



EMERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2021-2022
FAMILY HANDBOOK

2021-2022 FAMILY HANDBOOK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Emerson School Vision and Mission | 2 |
| A Message from the Principal | 2 |
| A Message from the PTA | 4 |
| Bell Schedule | 5 |
| Emerson Contact Information | 6 |
| BUSD Contact Information | 6 |
| Teachers & Staff | 7 |
| Frequently Asked Questions | 9 |
| Berkeley Unified School District 2020-2021 Calendar | 13 |
| Emerson Classes and Programs | 14 |
| On Campus School Rules | 17 |
| Limit-Setting Procedures | 18 |
| Covid Procedures & Protocols | 19 |
| Emerson PTA Mission | 20 |
| PTA Board 2020-2021 | 20 |
| What is the PTA and What Does it Do? | 21 |
| PTA Events and Fundraisers | 22 |
| Volunteering at Emerson | 24 |

To report errors or provide suggestions for this handbook, please email:

emersonschoolnews@gmail.com

EMERSON SCHOOL VISION AND MISSION

Vision Statement

At Emerson Elementary School, students will approach all learning experiences with confidence, curiosity, ability, and joy. Students will reach for high personal goals with integrity, compassion, and respect.

Mission Statement

Emerson is committed to a/an:

Learning environment that is stimulating, diverse, and rich in opportunities;

Enriched course of study that is informed by state and district standards and includes art, music, science, diversity education, gardening, athletics, and social skills development;

Alliance of dedicated collaborative members including the principal, classroom and intervention teachers, tutors, families, and district and community representatives working together to support achievement and well-being of all students;

Recognition of achievement and citizenship through high and consistent expectations, assessment, feedback, and support; and

Nurturing diversity by recognizing and supporting a wide range of learning styles and modes of expression, by building respect for diversity through culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies and curriculum, and by incorporating diversity curriculum into our instruction.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Emerson Elementary School is a cherished historic school located on a beautiful tree-lined block in the heart of Berkeley's Elmwood neighborhood. As a smaller school, Emerson represents a strong and vibrant community, built upon the principles of inclusion and equity. This year we are excited to begin with a restorative restart, moving out of distance learning. Although we continue in a challenging environment, amidst a pandemic and the effects of climate change, we remain as committed as ever to building a strong community where we exemplify our core values of respect, responsibility, safety, allyship and scholarship. We are happy for you to join us in these goals.

Emerson is a school where each child is encouraged to live up to his or her potential and is truly known both as a person and as a learner. We pride ourselves on our exceptionally well-qualified, experienced, and passionate teaching staff. We stand behind the quality educational experience we offer to our students. Students participate in an integrated and cumulative curriculum that builds knowledge across the grade levels and engages students in the study of a wide range of subjects, from geography to government and art to agriculture, through specific thematic units. Emerson is also a place where teachers thrive. A collaborative approach to planning and professional development opportunities allows our teachers to constantly learn and grow alongside the students.

Coming out of almost a year of distance learning, we are placing special emphasis on community building and social-emotional learning. We promote mindfulness and restorative practices as a means to balance stressful and uncertain societal circumstances. We are pleased to add an additional School Therapist to our staff this year, who will offer classroom lessons and small groups for students. Our School Coordination of Services Team and Positive Behavior Intervention Team will meet regularly to design and implement strategies to support student social and academic needs. This year, we will especially encourage strong attendance, as our time together is very valuable.

At Emerson we celebrate learning every day — our classrooms reflect a sense of purpose and joy. Finally, we have an enthusiastic parent community whose members volunteer many hours and have demonstrated resilience, flexibility, and compassion during this pandemic.

Emerson is a unique community, committed to working and learning together with a lens on student well-being and academic success. We welcome you, encourage you to get involved, and thank you for your participation.

Jana Holmes
Principal

A MESSAGE FROM THE PTA

Dear Emerson Families,

On behalf of the Emerson PTA Board, we welcome you to the 2021-2022 school year! Our Emerson community dedicated teachers and staff, and amazing families all work together for the success of our children's social, emotional, and academic growth.

The PTA funds many programs and activities at Emerson which supplement the Berkeley Unified School District budget. This past year, the pandemic forced the PTA to severely limit our community events, and we tackled challenges in distance learning, including approving emergency funding for pandemic support. Most significantly, through the generosity of our community contributing to the Heart of Emerson Fundraising Campaign, **the PTA will contribute over \$135,000 to supplement the school budget so that every student has art classes and PE instruction.**

For this year 2021-2022, the PTA Board will do our best to resume Emerson community events in our current pandemic situation. Please be patient with us while we navigate these changing and challenging times.

Please consider volunteering as a Grade Parent! Similar to a Room Parent, Grade Parents are THE connection to our classrooms for sharing information, helping teachers, donating teacher gifts, and more. Rather than limited to a single classroom, Grade Parents volunteer across the grade level; this helps both the teachers and the volunteers. Grade Parents also connect with the PTA Co-Presidents to find out what events are planned and how classrooms can be involved, and to give feedback to the PTA.

And every year, even returning families, **please [join the PTA](#) at the beginning of the school year! Just by joining the PTA you are helping!** Participation is not only volunteering time or giving resources, PTA membership gives you a voice in Association meetings for programming and budgeting. The suggested (but not required) membership fee of \$10 per person goes to paying the Emerson PTA dues to the Berkeley PTA Council, the Peralta District PTA and the California PTA.

Help us stay connected by updating your contact information at Where's Waldo, our PTA directory: <https://emersonberkeleypta.membershiptoolkit.com/>

We welcome your questions, comments, and ideas. Please contact us at: emersonbearcubspta@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Rana Cho and Tyler Black
PTA Co-Presidents

BELL SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 8:00- 8:10 | Student Arrival (say goodbye to your child at the gate, parents are restricted from campus) |
| 8:10- 8:20 | Student Breakfast (weather permitting, outside) |
| 8:25 | Classroom Instruction Begins |
| 9:15-10:45 | First recess (student rotate onto playground for 15 minutes, in grade level groups) |
| 11:00- 1:15 | Lunch / recess (student rotate onto playground to eat and play, in grade level groups) |
| 1:30 | K dismissal (Monday- Friday) |
| 2:20 | 1st - 5th grade dismissal, Mon- Tues, Thurs- Fri |
| 3:10 | End of teacher duty day |

Early Release Schedule: Every Wednesday

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 1:30 | K- 5th Dismissal |
|------|------------------|

Drop Off

Plan for your child to arrive at school no later than 8:10 am. You will need to line up outside of the gate and then say goodbye to your child once you meet the gate. Due to continuing health restrictions and guidelines for School Reopening, parents/nonstaff adults have limited/restricted access to campus. Parents are not allowed to enter the school building to walk students to class. If you need to come into the building please call the office ahead at (510) 644-6890 to make arrangements.

Pick Up

If you are picking up your child at dismissal time, please arrange to meet your child according to the following locations.

| Kinder/1st Grade | 2nd/3rd Grade | 4th grade | 5th grade |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| back door of the school on Garber St. | Playground gate on Forest Ave | Upper back door of the school on Garber St. | Front doors of school on Forest Ave |

While Kindergarten dismisses at 1:30 pm each day, the rest of the school is in session until 2:20 p.m. Students who participate in Kids World will be picked up from the classroom teachers and escorted to Kids World. Parents who are picking up from Kids World can retrieve students after 4:30 pm at the front doors of the school on Forest Avenue.

Emerson CONTACT INFORMATION

Emerson Elementary School
2800 Forest Avenue
Berkeley, California 94705

Phone: (510) 644-6890
Fax: (510) 644-7758
<http://emerson.berkeleypta.org>

BUSD CONTACT INFORMATION

BUSD Website: <http://www.berkeleyschools.net/>
Email Form: <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/contact-us/>
BUSD Department Directory: <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/directory/>
School Board Members: <http://www.berkeleyschools.net/schoolboard>
Email Covid-19 Questions: covidconcerns@berkeley.net

Superintendent's Office:

(510) 644-8764
or (510) 644-6206

Public Information Officer:
Berkeley School Excellence Project (BSEP):
Berkeley Evaluation & Assessment:
Family Engagement and Equity:
Bilingual/English Language Learners:
Admissions:
Nutrition Service:
Special Education:
Student Services:
Transportation:

(510) 644-6320
(510) 644-8749
(510) 644-6959
(510) 644-8991
(510) 644-6202
(510) 644-6504
(510) 644-6200
(510) 644-6210
(510) 884-5224
(510) 644-6182

TEACHERS & STAFF

Emerson alternates between two and three kindergarten classes every year, with three entering in even-numbered years (e.g. 2020, 2022, etc.) and two entering in odd-numbered years. Consequently, one kindergarten teacher alternates between kindergarten and first grades, and one second-grade teacher alternates between second and third grades during these swing years.

Principal

Jana Holmes, janaholmes@berkeley.net

Kindergarten

Marci Bella, marcibella@berkeley.net

Erica Carter, ericacarter@berkeley.net

First Grade

Oriana Melgoza, orianamelgoza@berkeley.net

Molly Salyk, mollysalyk@berkeley.net

Elizabeth Medina elizabethmedina@berkeley.net

Second Grade

Kyla Portugal, kylaportugal@berkeley.net

Shawna Suzuki, shawnasuzuki@berkeley.net

Third Grade

Lori Barnes, loribarnes@berkeley.net

Anna Stuppi, annastuppi@berkeley.net

Kimberley Nichols-Davis, kimberleynicholsdavis@berkeley.net (alternates between 2 & 3)

Fourth Grade

Taylor Totten, taylortottent@berkeley.net

Katherine White, katherinewhite@berkeley.net

Fifth Grade

Katie Campbell Lewis, katiecampbelllewis@berkeley.net (on maternity leave until Mid- Sept)

Jenny Weddle, jennyweddle@berkeley.net

Cyndi Schafer, cynthiaschafer@berkeley.net (guest teacher until Mid- Sept)

Library

Librarian: Rachel Budge, rachelbudge@berkeley.net

Specialty Classes

Art: Lucy Ames, lucyames@berkeley.net

Science for 4th and 5th Graders: lyndahampton@berkeley.net

Gardening for K-3: Jeanette Kjobmand, jeanettekjobmand@berkeley.net

Physical Education: Alessandra Albrizzio Robinson, alessandrarobinson@berkeley.net

Music: Randella Jones, randellajones@berkeley.net

Staff

School Secretary: Gabriella Parra, gabriellaparra@berkeley.net

Clerical Support: Leah Lopez, leahlopez@berkeley.net

Special Education Support

Full Inclusion: Sophia Espinosa, sophiaespinosa@berkeley.net

Resource Specialist: Elana Woodward, elanawoodward@berkeley.net

Speech: Isabel Fielder, isabelfielder@berkeley.net

Occupational Therapist: Kris Lee, krislee@berkeley.net

Psychologist: Midori Sughara-Henderson, mariasugharahenderson@berkeley.net

Behaviorist: Shayna Stuempfig, shaynastuempfig@berkeley.net

Instructional Assistants: Ms. Cheri, Ms. Cynthia, Ms. Lyra, Ms. Sierra, Ms. Fairuz

Intervention Support

Literacy Coach: Jeannie Wang, jeanniewang@berkeley.net

ELD Teacher: Karen Carter, karencarter@berkeley.net

Intervention Coordinator & Teacher: Kim Shevelson, kimberlyshevelson@berkeley.net

Additional Support

Family Engagement: Lily Howell, lilyhowell@berkeley.net

Counseling Services: Marlies Rosmark, marliesrosmark@berkeley.net

Counseling Services Intern: TBD

Custodial

Head Custodian: Rafael De La Torre (day); Erwin Asis (night)

Kids' World Staff

Kids' World Coordinator: Evan Adorador, evanadorador@berkeley.net, (510) 883-5247

Group Leaders: Derrick Byndloss, Scott Jackson, Cliff Means, Raigan Reeves, James Small, John Stewart (aka Mr. John), and Asante Jackson (sub), Samuel Cross (sub)

Volunteers:

Berkeley School Volunteers offers a program to train, screen and assign volunteers to sites. You may have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Phil (Videographer, Playground Supervisor & Site Historian), Mr. Bob (Morning Drop Off Assistant & Music Volunteer), Mr. Rafael (Tutor & Spanish Translator), Ms. Janet (Crossing Guard) or Mr. Mike (Math Tutor). If you are interested in becoming an official volunteer please contact <https://www.berkeleypublicschoolsfund.org/volunteer/>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT EMERSON...

