

## Letter From The Principal



Dear Parents:

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the support you have provided the school during this year. The teachers and staff work hard to provide a challenging and appropriate education for your child. I wish the fifth grade students and their parents the best as they move into their middle school assignments. We will have culmination programs for students on all three tracks.

This time of year is very busy as we close out this year and prepare to begin the next school year on July 1. Next year will bring many challenges for the school district. We will remain an overcrowded school when we open in July, 1998. Bussing will continue to our various receiving schools. When the decision is made that a child must attend one of our receiving schools, that decision is for the entire school year. Due to this overcrowding, we will not participate in the District's open enrollment policy. We will not accept enrollment from anyone who does not live in our attendance area.

Your child will be bringing home his/her final report card on the last day of school. It is important that you make a note of the new room assignment for your child. If you need a track change or have a question, please call the school.

As the new year comes, we will have many changes! We are in the process of interviewing teacher candidates to fill some of the teaching vacancies. Our two categorical program coordinators, Mrs. Corleto and Mrs. Raba, will continue to provide services to students through the Bilingual and Title I programs. Ms. Isomoto will continue to work with our many new teachers and as our parent coordinator. We have many exciting plans to encourage and improve our parent involvement and we hope that you are available to participate.

We know that our desire will be to continue to provide your child with a challenging instructional program. Thank you again for all of the wonderful assistance you have provided the staff this year.

Sincerely,

Carol Labrow  
Principal

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## **Proposition BB**

In the month of April of 1997, Proposition BB passed and provided funds for repair projects in our schools. Since the passage of Proposition BB, many repairs of various kinds have been made on many school sites, providing improved, safer learning environments for all students.

At our school, the following Proposition BB work has already been completed:

- Security Grills have been placed on the windows of all of the ground floor rooms.
- A new sprinkler system has been installed on the front lawn.

During the month of April, an expansion project began on the sidewalks around the school. Before summer arrives, we expect to have a new roof on the main building. Future Proposition BB projects include:

- A new school security system.
- A new intercom system
- Television/Technology Network

These projects are to be completed within a four year time line which began with the passage of Proposition BB in April, 1997. The District will air feature segments on KLCS/Channel 58 which highlight the progress your bond dollars have made in more than 500 schools during the first year of implementation. We will keep you informed on the progress of these and future Proposition BB projects at our school.

<b><u>Important Dates</u></b>	
May 29	Last Day of School for Red (B) Track Red (B) Track Minimum Day Red (B) Track Fifth Grade Culmination
June 1	Blue (A) Track Minimum Day
June 2	Professional Development Day for Teachers — No school for students
June 29	Last day of School for Green (C) Track Green (C) Track Minimum Day Green (C) Track Fifth Grade Culmination
June 30	Last day of School for Blue (A) Track Blue (A) Track Minimum Day Blue (A) Track Fifth Grade Culmination
<b>July 1</b>	<b>Welcome to the New 1998 - 1999 School Year!</b>

## Portable Buildings

To accommodate the state's requirement for class size reduction in first, second and third grades we needed additional classroom space which was provided with three portable buildings (bungalows) on the playground. All class size reduction portables are being equipped with Division of State Architect (DSA) approved foundation systems to help brace the relocatable building to the ground. The Division of State Architect (DSA) approved systems help prevent lateral and vertical movement in the event of an earthquake. The installation of the restraint foundation systems will make our portable buildings even safer for our students.

## Lost and Found

We have several items of clothing in the "Lost and Found" closet in Room 6. If your child has lost a sweater, sweatshirt or backpack, we encourage you and/or your child to visit the "Lost and Found" closet. Dr. Campa, assistant principal, plans to have a "Lost and Found" day before the end of this school year. Your child will take home additional information regarding the plans for that day. At the end of the school year, all remaining items of clothing will be donated to a charitable organization in the community.

## Parent Survival '98 A Free Parenting and Life Skills Conference

**Saturday, May 30, 1998  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Berendo Middle School  
1157 South Berendo Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90006**

This Parent Survival '98 Conference will offer workshops, information and resources including:

- Effective Parenting Skills
- Consumer Credit and Loan Information
- Welfare Reform
- Starting a Small Business
- Self Defense Lessons
- Accessing Affordable Healthcare
- Cooking Demonstrations
- How to Make Your Community Safer
- Immigrant Rights
- Meet Your School Board Member

There will also be parking, food, limited transportation, free childcare and prizes for parents. For information, pre-registration and transportation, please call the Parent Community Services Office at 1-800-933-8133. Speak to Marta Motta, Marleny Colocho, Martha Cardenas or Sandra Chavez.

## Let's Do Art!

The visual arts (drawing, painting, printmaking, photography) enrich our lives and help children express their emotions. For preschoolers, doing artwork helps them get ready to read and write by developing visual and motor skills. Doing artwork gives older children the opportunity to get away from a desk and use different learning styles to explore beyond words and numbers.

Here are some things you can do at home:

Keep simple art supplies around the house: scrap paper for drawing, old boxes to cut up for a cardboard canvas when using thicker paints or making posters or pieces of cloth to do pasted up designs or patchwork. Limit pictures to 2 or 3 colors to save materials and to teach children about mixing colors and the different intensities of color: light and dark.

Have your child talk about the picture to describe what it is supposed to be. This helps develop language skills.

Encourage your child to make patterns of repeated colors and shapes. This helps develop an understanding of math.

Have your child practice different techniques: drawing with lines and shaping figures and designs with blocks of color, using contrasts of light against dark.

Have your child make connections between artwork and other subjects. Look at and talk about book illustrations when you are reading together.

Check art books out of the library and look at famous paintings. Talk about what is in the picture and how the artist painted it: did he use thick paint with bold strokes or did she use light colors with dots of paint?

### Art Activities to do at Home

For young children in Prekindergarten - first grade: Make your own finger paint by mixing soap flakes in a bowl with a small amount of water. Beat the mixture with a fork and add food coloring.

#### For beginning artists:

Go on a treasure hunt outside to find things that could be used in a collage, a picture where shapes and colors are pasted on a piece of paper or cardboard. Go on a treasure hunt inside to find such things such as scraps of paper, buttons, pieces of cloth or ribbon.

#### For advanced artists:

Design a poster. Think about what will catch a person's eye. Decide what lettering to use, what colors to use, what pictures you want to have and where you will put the lettering and pictures on the page.

