

Bobcat Blast # 12

Katherine Russell • 3 months ago • Thursday, Oct 20 at 5:00 PM • **Borel Middle School**



Bobcat Blast Newsletter #12

October 20, 2022

Principal Message: Thank you partners for making the Borel Bobcats' Wellness Center possible!

-Safety: Anonymous Alerts, Focus on On Time Arrival to School and Classes

-Student Achievement: Don't Miss Math Boost Opportunity, New Electives are Thriving! High School Information, How to Get Feedback about Progress

-Thank you Outdoor Ed Leaders, Teachers & PTA!

-Yearbook news

Important Upcoming Dates

10.22 1st Quarter Ends

10.26 Fall Fundraiser Products pick up 1-4pm in front of the Barneson gym. (No parking in front of Gym on this day please)





Principal Message: Yesterday we officially celebrated the Borel Bobcats' Wellness Center with our site and district partners that made this possible. [Here's a fun video montage of the event and services offered.](#) This beautiful space is open daily for students to receive individual and group counseling. During lunch, it pivots into a Chill Zone where students can hang out and play games with one of our great counselors. For more on our counseling team, [check out their page on our website.](#) Our Newcomer students (students in our country for less than a year) rotate into the Wellness Group Groups under the direction of Counselor Jonathan Lopez who also helped to design the space.

[Bobcat's Wellness Center Ribbon Cutting on Facebook](#)

<https://fb.watch/gHnZ85gLMA/>

[Bobcat's Wellness Center Ribbon Cutting on Instagram](#)

https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cj6qYmHJL3M/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

SCHOOL NEWS

Safety: Thank you for your attention to and comments regarding the recent communications about safety. It takes a village. We anticipated that as we messaged multiple ways to report

concerning behavior in order to help those in need, that we'd see an uptick in reporting. We are again thankful that students and families feel more comfortable reaching out in person, through email and through the new Anonymous Alerts. As a reminder, the app can be downloaded and accessed on a computer. The password is sanmateofoster. More information can be found on our website.



Though we had this serious communication this week it's important that we look at the big picture. Our data shows that there is a decrease in physicality from last year. What we have put in place is working. Right now our top behavior we want to improve this quarter is students **tardy to school and to their classes.**

The first class starts at 8:20AM. So please plan on making sure your student **arrives by 8:15AM** show they have time to show their Yondr and walk to class. Student have five minutes to walk to each class. There is plenty of time to be on time to class. It is expected that students are seated when the bell rings and take out their materials to learn. Each teacher is expected to have a tardy policy that includes parent communication when they notice multiple tardies in a quarter. The assistant principal hosts a monthly after school detention for chronically tardy students. In that detention they made a reflective plan to improve. We know that we have to be on time for work. Our students need to learn that habit to be on time for school. If possible, drop your child off at school. I walk up to the park daily and, at 8:12, students know it's time to learn and come into school with their phones all in their Yondr pouches. For more information about our 1st Quarter Behavioral Data [click here](#) for Assistant Principal Brillhart's report.

