have an email address or cell phone number. I will be sending you a letter requesting your email address or cell number so I can send the District CONNECTION and monthly newsletter, as well as other pieces of information directly to you, rather than being available only on websites and facebook pages. This will occur in January. If you do not wish to be communicated with via email or texting, simply respond by declining.

I also want to let you know of some date changes for the daytime coffee hour chats sponsored generously by the Chamber of Commerce at the Entrepreneurial Center.

The January date is CANCELLED. We WILL host an evening chat time at the district office in January, however. That date is Wednesday, January 20, from 6:30-7:30 pm. The February Chamber date is Wednesday, February 10, from 10:30-11:30. The District office sponsored chat evening for February will be Thursday, February 18, from 6:30-7:30 pm. We will be changing the March date for the Chamber chat, as the date conflicts with the district's next Strategic Planning meeting. I will let you know when the March date is as soon as it is established. We'd love to have you join us for one or all the chat sessions! It is just nice to visit, and have an opportunity to ask questions and hear what is going on in our district.

We are also very happy to announce that we have hired two amazing ladies for the Parkside office to take over the beloved legacy left by Leeanna Graf and Mary Tordsen. We have hired Judy Spooner for Office Manager and as Attendance Clerk. Both ladies are very excited and eager to start the new year in the Parkside office. Please welcome them!

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR! Thank you for being part of our district. In closing, I leave you with 20 tips for a Positive New Year by one of my favorite authors, Jon Gordon. Enjoy! See it attached. Also, note a couple of pictures from the many programs and events held at our schools in December.

Most Sincerely,

*Cheryl Olson*  
Cheryl Olson



Allen School put on an entire musical! It was fabulous. Fifth grade students were the actors and actresses.



Belle Air classes sang and recited poems for their program! Awesome job!



Our TK students from Hesslegren Perform at Barnes and Noble!



Left: Rollingwood classes share their songs and poems! Above: Portola students build elaborate gingerbread houses!



John Muir taught the audience about holiday celebrations around the world!

