

FREE

School News

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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

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MAY 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



BUSD Achieves the Standard of Excellence

As the school year comes to a close, I want to say thank you, and acknowledge a job well done to all of the employees. Everyone has worked diligently to ensure that our students received that "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less" during the course of this school year. I am fortunate to be able to work with such exceptional staff, wonderful students, involved parents, hardworking governing board members and communities that believe that our highest priority is the education of our children and young adults.

As you know, we passed our very first General Obligation Bond

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 11

Outstanding Student Recognition



**Los Angeles County Office of Education (CTE) Outstanding Student Recognition competition award winners
Essence Thompson, Juan Sandoval, Amber Harriston, Alexis Zavala, Donna Lynne Lacap. (please see Secondary Education page 5)**

BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Jerry Cleveland, President

A Year in Review

My year as Board President has been busy, exciting and extremely validating as we work to sustain the "Standard of Excellence." I along with my Board colleagues have enjoyed visiting schools, having wonderful conversations with staff, students, alumni, parents and supporters of this outstanding school district, along with observing our students in multiple settings from the athletic field, to the arts. As a Board we continue to spend time listening to our communities so that we get a detailed sense of what families are seeking to sustain our current growth as a school district.

Over the summer months while the students are away, district staff will be hard at work positioning BUSD for perpetual Excellence! They will be doing that by ensuring we have our teachers hired and materials ready to go when the students return on August 31st.

One of my priorities in working with the balance of the Governing Board is to ensure that as a district we provide students with additional pathways to the career field. That is why I am looking forward to seeing additional offerings in the trade aspect for our secondary students who may not choose to enter a post high school campus upon graduation. I really want our students to not only be college ready, but career ready upon graduating from one of our high schools. The Board and I want to make certain that our high schools have the necessary resources and tools to assist students with a clear and determined pathway of their choosing.

Sustainability is another critical component of what we have begun in BUSD. Dr. Jacobs has been charged to continue the efforts of improving the high school graduation rates, ensuring safe campuses, and extending learning

opportunities beyond the classroom. Each of these have been established in a highly effective manner, but we now need to make certain that they are sustained and strive to achieve to even higher standards of "Excellence."

In wrapping up my final thoughts of the year, I thank you for being so supportive and engaging as a school community during this school term. If the energy and talents I have seen in our community and schools is any indication of what is to come, I am confident that there are even greater days ahead for the Bellflower Unified School District. There are so many reasons to be optimistic.

Our excellence and impact are far-reaching and forward-looking. I am fortunate to be a current Board member and I invite you to join with me to keep this positive momentum going. I wish you all the best as we bring another school year to a close. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to BUSD and to our students, have a wonderful summer break.

Board of Education



Jerry Cleveland
President



Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D.
Vice President



Sue ElHessen, Ed.D.
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Debbie Cuadros
Member



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
Member

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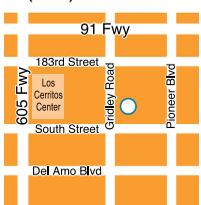
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



It is encouraging to read Superintendent Jacob's message on the front page and the Board President's Year in Review. It just makes you excited to see what is accomplished in the next school year!

Congratulations Class of 2015! If you are entering the contest on page 4, you will be looking for this Mr. Ruler.

Have a wonderful summer and we'll be back publishing the good news September 9th.



School News

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Covering the BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

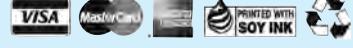
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Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Principal for a Day

On March 5th, 2015, as students filed through the door of the Home Education Independent Study Academy, they were greeted by a new principal. Seventh grade student, Gavin Copeland, served as

the school's first student "Principal for a Day" as part of the school-wide PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) incentive program.

One of the tenants of PBIS is that schools have 3-5 positive rules for students to follow. The four school-wide rules for the Home Education Academy encourage Leopards to have a Positive Attitude, Accept Responsibility, be Willing to Learn, and Show Respect (PAWS). When students are a stellar representation of one of the four school-wide rules they earn a "Golden Paw." Once students accumulate a given number of PAWS, they can "purchase" certain privileges, such as sitting in a "comfy chair for a week," "lunch with a teacher," "bringing electronics from home," and as noted above, "Principal for a Day." Gavin was one of two students who earned enough PAWS to purchase a privilege. The second student, Isaac Bower, elected to "bring electronics to school for a day" as his reward.



Seventh Grade student, Gavin Copeland, serves as Principal for a Day as a reward for exceptional behavior.

During Gavin's "reign" as Principal for a Day, he received an "official" principal badge, a school walkie talkie, observed teachers, facilitated in a "drop drill/full evacuation," met with district officials, and assisted with yard duty. Not only did he gain a more in depth understanding of what exactly a principal does during the course of his/her duties for the day, he also served as a role model and example for his fellow students. Some students cannot wait for their possible opportunity to serve as Principal for a Day, while others, realizing the amount of work and varied actions needed as Principal, are looking forward to other rewards.

In the end, both Gavin and Isaac enjoyed their incentives which made this first run of the PBIS incentive program a resounding success. We are all looking forward to more students earning rewards for their future positive behaviors.

