

FREE

School News

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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

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Hitting Our Stride to Achieve Excellence

By Dr. Brian Jacobs, Superintendent
Here at BUSD we have much to be grateful for and to appreciate.

Traditionally, this is a busy time of the year as the semester begins to wind down and plans of celebrating the New Year begin to take shape. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all they have done in making the start of this school year one of the best ever! We have had a very productive start with our staff and students engaged in teaching and learning. We have been able to celebrate academic excellence in many different ways this year from musical celebrations, theater productions, fall sports, the Golden Bell Award for the Medical Pathways Program, and a Governing Board positioned to support the goals established within this year's Local Control Accountability Plan.

For BUSD the second year of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) has proven to be a driving force in achieving several of the Districts academic initiatives. The BUSD LCAP is designed for improving student success in each of our schools. BUSD has always had "plans," but the LCAP is not so much about complying with what someone else (state and federal government) wanted us to do, as about what BUSD believes is important for students in our district schools. It is exciting and rewarding to see our district budget linked directly to the LCAP to ensure our students receive the necessary materials and support to be career and college ready.

November launched the holiday season with two national holidays. On Veteran's Day, celebrated on November 11th each year, we dedicate our respect and honor to all of those men and women who have fought, and those who have died in



BUSD Receives the Golden Bell at the California School Boards Association Annual Conference. (Front) Dr. Sue Elhesson, Clerk of the Board, Lisa Azevedo, Mike Lundgren, Laura Sanchez-Ramirez, Board Member, Jerry Cleveland, President, Colleen McKinley, Dr. Paul Helzer, Board V.P., Arlene Whitney, Board Member Debbie Cuadros (Back) Matt Eeles, and Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs

service to our country. We remember their sacrifices, and we pray that peace will one day be the common cause of all the nations of the world, so that such sacrifices will no longer be necessary.

Entering December and because BUSD believes that education prepares all students to become productive and responsible citizens, our students continue to give back to their community through service projects. This climate of giving back is so contagious across BUSD that it reinforces the values of ones giving, encouragement, hope and acts of kindness. One example of this kindness was when our students across the district collected thousands of canned food items for our local churches and other community support agencies. We know these activities and goods were significantly needed and launched our community members to better and brighter days ahead. Similarly, our students share that this is a remarkable experience for them because they are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of their community.

Here at BUSD we have much to be grateful for and to appreciate. I would like to thank you for helping to create an atmosphere of excellence in our District. Through our quest for the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less," we pave the way for students to be provided appropriate learning opportunities and establish an environment

where students, faculty, and staff strive to become their best in all aspects of the school. We are responsible for the future of all students and it is our responsibility to help all students to be challenged to do their very best each day. I appreciate and recognize that it is the hard work and dedication of every BUSD constituent that makes our school district a top-performing school system in which we can all be proud.

In the coming months ahead, let me take the time to remind you how busy it will be, but to remember how important it is to take time to focus on the real meaning of the word "thankful". Each person in our district deserves a special "thank you" – to the parents, students, board members, teachers, support staff and all who are part of the Bellflower Unified School District. The continued support that you provide allows me as Superintendent to impart a truly exceptional learning environment to meet the needs of every student entrusted to our daily care. I am honored to serve as Superintendent of the Bellflower Unified School District. In this role, you can expect me to continue to lead ethically and with integrity. I will work hard for the betterment of our communities and students I am called to serve.

See HITTING OUR STRIDE • Page 10

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

It is always fun to begin a new year with hope and anticipation. Superintendent Dr. Jacobs sets the stage in his message on the front page by first being thankful and appreciative. The District has much to be thankful for.

In this issue you will read about how you can monitor and help with your child's academic progress, creative curriculum, the value of music and so much more. Enjoy!

Our next issue is March 9.