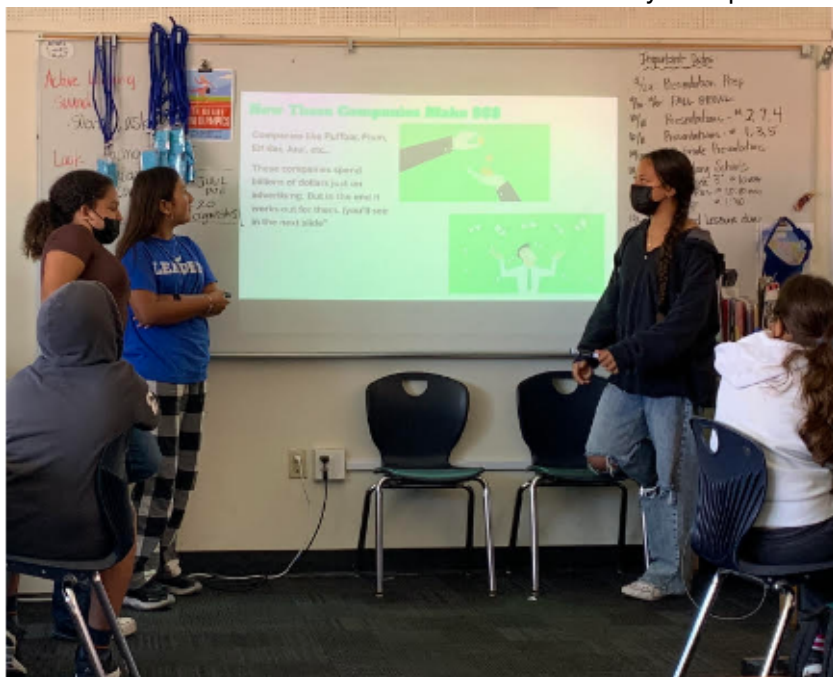


Student Achievement: The implementations for the new curriculum in science and social social studies are going well. The increased math support is showing great gains across the district. We just sent our first communication about a **math boost class**. If you got the invitation, please respond. It will help your child. ELA will be piloting new curriculum in the spring. The district is looking for parents with diverse perspectives to help identify culturally diverse novels as part of the adoption. Let me know if you are interested.

Our new **electives** are going great! **CCE (College Career Exploration)** is a semester-long class where students in 7th and 8th grade explore careers in pairs in hands on experiences. Just this week, I saw students build a windmill while studying alternative energy, plate a dish in the culinary unit, and build and shoot off a rocket!

The **Peer Advocates** class at Borel Middle School is an elective health and leadership class that consists of 7/8 graders. The mission of this class is to promote community within Borel, along with advocating in the prevention of vaping nicotine and cannabis, along with promoting other positive health behaviors of students. The Peer Advocates class will take their "first roadshow" and present information on vaping to 5th grade students at Sunnybrae, San Mateo Park, and Laurel Elementary Schools on Thursday, October 27th. The Peer Advocates class are in partnership with the San Mateo County of Education Tobacco Use and Prevention Education grant.

Here are the Peer Advocates "in action" as they are presenting to the 6th graders at Borel Middle School.



Our **Leadership** class has been planning activities at lunch, organizing a sock drive for Samaritan and an upcoming Spirit Week! Stay tuned!

On Thursday, September 22, the **AVID** classes traveled to Levi's Stadium as the centerpiece of their ongoing participation in 49ers EDU programming. Students explored the connections between art and football, and how STEAM educational concepts are evident in the stadium. Students toured the museum and stadium, and engaged in a classroom activity where they constructed their own football-related art exhibit. The experience was a memorable community building opportunity.



For more on the electives we offer, please check out this [Elective Page on our Website](#). Also, please note rising 6th and 7th grade students review courses and fill out a preference google form around February for the following year. Our great scheduling team tries to get everyone in their first or second choices.

Parents are starting to ask about **high schools**. Now is the right time to plan ahead. The schools are having information nights. We're making a web page under "For Parents" to put all the information from the local high schools. Here is a link to the [High School district](#) that includes upcoming information nights.

In our Coffee Chat survey, A parent asked about how to support their child and get feedback from the teacher. Here's some tips.

- Ask your child how classes are going. Ask them to walk you through an assignment or show you graded work. Often teachers use rubrics on bigger point projects and you can look at the rubric with your child to understand what they did well and areas of growth.
- Reach out via schoolloop with questions. Some teachers have transitioned over to Parent Square, but not all have been trained yet.
- If your child is struggling academically you will be able to sign up first for Student Parent Teacher Conferences that will be held mid November. More information coming soon.
- This week is the last week of the quarter so please check schoolloop. If you can't get in I can reset it for you after this meeting. If your child is in sixth grade, most likely they will have a new elective next week. Most students rotate between art, spanish, drama and technology. The exceptions are if they have a special class per their IEP or are required to take an ELD class. Our goal is to exit students as many students as possible out of both classes during their time at Borel so they can take electives of their interest.

Thanks again to our Outdoor Education leaders Kimielou Gilchrist and Paula Spaulding and to the teachers who volunteered to go with the students. They are having fun!

Thanks to PTA for donating Bobcat shirts to each Newcomer student so they too can show Bobcat pride on Fridays. They also have helped recently by funding sports equipment so students can play during lunch and also to help buy snacks for our brunch! Finally thanks for coming to the coffee chat and sharing your ideas! It was great to connect with you!



Basketball coaches needed for Borel Teams

Is there anyone interested in coaching basketball at Borel? If so, please contact Mr. Codianne (mcodianne@smfcsd.net)ASAP. We are currently in need of 2 coaches. 8B Boys, 8B girls. Please help spread the word.

