



Howling Coyote



Principal's Message:

August 13th, 2017

Dear Sunset Ranch Families,

I hope that you are enjoying the LAST WEEKEND OF SUMMER (imagine that echoing for dramatic effect). We are working feverishly to get the school ready for the return of your children and are committed to making 2017-18 another amazing year at Sunset Ranch.

Here are several important updates as we head into the first week of school (FIRST DAY is Wednesday, 8/16):

Two bittersweet goodbyes and new Coyote staff introductions! Second grade teacher **Margaret Lubinski** announced her retirement this summer and fifth grade teacher **Ann Feliz** was promoted to a district TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) position in RUSD. Both will be missed at the Ranch. Fortunately, Ann will continue to be available in her TOSA role to support teacher training and program implementation across the district. Best of luck to her as she starts her new journey. There is no doubt that she will meet with great success in her new role.

Although neither of these talented teachers are easily replaced, we have been fortunate to bring on board some extraordinary new and familiar faces. Master teacher **Mrs. Susan Arin** will take over Ann's fifth grade classroom. Susan brings a wealth of experience to our team including international experience in Malaysia, a STEAM focus and mindset, and a strong background in reading and writing instruction. **Mrs. Mary Lou Nichols** (previously of "Beat It" and second grade long term substitute fame) will be our new full time second grade teacher. I think you all already know how awesome she is :).

We also have a new special education teacher on our team to lead our new "Launchpad" blended program. **Mrs. Adriana Perales** brings a wealth of expertise and experience to our already strong special education team. Under her leadership, and in conjunction with the rest of the team, I am confident that Sunset Ranch will provide a differentiated and inclusive program that will help all students reach their highest potential.

Plus, in case you missed the buzz at the end of June, **Mrs. Jennifer Palmer** was promoted to Principal at Breen Elementary. We have an new Assistant Principal, **Mrs. Cindy Camillucci**, on our team. **Mrs. Camillucci** taught at Granite Oaks for many years and already has a year of experience in the AP role - she has hit the ground running and will be a great support to all of us this year.

Class lists have been posted on the door of the Main Office. Many, many hours go into making balanced classrooms in terms of academics, behavior, and social needs. We have worked hard to place students in environments where they and their peers can succeed. Sunset Ranch is also an impacted school which again had to redirect students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades to other school sites. Each of the classes at these grade levels are currently capped and full at 32 students with no movement possible. Please respect the careful work and

consideration the staff has put into class placement and know that changes are not possible at this time.

Important Reminders - Drop Off / Pick Up Procedures

- **Please respect all posted signs and crossing guards / school staff.** Everyone needs to work together, be patient, and follow directions so that we can keep students safe as they enter and exit school.
- **Pull all the way forward along the drop off/pick up lane and drop off/pick up in under 60 seconds.** Think airport.
- **Students should only be dropped off on the curb and should exit the car on the right hand side (curb side).** It is unsafe for students to exit on the left side of the car due to passing traffic.
- **NEVER drop off students from the middle lane.** This is VERY dangerous due to all the incoming and outgoing traffic. It is worth waiting a few minutes to pull to the curb to keep your children safe.
- **Do not leave cars unattended in the drop off/pick up lane.** This will back up EVERYONE and create dangerous situations and tardiness for students.
- **Parents picking up in Kindergarten, please exit the area by following Flintlock Lane out to Whitney Ranch Parkway.** This will greatly decrease traffic back up at the Bridlewood/Blackhorse intersection.
- **Please DO NOT cross the street in the middle of Bridlewood in front of the school.** Use the crosswalks near the park at Cornflower/Bridlewood or at the corner of Bridlewood and Blackhorse. Crossing where there is no crosswalk is NOT safe.
- **Walking to school is awesome - for you and for our traffic situation. Walk often and with gusto!**

Thank you, together we can make our school safe for all adults and children as we enter and exit!

Parent-Teacher Committee (PTC) Volunteering and Donations. As the year commences, there will be opportunities to join with, volunteer, and donate to our PTC. **I cannot emphasize enough how important this is.** The State of California provides a base level of funding for our schools that does NOT include funding for additional programs such as STEM, Spanish, field trips, after school clubs (to name just a few). Without support from the community and PTC, these programs are not possible. Please consider getting involved as a volunteer, committee chair, and/or contributor. You can find more information [HERE](#).

Best,

Bill MacDonald, Ed.D.
Principal
Sunset Ranch Elementary School

Upcoming/Continuing Events:

Tuesday, August 15th

Meet the Teacher from 11:00-12:00 p.m. followed by our schoolwide [Ice Cream Social](#) from 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 16th

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL! Here is our [2017-18 Bell Schedule](#) (same as the old Bell Schedule). Be sure to be rested, ready, and on-time to start the year - and everyday thereafter!

Thursday, August 24th
SAVE-THE-DATE FOR:



5:30-6:00 p.m. – Session I – Classroom Visits to Grades K-6
6:05-6:35 p.m. – Principal's Presentation in MPR
6:45-7:15 p.m. – Session II – Classroom Visits to Grades K-6

Continue to look for updates on our [2017-18 School Calendar](#).

Important Information for the 2017-18 School Year:



[Grade Level Supply Lists for 2017-18](#)



If you haven't already, ALL Sunset Ranch Families Must Create a Parent Portal Account!
This account will be mandatory for student registration for the 2017-18 school year.

It is important that you complete this as soon as possible. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the Sunset Ranch office and we will walk you through the process.

More information can be found [HERE](#).