The four school-wide rules for the Home Education Academy encourage Leopards to have a Positive Attitude, Accept Responsibility, be Willing to Learn, and Show Respect (PAWS).

Bellflower Unified School District

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-8

The Home Education Independent Study Academy offers homeschooling parents the best of both worlds: the opportunity to learn at home or at the Las Flores Educational Center. In addition, parents have the assistance of a credentialed teacher and access to standards-based textbooks while retaining the autonomy to design their own student's learning based on California standards. Our goal is to assist parents with the implementation of a creative, well-rounded, standards-based curriculum that is tailored to the abilities and interests of their own children.

Bellflower Unified School District Exciting Opportunities for Homeschool Parents

Classic Model

Grades K-8: Parents are the primary teacher five days a week. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Core Model

Grades k-8: Students attend school three full days per week and are taught at home two days. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review the work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Enrichment Fridays

Each week students have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in an engaging, standards-based lesson and activity as well as both a music and technology class.



For More Information go to:

www.BUSD.k12.ca.us

Call: (562) 804-6565 Ext. 6600

or visit us at:

Las Flores Educational Center

10039 E. Palm Street, Bellflower, CA, 90706

Academic Accountability & Curriculum

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

Academic Accountability & Curriculum Involvement

This has been an amazing year within the Bellflower Unified School District! Our outstanding school programs and dedicated staff continue to inspire our students to achieve their academic goals.

2014-15 has been a year of opportunities and growth. The California Common Core Standards and new assessment systems have provided multiple opportunities for new discussions.

At this time, the Academic Accountability & Curriculum Improvement department is busy backward planning the 2015-16 school year professional development offerings. Our goal is to continue to support staff with the implementation of the standards, new instructional technology and engaging teaching strategies.

With the District's Strategic Goals and Actions in place, and the Local Control and Accountability Plan, all staff work together to provide high quality instructional opportunities for students. I look forward to a successful and rewarding upcoming school year. I am confident that Bellflower Unified School District will continue to encourage students to reach their highest academic potential. The Academic Accountability and Curriculum Improvement Department wishes our students and families a restful summer break and we look forward to seeing you again in August!

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

6024 N. Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/356-9904



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Healthy Minds

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school that provides an alternative educational option specifically designed for students in grades 7-12 who have been expelled from the school district, have been transferred for problems with absenteeism, excessive behavior, and/or academic failure by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), school administration or probation, or other factors exhibited by high-risk youths. The program's purpose is to teach students to make appropriate decisions about behavior, have regular attendance, and strengthen their academics in order for them to return to their regular school and be successful.

The BAE Center focuses on the development of pro-social skills, student self-esteem, and resiliency which is affected by students' physical health and well-being. In an effort to increase their physical health, students are exercising their bodies as well as their minds through the healthy living class. The class has been working on strengthening their core and developing social skills by following a modified P-90 (MP-90) workout regime and team basketball exercises. The students are gearing up mentally and physically for the District Physical Fitness Testing and a special three-man basketball competition against the BAE Center staff. The winners of the basketball game get bragging rights... until the next competition.



Student team basketball practice.

Academic Assessment & Research

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



James Fleming
Director

Performance Levels

BUSD students are hard at work preparing for our first year of Smarter Balanced assessments measuring the new California State Standards. The State Board of Education tentatively approved the new format for the Student Score Report, which will be mailed home to the families of students this summer.

Students in grades 3-8+11 are participating in the Smarter Balanced assessments, which are made up of a computer-adaptive assessment and a performance task in both English language arts and math. We are measuring student progress towards new standards with new tests, so naturally we will have new student scores. The State Board of Education is being very deliberate to adopt a new template for reporting scores which defies comparison with the old CST score report.

The state has adopted four performance levels:

Standard Exceeded: The student has exceeded the achievement standard and has demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Standard Met: The student has met the achievement standard and demonstrates progress toward mastery of the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Standard Nearly Met: The student has nearly met the achievement standard and may require further development to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Standard Not Met: The student has not met the achievement standard and needs substantial improvement to demonstrate the knowledge and skills needed for likely success in future coursework.

Each student will receive a numerical score, which spans from 2000-3000. Each student's score will come with a bar representing a range of scores. This bar, much like a margin of error, shows the area in which the student would score if they were to take the tests again. The range bar is quite popular with educators and parents alike as a welcome addition to the score report.

Families will receive more detailed information than a numerical score and performance level. Students will also receive ELA performance indicators in Reading, Writing, Listening, and Research/Inquiry, and math performance indicators in Problem Solving & Modeling/Data Analysis, Concepts & Procedures, and Communicating Reasoning. The addition of more precise performance indicators will help families celebrate successes and target areas for growth.

As discussed in recent articles, we are in a transition period—we have identified new skills that students should master, we have been teaching those skills in new and novel ways, and now we are assessing progress with a new test. The scores on this test will not be comparable to last year's annual test scores, as the old test assessed a different set of skills. Additionally, we have raised expectations for what students should be able to do, so this year's results may show that fewer students have mastered the desired skills. This is OK because we are headed in the right direction. As students spend more time with the new curriculum, their skills will improve.

