

Dear San Bruno Park School District Families,

Welcome back! We trust you had a wonderful summer and are ready for the 2016-2017 school year. We look forward to serving our families and students to the best of our abilities. We truly believe educating our children takes a team, and we value partnering with you in that most important endeavor. I'm reminded of a quote by Aristotle who stated, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." It is definitely our goal and desire to reach, teach and affect the WHOLE child – mind and heart and character! In fact, our administrative team participated in a two day "Leadership Blueprint" conference, designed to help our schools foster important relationships, reduce truancy and negative behaviors, as well as strengthen student connectedness. We are offering the staff version of the conference, "Capturing Kids' Hearts" in August for all interested teachers and aides. We have about 40 taking advantage of this opportunity across the district. We are excited to see the benefits unfold for our students and staff. We will provide the training again so more of our staffs can be trained.

We are excited to provide new language arts materials this year. K-5 students will enjoy WONDERS, a brand new program designed to meet needs of all learners, whether EL, struggling learners, or advanced learners! 6-8 students will enjoy AMPLIFY, a program mostly on computers. Each 6-8 student will have a computer to use in his/her language arts class, as we move toward 1:1 technology. We look forward to providing Running Club again this year for our elementary schools! We are teaching our students about college and what it takes to earn various college degrees in a fun, healthy way – by RUNNING to college! Students earn college degrees by running laps and when they run all the way to college, each earns a free college t-shirt! We want our students thinking NOW about their futures and making good decisions and developing good habits in work ethic and perseverance that will follow them for life.

Another important facet for each school is the Parent Liaison. Site parent liaisons seek to meet needs of our diverse families and ensure all families feel welcome and comfortable participating in school events, programs, and committees! Be sure to watch for information regarding how to get involved and connected to your child's school as well as our District. We WANT all parents and families connected in a meaningful way.

Additionally, we are offering parent education courses through PIQE this fall. We encourage all parents to attend. Certificates of completion are awarded at the conclusion, and colleges look favorably on applicants whose families have participated in these trainings! Watch for information coming home about how to sign up!

I look forward to the upcoming year, serving alongside our staffs and families to benefit our students. Please let me know how I can communicate with you, and feel free to contact me if you have questions or suggestions! I'm here for you.

Most Sincerely,

*Cheryl Olson*