How do I find out who my student's teacher is?

Class rosters are shared prior to the start of the school year, the Friday before school begins. Lists are posted at 3:00 pm on the school door and on the playground. Kindergarteners are assigned to color groups, not teachers. During the first week of school, kindergartners spend each day rotating in groups through each kindergarten classroom and getting to know each teacher. This is called "Balanced Beginnings" and is intended to create classrooms that are balanced across a range of dimensions.

Are meals provided at school?

BUSD serves **free breakfast and lunch meals to all children age 18 and under** during the 2021-2022 school year. More info is available at BUSD's website:

<http://www.berkeleyschools.net/students-parents/food-service-menus/>

BUSD 2021-22 Meal Menu is found here:

https://www.berkeleyschools.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/BUSD_Elementary_School_Menu_2021-2022.pdf

BUSD Nutrition Services can also be found on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/NutritionServiceBerkeley/>

How does the Free and Reduced Lunch Program work?

At the start of every school year, **all families** are asked to fill out one application for the free and reduced lunch: <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/> It is vital that **each family** fill out this form. Federal funding for the school is directly related to the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced priced meals. An application is available at: <https://secure.ezmealapp.com/>.

What if my family needs additional support with food?

The [Berkeley Food Network](#) (BFN) will be partnering with BUSD for food bag distribution at all meal sites to BUSD families on the second and fourth Friday of each month. The Gardening and Cooking Program continues to operate a food pantry with BFN on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 2:30 – 4:00 pm at Berkeley Technology Academy, located at 2701 Martin Luther King Jr. Way. Fresh produce and herbs are provided from our school gardens. Community members can pick up fresh produce, protein and eggs, frozen prepared foods, and packaged goods there.

Are there any other food resources available?

Alameda County residents can find information about food distributions near them by calling 1-510-635-3663 or visiting <http://foodnow.net>. If you think you may be eligible for CalFresh (food stamps) you can learn more about how to apply at www.getcalfresh.org/.

Do you offer after-school care?

Emerson offers a limited after school program named Kids' World. Depending upon Covid transmission rates and health guidance the PTA may be able to offer an after school Enrichment program in the Spring. In the meantime,

The **Kids' World** after-school learning program runs Monday through Friday after school dismissal. Every day that there is school, there is Kids' World until 6:00 pm. Payment for Kids'

World is on a sliding scale. Registration takes place over the summer. Contact program director evanadorador@berkeley.net for more information.

How do I know what's happening at school?

Check the Emerson PTA website regularly and visit the school calendar frequently for updates: <http://emerson.berkeleypta.org/calendar/>. You can sync the school calendar to your own!

Our weekly school newsletter, *BearFacts*, is posted on the website and a link is sent via the Remind app. Content for *BearFacts* may be submitted to emersonschoolnews@gmail.com by 6 p.m. Monday. If you are not receiving Remind messages you can sign up by texting @7f6hb to 81010; or go to www.remind.com/join/7f6hb

It's the first week of school - what do I need to do?

Fill-in, Update and Return Forms: Families who have not been on campus (Kindergarten and new parents) will need to submit a copy of their student's birth certificate. In addition, all families will need to provide their updated immunization records and any other documents specified by BUSD Admissions Office.

Contact Transportation if your child will take the School Bus.

Elementary students who live within their zone of attendance and beyond the 1.5 mile "walk boundary" are eligible for transportation. Special Needs student transportation requests are made directly by the Special Education department. Parents are required to request Transportation by calling (510) 644-6182 or emailing transportationdept@berkeley.net For more information, visit <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/departments/transportation/>.

How can I contact other Emerson families?

Where's Waldo? is the Emerson school directory. We have moved to an online version. We know how important communication is for this school year. Please visit this site to create an account: <https://emersonberkeleypta.membershiptoolkit.com/>. Please log in using the email at which you received the email and create a free account. Once you're in, you can update or verify your contact details and find contact details for other Emerson families. There is also an option to opt out or to choose what information you'd like to appear. You will only be able to view this year's directory if you log into this site. For specific directory inquiries, and for general communication inquiries, email emersonschoolnews@gmail.com.

How do I join the PTA?

The Emerson Parent-Teacher Association brings together parents/guardians, teachers/staff, and friends of Emerson to work for a positive school experience for all children at our school. Becoming a member requires no time commitment, but enables you to vote in association meetings on PTA's programming and spending decisions. PTA needs you to re-join every year via [Join the Emerson PTA link](#) or by mailing your membership request to the school address. A donation of \$10/member is recommended but not required to help cover dues the Emerson PTA sends to Berkeley PTA Council and the California PTA.

Are there Parent/Teacher Conferences?

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place the last week in October. This is a good opportunity to learn how your child is progressing and communicate your questions and concerns. Your student's teacher will contact you to schedule your meeting directly at that time.

What should I do if my child is sick or late?

A parent or guardian must report all absences and late arrivals. If your child is sick, call or email his or her teacher and email Clerical Assistant LeahLopez@berkeley.net. You may also call the front office at (510) 644-6890. If you know that your child will be missing school, let your child's teacher and the school secretary know beforehand by calling, e-mailing, or sending a note in the Look Folder. If your child arrives late, they must report to the office, and ring the door bell to receive a late pass, which is then given to their teacher. Universal breakfast is NOT an opportunity to arrive late; all late arrivals will be marked as tardy. Please keep in mind that students lose valuable learning time for every absence or late arrival and the district loses funds for every day that a student misses school.

