



# *Parent Resource Guide*



5050 El Mirlo Drive  
Oceanside, CA 92057  
760-721-8001  
<https://bw.bonsallusd.com/>

## Mission

At Bonsall West, everyone is inspired to do their best, be respectful, work hard, think of others and dream big!

## Vision

At Bonsall West, we will focus on the future by setting goals and collaborating to create a leader culture that respectfully serves the community.

## 7 Habits

Bonsall West is a *Leader in Me* elementary school that subscribes to establishing a whole-child mindset, with a belief that every child has genius and every student has the potential to become a leader. At Bonsall West, we focus on 7 habits to assist in building lifelong leadership skills:

1. Feel empowered to be proactive and be in charge of oneself;
  2. Set goals and begin with the end in mind;
  3. Focus on work first, then play, with put first things first;
  4. Have an abundance mindset and think win-win;
  5. Listen to our peers and seek first to understand, then be understood;
  6. Work collaboratively and synergize;
  7. Have schoolwork/life balance and sharpen the saw.

For more information, visit [www.leaderinme.org/elementary-school/](http://www.leaderinme.org/elementary-school/).

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***This document was created by the BWE PTA Board Historian and is maintained by the Members of the Board. Details of this document may change throughout the course of a school year, and from year to year. Board Members will work to update it, as necessary. This guide is provided as a resource. Any additional questions may always be directed to the school's main office, 760-721-8001.***

# School Calendar

## 2023-24 BUSD School Calendar

Rev. May 11, 2023

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	*18	19
20	21	22	23	24	*25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					*1	2
3	4	5	6	7	*8	9
10	11	12	13	14	*15	16
17	18	19	20	21	*22	23
24	25	26	27	28	*29	30

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	*6	7
8	9	10	11	12	*13	14
15	16	17	18	+19	*20	21
22	23	^24	^25	^26	^27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	*3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	*17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					*1	2
3	4	5	6	7	*8	9
10	11	12	13	14	*15	16
17	18	#19	#20	+21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	*11	*12	13
14	15	16	17	18	*19	20
21	22	23	24	25	*26	27
28	29	30	31			


February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	*2	3
4	5	6	7	8	*9	10
11	12	13	14	15	*16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					*1	2
3	4	5	6	7	*8	9
10	11	12	13	14	*15	16
17	18	19	20	+21	*22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	^4	*5	6
7	8	9	10	11	*12	13
14	15	16	17	18	*19	20
21	22	23	24	25	*26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	*3	4
5	6	7	8	9	*10	11
12	13	14	15	16	*17	18
19	20	21	22	23	*24	25
26	27	28	29	30	*31	

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	#5	#6	+7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

 Non-Student Day

Aug 11	First Day New Teachers	Nov 10	Veterans Day (Observed)			*	Friday Early Release Days
Aug 14-15	PD Day - All Staff Non Student Day	Nov 20-24	Thanksgiving Break	March 21	End 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter TK-12 Min Day	^	Minimum Days (Elementary)
		Dec 21	End of Sem. TK-12 Min Day	March 25-29	Spring Break	#	Minimum Days (Secondary)
				April 1	Spring Recess Day	+	Minimum Days (TK-12)
Aug 16	First Day of School	Dec 22-Jan 5	Winter Break	April 4-5	Conferences (at risk) – Elem.	RED FONT	Holiday – Certificated & Classified
Sep 4	Labor Day	Jan 8	PD/Non Student Day	May 27	Memorial Day	BLUE FONT	Certificated Vacation
Oct 19	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter TK-12 Min Day	Jan 15	Martin Luther King Day	June 5-6	Secondary Finals	○	First & Last Day of School
Oct 24-27	Parent Conf. Elementary	Feb 19-23	President's Week Break	June 7	End of Sem. TK-12 Min Day	180	Student Days
Nov 1	PD/Non Student Day			June 19	Juneteenth	184/185	Teacher Days