Contest!!

This Mr. Ruler is hidden in this publication.
When you find him, email the **page number** to:
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Bellflower in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by June 30, 2015.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to Shawn Pallil
Winner of the March Word Search



Elementary Education

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

California Common Core Standards: Worth the Effort

This spring, Bellflower Unified School District will participate with all of California's students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 in brand-new assessments at the end of the year as a part of new, more comprehensive state accountability system to measure student progress toward college and career readiness. This assessment system is designed based on the California Common Core standards for English language arts and mathematics and adopted by California with 42 other states.

For parents, this means a brand new way to review your child's test results, and completely different from the previous California State Test student results in previous years. This change intentionally signals a marked change in assessment administration and test content. Parents should expect to see a composite score that falls within one of four achievement levels: Standard Not Met, Standard Nearly Met, Standard Met, and Standard Exceeded.

"The message we are sending is complex and multi-faceted," said state board President Michael Kirst. "This is a new test that shouldn't be compared with the old test. It's a more difficult test with new standards" (<http://edsources.org/2015/for-parents-a-new-way-to-view-test-scores/76254#VQymf47F81I>). Parents should expect to see their child's report late in the summer. In addition, the increased rigor of the new standards will likely mean that fewer students may have mastered those standards.

For example, the California Common Core standards require students to demonstrate a deeper understanding of math concepts, which means teachers are changing how they teach these concepts as well. Students are expected to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding than needed under the previous California State Standards; while the old standards were often critiqued for excessive reliance on memorizing math facts and procedures, the new standards consistently require students to solve problems that require a strong grasp of mathematical concepts and to explain their reasoning.

Bellflower Unified has invested in the success of its students. Teachers must learn new concepts as well, and our teachers have participated in professional development with the Irvine Math Project of University of California, Irvine. Throughout the year, teachers have worked with math experts to learn the instructional shifts of mathematics within the California Common Core. This professional development will assist students with acquiring this new way of applying traditional math skills.

Magic is happening in our classrooms. The implementation of the California Common Core standards, along with teachers' preparation and use of new assessments, are all designed to ensure students' mastery of their new learning. By doing all of this, BUSD will be providing a world-class education for our students. We appreciate your partnership with us in this journey.

Secondary Education

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Colleen McKinley
Director

Outstanding Student Recognition

The Career Technical Education (CTE) program in the Bellflower Unified School District participates annually in the Los Angeles County Office of Education CTE Outstanding Student Recognition competition. This competition recognizes students for their outstanding work and exemplary efforts in CTE courses. Students are nominated by their CTE teacher and selected by the district to advance to the county level competition that was held in Irwindale, California on March 10, 2015. This year 20 different districts from across the county

participated with a total of 96 participants. Bellflower High School sent 5 CTE students to compete in the program in various industry sectors. CTE counselor Lauren Bliss and CTE technician Fashion San Martin worked with students in preparation for the event and accompanied students to the competition.

The ROP program is proud to announce that Alexis Zavala received a Silver medal for his work in Digital Photography. Bronze medals were awarded to Juan Sandoval in Animation/Graphic Design, Amber Harriston in Careers in Education, Essence Thompson in Retail Marketing and Donna Lynne Lacap in Film and Video Productions. We are extremely proud of these students and their outstanding work in their CTE courses.

Educational Services

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Joe Perry
*Assistant
Superintendent*

Positive Behavior Intervention & Support System

The Office of Educational Services is responsible for providing district-level services and resources to parents/guardians, students, and the school community related to student support, special education, school safety and drug-free schools, parent education, improvement and innovative grants, foster youth services, and student discipline and adjudication. This office also provides the necessary oversight to maximize the K-8 homeschool program at Las Flores Educational Center, the community day school and Adult Re-entry, the continuation high school at Somerset, the after school Project APPLE program and school readiness through Head Start-State Preschool, and the Spanish Dual Immersion program to develop bilingual and biliterate students at the Intensive Learning Center.



As we look back over this school year, it is appropriate to recognize the importance of implementing Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports into the culture of the school district. PBIS, one of the foremost advances in school-wide discipline has the emphasis on school-wide systems of support that include proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create positive school environments. The office of Educational Services was responsible for the training and implementation of this PBIS program at all school locations. This multi-tiered, comprehensive and proactive approach to student discipline is meant to provide a structured approach to recognize appropriate behavior and discourage inappropriate behavior in all areas of the school, including classroom and non-classroom settings, such as hallways, buses, and restrooms. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

The outcomes for our schools in implementing a PBIS Tier I supports for all students to prevent the development and/or exacerbation of behavioral challenges, increase the occurrence of pro-social skills and enhance the overall student culture. The outcome for schools is for all students to learn and do well academically, behaviorally and social-emotionally. The PBIS model has been successfully implemented in thousands of schools in over 40 states, resulting in dramatic reductions in disciplinary interventions and increases in academic achievement. Data-based decision making is a hallmark of PBIS, allowing successes to be easily shared with all relevant stakeholders. Within the first year of implementation, the Bellflower Unified School District can attest to a 40% reduction in disciplinary instances. This has saved countless instructional hours otherwise lost to discipline. The premise of PBIS is that continual teaching, combined with acknowledgement or feedback of positive student behavior will continue to reduce time and efforts spent toward unnecessary discipline and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety and learning.

The link between families and positive behavioral interventions and supports is an important one. When families are meaningfully involved in educational activities their children do better in schools. Families plan an important part in their child's education and social development. Within the future school years, the strength and positive development of the PBIS program will need the support and involvement of family members and community of students within our district. This team approach of inspiring and supporting positive behavior of all students will benefit each and every student by fostering trustworthy character, safety, academic excellence and good citizenship.

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

14929 S. Cerritos Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/531-1602 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/baxter.htm



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Students Shimmy and Shake in PE

Watch Baxter students during PE time and you will see a whole lot of shaking going on! Baxter Elementary is excited about our new Physical Education program,

SPARK. The program is dedicated to promoting lifelong wellness for our students. Maria Dolliver is the Baxter PE specialist who provides physical education instruction to students twice a week for forty-five minutes and alternating Wednesdays for thirty minutes.



Baxter Kindergarteners

Jayden Jones and Abigail Bruno hop to the music.

I am proud to offer quality physical education to our students. Our program aims to be inclusive, highly active, integrate academic and wellness concepts and fun for all students," states Coach Dolliver. SPARK PE is designed to be more active and fun than traditional PE classes. During PE classes at Baxter, you will see students dancing, hopping, and running in fun interactive activities like hula hoops and scoops. Kindergartener Elaine Gim states it best, "PE is fantastic! PE is fun exercise."



Baxter PE Coach Maria Dolliver and student Natalie Angulo hula hoop.

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

5223 E. Bigelow St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/804-6518 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/foster.htm



Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Positive Learning Experiences

It's hard to believe that we are approaching the end of another busy and successful year at Stephen Foster thanks to the hard work and collaboration of our students, teachers, and families. We are very proud of the home school connection at Stephen Foster and believe that

this is key to the growth of our students. The implementation of the California Common Core Standards from Kindergarten through sixth grade went very smoothly and our teachers and students rose to the challenge of meeting these new standards. Evidence of this hard work can be seen in every classroom with students retelling stories using key details, asking and answering questions using evidence from text, and representing and solving math problems and explaining the reasoning behind answers. Our students approached the computerized state testing known as California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress or CAASPP, with confidence as they had already participated in the pilot and field test in the past two years respectively. Stephen Foster students have become increasingly comfortable with this computerized format as they also took all of the language arts assessments for the year in this way. Many of our parents took time out of their busy schedules in March to attend a coffee morning with the principal and assistant principal to learn about this year's test and take a practice test. Once again, parents partnered with us to help prepare our students as 21st century learners.

This year, we also progressed with the implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS). This is a school wide positive behavior plan based on our school mission and designed to reward positive behavior and minimize negative. Teachers and students lived by our BOLTS expectations- Be Prepared, Own your Actions, Lead with Character, Treat Others with Respect, and Strive for Excellence. Students are honored for exemplifying these behavioral expectations at flag salute and Student of the Month and can earn Bolt Bucks for their outstanding behavior. Next year, we plan to refine and develop the program as we begin our second year of implementation.

Finally, at Foster, our teachers always strive to provide their students with meaningful learning experiences that will impact them even after they leave Stephen Foster to move on to middle and high school. This year, students from kindergarten through sixth grade were in for a treat as they had the opportunity to attend the fifth grade wax museum. Every fifth grade student took on the persona of a historical figure in American history. For just a few



pennies, each character came to life and told their story to a group of enthralled students. It was a great learning experience for our fifth grade students and their audience and really brought history to life for all of our students. We learned about the lives of George Washington, Harriet Tubman, Betsy Ross, and PT Barnum to name just a few. Some of our characters were even featured in the Press Telegram! Our fifth grade teachers- Mrs. D'Ambrosio, Mr. Mangold, and Mrs. Porciuncula put a lot of hard work into planning this wonderful event. To make this event even better, all the pennies used to activate our wax figures were donated to Pennies for Patients to benefit Leukemia and Lymphoma research. This year we raised over \$4,500 in just two weeks! Good job Lightning Bolts!



Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

15301 McNab Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/920-1801 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/bellflower-high.htm



Michael Lundgren
Principal

Important Dates Coming Up

As we approach the end of the 2014-2015 school year, I would like to inform you of some important dates and activities going on at Bellflower Middle/High School, as well as, begin talking about the 2015-2016 school year. Our annual Open House will take place on Tuesday, May 19 beginning at 5:15 p.m. The evening will begin with a PTSA sponsored dinner, performances from our Middle School band and choir, a brief PTSA meeting, and finally, classroom visitations beginning at 6:30 p.m. Middle School Awards Night will take place on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym. 8th grade promotion will be held on Thursday, June 18 at 9:00 a.m. on the soccer field. Finally, the Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2015 will take place on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Ron Yary Stadium.