Leadership would love photos of our Borel students for our 2022-2023 yearbook! First day of school, sporting events or any other photos you may have taken.

There are 2 ways you can help us and contribute.

1. Download the app named "Yearbook Snap."
2. Directions for submitting any pictures you'd like to possibly see in this year's yearbook are below. 2.) Visit the www.yearbookforever.com website and share your pictures with us.

Click on the "Community Upload" tab and look for our school "Borel" on the dropdown menu. The access code for yearbook snap is borel23. Once you are there, you can upload the photos from your computer.

Yearbooks are on sale now! There are two ways to purchase a yearbook:

Pay online! Go to www.yearbookforever.com search for "Borel" to pay with a credit card.

Or you can drop off a check or cash to the front office.

Yearbook Only

Now - 11/30/22	\$40.00
12/01/22 - 01/31/23	\$45.00
02/01/23 - 04/30/23	\$50.00

With a Namestamp

Now - 11/30/22	\$45.00
12/01/22 - 01/31/23	\$50.00
02/01/23 - 04/30/23	Unavailable

PTA NEWS

Fall Fundraiser School Pickup

Thanks to all our students that participated in our Fall Fundraiser! If your student had orders for school delivery, please pickup your orders at the school by the Barneson Gym on Wednesday, October 26, between 1-4 PM. Remember some orders may have frozen items, so plan accordingly. A few volunteers are needed to help during distribution, sign up [here](#) if you can help. Students who volunteer can earn community service! If you cannot pick up during this window, please email Jen Hwang and Janelle Frueh at fundraisingevents@borelbobcats.org to make alternate arrangements.

Explore The Arts & Express Yourself

The due date for the Reflections Art Contest has been updated! All submissions are due by **Friday October 28th at 5 pm**. Please remember all submissions are virtual this year. Please visit BorelBobcats.org/reflections for more information or email Emily Wang at reflections@borelbobcats.org.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Borel Scholastic Book Fair is around the corner. We are looking for volunteers to make the Book Fair a success and it is such a fun way to get involved and help raise funds for our school. If you would like to help students find their next favorite book, sign up [here](#).

Borel Boosters

We appreciate the generosity of the [Borel Community](#) who have donated to our Borel Boosters Fall Drive. Borel PTA's Fundraising Goal of \$282K would only be possible with your participation and contribution. Currently, we are at 75% of our Booster's goal and still need your help. Any amount big or small is appreciated. Please DONATE at BorelBobcats.org/Boosters or complete the donation form that was brought home by your student and return it to the office. Also, check to see if your company offers donation matches. Any donation of \$10 or higher gives you PTA membership and eligibility to vote at the Association meeting to make your voice heard. Email Sophia Tseng with any questions at boosters@borelbobcats.org.

Wellness Corner

In October's newsletter, Tiffany Wightman, Wellness Ambassador, explores how emotions and behaviors relate to our needs and wants. Our needs change as we evolve from babies to adolescents to adults, but underlying many of our emotions is the need to have a healthy attachment to others, feel supported by friends and family, and have agency over our lives. Emotions experienced internally and expressed outwardly help get our needs met. Read more of [this month's article](#) or visit the [Wellness Corner](#) for all her articles! Questions or Feedback? Please contact Tiffany Wightman at wellness@borelbobcats.org.

Volunteer at Borel

Amazing programs, hosted by PTA, continue to ask for your help to get off the ground. To sign up, visit BorelBobcats.org/volunteer as we are looking for VP Fundraising (Board Opportunity), Program Volunteers (Cultural Fair, Community Event), and Fundraising Volunteers (Grants Fundraiser Lead, Online Auction, Lunch Bunch). Our Online Auction team is getting started right now and the Cultural Fair Team will begin in November. Contact Jen Hwang at community@borelbobcats.org with your interest

Volunteers Needed at Baywood's Fall Festival

Baywood's annual beloved Fall Festival is back next Sunday, October 30th from 1-4 PM, so come join the fun on the school playground. There will be games, prizes, crafts, music and food available for purchase. We encourage you to bring a can for the Samaritan House Project Wee Care canned food drive. This is a FREE event for all Baywood families put on by the PTA and completely run by parent and youth volunteers. There are so many fun and easy ways to be involved. Please sign up [here](#) to volunteer and Borel students can earn volunteer hours! If you have questions email fallfestival@baywoodpta.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS