August 2, 2023

Dear Fairmeadow Families,

The 2023-24 school year is within reach! Whether you are a returning Firebird Family or a brand new member of our amazing community, we are all excited to start a school year filled with new beginnings together here at Fairmeadow. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer spent doing things that make you happy. My family and I were able to take a trip to Hawaii. This was the first time we went on a plane in over three years, and our first time visiting Aulani Resort. We did absolutely nothing there except eat, swim, and relax. I am excited for the start of this new school year and welcome two new Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classrooms to our site!

All of our teachers and staff have been working hard throughout their summer in preparation for an adventurous teaching and learning year ahead. Below is an outline of a few important items to be aware of in the upcoming weeks.

- **School Campus Updates** – Our buzzing campus was filled with hardworking contracted and district workers throughout the summer months working on a variety of projects in and out of classrooms. Our wonderful custodial crew have also been working hard over the summer deep cleaning and preparing our site. All three of our play structures received (or will receive) a “face lift.” Our blue play structure in the main yard will be completely redone this fall (more info to come shortly). We will also welcome two new Transitional Kindergarten classrooms on campus this year; in rooms 10 and 11, respectively.

- **Bell Schedule** –
  - Our school day begins at 8:15 am each morning for all students grades TK-5. There will be a warning bell at 8:10 am, with a second bell at 8:15 am indicating the school day has begun.
  - Early release is on Wednesdays at 1:25 pm for grades 1-5 (kindergarten dismissal is at 12:00 pm everyday until October 6th). Starting October 10th, kinders will dismiss at 2:20 except Wednesdays, which will be 1:25 pm.
  - Dismissal time for TK all year is at 11:25 am, every day, Monday-Fridays.
  - Dismissal time for grades 1-3 is at 2:20 pm each day except Wednesdays.
  - Dismissal time for grades 4-5 is at 2:45 pm each day except Wednesdays.

- **Entry/Exit Locations**– We welcome and encourage all families and students to enter/exit in the main entrance of Fairmeadow. I strongly encourage you to walk/scooter/bike with your child(ren) as much as possible to help with traffic congestion. Parking at Mitchell Park is a great way to get to Fairmeadow while enjoying a leisurely walk with your child(ren). Please review the attached Map and practice your school route prior to the first day of school. Once on campus, students and parents/guardians may wait in the front of their classrooms starting at 8:00 am. We ask that children remain off play structures in the mornings and after school, until 2:45 pm, due to limited yard supervision. Once the 8:15 am bell rings, all students not in class will need to go to the front office to get a late pass before going to their classroom.
Class Placements – Many considerations are made in determining class placements. When your child receives their assignment, please know that a considerable amount of care and effort was put into a very complicated and time-intensive process. Class placements will be sent via email (and in Infinite Campus) on Wednesday, August 9th at 4pm. Please remember to check your email SPAM folder. For returning Fairmeadow families please make sure you complete the Annual Data Update (ADU) which was emailed out this past Spring. This annual process is required by California law to validate residency, emergency contacts, and health information for your children.

- Students will not receive their classroom assignments until the Annual Data Update is complete. To complete the ADU you will need to be logged into the ID Portal (https://id.pausd.org). It is usually best to complete this process on a computer instead of a smartphone. Please make sure you are logged in using your parent account, not your child’s account. If you do not have access to a computer to complete the ADU, please visit the district office (25 Churchill Avenue, Palo Alto) to utilize a district computer with district staff assistance. Instructions and more information can be found at: ADU Detailed Instructions.

Back-to-School Student Supplies – Thank you so much to our wonderful PTA for helping to fund our student supplies for our classrooms, which students will receive when they come to school! In addition to classroom supplies, each student should come to school with their own backpack and water bottle (label with child’s name). If you need assistance with gathering any of these supplies, please contact the front office.

