

WELCOME BACK!



Principal Rubalcaba's Monthly Newsletter



Laurel
Elementary School

July 30, 2018

WELCOME BACK MESSAGE

Dear Laurel Families,

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! The Laurel school community is extremely excited to begin the new school year to prepare our students with the academic and life skills necessary to thrive in our modern society.

We hope you and your family enjoyed the summer and rested well! Our Laurel staff is looking forward to hearing back from students and families about summer experiences. We also hope all students visited a public library and dove into a book or two over the summer.

This year, we begin by introducing and welcoming our new school principal, Christian Rubalcaba. To learn more about Mr. Rubalcaba, please see Page 2.

Mr. Rubalcaba is eager and thrilled to join the Laurel school community. Together, we will work as a team to provide a rich educational environment filled with countless learning opportunities. Our students deserve no less!

Every couple of months or so, be sure to check out this newsletter, as it will contain a plethora of school reminders, expectations, event notices, important dates, and inspirational updates. Communication is key, so it is our hope that we will remain connected in a variety of ways.

In partnership,
Mr. Rubalcaba - Principal

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SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Meet Your New Principal

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Getting to Know Your New Principal Mr. Rubalcaba



Christian Rubalcaba was born and raised in Chicago. Mr. Rubalcaba is the son of two hardworking Mexican parents who hail from Guadalajara, Jalisco (Mexico). He is a proud product of the Chicago Public School system where he completed his K-12 education. Mr. Rubalcaba received a bachelor's degree from Purdue University, a master's degree from Harvard University, and a teaching credential from Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Rubalcaba is National Board Certified through Stanford University's National Board Resource Center. Currently, he is working on his doctorate in education at SF State University.

Previously, Mr. Rubalcaba served as a bilingual teacher (5th), a bilingual instructional coach for English Language Learner best practices (TK-5th), and most recently an assistant principal (K-8th). He brings a wealth of experience from two public school districts: San José Unified School District and Franklin-McKinley School District. He is excited beyond words to join the San Mateo-Foster City School District to continue on his journey to help close the opportunity and achievement gaps in our system. Our students deserve the best from their adult role models.

Growing up, Mr. Rubalcaba was an English Language Learner himself and positive interactions with teachers and leaders inspired him to pursue a career in education to ensure all children have the opportunities they deserve to succeed. He passionately believes in the power of the school community to accelerate student wellness and boost student achievement. Mr. Rubalcaba looks forward to meet, serve, and work with the students, staff, and families of Laurel Elementary School.

Please join me in welcoming the following members to our Laurel Teaching staff:

Derrick Bridger will be the new Special Day Class Teacher for grades primary grades.

Jenny Louie will be the new Special Day Class Teacher for Kindergarten and first grades.

Michelle Mandel will be joining our second grade team.

Angela Quillen will be joining our third grade team.

We're all very excited to begin the 2018 - 2019 school year.

ATTENDANCE

- We will be diligently monitoring attendance this year, especially focusing on tardies. Please be mindful that your child misses out on authentic learning experiences when arriving to school tardy. Let's work together to ensure all students receive and benefit the most from our educational programs. Together, we can work toward 100% attendance - 100% of the time for ALL of our students!

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

- Classroom assignments are made with considerable thought and care. Class lists for grades 1st-5th will be posted on Monday, August 13th at 4:00 pm on the walls at the back of our school facing the playground. Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and other groups will be greeting families on the playground at 4:00pm so please stop by their tables.
- The Laurel Annex will have their Open House on Monday, August 13th at 4:30pm-5:30pm.
- All TK-3 general education classes in the San Mateo-Foster City School District will have on average 24 students. Fourth and fifth grade class sizes will have on average 30 students.
- **The general education TK-Kindergarten orientation** will be held on Monday, August 13th from 2:00-2:20pm. in the Kindergarten classrooms. Parents and students will have the opportunity to meet the teacher and visit the classroom.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for all students is **Tuesday, August 14** and will be a full day with dismissal at 3:00 pm.