# *Fast Facts*

**District:** Bonsall Unified

**Founding Year:** 2005

**Grade Levels:** TK – 6

**Enrollment Size:** ~400 Students

**Mascot:** The Colts

**Principal:** Dominic Camacho

**Main Office Staff:** JoAnn Carruego and Cindy Pagett

**School Counselor:** Ande Mata

**Health Clerk:** Cecilia Rocha

# *Bell Schedule*

## **Regular Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)**

**TK & K:** 8:15 AM – 2:35 PM

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 8:15 AM – 2:45 PM

## **Early Release (Friday)**

**TK & K:** 8:15 AM – 1:05 PM

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 8:15 AM – 1:15 PM

## **Minimum Days\***

**TK & K:** 8:15 AM – 12:35 PM

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** 8:15 AM – 12:45 PM

\*Identified on the school calendar

# BWE Protocols

## Drop off

Students may be dropped off at the main front gate beginning at 7:45 AM or the back gate (near the end of Players Drive) beginning at 7:55 AM.

## Pick up

You may park or line up while remaining in your car to wait for your child(ren) to be dismissed from school. The parking lot has two lanes. If you line up, do so in the right lane only, near the curb, and allow room for cars to drive in the left lane. TK & K pickup occurs at the front side gate (the “kinder” gate) near the TK/K playground. 1<sup>st</sup> grade – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students may be picked up at the main front gate or the back gate (they may also accompany younger siblings at the kinder gate). If TK & K students have older siblings, they may exit with them at any gate. Those exiting from the main or back gates are required to have a bracelet keychain (called a “walker pass”), distributed by BWE. The keychain easily attaches to a child’s backpack and must be visible to staff upon exit. A “walker” permission slip is sent home with children the first week of school each year and must be filled out yearly.

## Absences and Early Pickups

If your child will be absent from school due to sickness or other reasons, call the main office telephone number at 760-721-8001 and follow the prompts.

Should you need to pick up your child early for an appointment or other reasons, call the main office ahead of time to let the staff know what time you will be arriving, and they will make arrangements to have your child present upon your arrival. There is a sign out sheet in the main office you must fill out when picking your child(ren) up early from school.

## Safety and Security

All school gates are locked beginning at 8:15 AM and through the remainder of the school day. If a child arrives after this time, they must enter through the main office. For safety, the main office door is locked during the school day, but you may knock or call the main office (760-721-8001) to gain access.

If your child leaves an item at home and you must drop it off at the school, there is a cart outside the door of the main office. Leave the item there and follow the instructions posted on the cart.

All visitors/volunteers must sign in with a valid ID at the main office.

## Lost and Found

Please label all of your child(ren)'s personal items with their full name, including backpacks, lunch boxes, water bottles, and clothing. Lost and found items are gathered and displayed outside the main office 2-3 times per school year. If you are aware that your child has lost an item, you can also email their teacher or call the main office for assistance.

## Breakfast/Lunch

Beginning in School Year 2022–23, California state was the first state in the country to implement a statewide Universal Meals Program for all school children. Your child(ren) may bring breakfast/lunch to school or participate in this program. Should they choose, your child(ren) will be responsible for getting their own breakfast at the cafeteria upon arrival at school. For lunch, please communicate with your child(ren)'s teacher as to whether or not you wish for your child(ren) to receive school lunch. The breakfast/lunch menus are available monthly and are linked off of the District website and the BWE PTA website. The parent/guardian of any child with a food allergy should fill out a form in the main office, available through BWE's health clerk.

## Blue Folders

Students are provided a blue folder on the first day of school each year. These folders are used to bring home finished schoolwork, school-related event flyers, paperwork that may need to be returned to school, as well as homework. Please check these folders daily for any items that may need to be filled out and returned.

## Water Bottles

Each student should come to school with a full water bottle every day. Please label your child(ren)'s water bottle with their first and last name. There is a filtered water station located in the school cafeteria should students need to refill their bottles.

## Snacks and Extra Clothing

Young students (TK-2nd) should bring a snack (or two) to school with them each day. They will be given time during morning recess and possibly another time in the afternoon to eat a snack. These items may be placed in their lunch box or another receptacle.

These students should also bring an extra set of clothing to school in case of emergencies. Please label these clothes and store them in your child(ren)'s backpack at the beginning of the school year and replace them as needed.

