



PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
**Fairmeadow Elementary School**  
500 E. Meadow Dr. • Palo Alto • CA • 94306  
P – 650.856.0845 • F – 650.852.9436  
*Iris Wong, Principal*

August 2, 2018

Dear Fairmeadow Community,

I am so honored to welcome you to the 2018/19 school year at Fairmeadow Elementary! I hope your summer was filled with relaxation, rejuvenation, and activities that you and your family thoroughly enjoyed. I look forward to meeting the students and hearing all about summer adventures. On a personal note, my family spent some time eating and shopping our way through Portland, Oregon. We also enjoyed not having to set an alarm clock and getting some fresh air during bike rides and neighborhood walks. My five-year-old son, Luke, is beyond excited to begin kindergarten himself and keeps asking me how many more days until school starts.

In a blink of an eye, a brand new school year is about to begin, and I know we are all looking forward to an exhilarating journey ahead. The Fairmeadow teachers and staff are awaiting the arrival of students and are ready to launch into an amazing school year filled with curiosity, creativity, joy, and laughter. I am eager to meet the fabulous Fairmeadow families and students, and I look forward to working with you and embarking on my first year here at Fairmeadow.

Below is an outline of a few important items to be aware of prior to the start of the school year. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise.

- ❖ **Joining Fairmeadow** – It is truly a privilege to join the Fairmeadow family as your new principal. The rich history of team work, collaboration, community-mindedness and high quality academics define our amazing school, and I look forward to working with our students, staff, and families to continue and build upon that legacy. I am most excited about meeting this year's group of Fairmeadow Firebirds and enjoying the liveliness that encompasses the start of the year. The first few days of the school year are always my favorite as they are filled with that special feeling of excitement and eagerness, and best of all the meeting of new faces and reuniting of familiar ones. Please come by and introduce yourself when you are around campus. I look forward to getting to know you!
- ❖ **Staffing updates** –With increased enrollment this year, we added a fourth kindergarten class and welcome **Dawn Gray** to the team. Dawn was a long-term substitute for a second grade class here at Fairmeadow last year and has twenty years of teaching experience overall. We are also in the midst of hiring a new K-4 Music Teacher since Amy Kao moved back to Oregon to be with her family.
- ❖ **Class Rosters** – Class rosters will be posted in my office window on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. If your child's name is not on a class roster, this indicates that you have not yet completed the district required on-line continuing registration, or something is amiss with your registration documentation. If your child's name is not on a roster, please contact the



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PAUSD Central Attendance office to complete the process ([centattendance@pausd.org](mailto:centattendance@pausd.org) or 650.329.3707).

- ❖ **Start and Dismissal Time** – School starts promptly at **8:30 AM** each morning for all grade levels. Please plan and rehearse how your child will get to school, keeping in mind how hectic it can be in our neighborhood in the minutes leading up to the start of school. Ideally, students are on campus 10 to 15 minutes before the bell rings so they can be ready to enter their classrooms on time. Kindergarten dismisses at **12:00 PM**, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grades dismiss at **2:40 PM**, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grades dismiss at **3:00 PM**. Every Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades dismiss students at **1:40 PM**. *Full day Kindergarten (identical schedule to 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades) begins on October 8<sup>th</sup>*. Please note there is no school-sponsored supervision after school hours, so please plan for after school supervision or transportation home every day.
- ❖ **Parking/Drop Off** – Please walk, ride, or carpool to school whenever possible. Parking at Fairmeadow is extremely limited and reserved for teachers and staff only. If you must drive to school, please use the parking lot at Mitchell Park and then walk the short distance to campus. If you will need to drop your child off at school, please follow our drop off guidelines carefully to ensure the safety of all students. Only drop students off in the Fairmeadow driveway in the far right lane. Thank you in advance for your efforts to plan ahead and to provide a safe and timely arrival of all students.
- ❖ **Mitchell Park Bridge Construction** – As you may already know, the Mitchell Park Bridge Replacement Project is happening right now. Thus, there is a bike and pedestrian detour plan throughout the area. The good news is this project is expected to be completed by August 30, 2018, so the detour is only for the first few weeks of school. If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to practice the bike and pedestrian route with your child to ensure a smooth and familiar route when school begins. For more information you can visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/mitchellparkbridge](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/mitchellparkbridge) or call 650.617.3183.
- ❖ **Communication** – There are many ways to learn about the exciting work happening at Fairmeadow and to track upcoming school events. The Fairmeadow eNews publication will be sent to your email inbox weekly. Twice a month, the eNews will include a Principal's Letter to the Community, which will contain information about curriculum, instruction, current events, social and emotional learning, events at our school, and much more. Principal's Coffee's will also provide an opportunity for me to update you on the work happening at our school, and to gather feedback and ideas from our parent community.
- ❖ **Beginning of the Year Activities** – Please mark your calendars for the beginning of the year activities outlined below!
  - **Wednesday, August 8, 5:00-6:00 PM** – Fairmeadow 101 Presentation, Fairmeadow MP Room



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- **Thursday, August 9, 5:30-7:00 PM** – Kinder Ice Cream Social,  
*Fairmeadow Kinder Yard*
- **Friday, August 10, 4:00 PM** – Class Rosters Posted, Principal's Office Window
- **Tuesday, August 14, 8:15 AM** – First Day of School Welcome Back Coffee,  
*Fairmeadow Blacktop*
- **Tuesday, August 14, 8:30 AM** – First Day of School – *School begins promptly at 8:30 AM for all grades*
- **Friday, August 17, 5:30-7:30 PM** – Welcome Back Social, *Fairmeadow Blacktop*
- **Tuesday, August 28, 6:00-8:00 PM** – Back to School Night (K-2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 PM, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM), *Classrooms*
- **Wednesday, September 5, 8:45 AM** – New Family Coffee and PTA General Meeting,  
*MP Room*
- **Friday, September 14, 8:45 AM** – Principal's Coffee, *MP Room*

As the summer comes to a close, please find time to connect with those you love, reflect about summer experiences, and start to set goals for the year ahead. I look forward to working with you and your children during this coming year's journey!

With Warm Regards,  
Iris Wong  
Principal