

September 1, 2017

Dear Blue Oak Families,

We are wrapping up our first week and I want to say it's been amazing. Participating in the opening verse, watching Miss Heather's first grade class sit quietly waiting for games, or visiting Mr. Meier's 5<sup>th</sup> graders during painting; wonderful learning is happening. The rhythms are setting in.

Those of you returning may notice some changes –

**Staffing:**

**Heather Bonea**, who finished last year working in technology and intervention is teaching a 1<sup>st</sup> grade class. Smiley **Riley Mac Millan** with her abundant energy is taking the other 1st grade class. Enieda Sweringen steps into her role as our Spanish teacher. She is a native speaker who she has taught both in California and abroad. She brings a deep understanding of the culture attached to the language. We are enjoying her joyous soul. **Brianna Lee**, who graduated her 8<sup>th</sup> grade class last year, is now starting the middle school band and working on supporting our reading instruction, intervention and extension. She brings great energy to both positions, and we are happy to have her there.

We have two new faces at the front desk. **Mandy Van Etten** is covering the desk in the morning, and will help with attendance tracking and support. She is new to our community and comes with great knowledge and experience. **Summer O'Neill** will be at the desk in the afternoons and is our Parent & Community Liaison. She brings wonderful experience as well, and is a great one to check in with if you are new to the community and have questions. We are so grateful for the volunteer support at the front desk last year, thank you to Summer, Nicole, and Jackie.

**Nutrition Department**

A big change for all of us was the elimination of our Nutrition Department and the move to Chico Unified to manage our school meals program this year. They were able to help us improve our services and reduce our costs. We are happy to have them. We are seeing more kids eating and less food waste. If you would like to see a menu or you have not set up an account for your child and would like to, please check in at the kitchen in the morning.

**Middle School**

Friday electives have been added to our middle school program. Students may pick from Choir, Da Vincian Engineering, Art Appreciation, Drama, American Sign Language and Debate. There will also be a Catch-Up class for students who have work to complete.

**Pick Up Times**

With the new calendar pick up times have changed slightly. Check out the schedule below.

Regular Day Schedule	Grades 1-3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8
Release Time	2:52 p.m.	3:12 p.m.	3:12 p.m.
Minimum Day Schedule	Grades 1-3	Grades 4-5	Grades 6-8
Release Time	12:45 p.m.	12:45 p.m.	12:45 p.m.

### **Reminder on Drop Off**

Morning drop off is always hectic and busy. Good, steady traffic flow is important to get everyone to school on time and safe. Coming on to our site please turn right and follow the flow around the back of the building. Kindergarten parents should park on the west side of the building and walk their child into the Kindergarten yard. All grade level children can be dropped off on the east side of the building and enter through the play yard. Grades parents please move past the big gates all the way to the walkway before dropping off your students. If at all possible let them out on the left side of your car.

Do not stop at the front of the building to drop kids off. If you would like to walk them into school, please park in the front lot and use the crosswalk. When exiting, you will still need to drive around the back of the building with the flow of traffic. If you are not utilizing the drop-off zone, you may go around the stopped vehicles by pulling around to the right. Please pass slowly.

### **Committees**

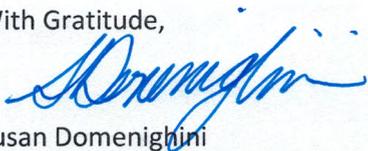
Parent involvement in governance of the school is critically important in Waldorf and to Blue Oak. This is achieved through the Parent Council, Board Committees and working teams. The **Parent Council** will have its organizational meeting on **Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm**. They will be looking for volunteers to serve on the Parent Council for the year and on various committees and teams. If you are available and interested in this work please check in with Summer or your classroom representative.

### **Communication through the Acorn & Website**

Beginning next week, and weekly throughout the school year, Blue Oak posts the Acorn newsletter through email and on the website (see the Blog section). This is the best way to keep up with the goings on at Blue Oak. Also, check the website for events, committee meetings and other information about our school. Please feel free to stop in at the front office for any questions. Mandy and Summer are there to help.

Well, I think this letter is long enough, don't you? Thanks for being here, and welcome!

With Gratitude,



Susan Domenighini  
Executive Director