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Las Flores *Home Education/Independent Study Academy*

10039 E. Palm St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6565 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/homeeducation.html



Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Home Grown Fun

Mary, Mary quite contrary how does your garden grow? With silver bells and cockleshells and tiny hands willing to sow! Children at the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy have been working the past year to reap what they sow. Under

the guidance of Soinia Burgueno and her crew of green-thumb parents, a raised-bed garden flourishes in a small corner of the campus. Once a neglected patch of weeds in a planter box constructed for an Eagle Scout project prior to the school's opening in 2012-13, the garden has truly come to life since the Burgueno family joined the school in the 2014-15 school year. Throughout the past school year students could be seen nibbling away on fresh carrots and radishes picked by their own hands. The staff lounge often filled with the bountiful harvests of carrots, kale, zucchini, radishes, and more for families to take home and enjoy.

Mrs. Burgueno has big plans for the Las Flores Home Education Academy garden. For the 2015-16 school year, she



Mrs. Soinia Burgueno proudly stands among the flourishing crops of the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy garden.

and her husband Francisco, a local landscaper, intend to build at least two more planters. It is their true desire to eventually fill the entire space with the farming production. The school also hopes to use this project as part of the middle school enrichment program by getting the students in grades 5-8 involved in the planning and development of the expansion. Through this project-based learning opportunity, the students will get real-life curricular experiences as they do such things as measure the space, determine supply needs, and perhaps even write letters to request donations from local businesses.

Mrs. Burgueno plans to hold gardening sessions as part of Enrichment Friday once a month. She recently completed a training program called "Teaching with Seeds" as part of a Community Seed Grant program that is "designed to support the work of educators and those working to enhance the nutritional, social, economic, or environmental health of underprivileged groups in the region, while simultaneously keeping locally-adapted crop varieties alive and in active use in farms and gardens" (<http://nativeseeds.org/get-seeds/communityseedgrants>). She is also currently seeking approval from the Bellflower Unified School District's nutrition center to have a lunch time salad bar, so students can have a farm to table experience. Her love of gardening and aspirations for all to enjoy organic foods is one that will help the students at the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy learn not only the value of nutrition but also the lesson that hard work yields delicious results!

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 a music, technology and Mandarin 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 Assessment & Research

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



James Fleming
Director

Interim Exams Support and Monitor Student Progress

The State of California traditionally measures student achievement near the end of the school year. State testing can be taxing for teachers and administrators, but sometimes we forget how demanding it can be for students. BUSD has taken a proactive approach to testing by implementing a schedule of low-stakes practice exams to acclimate students and teachers to the new state-adopted computer-based assessments.

Students will take short interim exams through the winter and the spring to prepare for the Smarter Balanced Summative Exam given in April and May. Each interim exam is short, ranging from 14-16 questions, and can be completed in less than an hour. The interim assessments are available in English Language Arts and Math.

“Taking a test on a computer is very different than taking a paper pencil test”, says Stacey Williams, assistant principal of Ramona Elementary, “The students need to get comfortable with how to move between questions and how to use the new enhanced testing tools, like calculators and highlighters”.

Teachers benefit because they see how their students are progressing toward the grade level California Standards. Students benefit by getting comfortable with the computer interface of testing.

California has made Smarter Balanced practice and training tests available to the public. Students and parents can experience the online testing environment at <http://www.caaspp.org/practice-and-training/index.html>. The practice and training tests provide a variety of sample questions which demonstrate two things: The rigor of questions students will encounter during the Smarter Balanced testing and the diverse ways students will be expected to answer. With practice, students will feel more comfortable with the computer interface and be prepared to demonstrate their knowledge.

SB-172 Grants Diplomas to Some Prior Students

California Senate Bill 172 was signed into law on October 7, 2015. The bill removes passage of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) as a condition of graduation. Former students of BUSD who successfully completed all graduation requirements except CAHSEE are now eligible for a diploma. SB-172 applies to the graduating classes of 2004-2014. Please contact the Bellflower Unified School District Office at 562-866-9011 ext. 2040 with additional questions or to claim a diploma.