- The Laurel PTA will be hosting a Welcome Back to School breakfast on Tuesday, August 14 in front of the Multipurpose Room.
- If your child is not present in class by Thursday, August 16, then your child will be dropped from the class enrollment in order to accommodate students on our waiting list. You will need to re-register your child with no guarantees of attending Laurel.

DAILY SCHEDULE

School gates will open at 8:05am. Supervision will be provided until your child's school day begins. At the end of the school day, students should not play on the playground UNLESS supervised by a parent. When the Annex Program is excused for their snack and playtime, all families should leave the playground.

PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIMES BELOW

Grade	Start Time	Dismissal	Special Instructions
Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten	8:20 am *A bell will ring at 8:15 am to let students know to proceed to class	12:45 pm	We ask that parents who walk your child to school, please escort your child to the classroom in the morning. If you pick up your child at the end of the day, please promptly meet your child at the classroom door at dismissal time and leave through the K gate near the office OR the front gate. This will help with the safety of the school for our 1 st -5 th grade students.
1st, 2nd and 3rd grades	8:35 am *A bell will ring at 8:30 am to let students know to proceed to class	3:00 pm	We ask that parents who walk your child to school, please walk directly to the upper grade playground. There is no supervision in the hallways before school and students should not be walking in the hallways. If you pick up your child at the end of the day, you may use the drive through in the parking lot OR quietly wait outside your child's classroom. Gates will be opened approx. 10 minutes before the end of the school day.
4th and 5th grades	8:20 am *A bell will ring at 8:15 am to let students know to proceed to class	3:00 pm	We ask that parents who walk your child to school, please walk directly to the upper grade playground. There is no supervision in the hallways before school and students should not be walking in the hallways. If you pick up your child at the end of the day, you may use the drive through in the parking lot OR quietly wait outside your child's classroom. Gates will be opened approx. 10 minutes before the end of the school day.
Wednesday minimum days for 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades	8:35 am *A bell will ring at 8:30 am to let students know to proceed to class	12:45 pm	Please follow the special instructions listed above for your child's grade level.
Wednesday minimum days for 4th-5th grades	8:20 am *A bell will ring at 8:15 am to let students know to proceed to class	12:45pm	If you pick up your child at the end of the day, you may use the drive through in the parking lot.

KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

- For your child's safety, please do not leave your child at school before 8:05 am since we do not provide any supervision until that time. In addition, we expect students to be picked up promptly at dismissal time.
- During drop off and pick up, please carefully follow the directions that our teachers and parent volunteers will be giving you. By following these directions, it will help to keep your child and other students safe.
- Students will not have access to the playground equipment before school.
- Our last day of school is **Thursday, June 20, 2019** which will be a minimum day with dismissal at 12:45pm. Wednesday, June 19 will be a full day with dismissal at 3:00pm.

SCHOOL LUNCH

School brunch and lunches may be ordered on the first day of school and are available every day. The cost is \$2.50. If your child would like to purchase milk, it can be purchased for 50 cents. Please remember that for those families requesting to be on our school lunch program, your application must be renewed each year (one application per household).

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR PACKET

There will be a packet of important information and forms will be sent home on the first day of school. Please take the time to complete the forms and return them to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Having current information on each student helps us to keep your child safe.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night will be held on Wednesday, August 29, 2018 from 6:30-8:00pm. Detailed information will follow.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous ways that you can become involved here at Laurel:

- Our School Site Council will be looking for 2 parents to join the committee and applications are available in the school office.
- Our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) is always looking for feedback and support and Project Cornerstone will be asking for parent readers.
- The Laurel PTA, Mom's Club, Dad's Club and L.E.A.F. serve the school with their generous contributions, fundraising events, and beautification projects.
- Our Lunch Volunteer program welcomes parents to participate.
- Many teachers look for parent support in the classroom. Just ask about how you can make a difference for your child and for the school.

DONATIONS

Voluntary monetary donations are always welcomed to help us support students. Please inquire in the school office for more details.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our Laurel website is

THANK YOU

Thank you for your attention, collaboration, and positivity! Together as a team, we will make this a successful year for all our students!

In partnership,



Mr. Rubalcaba - Principal



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