# Programs

## Running Club/Reading Room

Upon arrival each morning, students have two choices for how to spend their time until the morning bell rings. They can participate in running club on the blacktop at the back of the school or they can go to the reading room in the school library (located near the front of the school). Running club allows students to earn “points” for each lap they run around the blacktop and teachers keep track of these points until the end of the school year, when they can earn foot token charms for a necklace. On rainy days, students are directed to the Multipurpose Room near the main front gate.

## Arts Attack

Arts Attack is a PTA-sponsored program that brings art curriculum to each classroom. The program consists of 12 lessons each school year that vary by grade level. All supplies and instructions are provided by the PTA. Parent volunteers are welcomed and you can work through the PTA Executive Board or your child(ren)’s teacher to sign up. The commitment is usually a couple of hours each month. To learn more about the program, you may visit [www.artsattack.com/index](http://www.artsattack.com/index).

## Music

The music program at Bonsall West Elementary is a collaboration with music teachers from other schools within the District. Students attend music class once a week and learn skills like rhythm, reading music, and other basic musical concepts. There are usually one or two organized music performances during the school year.

## Fit Kids America

Fit Kids America is a PTA-sponsored program to give students an organized PE experience during lunch recess. Trained PE instructors come to BWE at least once a month to play games and other PE-related activities. To learn more about this organization, you may visit <https://fitkidsamerica.org/>.

## The Lighthouse Team

In conjunction with the Leader in Me program, the School Counselor works with The Lighthouse Team, student leaders in grades 3-6. These students learn about character, important daily habits for success, and making good choices.



# School Events

## Back to School Night

Every year, the school hosts a back-to-school night for parents usually the second week of school. This event typically begins at 4:30 PM with introductory remarks from the principal followed by visits to the individual classrooms, where teachers present and answer questions. Within each classroom, there are sign-up sheets to volunteer in the classroom as well as for future schoolwide events and programs.

## Student of the Month

At the end of each month, an assembly is held to honor the “student of the month” from each classroom. Parents are encouraged to attend. The assembly is typically held on a Friday morning at the beginning of the school day. The parents of the students being honored are notified within a few weeks of the assembly date.

## Marine Fitness Challenge

Typically, early in the fall, local Marines visit BWE to run an obstacle course with the students. This is a fun event in which students engage in physical activity and enjoy spending time with young recruits.

## Hat Parade

Students in all grades work in class to construct creative hats, often to go with a book they have been reading, and then showcase these hats in a parade typically held at the end of October, often falling on Halloween. Parents are invited and the parade usually takes place beginning at 8:30 AM in the school quad (the open space between classrooms).

## Vocab Parade

This event takes place during Read Across America Week every spring. Students select a vocabulary word and then dress up to personify that word and march around the school quad. Parents are invited and the parade usually takes place beginning at 8:30 AM.

## Variety Show

Typically held each spring, students from all grades are invited to participate in a variety show. The show takes place during school hours, with rehearsals scheduled in advance. Students must sign up and have a permission slip signed by a parent. Parents are invited to attend the show.

## Picture Day

School picture day occurs twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

## Track and Field Day/Tomlinson Games

Track and Field Day is an event held for grades 4-6 and hosted at Bonsall Elementary School. The top finishers in each event are invited to the Tomlinson Games—held in late May at Bonsall High School—to compete with other students at their grade level within the District. Both events take place during school hours and parents are invited to attend.

## Field Trips

A field trip is held typically in the spring each year and varies by grade. Parent chaperones are requested in advance. Should you wish to participate, please make sure you have filled out the necessary volunteer paperwork and done fingerprinting (details for volunteering can be found on the BWE website and any questions can be addressed by the main office staff).

## Camp Cuyamaca

Each year in the spring, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders spend a week at Camp Cuyamaca ([www.sdcoe.net/schools/cuyamaca-outdoor](http://www.sdcoe.net/schools/cuyamaca-outdoor)) about 2 hours southeast of BWE. Various fundraisers are held by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class throughout the school year to help with costs.