Academic Accountability

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



Dina Hernandez
Director

A New Digital World

We live in a digital world where technology, multiple devices, instant internet access, and social networking sites have become a big part of our life and the lives of our students. As much as we can appreciate how this constant access and communication can make our lives easier, there are cyber threats we need to be aware of. Cyber threats such as identity theft, exposure to inappropriate content, cyber predators, cyber-bullying, phishing, trojans, viruses, and malware. Children are among the most vulnerable to such dangers and therefore it is important to educate our students against these threats to help them not fall victim to them.



Education and awareness are among the most important things we can do to help protect our students against cyber scams. As the adage states, “Knowledge is power.” To this end Bellflower Unified School District includes Digital Citizenship and Cyber safety education as part of our curriculum for all of our K-12 students. These lessons include password protection, cyber etiquette, and privacy measures, posting personal information, geolocations, and crime ware.

For further information on these topics and much more there are great resources available online such as www.netzmart.org, www.commonsemmedia.org, and www.ncpc.org (National Crime Prevention Council) just to name a few.

Instructional Personnel

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



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

CalAPS

Happy New Year! With the start of a new year, Bellflower Unified has started a new adventure with Lynwood Unified School District. BUSD and LUSD formed a partnership to expand access to career technical education (CTE) for students in both districts.

Both Boards of Education have voted to create a jointly run program called California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS).

CalAPS will allow students to take CTE classes within either district. This relationship will allow both districts to focus on particular course offerings without duplicating efforts. Ultimately, students will be provided additional course offerings in a more specialized environment.



CalAPS will identify needed courses in alignment with the districts' CTE pathways. Typically, many introductory courses are offered within a district. Advanced coursework may be provided in select areas. CalAPS will focus on providing classes for students which build upon skill level and provide capstone/advanced opportunities. Courses will be a-g aligned as appropriate.

Students will begin to see new course offerings this spring with additional expansion of services this summer and fall 2016. Bellflower Unified is currently focusing on expanding health care opportunities for students building upon the health science career program which recently won the 2015 Golden

Bell Award. Students are provided exposure to seventeen different health related career opportunities. Students are also provided the ability to job shadow within a hospital and doctor's office setting. CalAPS plans to support additional advanced courses for students who may be interested in specific health careers such as medical billing and coding, pharmacy, or nursing. It's an exciting time for district staff and students.

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Isel Taylor
Principal

Building the Leaders of Tomorrow

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.

— John F. Kennedy

At the Intensive Learning Center we also focus on developing our students' leadership potential and that leadership skills can be taught. The ILC Student Leadership Club is a program designed to promote leadership and service learning for students in grades 3rd- 6th. The Student Leadership Club consists of students who are interested in helping out around the school and serve as role models for younger students. The ILC Leadership

Club serves as a vehicle for: teaching leadership skills, taking ownership of their school, highlighting positive leadership roles and building a sense of community and school spirit.



Our Student Leaders demonstrate their leadership qualities by taking part in a variety of school activities. They are responsible for leading the Flag salute and the School pledge daily. They also assist in congratulating and passing out prizes for our *Gotcha* winners and at the end of the week, a Student Leader shares a few words of wisdom to inspire students to reflect on their behavior and to always try their best. Our Student Leaders have also participated in our monthly Student of the Month assembly.

Our Student Leaders are looking forward to community involvement. We are coordinating with our local city officials opportunities to expose our Student Leaders to a variety of local city/civil leadership roles. Numerous volunteer and/or community involvement opportunities are currently in the works. During the holiday season the club designed and delivered holiday cards to our local convalescent home before the winter break. There are many new and exciting things in the works for our Student Leaders and ILC learning community!

