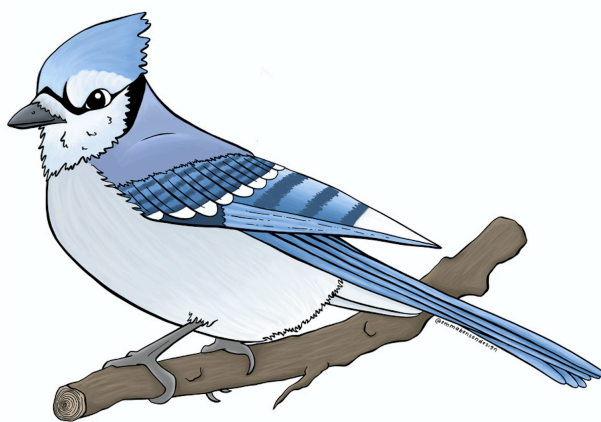


# Brookside Elementary Principal's Message

11/5/19



## Greetings Brookside Families,

*It is a big Principal's Message this week as there are many things to share ☺....*

### Conference Week!

We have 11:45 a.m. dismissal every day! Be sure to check the lost & found as well as take our community survey at our **Community Survey Station** while you are here or click this link:

<https://www.research.net/r/shoreline-parent>

### School Improvement Plan

The School Improvement Plan (or SIP) is a document schools draft each year that details goals for our work as a staff. SIPs from sites across the district have been submitted to our Teaching & Learning Dept. and the Shoreline Board of Education; SIPs were approved on Monday and I will forward a link to you once it is set on our website.

**Come to our evening community meeting to review our SIP on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Our SIP involves several goals:

- **Mathematics Instruction:** Shoreline adopted a new math curriculum (Bridges) and we are spending a good deal of our professional development for teachers working with these new materials and building our practices around focusing on deeper conceptual understanding and engaging students in *academic discourse* around mathematics. That is a fancy way of saying we are pushing kids to deeply understand what is happening when they divide 32 by 24, and be able to discuss this with their teacher and classmates. Education research points to these skills as core to developing our kids into the mathematicians and scientists of the future.
- **Achievement Gap:** as you've seen from the Principal's Message on 9/10, our students generally do well on state tests. However, we will be working on closing racial/ethnic achievement gaps among our students. This is tied into our work with mathematics.
- **PBIS Development:** PBIS is Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports; it is a suite of research-based school-wide and student-focused interventions to maintain a positive climate at school. We are continuing this work and will be focusing on further developing our work on recess and unstructured times.
- **Teams & Intervention Work:** we have several teams working hard toward different purposes (for instance, the PBIS focuses on bulletin above, our Instructional Leadership Team is working on our math implementation and how this will relate to closing achievement gaps). Our SIP notes our focus to further develop these systems for the benefit of our students.
- **Communication:** as you can see, there is a lot going on in elementary school today! We are committed to enhancing communication on the great work being done at Brookside and have a SIP goal related to this as well.

### **“Angst” Film Screening at Brookside on 11/6, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (THAT IS TOMORROW)**

This fall begins my tenth year as an elementary school administrator (6 years at Brookside and 4 years in California). I've seen the kinds of significant impacts that anxiety can produce for students and their families. I am glad to report that societal acceptance and compassion for anxiety and other emotional and mental health issues have grown in that time. However, that comes through education and understanding. Our PTA leadership has coordinated a screening of this important film to further increase these in our community as well. I look forward to seeing you there. For more information on the film, see the official website: <https://angstmovie.com/>

### **North City Campus**

North City had been an elementary school for many years until it was closed more than a decade ago. This year, the campus houses one of our two Kindergarten academies. This was put in place so all schools could enact class size reduction in grades K-3 *this* school year rather than waiting until 6<sup>th</sup> grade shifts to middle school in the fall. On Monday, the Board decided that the North City campus would not become an elementary school in the fall.

### **Highly Capable Self-Contained Program Plans**

Students in Shoreline schools who qualify for Highly Capable (or HiCap) services in English language arts or mathematics can have their needs served at their home school site through the walk-to-math program or differentiated instruction by the classroom teacher. Families with a child who qualifies in both areas also have the option to enroll in the HiCap self-contained program at Meridian Park or Ridgecrest. The Board decided on Monday to consolidate these programs together on the Meridian Park campus. Although this is disruptive for students in the Ridgecrest HiCap program, this move will allow for larger HiCap self-contained classes (which may cause fewer HiCap combination grade classes) and will allow sufficient space for Ridgecrest to have their attendance area families enrolled K-5 rather than require an off-site Kindergarten placement.

### **Highly Capable Screening for Kindergarten**

All Kindergarten students will be screened in December. Guardians may opt-out from this; I will provide a link to the form once it is ready. HiCap services for Kindergarten will be structured a little differently this year. I will provide more information on this as it becomes available.

### **Highly Capable Full Battery Testing (Second Grade Only)**

Our second grade students were screened for HiCap services in October. The HiCap & Assessment Office will notify families of students who pass the screening. Second grade students who qualify for the next level of testing will do the final assessment on Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Highly Capable Full Battery Testing (Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, & 6)**

As noted above, we screen students in grades K and 2. However, families of children in other grades may also choose to have their child tested. We will conduct that testing on Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup>. Families must register their child for this testing. I will provide a link to the registration form in my next Principal's Message. You will also find it on the HiCap & Assessment website after November 15<sup>th</sup>: <https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/108>.

Thank you for your ongoing support to our school and students,  
Principal John Simard