What is the procedure for visiting the school?

Unfortunately, the school campus, including the playground, continues to be closed to parents and visitors, during the pandemic. If you must come onto the campus for some reason, please call the main office at (510) 644-6890 to make an appointment.

What is being done to ready the campus for student/staff return?

The school campus has been deep cleaned and supplies have been purchased to enable electrostatic cleaning. Touchless faucets have been installed throughout the building. Classrooms have been equipped with air purification systems. Hand sanitizer stations are in each classroom and throughout the building. School Leadership continues to partner with the district office and PTA to anticipate and plan for campus safety needs. If you should have specific concerns they can be emailed to district leadership at covidconcerns@berkeley.net.

When are report cards issued?

Report cards are issued at the end of each grading period, in October, February, and June. Parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of the first grading period.

How can I contact my child's teacher?

Teachers may be reached by email, or through the Remind App. Parent conferences are in October. You may also request a conference with your student's teacher at any time during the school year.

How does the library work?

Students are encouraged to visit the virtual library at <https://library.berkeleyschools.net/emerson-library/>. The library has extensive online resources (Tales2Go audiobooks, typing and math resources, resources for parents, etc). Students make weekly visits to the library to borrow books, which must be returned the following week. Our Emerson Librarian, Ms. Rachel, can be contacted at Rachelbudge@berkeley.net.

Does the Emerson community have social events?

Yes, we are proud of our cohesive parent community at Emerson. We continually strive to welcome and include all of our community. This year, we are adjusting many of the programs due to the pandemic. We were proud to Host a Principal Meet and Greet on Zoom and a Chalk the Yard Event, prior to the first day of school. Although this year will look different than the past, we encourage families to join

the Emerson PTA to support all students, teachers, and staff at Emerson!

Proposed PTA Events 2021- 2022:

- **Heart of Emerson!**
PTA led Emerson fundraising event
<https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/fundraising-1>
- **Read-a-Thon**
School-wide reading program to boost and encourage student's reading as well as a PTA fundraiser
- **Move-a-Thon**
Stay tuned for more information, proposed date is Fall 2021
- **Mrs. Dalloway's Fundraiser**
yearly fundraiser supported by week-long purchases at nearby community bookstore
- **Emerson Gear**
<https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/shop-for-emerson>
Another way to support Emerson through purchases of school branded items
- **Board Retreat**
Yearly kickoff for PTA board members to connect and plan supports for the Emerson community in the 21-22 school year
- **Teacher/Staff/Principal Appreciation Week** - May 3-7
Volunteer led effort to share appreciation for our amazing teachers, staff, and principal
- **5th Grade Graduation**

What if I have additional questions or concerns about school policies or programs?

Clear and early communication is the key to building a successful relationship between home and school. Your student's teacher is accessible by email, notes in your student's look folder, or direct communication through the Remind platform. Principal Holmes is available by email, phone (during school hours), as well as directly through the Remind platform. Issues that may arise involving questions about your student's education, social interactions, or other personal issues are worthy of attention. As a community, we urge you to contact your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Holmes directly when issues arise. Translation services are also available and Remind also offers translation directly in the app.

Berkeley Unified School District 2020-2021 calendar

| Berkeley Unified School District | | | | | | Human Resources Department | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|----------------------------|--|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | | K-12 Calendar 2021-22 | | | | |
| Month | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Key Dates | Highlights | Student Days | Elementary Teacher Work Days | Secondary Teacher Work Days |
| JULY 2021 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 7/5 | Independence Day Holiday*** | | | |
| | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | | | | | |
| | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | | | | |
| | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| AUG 2021 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | |
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 8/12 | Staff Development Day (No school for students) | | | |
| | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 8/13 | Teacher Work Day (No school for students) | | | |
| | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 8/16 | First Day of School | | | |
| | 30 | 31 | | | | 8/26 | Elementary Back to School Night | 12 | 16 | 16 |
| SEPT 2021 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 9/2 | Middle School Back to School Night | | | |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 9/6 | Labor Day Holiday* | | | |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | |
| | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 9/23 | High School Back to School Night | | | |
| | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 21 | 21 | 21 |
| OCT 2021 | | | | | 1 | 10/8 | End of First Quarter (Secondary) | | | |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10/11 | District Staff Professional Development Day (No school for students) | | | |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 10/15 | End of First Grading Period (Elementary) | | | |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 10/25-10/28 | Elementary Parent Teacher Conference Days (Shortened Days) | | | |
| | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 10/26-10/28 | Middle School Conference Days (Shortened Days) | 19 | 21 | 20 |
| | | | | | | 10/29 | Secondary Break, Elementary Conference Day (No school for students) | | | |
| NOV 2021 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |
| | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 11/11 | Veterans' Day Holiday* | | | |
| | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | | | | | |
| | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 11/22-11/26 | Thanksgiving Holidays (No school for students) | | | |
| | 29 | 30 | | | | 11/24-11/26 | Thanksgiving Board Holidays* (District Office Closed) | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| DEC 2021 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12/17 | End of Second Quarter/First Semester (Secondary) | | | |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 12/20-12/31 | Winter Recess (No school for students) | | | |
| | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 12/22-12/24 | Winter Board Holidays* (District Office Closed) | | | |
| | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 12/30-12/31 | New Year's Holidays* (District Office Closed) | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| JAN 2022 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | | | |
| | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | | | | |
| | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 1/17 | Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Holiday* | | | |
| | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1/27 | High School Open House | | | |
| | 31 | | | | | 1/31 | District Staff Professional Development Day (No school for students) | 19 | 20 | 20 |
| FEB 2022 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2/4 | End of Second Grading Period (Elementary) | | | |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | | | | | |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 2/18 | Lincoln's Birthday Holiday* | | | |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 2/21 | Presidents Day Holiday* | | | |
| | 28 | | | | | | | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAR 2022 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | | | |
| | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 3/11 | End of third Quarter (Secondary) | | | |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | | | | | |
| | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 3/25 | Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning | | | |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | 3/31 | Middle School Open House | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| APR 2022 | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4/4-4/8 | Spring Recess (No school for students) | | | |
| | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 4/8 | Board Holiday* (District Office Closed) | | | |
| | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | | | |
| | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| MAY 2022 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | | | | | |
| | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 5/12 | Elementary Open House | | | |
| | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 5/16 | Malcolm X's Birthday Holiday* | | | |
| | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | |
| | 30 | 31 | | | | 5/30 | Memorial Day Holiday* | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| JUN 2022 | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6/3 | Last Day of School | | | |
| | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | | | | | |
| | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | | | | | |
| | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 6/20 | Juneteenth Holiday* | | | |
| | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| <small> *Certificated and Classified Staff **Certificated Staff ***12 Month Certificated Staff #Selected Classified Employees -Subject to change Total Days </small> | | | | | | | | 160 | 165 | 164 |
| | | | | | | | | 2 | | |