Special Education & Student Services

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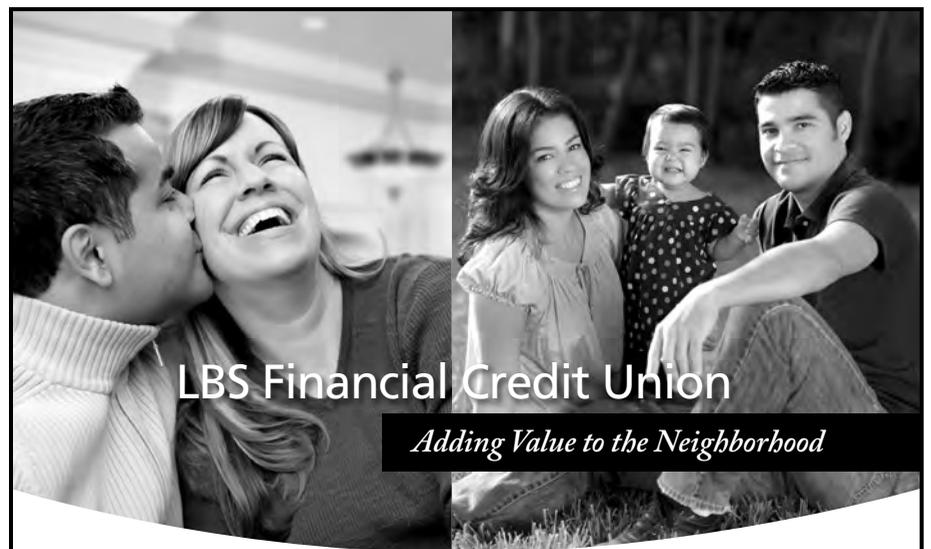
Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

How Can I Support My Child's Learning

Reports have come out recently on the progress of your child, and the question I hear most is "my student is struggling, what can I do?"

Top Ten Things To Do:

- Be involved: Do what you can, but a minimum, check in with your child's teacher, use a planner and monitor homework.
- Provide resources for learning: Visit the local library, they have free books, read together, some have free tutoring after school.
- Encourage your students to do their best in school: Show them you value education, and that you expect them to work to do their best everyday.
- Use positive pressure: Set goals that are reasonable for your child, don't pressure them by having unreasonable goals or too many extra activities.
- Make school a priority: being involved in activities is important, but school should always come first. Help your child find balance between school and activities like sports, theatre, chorus, and scouts. If grades fall or homework is missed, cut back on extra activities.
- Call teachers early if you think there is a problem. Don't wait for a report card or for them to call you. Your child is your first priority.
- Raise responsible children: ensure your child obeys school rules, and expectations, teach them to make good choices and to be respectful. Children who show respect and follow rules at school, like doing homework, tend to do better.
- Talk to your child each day: ask them how their day was and don't accept "Ok" as an answer.
- Monitor your child: when your child is trying hard encourage them. When they get frustrated, remind them of the importance of school and that sometimes we have to work hard to get the reward.
- Praise your child: when your child does well, tell them you are proud.



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

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Bellflower Alternative Education Center - Goals

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center recently held an early morning parent meeting and served up bagels and coffee for parents and staff. The meeting was coined *BAE-Goals* at BAE as the main purpose of the meeting was to share with parents the over-arching goal of the BAE Center. We strive to be a peaceful, positive, and stable environment that provides engaging academic opportunities, and encourages trustworthy collaboration to achieve academic, social, and emotional success.

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 continues to partner with parents to ensure our students' success.

attending, and strengthen their academics in order for them to return to their regular school and be successful.



Parents, students, and staff discuss their hopes, concerns, and questions about the students' future.

Educational Services

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Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant Superintendent

California State Seal of Biliteracy

Did you know that in 2012 California became the first state in the nation to award a state seal of biliteracy to graduating seniors who demonstrate proficiency in English and another language? Today, 13 states offer a seal of biliteracy. Communities across our nation are developing an awareness of the economic and social value of multilingualism, the realities of a global century and the high level of academic achievement associated with the attainment of literacy in multiple languages. The Seal of Biliteracy reinforces themes embedded within our academic content standards and aligns with college and career readiness; aimed at preparing students to be competitive and successful in our diverse and global 21st century world.

