



BURLEY SCHOOL

1630 West Barry Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60657 · 773 534 5475 phone · 773 534 5786 fax · tinyurl.com/burleyschoolchicago

Principal
Catherine Plocher

Assistant Principal
Michelle Nash

August 20, 2016

Dear Burley Families,

We hope that you have had time to rest, travel, and explore this summer. Although it seems like just yesterday when summer began, we are quickly gearing-up for the 2016-2017 school year and are so excited to have our students back in the building on September 6th! Although summer has flown by, it has been a hugely productive one.

As we do each year, we want to recognize the amazing Burley community that has been instrumental to our achievements in the past school year. We want to sincerely thank our dedicated teachers and staff, students, parents, community, Local School Council, Friends of Burley, PTA, room parents, our countless volunteers for an outstanding 2015-2016 school year. It is a joy to work together each year with all of you to ensure every student experiences wonder and success. Thank you for all that you do, and for being such a very important piece of our community.

Burley is renowned for our unique curriculum centered on literature, writing, inquiry, and technology. A key to our success is that, just like our students, we never stop learning, growing, and improving. Over the past few months the Curriculum Team, in addition to teams of teachers, have been in the building working throughout the summer aligning and revising curriculum, planning curriculum together, and setting up their classrooms getting ready for the start of the school year. Additionally, we are excited to share that we have transitioned our Spanish program into a STEAM/Makers program for all K-8 grade students. In this class students will be asked to think about the world they live in, ask questions and create solutions, build awareness and information for communities to create change. Students will also engage in the design cycle, problem solve to build and create solutions, and make choices about materials and approach specific to each experience. This is already a foundation of our curriculum and is an opportunity for students to explore and develop it further. We value the ability for students to engage in and learn a foreign language, so we are building community partnerships to provide language instruction in after school club settings for students and families that are interested. Finally, we have really made some significant strides in our sustainability focus over the summer. We are thrilled with the installation of our new greenhouse (thanks to all of the parents who disassembled, moved and reassembled all in one day!) and stay tuned for our Burley community to expand with chickens and a coop in the near future graciously sponsored by our community partnership Whole Foods!

Join us for Early Bird Day!

Please come to Burley Early Bird Day on Thursday, September 1 from 8:30-6:00 (see enclosed flyer). Sign your forms, pay your fees, and drop off supplies on Early Bird Day anytime from 8:30-6:00. If you'd like to meet your child's teacher, you may do so in the classroom from 8:30-9:30 when you drop off supplies. Our PreK and Kindergarten Open House will be from 8:30-9:30. You can access back to school forms and your child's school supply list at tinyurl.com/burleyschoolchicago. Please be sure to complete the online family & Emergency Contact Form in its entirety at Early Bird Day or at home before school begins.

First Day of School

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 6** from 8:15-3:15. Students may be dropped off on the playground between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. After your children enter the building with their teachers at 8:15, please join us for coffee and refreshments in the cafeteria sponsored by the PTA. Families unable to attend the Early Bird Day may come to the lunchroom on the first day to pay fees and complete forms. Please use street parking in the neighborhood, as Burley families do not have access to the Petco lot at the corner of Ashland and Barry. Cars parked there risk being booted and/or towed. Refer to the enclosed Parent Handbook Preview for other important details about morning drop off routines.



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Coming Events

We have an exciting year ahead of us, so mark your calendars!

- September 1: Burley Early Bird Day 8:30am – 6:00pm
PreK Meet & Kindergarten Orientation 8:30am – 9:30am, *classrooms*
- **September 6:** **First Day of School 8:15am – 3:15pm**
Parent Welcome Coffee 8:15am, North Lunchroom
- September 7: Burley New Parent Orientation at 6:00pm, *North Lunchroom*
- September 8: Ice Cream Social at 6:00pm, *Burley playground*
- September 14: Volunteer Orientation at 8:30am, *North Lunchroom*
- September 16: Fall Parent Social at 6:30pm - *Diag*
- September 22: Curriculum Night at 5:30pm, *classrooms*
PTA Meeting at 8:30am, *North Lunchroom*
- October 5: Mandatory Meeting for 8th grade parents & students, 7:15-8:10am, *gym*
- October 6: Mandatory Meeting for 7th grade parents & students, 7:15-8:10am, *gym*
- October 13: Town Hall/State of the School, 6:00pm *North Lunchroom*

Volunteering at Burley

Burley would not be the wonderful place it is without our numerous parent volunteers. From help with a single event to long-term volunteering, there are many ways to contribute. This year, we ask that each family volunteer at least 10 hours in whatever capacity your schedule allows. Keep your eyes out for the many events, programs, and school needs that arise throughout the year, and please do plan to attend our Volunteer Orientation on September 16 at 8:30am. A big thank-you to our parents and families for all that you do!

This Week @ Burley

In order to stay updated on the latest news, events, volunteer needs, and other information from Burley, be sure you are signed up for our weekly parent email, This Week @ Burley. To be added to our mailing list, please email infoburley@gmail.com and use the word subscribe as the subject line. See the Parent Handbook Preview for more ways to stay informed.

Lastly, watch your email just before school begins for our annual staff video, which will feature new and familiar faces of the incredible team that will be here to greet you on September 6. We can't wait to see you then!

Warmly,

Catherine Plocher
Principal

Michelle Nash
Assistant Principal