Emerson classes and Programs

Art

Teacher: Lucy Ames, lucyames@berkeley.net

The funds raised by the Emerson PTA supports weekly art classes at every grade level, taught by our accredited art teacher, Lucy Ames. The art program offers students time to learn, time to express themselves creatively, and the opportunity to enjoy colors, shapes, and a wide range of media. Each year, the kids build on what they've learned the year before. Standards-based instruction includes learning about a wide range of media, styles, and subject matters. In kindergarten, students learn more about line and shape families. First graders learn how to mix colors, and second graders learn to use warm and cool colors to create mood in a work of art. Third graders mix white and black with colors to create different values. Fourth and fifth graders review the elements of art and create artworks with contrast or harmony. And that's just the beginning!

Art projects often support the core curriculum being studied in the classrooms. For example, second graders create mosaic masks while studying the Aztecs. Fourth and fifth graders create pictographs while learning about Native Californians. First graders observe and replicate animal patterns while studying the animal kingdom. Kindergarteners make pattern necklaces to support their study of mathematical patterns.

Gardening

Instructor: Jeanette Kjobmand, jeanettekjobmand@berkeley.net

Emerson's gardening program integrates the math, science, and language arts curricula into hands-on activities in nutrition-based gardening classes. Some of the plants the Emerson students may grow (and eat!) include leeks, beets, sweet peppers, summer and winter squash, arugula, strawberries, many different lettuces, broccoli, kohlrabi, sugar snap peas, garlic, green onion, potatoes, three types of apples, persimmons, figs, Calamansi oranges, chard, spinach, dino kale, Meyer lemons, collard greens, ground cherries, yucon, cauliflower, four kinds of carrots, radish of all colors, blue lake and scarlet runner beans, strawberry popcorn, parsley, herbs, cilantro, basil, and of course, all kinds of tomatoes.

School-Based Therapy

Therapist: Ms. Marlies Rosmark

We are pleased to partner with Ms. Marlies Rosmark, School-Based Therapist, and an additional Therapist Intern, to provide counseling services for students and families who are seeking mental health support. Ms. Rosmark and our new Intern are affiliated with the Bay Area Resources program: <https://www.bacr.org/>. If you would like to explore counseling options for your student, please contact the School Principal at janaholmes@berkeley.net. In addition to working with students, Ms. Rosmark meets with parents to listen and offer support. Realizing that families are under increasing stress during the pandemic, Ms. Rosmark has offered support small groups. If you are interested in joining a parent support group please contact her at: mrosmark@bacr.org.

Literacy Intervention and Tutoring

Coordinators: Jeannie Wang, jeanniewang@berkeley.net

The Emerson intervention program is organized to support the work of the classroom teacher. Through a process of assessment and observation, teachers identify students who may need additional academic, behavioral, and/or social support. The Emerson intervention team (also referred to as COS Team), which consists of the reading, resource, full-inclusion, and speech teachers, meets to plan appropriate interventions based on the specific needs of the identified students. Intervention groups are arranged and taught by teachers and staff both during and after school. Common interventions include one-on-one and small-group *Reading Recovery*; small groups focused on reading, writing, and math; BUILD tutors (students from Cal who partner with students as mentors/tutors); speech and language groups; and English Language Development (ELD) and social groups. Regular assessments are given to monitor the progress of the groups throughout the year, and intervention work is coordinated with classroom work.

Kids' World After-School Program, a Berkeley LEARNS Program

Program Lead: Evan Adorador, evanadorador@berkeley.net; (510) 883-5247

Kids' World is an after-school learning program serving Emerson students from kindergarten through fifth grade, from the time the school day ends until 6:00 p.m. during the academic year. The program is primarily funded by the California Department of Education, After-School Education and Safety Programs (ASES), and parent fees (based on a sliding scale), and is augmented by additional state and federal funding resources.

[Berkeley LEARNS After-School Programs](#) support children in reaching their full potential by providing academic support, recreational activities, and enrichment classes in a safe and structured environment. Located at the school sites, we strengthen the link between schools and families and strive to provide a seamless day. By working directly with teachers, staff, families, and school-based programs we are better able to advance student learning.

Due to limited staffing and the pandemic, space in Emerson's Kids' World is limited this year. Students and siblings who are currently enrolled in the program receive priority placement for the following year. Additional spaces are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Kids' World receives grant reimbursement for students who attend the program five days per week for three hours a day, thus full-time enrollees receive priority in registration. Every effort will be made to accommodate parents seeking part-time enrollment. **Drop-in students are not allowed.** Please contact [Evan Adorador](#) for more information.