## Rawhide Ranch

Bonsall Unified School District has formed a partnership with Rawhide Ranch ([www.rawhideranch.com/](http://www.rawhideranch.com/)) that allows 24 students in grades 4-8 to participate in an Animal/Veterinary Science Internship. Students from BWE in grades 4-6 are encouraged to apply. The internship takes place on Fridays for 12 weeks in the fall. The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class also spends two nights at Rawhide Ranch each year. There is a cost associated with this trip and volunteer chaperones are needed.

## End of Year Celebrations

The last week of school brings various events, including moving up ceremonies for TK & K and 6<sup>th</sup> grade promotion, as well as second semester awards and a volunteer breakfast. Each of the events takes place during school hours and parents are encouraged to attend. Details are shared a few weeks in advance.

***In addition, various theme weeks are held throughout each year, the details of which are communicated in advance, and each grade level conducts individual events, such as plays.***

# PTA-Sponsored Events

*We welcome volunteers to help in the planning and/or hosting of all events!  
To volunteer, the necessary paperwork is available on the BWE website and in the  
main office.*

## Orientation & Class Postings

Orientation is held for TK & K students the week before the first day of school, when students are invited to meet their new teacher and classmates. For grades 1-6, the day before school begins, class lists are posted outside of the school, and students (and families) are able to see who their teacher will be. The PTA sells spirit wear ([www.bonsallwestpta.org/spirit-store.html](http://www.bonsallwestpta.org/spirit-store.html)) at each of these events, and a treat truck is often present selling goodies. Spirit wear may be purchased with cash, credit, or check. Keep in mind that every Friday is school spirit day!

## TK/K (Boo Hoo/Yahoo) Breakfast Social

A special breakfast is hosted for parents of TK & K students after dropping them off in their classrooms on the first day of school. This free event is held on the TK/K playground.

## Jog-a-thon

Jog-a-thon is the PTA's only fundraiser! This annual event is held during school hours on the field behind the school, and each year brings a new theme. Students run as many laps as they can during a set time, with the youngest classes kicking off the event and continuing with each following grade level. Students are encouraged to collect donations from friends and family within a set timeframe around the dates of the event, and prizes are awarded based on dollars earned. All the money raised goes directly back to the school and helps pay for student resources, recess equipment, assemblies, activities, and more.

## Movie Night

This annual event typically takes place on a Friday evening in the winter. Families are invited to school to enjoy a family-friendly movie on the lawn in the quad. A concession stand is set up with popcorn, other treats, and drinks being sold.

## Family Dance

This annual event typically takes place on a Friday evening in the winter. Families are invited to dance the night away in the school's Multipurpose Room. Family-friendly music is played by a DJ, with refreshments available.

### Round-Up

This annual spring event takes place on school grounds on a Friday evening. It is a carnival like no other. Although each year is a little different, there are typically games, pony rides, inflatables, food trucks, a petting zoo, and lots of other fun activities.

### Multicultural Night

This annual spring event is a celebration of diversity in our community and is held in the school's quad on a Friday evening. Students, parents, and teachers/staff come together to learn about the cultural traditions of their friends and classmates. Families or individuals can volunteer to host a table to display their culture and the country from which they originate. Families who attend the event can expect to enjoy lots of unique decorations, cultural presentations, fun activities, and even some food from around the world.

### Mellano Farms

This is a fun family event typically held on a spring Friday evening at a local farm just minutes from Bonsall West Elementary. Mellano Farms graciously partners with the BWE PTA for this event, and there is something for everyone! Activities can vary from year to year, but count on great things, like reduced pricing for strawberry picking, arts and crafts for kids, tractor rides, food trucks, and flower bouquet building.

### Lunch on the Lawn

Enjoy a picnic lunch with your child(ren). This event is held during the school day on a Friday, usually two to four times throughout the school year. Families are welcomed to school for the lunch hours. TK & K families eat near the TK/K playground, while families of students in grades 1-6 eat on the grounds near the blacktop. Families are encouraged to bring chairs, blankets, and outside food (homemade or takeout). The school nor PTA provide food for adults and the students find it a special treat to eat whatever their families are able to provide. School lunch remains available for students if that is preferred.

### Great Kindness Challenge

BWE participates in a yearlong initiative that teaches students to lead with kindness. As a part of supporting this initiative, each year, the PTA chooses a local organization to aid. Past events have included creating blankets for an animal shelter & donating new toys to families in need. BWE families are invited to take part in the event/donate items.

