



Roseville City School District  
**BLUE OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
8150 Horncastle Avenue  
Roseville, CA 95747  
771-1700



*Matt Murphy*  
Principal

*Derk Garcia*  
Superintendent

Hello Blue Oaks Bears and Bear Families,

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! I hope each of your families enjoyed a wonderful summer break. I had the good fortune of spending quality time with my family in Lake Tahoe, Santa Cruz and Newport Beach. I return excited and energized to serve the Blue Oaks Community. Over the course of the summer, I read several books delving into the many aspects of the Common Core. I return this year with even a greater understanding of the work we have in front of us in preparing our students to meet these new educational challenges. I have also reflected on the intensity we - staff, parents, and students - all feel in adjusting to the changes in curriculum. As a result of the intensity, one pitfall is moving faster and faster, people spending less time interacting and building strong relationships. In this era of instant communication (text, email, etc.), I find myself being more worried about staying on top of email, than picking up the phone and talking with people. With the start of the new school year, my first goal is to manage our resources to provide support to staff and students to meet the challenges of the Common Core. My second goal is to achieve this while slowing down and building even stronger relationships with staff, families and students. I look forward to seeing you soon.

**District Updates:** We welcome our new Superintendent Derk Garcia. Mr. Garcia comes to Roseville City School District from San Juan Unified School District following Rich Pierrucci who served in the position for the last 15 years. Mr. Garcia comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and will lead our school and district to the next level.

**Blue Oaks Updates:**

**Staffing:** Blue Oaks has had some staffing changes since the end of last year. Blue Oaks *welcomes:*  
Kerrie George as our new Librarian  
Beverley Campbell as our new Special Day Class teacher

**Facilities:** I would like to thank our day custodian, Mike LaBar and his team, for doing outstanding work over the summer in order to get Blue Oaks ready for another school year. Mike and his team have cleaned all aspects of our facility, waxed all the floors, power washed the campus, painted necessary areas, and purged the campus of materials which were no longer being used.

**Academic Focus:** Two specific areas of focus for the 2014-2015 school year will be:

**Direct Instruction:** Blue Oaks staff will continue a series of trainings throughout the school year focused on Direct Instruction. Our teachers will be able to sharpen their skills in providing systematic teaching strategies based on brain research of how children learn. Teaching is a skill that is never mastered, but requires on-going support to improve how we deliver information to our students. The more effective our teachers are at delivering information in ways our children learn, the more successful our children will be in mastering the content. This effort is a focus for all the schools in the Roseville City School District.

**Continued Implementation of the Common Core Standards:** Blue Oaks continues to move toward 100% implementation of the Common Core Content Standards. Over the course of the school year, Blue Oaks staff will use district developed pacing guides to deliver instruction to our students for

mastery of the Common Core content. Staff will be engaged in developing assessments to help determine whether our students have mastered the content or not. Additionally, a new report card has been developed and will be implemented for the 2014-2015 school year.

**Science:** In an effort to improve our offerings of “Hands On” Science, Blue Oaks has begun to transform room 22 into as Science Lab. Our goal is to rotate grades 3- 5 through the lab to experience a series of “hands on” science learning. This is a work in progress but has the potential to offer our students a variety of new experiences.

Finally, listed below are pertinent dates to help with the transition Back-to-School.

**Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>**

- Class Lists posted after 5:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> (Revised Times)**

- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Orientation  
2:00 - Mrs. Martinson (Rm. 6)
- Kindergarten (K) Orientation  
1:00 – Mrs. Hoffman (Rm 1), Mrs. DiBlasio (Rm. 2)  
2:00 – Mrs. Kracke (Rm. 4)

**Thursday, August 21 *First Day of School!!***

TK: 8:15 – 11:35  
K: 8:40 – 1:41  
1-5: 8:40 – 2:54

**Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Back-To-School Night (Minimum Day Schedule)  
Grades K-3, 5:30 – 6:30                      Parents meet in Bear’s Lair at 5:25  
Grades 4 & 5, 6:30 – 7:30                      Parents meet in Bear’s Lair at 6:25

I look forward to seeing all new and returning Blue Oaks Bears! GO BEARS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Matt Murphy