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, Bellflower Middle/High School will be starting the school year earlier. The first day of school will be Monday, August 31. School will begin at 9:30 a.m. Have a safe and restful summer!

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

5900 N. Canehill Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/804-6525 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/lindstrom.htm



Deborah Apple
Principal

Community Involvement

The proverbial saying, “It takes a village to raise a child,” has never been more true! The parent-school-community relationship is more important now than ever before due to the many challenges our families are facing today. Research shows that children take a more active interest in school and achieve higher academically when parents and the community show a concerted effort and become involved by attending events that are promoted by the school. One of the many strengths of Lindstrom Elementary is our community involvement. Throughout the year

multiple opportunities are provided to include our community with our school activities. This year we introduced a few new events – Muffins with Moms and Donuts for Dads. We also invited our school community to enjoy a warm evening with us for Movie Night. It was fabulous. Parents, students, friends, and school staff came together to enjoy a movie which was shown outdoors. It felt like a summer evening at the park! Grandparents Day is a tradition at our school. Students



thoroughly enjoyed the day when loved ones came to share an afternoon with a special lunch with them. Blankets and chairs were brought and everyone found a shady spot to enjoy the event. Another type of community involvement is when we are able to invite special guests to our campus to enrich the learning for our students. We asked community leaders to come and share with students the history of the American Flag. Our guests included two of our Board Members, one Assistant Superintendent, the Mayor of Bellflower and several Bellflower Noon Lions Club members. Students were delighted to learn about the history of our flag from community leaders. Professionals from the school community were also invited to take part in our Career Day. They provided valuable information to 6th graders for possible job choices in their future. With the collaborative efforts of our school, parents and the community at large, there is no barrier we cannot overcome for the success of our students.

On another note, I would like to take this opportunity to share with the community my plans to retire. It feels like just yesterday that I first stepped foot in a classroom as a new teacher and now with what seems like the blink of an eye it is 27 years later and I am at the end of my educational career. It truly has been an honor and privilege. Working with everyone in the Bellflower Unified School District has shown me that the Standard of Excellence and Nothing Less is more than just a motto. I wish you all the best.



Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

10027 Rose St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6521 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/jefferson.htm

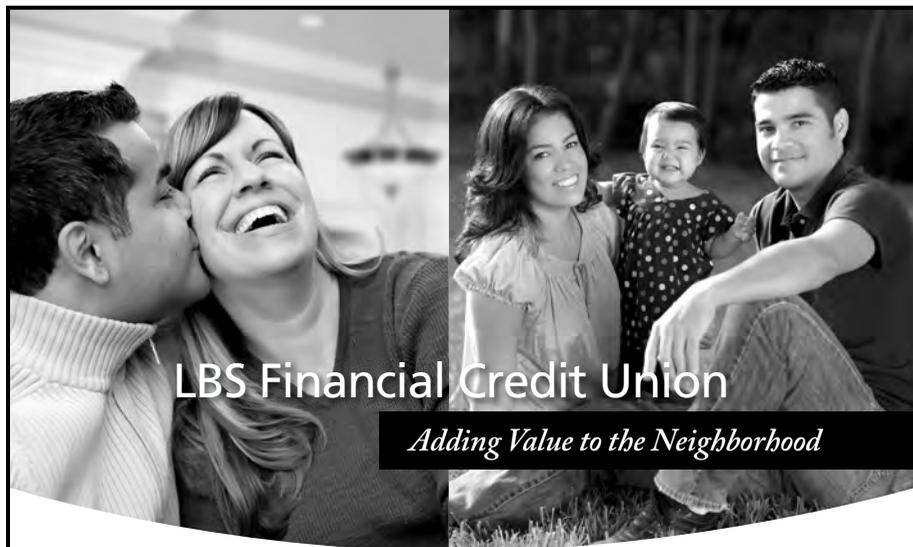


Dina Hernandez
Principal

Read! Read! Read!

Here at Thomas Jefferson, we believe in the proverb “It takes a village to raise a child” because we know the power that comes from an entire community coming together to support the education of young children. Our work with families and community workers has shown us that when we all ban together for the good of our students – great things can happen. One example of this was our Read Across America celebrations, which encouraged students to read and to develop the love of

great literature. As a part of these celebrations, we involved many community members, including Mr. Gardner the City of Bellflower Librarian, Deputy Hartman from the Lakewood Sheriff Department, and Los Angeles County Fire Department Station #23 Captain Hoffman and his crew. Along with parents, these fabulous volunteers read to our students, shared their favorite books with them, and talked about why they love to read. In addition to that, we involved staff and parents in our family reading night – which was a terrific success! Students were very excited to have staff, parents, and members of the community show their support and were encouraged by the consistent message that reading is important.



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Long Beach 4341 East 10th St. | Long Beach 4436 Atlantic Ave. | Long Beach 6417 East Spring St.

Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

6000 N. Woodruff Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-9981 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/mayfair-high.htm



Matt Eeles
Principal

A Productive Year

The 2014-2015 school year has been a productive one for the Monsoons and we have a lot to celebrate. Seniors are preparing for finals, end of year activities, and of course graduation. Our 7th, 8th and 11th grade students participated in the new state assessment test this spring. Results will be made available to parents some time in June.

Once again Mayfair's involvement in the community was evident by the success of project shepherd, holiday baskets, shoe drive, coat drive, toy drive, and our holiday giving tree.

Our 6th annual College and Career Fairs were a huge success with our students obtaining information that is important for their futures. Senior scholarships also remained a priority. The community support from more than 15 groups like the Rotary Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were key in providing financial assistance to students going to college. Along with those agencies we continued with the 8th annual Hiram "Chick" Peterson faculty vs. students basketball game and the Faculty Follies staff talent show to raise additional dollars for senior scholarships.



Students at the Career Fair gathering information about the medical field at the Lakewood Regional Medical Center/Tenet Health booth.

Students and staff are looking forward to a restful summer break and an exciting 2015-2016 school year. Don't forget that this next school year will begin August 31st which is one week earlier than normal. So please plan your vacations accordingly so that your student(s) are in attendance the first day of school.

The Mayfair family would like to thank the parents and community for their support and involvement in our school this year. Go Soons!



Students and staff take a moment to celebrate the evening at the Hiram "Chick" Peterson faculty vs. students basketball game.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

14500 S. Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6528 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/pyle.htm



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Teamwork

The 2014-2015 school year has been one of tremendous teamwork at Ernie Pyle. A favorite quote about teams uses the letters as an acronym:

"Together Everyone Achieves More." This year the Ernie Pyle staff certainly applied this idea as they worked collaboratively to improve students' academic and behavioral success. The P.E. specialist program provided release time during the school day for our teachers to meet



weekly to examine data and decide on teaching strategies to address areas of academic need.

The team working on School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) met regularly throughout the year. The SWPBIS team collaborated to provide staff development to their colleagues on classroom strategies that address student social behavior in order to support student learning. It's all about student success through teamwork at Ernie Pyle!



Ramona *Elementary*

9351 Laurel St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6532 • www.bUSD.k12.ca.us/ramona.htm



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Students Make Change

Recess is not just time to talk with friends at Ramona Elementary; it is an opportunity for students to practice good sportsmanship and positive character traits. This year, the teachers and staff are creating a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to help students learn what it means to be Ramona Rams and create a positive environment inside and outside of the classroom. One component of PBIS is for students to recite the Ramona motto daily at morning assembly. Students start their day by reminding each other that RAMS Respect others, Act responsibly, Make the best choices, and are Scholars every day in every way.



Another component of Ramona's PBIS system is for coaches and staff on the field at recess to take time to teach students how to play fair and have fun while they play together. Students learn how to respect calls made by coaches and fellow players, to celebrate game success in a sportsmanlike manner, and to take responsibility for their actions. Recently, Ramona scholars decided that they wanted to high five at the end of the game to show their respect for the opposite team and have an opportunity to say, "Good game!" to their peers.

The goal of PBIS is to create a positive school environment. Unlike other programs and systems that are created by adults; at Ramona, students are taking ownership of their environment and creating a positive place to learn and play.

Somerset *High School*

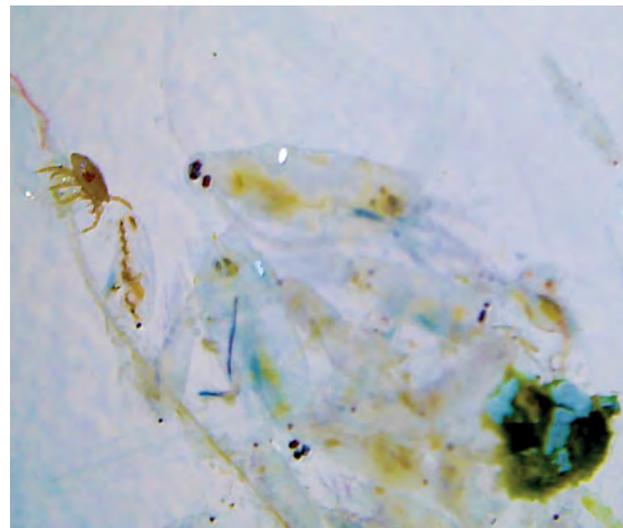
9242 E. Laurel St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6548 • www.bUSD.k12.ca.us/somerset-high.htm



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

Somerset's Spring Science Cruise (4-3-2015)

On Thursday, March 12th, 45 students went on a field learning experience to Crystal Cove State Park to work on three science experiments in conjunction with the University of California, Irvine and the Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area. Somerset students were broken into three teams and conducted research on a floating lab in three distinct areas. One team lowered plankton nets to collect plankton, fish eggs, and fish larvae samples. The types of plankton and amount of fish eggs and larvae help scientist gauge the health of the Crystal Cove ecosystem. A second team collected water samples from various depths in the kelp forest, and took data on the water temperature, salinity and pH. This information is utilized by researchers at UC Irvine to help determine the overall health of the kelp forest and determine which species of fish and other life can thrive in this area. A third team used a rod to lower a fish shaped camera into the water as a monitor and DVR captured images on board the boat. Students



Plankton samples collected by Somerset Students.

examined their video recordings to identify and count the fish and life that they saw. Students gathered data, produced a written and oral presentation of their findings, and each group presented their findings to each other and the researchers on board the science ship "The Western Pride". This experience helped Somerset Students experience what real world marine biologists do on a daily basis.