School Brunches and Lunches – PAUSD will continue to provide universal free school brunches and lunches to our students each day. Although all students may receive free meals without applying, we strongly encourage parents to apply, as completion of these forms may bring significant additional funds to our schools, as well as, qualify students for individual benefits such as discounts and/or waivers of some application fees, internet services, summer programs, access to higher education scholarships, after-school club scholarships, holiday gifts, and many other learning and enrichment opportunities. You or your children do not have to be United States citizens to qualify. Please review the following link: Food Services for more information, including the lunch menus, contact information, and applications.

- Apply online at paloalto.familyportal.cloud
- Return a completed application form (available at all school sites and at the district office, or download here: English and Spanish) to Food Services, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto CA 94306.

TK and Kindergarten Families – A huge thank you to our parent volunteers, Miriam VR. and Lexiang Y., for helping to organize the playdates and socials with our youngest Firebirds over the summer. Please make note of the ice cream social coming up on August 9th for our TK and Kinder students and families. More information can be found on the PTA website here: FM PTA Website TK/Kinder Social. Please RSVP for this event so they can plan accordingly.

Before/After School Care – For information about before/after-school care options, here is a link: https://fairmeadow.pausd.org/school-life/after-school. Please note, PAUSD and Fairmeadow are not affiliated with any of these organizations other than me sharing information and options for families. Bessie Bolton Kids Club and Right at School are both on-site options for childcare. If you have further questions about enrollment and/or safety procedures, please communicate with
the organization directly. All staffing, communication, protocols, and procedures are determined by each individual organization listed.

- **Medications and Immunizations**- If your child takes over-the-counter or prescription medications, they cannot be distributed or brought to school until forms signed by a parent/guardian and your child's pediatrician are on file with the School Office. All necessary forms are accessible through: [https://www.pausd.org/school-life/health-wellness/health-services](https://www.pausd.org/school-life/health-wellness/health-services). For families new to PAUSD: Please check the [Health Services website](https://www.pausd.org/school-life/health-wellness/health-services) for important information about immunization requirements.

- **Back-to-School Informational Packets** –These will be communicated digitally this school year as we continue to work in conjunction with our PTA. All PTA information will be emailed out to families next week before the first day of school. Please make sure you check your email inbox and SPAM folders. If you haven’t already, please take a moment to explore and bookmark the Fairmeadow PTA website at [https://www.fairmeadow.paloaltopta.org](https://www.fairmeadow.paloaltopta.org). We highly encourage you to join our fabulous PTA! More information on how to become a PTA (and PiE) member will be available on the first day of school as well as on August 11th at the Fairmeadow Welcome Back Social Event (see below).

- **Welcome Back Fairmeadow Social**- PTA and I hope you all are able to attend our annual Welcome Back Social. All Fairmeadow families and staff are invited to this evening event where our wonderful community can be together and meet new faces as well. Mark your calendars for **Friday, August 11th, 5:00-7:00 pm**. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase food and treats from a variety of Food Trucks that evening. This will also be a great opportunity to join PTA!

- **Principal Coffees** – I will be hosting a series of Principal Coffees throughout the school year where we can connect and have community conversations centered around specific topics. Please mark your calendars for my first Coffee on **Monday, August 14th at 8:15-9:15 am** in our MP Room here on campus. I would love to meet with families who are new to Fairmeadow. I will host a presentation all about Fairmeadow Elementary entitled “Fairmeadow 101.” Please bring a reusable mug, and I will bring the coffee!

- **Back to School Night (BTSN)**- Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, August 15th** for our BTSN. BTSN is where parents have the opportunity to meet their child’s teacher to learn more about grade-level/classroom norms, procedures, curriculum, and events for the year. Please keep in mind that BTSN is an adult-only event, so please plan accordingly. The times will be communicated to you shortly.

That is all for now. I will connect with you again soon and look forward to seeing students on campus on our **first day of school** which is **Thursday, August 10th**! As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions that may arise iwong@pausd.org.

With warm regards,

Iris Wong, Fairmeadow Principal