Statewide this year, 31,816 graduating California seniors were recognized with a Seal of Biliteracy on their diplomas. Being biliterate is beneficial to students beyond college and career readiness. Multilingualism strengthens how the brain functions, and is associated with increased cognitive flexibility and stronger problem solving abilities. Children who are biliterate tend to demonstrate better performance on achievement tests. There are also potential economic and social advantages for students when they develop biliteracy skills. Fluency in more than one language and cross-cultural skills are prized and rewarded with higher salaries in many businesses and companies. Also, studying another language may expand a student's worldview and build cultural understanding.

There are many program types and pathways for both young and older children to attain high-level biliterate language skills. Some programs are designed to build on students' home language, while others are designed to introduce students to a new language altogether. Varied program models and language teaching approaches engage students in learning a second language and promote their capacity for developing high levels of language fluency.

BUSD currently offers a variety of language learning pathways for students including language immersion at the elementary school level and world language programs at the middle and high school level for students wanting to learn Spanish, French or Mandarin.

If you would like to learn more about the pathways to biliteracy offered in BUSD, please contact the Educational Services Office at 562-866-9011 Ext. 2300.

Head Start

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/461-2227 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Cristina Blevins
Director Child Development

Creative Curriculum

The Head Start and State Preschool teachers are off to a great start of the year. Teachers and staff are embracing the Creative Curriculum being used in the classroom. Staff has done great work to strengthen the quality of their instruction and to make connections between their instruction and their student's lives.

When visiting a preschool classroom you will see instruction based on student interest using the California Preschool Learning Foundations to guide cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development.

Teachers making adjustments daily in their classroom schedules and daily routines to best meet the needs of their students. Classroom experiences are warm and connections are made to home life and prior knowledge as often as possible. Teachers and classroom staff recognize the importance of a home-school connection and encourage it during all parts of the day.



Children at Ernie Pyle Head Start enjoying a conversation about meal time and home life with a parent volunteer.

Child engagement and learning continues to grow and develop each day. We are so proud of the teachers and children for their hard work and enthusiasm in the classroom every day. Our program continues to strive for that "Standard of excellence; nothing less" that Bellflower Unified so strongly stands for.

Elementary Education

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



Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

BUSD Supports the Elementary Musical Arts

The Elementary Music Department encompasses a vast array of the musical arts. This district “gem” has strived for excellence and maintained solid growth since it was introduced. Its mission is to “provide all 5th and 6th grade students with an educational, high quality music experience that will foster pride at all levels of participation.” It is our aspiration that the Elementary Music Program

will continue to be the pride of the students and the community for years to come.

The Elementary Singers consists of 16 students who sing on individual microphones. They are selected out of the Ensemble and perform even more challenging repertoire and choreography. They were one of eight schools and the only elementary group in Southern California invited to perform at a new venue at Disneyland this October.

Winter shows were well-received in December. Hosted at the Bellflower Performing Arts Center and entitled “A Party in Pear Tree,” each school’s fifth and sixth grade students performed a show with themes of teamwork and the holidays. With 17 speaking parts, each show’s cast of characters worked to save the main character, Party the Partridge.

Students sang, rapped, and danced to bring in the holidays. Each of the twelve Elementary Singers also performed at each show. Every performance was held for each elementary school as well.

The band program has three components: School Band, 904 Band, and Advanced Band. Washington students can choose to participate in the non-auditioned beginning school band. Band members may also tryout for two G.A.T.E. (*Gifted and Talented Education*) identified band. The GATE Band’s Winter Performance was held on December 1, 2015 at the Bellflower Civic Center and ushered in the winter season well.



Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Band Strikes the Right Note!

Albert Baxter Elementary students love music due to a strong music program. Fifth and sixth graders at Baxter have the option of attending chorus or band instruction. Over 65 students participate in the weekly elementary band lessons. Students learn how to assemble their instrument, how to hold their instrument, and learn the reading of notes and musical symbols. They also learn about composers in a historical setting. During the second semester, band students learn more about performance skills, confidence, tone quality, dynamics, and tone on their instrument. All of the lessons and hard work culminate in a band concert in the spring for the entire school and their parents.