Washington *Elementary*

9725 Jefferson St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6535 • www.bUSD.k12.ca.us/washington.htm



Sulema Holguin
Principal

Stage Full of Talent

It was amazing to see our students' talents in action recently as well as all our parents and peers for our sold out talent show. With the need to express the arts in various ways, Washington hosted its Talent Show on March

23. Students dedicated various hours by first auditioning for the show, practicing with their peers for group presentations, getting prepared at the final dress rehearsal and finally the grand finale. From singing, dancing, and musical talent as well as artistic talent, everyone did an amazing job! Miss Lemp, Miss Lee and Miss Knapp all worked with our K-6 students to make this happen. In addition, Miss Lemp who teaches an after school dance class every Thursday had students perform some of the routines they have learned at the show. She started providing this class for the girls after they expressed a desire to want to have a dance class when they used three minute dance moves to take brain breaks during class.



We understand the importance of helping students reach for the stars and finding ways to express their personality both in and out of school. Way to go future Washington stars.

Craig Williams *Elementary*

6144 Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/804-6540 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/williams.htm



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Continuing to Receive Honors!

Our magnificent school was selected by the Office Depot Foundation to receive the “A Day Made Better Award.” Craig Williams was awarded this honor by the Office Depot Foundation through the Lakewood Office Depot Store because of the positive impact and commitment of our teachers and staff for the community we serve. The event was celebrated with a large donation of supplies to Craig Williams’ educational program. These supplies are continuously being distributed to all classrooms and educational programs across the campus.

On the evening of March 27th over 220 parents, teachers and students gathered to participate in the 9th Annual PTA “Pride Night” festivities. During the evening the Craig Williams PTA held a general meeting to elect the 2015-2016 PTA Officers. This was followed by a musical performance by the Kindergartners, a time of honoring our Reflections Award Recipients as well as the CW Honorary Service Award recipients for the 2014-2015 School year. Congratulations to all of our “Pride Night” award recipients!

We continue to implement Positive Behavior Intervention Supports here at Craig Williams, by reminding students to practice their P.A.W.S. pledge where students:

- P**romote Peace and Safety
- A**chieve your goals
- W**ork hard
- S**how Respect

Together, students and teachers have been working on defining what good behavior and positive choices look like across the Craig Williams Elementary School campus. We have even begun asking students to apply the positive P.A.W.S. pledge practices outside of school and in the immediate community we serve. Please do not hesitate to talk to your students about the PAWS pledge and what it means at Craig Williams. Together, we can help all students make the most positive choices across all situations.



The staff of the Lakewood Office Depot with Dr. Remland and Dr. Salas during the morning ceremony where thousands of dollars in school supplies were donated in honor and support of Craig Williams teachers and students.

Craig Williams Elementary School is a community of scholars, teachers, and parents that continue to work towards achieving and exceeding the Bellflower Unified School Districts’ “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”



Craig Williams kindergarten students performing for parents at the 9th Annual “Pride Night.”

Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

15332 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6545 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/woodruff.htm



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Woodruff’s End of Year Festivities

Our sixth grade students are preparing to attend Sixth Grade Camp in May. Students are learning background knowledge on ecosystems, astronomy, life cycles, water cycles, and nocturnal animals. They will extend their knowledge with trail lessons and real-life experiences at camp. For many of our students this may be their first trip away from home. Life skills are also learned as they socialize with peers and become more independent. They are also excited to hike in the forest, participate in team building games, and join in night time activities.

All incoming kindergarten students and families are welcome to attend our Kindergarten Visitation Day on May 12, 2015 at 9:00. We will inform parents of academic expectations, explain the daily school schedule, and visit kindergarten classrooms. We are eager to meet our new families and incoming students.

Our year will end with Woodruff’s Mini-Festival in June. All students have the opportunity to play festival games during lunch. Students are required to have met their reading goals by turning in monthly logs and meeting their Accelerated Reader goal. Woodruff Wolves are actively working towards their goals and look forward to a fun-filled Mini-Festival!



Dr. Brian Jacobs

two years ago, and your students are now beginning to reap the rewards and benefits of the new funding. This new revenue has been able to supply our students with more access to technology, climate control at Thomas Jefferson Elementary with air conditioning, along with new and repaired roofs to protect the infusion of all of the new technology teaching and learning devices. I am thankful and appreciative of the parents and community support with this critical initiative. I will continue to work with all of the stakeholders to deliver on the promise of “Excellence.” I will also continue to support the highest quality educational experience for all of our students. This is truly an exciting time for our communities and more importantly our students...THANK YOU!