Library

Librarian: Rachel Budge, Rachelbudge@berkeley.net

Library Website: <http://library.berkeleyschools.net/emerson-library/>

The Emerson Library is the heart of our school. We're not only a space to discover great books during weekly library classes, but also a place for small groups, meetings, music classes, and tutors working with students throughout the day and evening. At the library, students develop vital library and information literacy skills, tools for online safety, and most of all a lifelong love of reading. Teachers, students, and families enjoy coming to the library to find information, get reading recommendations, and check out our always-evolving collection of books and resources. We're especially proud of our warm and welcoming space and the way our collection reflects the diversity of our school community. During distance learning, library sessions are offered as an optional Zoom meeting. We are working to

create a regular distribution of reading materials sent home. Visit us online at <http://library.berkeleyschools.net/emerson-library/>.

Music

Coordinator: Randella Jones Randellajones@berkeley.net

Emerson is one of the few elementary schools in Berkeley that offers music to all first and second graders once a week. We experience music through masked singing, movement, and music games. In third grade, we continued our exploration of music by adding the recorder, which was sent home to be used during distance learning. Did you know that the recorder has been played since prehistoric times? Almost every culture around the world has a recorder-like instrument. We also do lots of singing and dancing. Our biggest challenge is learning how to read music!

Our fourth and fifth graders have lots of choices. They can sing in our exciting chorus or play brass, woodwind, or string instruments. Whatever music class they decide to take, they stay in it for two years so they have a good opportunity to really learn about their music! 4th and 5th grade students will have an opportunity to check out an instrument to practice at home during distance learning.

Physical Education

Coach: Alessandra Robinson (aka Coach Robinson), alessandarobinson@berkeley.net

The funds raised by the PTA support our robust Physical Education (PE) program focused on building fitness, healthy living, physical education skills, and sportsmanship.

During weekly physical education classes, Emerson students engage in challenging exercises and games that help to develop their physical literacy skills, while also developing in the three domains of learning (psychomotor, cognitive, and affective). Students will not only learn to move their bodies and understand the rules for certain games/sports, but they will also develop skills in problem solving, teamwork, and leadership. PE will also be used to teach social responsibility in addition to health-related fitness.

Science - 4th and 5th Grades

Teacher: Lynda Hampton, lyndahampton@berkeley.net

The 4th- and 5th-grade Science program at Emerson uses the FOSS (Full Option Science System) curriculum, which involves hands-on, interactive modules of 7 to 11 weeks each to teach California science content standards. For example, students focus on mixtures, solutions, and chemical reactions during the physical science unit. The earth science unit teaches students about rocks, minerals, and the changing of landforms through various earth processes. In the life sciences unit, students learn about food webs and ecosystems. Lessons emphasize group work and investigation skills.

ON CAMPUS SCHOOL RULES

Emerson's rules and limit-setting procedures are designed to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment. Please contact Mrs. Holmes with any questions.

| | Be Safe | Be Responsible | Be Respectful |
|--------------|--|--|---|
| Whole School | Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Try to solve your problems peacefully. | Keep your focus on learning. Keep personal toys and playthings at home. Keep gum and candy at home. Keep cell phones off and put away at all times. Keep hoods off in class and halls. | Respect yourself and others. Be kind. Follow adult directions. Hats may be worn with the exception of assemblies and in class at teacher discretion. |
| Classroom | Use materials & furniture safely. Follow adult instructions. Use inside voices. Move calmly. | Do your best work. Pay attention and focus on learning. Be responsible for your belongings. Be organized. | Respect personal space and property. Respect yourself and others. |
| Halls | Walk quietly at all times. Keep your hands to yourself. Stay in line, facing forward, with your class, moving to the right as necessary. | Go directly from one location to another. Enjoy bulletin boards with eyes, not hands. | Be mindful of students at work. Use quiet voices. Respect student and school property. Be mindful of other lines. |
| Cafeteria | Walk at all times. Sit safely. Chew and swallow food carefully. | Eat your healthy foods first. Eat your own food. Clean up after yourself, and remember to recycle and compost. | Use inside voices. Wait your turn. Practice patience. Keep your hands to yourself. Raise your hand to be dismissed. |
| Yard | Play safely in all areas. Walk in the wood chips and move safely on the structure. Use equipment safely. Freeze at the bell. | Use equipment properly. Take care of your clothing. Go straight to line when called. Be an ally and an advocate. Resolve conflicts peacefully. | Be a good sport. Practice patience. Play fairly and help each other. Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Use appropriate language. Be mindful of other people's games. |
| Bathroom | Wash your hands with soap and water. Keep the floors clean and dry. | Use the bathroom in designated areas only. Flush toilets or urinals after use. Use only the paper towels you need and place in the trash can after use. | Use the bathroom and leave. Give other people privacy. Use quiet voices. Respect the space. |
| Library | Treat books carefully. Walk quietly at all times. Use inside voices. | Return books on time. Replace or pay for lost books. Keeps books in order on the shelves. | Treat books respectfully. Return books to shelves or leave neatly on tables. Pass through the halls quietly when going to the library at lunch or recess. |

LIMIT-SETTING PROCEDURES

| | Infraction | Intervention/Consequence | Follow-up |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Class/ Common Area Managed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Off-task behavior ● Chewing gum ● Disruptive noise or behavior ● Name calling/teasing/gossiping ● Play fighting/rough play ● Inappropriate use of materials ● Disrespect toward peers and adults ● Noncompliance ● Inappropriate language | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Re-teach behavior ● Verbal warning ● Time out in class, in common area or other location ● Change of seat or location ● Verbal or written apology ● Loss of privileges ● Loss of recess ● Conference with peers or adult ● Time in another classroom ● Uh-Oh slip ● Call to parent or guardian | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monitor student behavior ● Parent contact is optional <p>For recurring behaviors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Uh-Oh slip to the office - meeting w/Principal ● Parent contact or meeting ● Behavior contract/tool ● Gather information about the student from multiple sources ● Referral to Intervention (COS Team) or SST (School Study Team) ● Support through Restorative Practice Guidance ● If incident occurs outside classroom, staff member should notify teacher ● Office referral |
| Office Referral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Causing/attempting to cause physical injury to someone ● Severe defiance and disruption (interferes with instruction) ● Inappropriate touching/sexual harassment ● Racial/sexual slurs ● Theft of a valuable item ● Serious property damage ● Repeated, unresolved behaviors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Completed referral sent with student ● Conference with student and or peers ● Re-teach behavior ● Extended loss of privileges ● Written assignment ● In-school suspension ● Out-of-school suspension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Notify and/or meet with parents ● Documentation in files ● Follow-through with teacher and staff ● Behavior contract ● Referral to COST or SST ● Contact Student Services, Director of Student Support Director of Student Services |

COVID PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS

COVID-19 Safety Protocols at Emerson for 2021-22 school year

Masks: Masks are required for all students and staff on campus, indoors and outdoors.

