

August 20, 2015

Dear Howard Families,

I hope you've all had an excellent summer! We here at school are looking forward to seeing you soon and to having another amazing school year together here at Howard Elementary School!



If you've looked behind the school this summer, you'll have noticed that the new school is quickly going up! Construction is on schedule with Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> as the substantial completion date. Downtown will be deciding this fall whether we will move into the new building over spring break this school year or will wait to move in next fall. Either way, it's going to be a busy and exciting time to be at Howard! Look for more information later this school year for a community event we'll be holding to celebrate Howard's 67-year history before we close it down. For updates on the new school and other activities, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

The word is out that Howard is a great school and we are continuing to grow, which means we have a number of new staff members who'd like to introduce. Kealy Barrow-Strange (Kindergarten) did her student teaching here at Howard and has been teaching kindergarten at Chavez the past two years. Natalie Niccum (Kindergarten) most recently taught at Edison and before that taught at ATA. Natalie also has a 2nd and 5th grader attending Howard. Justine Chunn (1st Grade) has taught 1st grade and kindergarten at Corridor the past several years and is herself a former Howard student. Bryan Prideaux (Learning Center) comes to us from River Road where he was the Learning Center teacher. AJ Hruby (Title 1) comes to us from Chavez where she was the Title 1 Coordinator and also the building Essential Skill Coordinator. Maria Eichner (CLC EA) is returning to the Howard Comprehensive Learning Center after spending the past two years at the Monroe CLC. Crystal Ericson (Lead Custodian) also comes to us from Monroe where she was the lead custodian and before that she was the lead custodian at Corridor/YG. Irene Arce-Gaxiola (BEST Coordinator) has been a classroom teacher at Buena Vista and has also been a 21st Century after school program evaluator in Texas. We'll soon be hiring for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade facilitating teacher and for a PE teacher for second semester. We also have some CLC and Life Skills EA positions that downtown has yet to fill. I think Howard may have the strongest instructional staffs in all of 4J, so please welcome these fine new staff members as they join the Howard Elementary School family!

**Please read all of the attached important information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call, email or stop by.**

We're excited to see you all soon and to continue working together to provide the best possible education for your children. Here's to another fabulous school year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan Chinn".

Allan Chinn, Principal