Preparing to wind down this school term means that we are already in the works for the upcoming school year. During the time that our students are away from school we will be performing several maintenance procedures, providing professional development opportunities for our teachers, working on our Local Control Accountability Plan implementation, and developing a plan for a new wing of buildings at Mayfair Middle/High School, while also doing major athletic field renovations at Bellflower Middle/High School. But it is also nice to reflect on some amazing accomplishments, as we prepare for the next school year!

Recognizing that the mission of the Bellflower Unified School District is to provide the pathway for all students to attain the expertise and develop skills of academic excellence that will empower them to:

- become lifelong active learners
- demonstrate respect for themselves and others in a dynamic, diverse, and global society
- become informed, productive, independent, and contributing citizens
- perform successfully in their chosen field and in society

This year has been a resounding success by so many measures. The energy level across the district remains higher than years past, and the acknowledgement for all of the successes we achieved this year together. As I reflect and celebrate with all of our staff, I offer some highlights. This year we:

- Solidified Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in our school buildings, making us more informed education professionals who are better connected to each other professionally – and personally.
- Technology has increased the student to device ratio to approximately 4:1, and the ultimate approval of 1:1 on target for the next school year
- Direct Interactive Instruction where teachers are more engaged with the students and the learning process
- Positive Behavior Intervention System where each school has created an even stronger student to school relationship than years past

As district leaders we engaged on an organizational culture journey towards 212 Degree Leadership. We have made GREAT progress with the instructional techniques and strategies used by teachers and the administrative team districtwide has been a great support in making them all sustainable practices. While we still have a ways to go, we are moving in a direction that will encapsulate a successful future.

As Rob Ketterling has stated; “Anything worth having is worth working for. Change is worth the effort. When you begin to change, you’ll discover a world of opportunity you never dreamed possible. If you resist change, you’ll find yourself living far below your potential.”

In closing my final article for the year, I once again want to say “Thank you” to all of the employees of BUSD and acknowledge all of their hard work and dedication for the children and young adults each are called to serve. I would also like to reinforce that as we move into the 2015-16 school year, I desire the year to be one of review and refinement.

What is working will be replicated and sustained; what is not working will be reviewed and potentially ended. Systems are in place, technology is and will continue to grow, and training and support is and will continue to be in place for students and staff. My mission as the instructional leader of BUSD is to Engage, Inspire and Empower. The purpose of BUSD is for continued student learning and student growth, while modeling the passion in preparing for the future!

Thanks for an amazing year as your leader – I’m looking forward to next year and beyond.

Intensive Learning Center

4718 E. Michelson St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/804-6513 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/ilc.htm



Isel Taylor
Principal

Wrapping Up 2014-15

At the Intensive Learning Center this last semester, we started our new Jump Start Kindergarten class. Jump Start Kindergarten is a great opportunity for incoming kindergartners to get an early start on school. Students in Jump Start have turned five between December and February, and attend school from February to June. This is a great opportunity for students to build academic and social skills to prepare them for a successful year in Kindergarten in 2015-2016.



We are excited about expanding our Spanish Dual Immersion Program to 2nd grade next year. We are currently taking applications for 2015-2016. Students who will begin kindergarten in the 2015-2016 school year are eligible for this program. They must turn 5 no later than September 1, 2015. Applications are available at the Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) Instructional Support Services office and at all BUSD elementary sites. Completed applications are to be turned in to the Instructional Support Services office on 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower. This unique program offers English and Spanish speaking students the opportunity to learn and excel in two languages, English and Spanish. Students in the Dual Language Immersion Program are taught in the 90/10 model. Students in kindergarten and first grade receive 90% of their instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. Each subsequent year, English is gradually increased into the program. By the 5th and 6th grade, instructional time will be 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. The goals of the program include; developing academic success and bilingual/biliteracy in Spanish and English as well as developing an appreciation of both cultures.

Alana’s Book Review

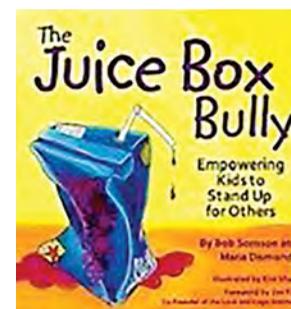
The Juice Box Bully



Alana F.

This short but empowering book teaches today’s modern kids to respect all in a social environment—such as school— and to stand up for what is right. Pete, the new kid in school, is bullying everyone and is seemingly taking the kind-hearted kids at his new school for granted. Do you think that Pete will learn his lesson in the end, or will the other kids at his school resort to being a bully like Pete?

I would give this book five stars and I know you may be tired of me saying that, but this book helped me through a period of time when I was being bullied. This book is powerful because not only does it address the victims of bullies, it recognizes the feelings of both the bullies and the people witnessing the bullying. Now I know how to stand up for myself and how to make sure that no matter how much I get mistreated, I cannot be disrespectful to others.



Alana F. is a student at Las Flores Educational Center. Alana is a columnist invited to review her favorite books for our readers. She rates the books on a scale of 1—5 with 5 being the highest.



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