Visitors and Volunteers: Parent/guardians and community volunteers are not allowed on campus at this time. Please contact the Principal if you need to come on campus when children are present.

Eating/drinking: Meals will take place outside as the weather permits. Students will sit with their class cohort and will be distanced to the maximum extent possible. All students should bring their own refillable water bottle to school (please label it with their name). Please remind and encourage your students to keep a distance during mealtimes as this will also keep our community safe.

Sanitizing: Regular and frequent hand sanitizing and surface sanitizing will continue. Hand sanitizer will be available at the gate upon check-in, in each classroom, as well as in common areas of the school site.

Social Distancing: There are no longer social distancing requirements for schools. We will provide distance between students when it is possible. Students will be distanced to the maximum extent possible when they remove their masks for eating or drinking. Grade level cohorts will be assigned to designated play areas each day.

Daily Screening for Symptoms: As of August, 9, 2021, BUSD has discontinued the requirement for families to complete a daily online health form to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to coming to school. This year, families will be asked to screen their children for COVID symptoms each day using a [symptoms list \(lista de síntomas\)](#) provided by City of Berkeley Public Health to help mitigate potential infections at school. A child with symptoms must stay home and should be tested for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Testing is free and available to students; please check [this link](#) to learn more.

Positive Cases on Campus: BUSD will continue to be required to closely track cases of COVID-19 on our campuses and follow all state quarantining and reporting requirements. Families are expected to comply with all quarantining rules in the event that their child has been exposed to a COVID positive individual. Positive cases on school campuses during their infectious period will continue to be reported on BUSD's [Confirmed On-Site COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#).

Quarantining: The rules for quarantining are now different for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals:

- Vaccinated people who are asymptomatic do not need to quarantine after close contact with a COVID positive person.
- Unvaccinated students must quarantine after a close contact with a COVID positive individual, but if both the person positive for COVID-19 and the contact were masked during the exposure, the close contact may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - o Are asymptomatic;
 - o Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - o Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - o Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
- Additional quarantine protocols will be detailed in the BUSD Fall 2021 Safety Plan, available to the school community next week.

COVID Testing: BUSD will continue to provide COVID testing at Emerson. More information will be available soon at the [BUSD COVID Safety Website](#)

EMERSON PTA MISSION



The Mission of the Emerson PTA (<https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/pta-membership>) is to encourage and support a positive school experience for all children. We provide an open forum where families, teachers, administrators, and other concerned adults can discuss ways to promote quality education and encourage community involvement. We work to create a welcoming, inclusive, equitable, and inspiring school environment that encourages every child to reach his or her academic potential. We are advocates for programs and policies that support all of our children and public education. We do this by sponsoring and funding programs, recruiting and mentoring volunteers, and advocating for educational excellence in our district, state, and nation. Emerson PTA is your voice. Join us, get involved, and help make a difference. This is your PTA.

PTA BOARD 2020-2021

Co- Presidents: Rana Cho and Tyler Black (emersonbearcubspta@gmail.com)

Co-Vice Presidents: Kyla Portugal (kylaportugal@berkeley.net) and Erica Carter (Kylaportugal@berkeley.net) (Ericacarter@berkeley.net)

Co-Treasurers: Scott Hofmeister (scott@levitas.com), Aya Nagano (ayako@midorilawgroup.com) and Jeff Schlags (jefftikit@gmail.com)

Secretary: Kevin Jude (kevinmjude@gmail.com) and Kobie Mahiri (kobie@akmequity.com)

Parliamentarian: Kyla Portugal (kylaportugal@berkeley.net)

VP of Community Building/Engagement: Ariel Clute (Cluteariel@gmail.com), Shawna Matilla (shnawa1@gamil.com), Braneya Wilson (wbraneya@yahoo.com)

VPs of Community Outreach/Membership: [OPEN]

VP of Equity: Cielo Rios (cielo@magicspoon.net)

VP of Fundraising: Krysten Curtis (krystemmayacurtis@gmail.com) and Arabelle Malinis (abmalinis@yahoo.com)

VP of School Support and Academic Enrichment: Rahul Brown (RahulBrown@gmail.com)

Co-VPs of Advocacy: [OPEN]

Co-VPs of Communications: Rose Lynn Abesamis (Roselynn@gmail.com) and Bruk Abebe (abebebruk36@gmail.com)

WHAT IS THE PTA AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

What is the PTA?

PTA stands for Parent Teacher Association. The PTA is a membership based volunteer association composed of parents from Emerson. The PTA supports the mission of the school by funding personnel and programs that are not covered under the district budget (e.g., Art for all grades, credentialed PE teacher, clerical office assistant and supplemental English Learner support). In addition, the PTA organizes and runs a robust after-school enrichment program and sponsors many different fun community events for families to strengthen and enrich our community. To pay for these offerings, the PTA raises money from the community through donations and other fundraising events.

What is the difference between the PTA and the PTA Board?

Every member of our community (parents, grandparents, guardians, teachers, administrators) is encouraged to join the PTA. Everyone who joins the PTA is a member of the PTA. Every year some individuals are elected by the PTA members to leadership roles on the PTA Board. The PTA Board is responsible for overseeing and implementing all programs and events that the PTA sponsors. PTA Board Positions are described on our website: <https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/pta-board/>

How do I Join the PTA?