## Book Fairs

The PTA hosts a book fair twice a year through Scholastic, one week in the fall and one week in the spring. The book fair is typically held in the Multipurpose Room or school library and families are invited to purchase books and other items after school. Teachers also create a “wish list” for each book fair and parents can buy books for the classroom; the scholastic dollars earned during each fair go toward the PTA purchasing books for classrooms as well.

Purchases can also be made on Scholastic’s website year-round (<https://shop.scholastic.com/parent-ecommerce/parent-store.html>). Two percent of every purchase benefits the school when you sign in and select Bonsall West Elementary School using the instructions on the site.

## Teacher Appreciation Week

Each year, the PTA hosts a number of events during the week of teacher appreciation in the late spring. Details are communicated in advance, and we welcome all families to participate in showing our support for BWE teachers and staff.

## Assemblies

Assemblies vary year by year, depending on availability and interests. They typically take place on Fridays. Some past assemblies have included the BMX Freestylers Dream Team, Traveling Tide Pools, and Anthony the Magician. Assemblies are for students and school staff only; parents do not attend, but sometimes volunteers are requested.

***Please note: Some events are free, while others have entry tickets that can be purchased on the PTA website in advance or in person at the event.***

# Additional Opportunities

Bonsall Unified School District offers **intersessional classes** for the days during which there are school closures, as well as various **after school enrichment programs**, the details of which are available through the District website. Updates for these programs are also communicated by the individual schools each year.

Bonsall West Elementary offers an **extended care program**, designed to provide a safe, fun, and educational environment for students who need care before and/or after regular school hours. There is a one-time registration fee and monthly cost for this program. Enrollment begins August 1 each year. A waiting list is generated once capacity has been reached.

In addition, for students entering grades 1-6, Bonsall West offers **summer school**. This program is free and is a half day, ending after lunch, and is held Monday-Thursday for the three weeks remaining in June after the regular school year concludes. Your child(ren)'s teacher will contact you if it is recommended that your child(ren) attend. Priority is given to recommended children. Other students may attend if space is available.

## Communications

You may sign up for communications from BWE through **Aeries Communications** (<https://bonsallusd.asp.aeries.net/student/LoginParent.aspx>). Through Aeries, you may opt to receive an end of week communication from the school principal titled the *Colt Express*, which can be delivered via your selected preference of email, phone call, and/or text message. Please keep in mind this system is also used for emergency-related communications.

The District also requires that parents of returning students use the Aeries parent portal to complete a data confirmation each year. Your child(ren)'s state testing scores are also posted to the parent portal.

BUSD uses *Peachjar* for all electronic flyers. Flyers are also often sent home via the students' Blue Folders.

Email communications about upcoming events or classroom needs may also come from individual teachers and/or room parents.

# *Join the PTA*

We invite you to join the Bonsall West Elementary PTA and become an involved and active participant in your child(ren)'s school. The PTA exists to support academics, foster community, advance the goals and mission of the school, and make meaningful inroads into your child(ren)'s overall school experience.

Four general association meetings are held throughout the year (September, November, March, and May). By joining the PTA, you are eligible to take part in and vote during these meetings. There is a nominal fee to join each year, a percentage of which goes directly to BWE.

We welcome your participation and voice! To join, simply visit our website ([www.bonsallwestpta.org/become-a-member.html](http://www.bonsallwestpta.org/become-a-member.html)) and follow the prompts.

# *Volunteer*

All volunteers must complete the volunteer application packet available on the school website and in the main office. This form is required to be done annually. As a part of the form, volunteers must demonstrate a current TB screening (please allow the time needed to get this shot and the results before your first volunteer event). Fingerprints are required of all volunteers who will not be “in line of sight” of a certified school employee at all times – this primarily pertains to school field trips. Again, please keep in mind the additional time needed for the fingerprinting process and screening (typically two weeks).

Volunteers are required to sign in with a valid ID at the main office each time they enter the school.

***DREAM BIG BONSAI WEST  
AND  
RIDE WITH PRIDE***

