



**EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Alice M. Birney Elementary School**  
8501 Orange Ave. Pico Rivera, Ca. 90660  
Tel: (562) 801-5153 Fax: (562) 801-9354  
<http://be.erusd.org>



August, 2015

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the staff at Birney Elementary, I would like to welcome you to the 2015-16 school year! We are looking forward to a productive school year, full of opportunities and new experiences. I anticipate an exciting year as we collectively strive to foster a culture of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity.

This summer, our teachers have been working hard in preparing their classrooms and revising and updating our curriculum. Many have attended professional development opportunities and are eager and prepared to implement different strategies that will be of benefit for our students.

In order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential.

We ask that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning experience.
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers
- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to college

We will be participating, along with our District, in the "I'm In!" attendance campaign through the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Please help your child's classroom be recognize by sending them to school every single day in order to achieve the weekly goal of **100%** student attendance.

Please consider joining our school volunteer opportunities as our students can greatly benefit from your involvement and contributions to the school's program and its operations. More information about our volunteer opportunities will be provided at our **Community BBQ**, hosted by the Dad's Club, on Friday **August 28**.

Take some time to review the different School Policies under the "Parents" tab on our school website. Available information include: the Parent Handbook, Dress Code Policy, Meal Information, School Calendar, and additional Parent Resources. It is very important that you and your child are fully informed regarding standards related to appropriate behavior for a safe and productive school year.

One of the goals at our school is to have students dress safely and modestly to maximize learning for all students. We hope to establish a business-like atmosphere where students concentrate on their school. Appropriate dress improves student behavior, eliminates outside influences, and supports learning. The school dress attire includes:

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Kendall Goyenaga, Principal



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navy blue, khaki, or denim bottoms with any color Polo shirt, and closed toe shoes. Classroom and School wide incentives will be used to reward appropriate dress attire.

Classroom assignments will be available the afternoon of **Monday August 17**, outside the school office. Every effort was made to create classes that are balanced and beneficial to all students. Learning styles, personalities, academic abilities, gender, and teacher input are all considered in the classroom assigning process. This year we will have two combination classes. Combination classes are formed in order to equalize class size and to avoid overcrowding. Students in combination classes receive their respective grade-level assignments and all appropriate grade-specific curricula. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this process.

Some of the **upcoming calendar events** for you to consider include:

- First Day of School August 19
- Back to School Night August 25 5:00 – 6:30 pm
- First Modified Wednesday of the year August 26 12:05 pm TK and K; 1:05 pm 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Community BBQ (Hosted by the Dad's Club) August 28 3:00 – 6:00 pm
- Minimum Day September 4 12:05 pm TK and K; 1:05 pm 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Labor Day – No School September 7

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact the school or your child's teacher. We invite you to visit our school website - <http://be.erusd.org>, our Facebook page - [Facebook/BirneyElementary](#), and Twitter account - [@birneyERUSD](#) for information and announcements. You may also subscribe on our school website to receive all the latest information via email.

On behalf of the amazing Birney staff, I would like to wish all of you a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Kendall Goyenaga  
Principal