The Emerson Parent-Teacher Association brings together parents/guardians, teachers/staff and friends of Emerson to work for a positive school experience for all children at our school. Becoming a member is the first and easiest step to support the work of the Emerson PTA. Membership requires no time commitment, but enables you to vote in association meetings on PTA's programming and spending decisions. PTA needs you to re-join every year via [Join the Emerson PTA link](#) or by mailing your membership request to the school. A donation of \$10/member is recommended but not required to help cover dues the Emerson PTA sends to the Berkeley PTA Council, the Peralta District PTA and the California PTA.

What is the PTA budget and what programs does it fund?

The PTA budget for 2020-2021 is roughly \$190K. About 65% of our budget helps fund four staff positions -- a full time art teacher, a full time PE teacher, a clerical office position, and to supplement the English Learner Teacher position. The balance of the funds are spent on classroom support and events. The details of the budget are available at: <https://bit.ly/Emerson2020-2021>.

Almost 80% of the PTA budget comes from the Heart of Emerson campaign (a direct fundraising request). The rest comes from events like the Walkathon, the Readathon, and football parking. Due to distance learning, we have limited fundraising capabilities this year, and we are focusing on the Heart Of Emerson campaign, and encourage each family with the means to contribute at least \$1,000. Please keep in mind, any amount makes a difference and is greatly appreciated. You can donate to the Heart of Emerson campaign here: <https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/heartofemerson-form-1donation>

PTA EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

The Emerson PTA organizes many social and community-building events and fundraisers throughout the year. Here are some of the major ones.

(Check out: emerson.berkeleypta.org/yearly-family-events/ to learn more):

Social/Community Building

Social Hour Zoom: During distance learning we have learned to be creative. Meeting on a Sunday afternoon, we play fun family games such as Bingo, while we enjoy our beverages. This is a fun way to build community.

PTA Hosted Coffee with the Principal: Held prior to the first day of school, the PTA Co-Presidents hosted a Meet and Greet with the School Principal. During this Zoom meeting, families had an opportunity to learn more about school programs, procedures and ask questions. Co-hosts Rana Cho and Tyler Black also introduced themselves and explained the PTA goals and purpose.

General Meetings and Family Nights: PTA general meetings are open to everyone. We host speakers on topics of interest to Emerson families. For now, these meetings will continue to be held via Zoom.

Equity Committee: The PTA Equity Committee meets regularly to create and implement equitable strategies to support staff, students and family. During the pandemic, this committee has been integral in providing support and interventions for the community. When on campus, the committee sponsors Study Circles which are an important effort to engage all staff and parents in addressing the racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement. The goal of the Study Circles is to develop trust, share perspectives, and experiences, share accountability and collaborate on actions that impact attitudes, practices and policies.

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week: The PTA goes all out to support the Emerson staff. We thank them for their amazing support for our students. In the past we have provided them with care packages, appreciation signs for their front yards, an appreciation Zoom with fun and games.

5th Grade Graduation: This is our chance to send our promoting 5th graders out in style. Last year, students had a virtual ceremony, coupled with personalized gift t-shirts and a surprise gift basket for each student.

Fundraising/Community Building

The Heart of Emerson: The Heart of Emerson is a parent-led campaign to support and enrich the education of every Emerson student. This year our goal is to raise \$110,000 in family donations – with 100% participation from Emerson families. Donations touch the lives of every child at Emerson by supporting programs and activities, including field trips, family events, classroom support and supplies, physical education and art classes. This year, we are asking each family to donate \$1,000 if you are able. Do you work for a company that provides matching gifts? If so, you can double or triple your gift to Emerson! Support Emerson by giving online at emerson.berkeley.pta.org. Donations are tax-deductible and take just a few minutes of your time. You can donate here: <https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/heart-of-emerson>

Move a Thon: The Move a Thon, is a community building event that supports the school and is fun for the whole family. Students collect pledges for each lap they complete around Forest Avenue.

Mrs. Dalloway's Weekend: This special weekend of shopping at Mrs. Dalloway's Bookstore (2904 College Avenue), benefits Emerson (and schools throughout Berkeley). The store donates 20% of reported sales to Emerson families; receipts must be submitted to the PTA within a week of the sale weekend.

Read a Thon: The Read a Thon, usually held in the spring but which may be moved to the fall, invites students to find sponsors to contribute for every minute they bury their heads in great books.

Additional Fundraisers: Earn money for Emerson every time you shop at Amazon.com or Sports Basement. Follow the link at <http://emerson.berkeleypta.org> for all of your Amazon purchases. Sign up to be a Basementeer at any Sports Basement Store.

VOLUNTEERING AT EMERSON

You are the Emerson Community. Get Connected, Come to Events, Lend a Hand, Share What you Know.

“We are the ones we have been waiting for” - June Jordan (poet and educator)

The Emerson community is all of us. It may sound like a cliché but it is true. Everyone participating and contributing in little and big ways is what makes our community strong and our school exceptional.

Emerson’s families come from diverse backgrounds and “your community” is already here and waiting to welcome you. The best way to feel connected is to show up when you can and lend a hand when you can. No one can do it all, but we can all do something. It is the sum of all these little things that, taken together, have a really positive impact for our community, for the school, and most of all for our children.

There are many different ways that you can be involved in your child’s education. Look for opportunities to help in your child(ren)’s class at Back to School Night or in newsletters from your child’s classroom teacher. Volunteers are needed to help run all PTA events and committees! Visit <https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/event-chairs/> to see a current list of which positions need filling and to sign up to help. Questions? Email emersonbearcubspta@gmail.com.

Be a Grade Parent!

Grade parents play an important role in shaping the experience of students and families at our school. They work to support the classroom teacher, to build community in the classroom, and to achieve equity and inclusion. It may be helpful to have two room parents in one classroom: one may focus on supporting the teacher and the other may focus on building community. The PTA provides orientations and a timeline to guide incoming room parents in this important role. For more information about these easy opportunities to support Emerson and more, please visit Emerson’s Volunteer page at: <https://emerson.berkeleypta.org/volunteer/>.