Baxter Band soloists perform with band instructor Dave Flietstra.

Band instructors Robin Reeves and Dave Flietstra believe that band instruction enriches their students' lives by providing an opportunity to excel at performance in a positive and creative way. "The Baxter Band students seem to have fun while learning, too," adds Reeves. This is just another example of how the arts are alive in BUSD!

Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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



Michael Lundgren
Principal

A New Year Brings New Excitement for Learning

Happy New Year from all of us at Bellflower High School! We are proud to announce the opening of our new middle school Project Lead the Way robotics lab. Project Lead the Way is the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering and math programs. We are offering Design & Modeling as well as Automation & Robotics for our middle school students. Students will get rigorous and relevant experiences through activity, project, and problem-based learning. They will use industry-leading technology to solve problems while gaining skills in communication, collaboration, critical-thinking, and creativity.

Final exams will be given on Tuesday, January 26, Wednesday, January 27, and Thursday, January 28. All three final days will be minimum days, 8:00 am-12:46 pm. This ensures that students will not have more than two finals in a day, giving them more time to study and prepare for their exams. Friday, January 29 will be a non-student day.

Please make sure your student is present at school on all of these very important dates. Have your students come to school well-rested after eating a good breakfast so they are ready to do their best on all tests.

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

Stephen Foster Bolts are charged up for Technology

On December 7th our teachers had the opportunity to attend a hands-on "Demonstration Lessons" from On Point with the implementation of technology into classroom lessons. Teachers in grades TK-2nd were able to see mathematics or language arts lesson with the Learn Pads. While the teachers in the upper grades viewed lessons on the Chromebooks. The teachers and students were quite excited and engaged with the lessons.

With the redesigned of online assessments for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) formerly known as Smarter Balanced, students in grades 3-6 are becoming more familiarized with the structure and information necessary to achieve academic success. Stephen Foster students are ready for the changes that the 21st century brings to education.



After a few months of instruction, Baxter Band members perform at their first band recital.



Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Community Commitment

Esther Lindstrom Elementary is a Blue Ribbon and California Distinguished school because of the commitment of the school community to maintain a “Standard of Excellence – Nothing Less.” The school community does not only consist of students, teachers, staff, and parents; at Lindstrom, the community is much larger including grandparents, aunts and uncles, all family members, and local businesses and organizations. We all come together to create a quality educational program for the Lindstrom students.



Most recently, community members committed their Friday night to provide an opportunity to promote a love for reading at Lindstrom’s Reading and Pajama Party Night. At the event, students spent the evening in their pajamas on blankets in the cafeteria and in classrooms listening to guest speakers. Teachers, the school library assistant, and the STAR deputy read to students, PTA helped families Christmas shop for great books in the book fair, and a favorite book character, Clifford, made a special appearance.

The Lindstrom community is not only committed to the success of its students, but is also committed to helping students learn to give back to the community that supports their success. For example, Lindstrom K-Kids recently worked together to repurpose old t-shirts into dog toys to be donated at the local animal shelter. Similarly, students were inspired by Lindstrom PTA to donate food items in order to create holiday meals for local families. Forty seven meals were created and donated to the Bellflower Volunteer Center and Project Shephard.

At Lindstrom, the school community is an integral factor in supporting our students on their journey to becoming well educated, philanthropic future leaders.

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

A Caring School Community

As we all know, the holidays are a time in which we can reflect on the past year and recognize all that we are grateful for. As the principal of Thomas Jefferson, I want to take this moment to let you all know how very thankful I am for the opportunity to serve such a terrific school. Thomas Jefferson is home to wonderful students and families, as well as a dedicated and caring staff that works diligently each day to serve the community to the best of their ability. I am also grateful for the chance to be a small part of so many of the wonderful changes taking place at TJ, including monthly family nights, growing PTA and ELAC groups, increased

use of technology in the classrooms, and recognition of student achievements through our school-wide PBIS program. Watching school faculty, families, and the community come together to support students is extremely rewarding, and I look forward to what other exciting changes the New Year will bring. Until then, on behalf of our family here at Thomas Jefferson, I wish you all a restful and blessed holiday season.

Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

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



Matt Eeles
Principal

Mayfair Serves The Community

Monsoons would like to welcome everyone to the new year as we enter 2016 together. As students gear up for semester finals January 26-28 we would like to share how the last “S” in SOONS was exemplified while closing out the 2015 calendar year. Mayfair Monsoons have proven that Serving others is part of our everyday life and culture.

Mayfair is grateful for our Case Managers, Socorro Melgarejo and Myra Rodriguez, as they work countless hours providing resources to our families in need. With the help of Caring Connections, faculty, staff, counselors, administrators, and students, we made the Thanksgiving holiday special for 44 Mayfair families by delivering food baskets with turkeys and all the fixings. For the annual Caring Connections Coat Drive, Mayfair students and staff donated 53 coats and jackets to the Lord’s Church of Bellflower. It didn’t stop there, at Christmas time in partnership with our Case Managers we adopted a total of 71 families through our Christmas programs which helped provide them with gifts and food baskets. Once again families we service educationally were able to have a wonderful Christmas. Then there were the 25,000 food items for the City of Lakewood’s Project Shephard.



The Giving Tree.



A parent receiving a Thanksgiving basket.

The Mayfair family does not only contribute during the holidays, but they also extend a hand throughout the rest of the school year as well. These contributions often lead to partnerships in the community. These partnerships provide opportunities for future scholarships and potential careers. This is just another reason why it is great to be a Monsoon.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Technology Advancing at Ernie Pyle

Ernie Pyle Elementary wishes you a Happy New Year! We are the Pyle Panthers and our slogan is "Watch us Climb!" This year we are certainly climbing with the use of instructional technology! We are continuing to expand the use of interactive white boards, mimeo technology and student mobile devices- LearnPads in K-2 and Chromebooks in 3-6. Panthers are using the devices for researching, composing and sharing their learning. We are beginning to use Google Drive and Google Classroom.



Our new goal this year is to use the mobile devices for student interaction and collaboration. Our California Standards call for students to exit high school being college and career ready in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students who have the level of literacy called for are able to use technology and digital media strategically and capably. They are expected to use technology to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others. Pyle Panthers are on their way and climbing to new heights!

HITTING OUR STRIDE • From Page 1



Dr. Brian Jacobs
Superintendent

As positive as this year has been to date, success for our students will continue to depend on a well-trained and dedicated teaching staff. There is no silver bullet for student success. It comes only with the daily hard work of teachers who are intentionally focused on success for all students. I believe we have these teachers in our district, and I especially wish them a Happy New Year!

This year's accomplishments would also not be at the levels of "Excellence" without the ongoing support of our classified and confidential employees and staff. Each of their individual roles they play is critical to the district achieving the initiatives outlined within the LCAP. Their daily drive to meet and surpass the expectations defined for them in their positions is a great accompaniment to our teaching core. Thank you!

As we have now enjoyed the holidays, it is my sincere wish that each of you received and returned the seasonal bounty of blessings and good tidings that make these days truly special. It is with these principles that we will continue to move forward in meeting and sustaining the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Parents are Partners at Ramona Elementary

We believe in a strong home school connection at Ramona. We consider our parents to be our partners in their children's education and we highly value their support. In the last edition of school news, I shared information about our Response to Intervention (RTI) program in all grade levels at Ramona. This program extends to our parents and families also. We ensure their involvement in our RTI model through our Parent Institute. Parents attend monthly workshops led by our intervention teachers and are trained in key strategies that are used school wide during RTI instruction.



On November 16th, we held our most recent parent workshop. Our intervention teachers, Mrs. Sievers and Mrs. Slager explained the ACE strategy for answering questions. This strategy is used in the classrooms and is extremely useful for parents to know. We had a great turnout and the feedback was very positive. We are looking forward to welcoming parents to our next workshop in January when we will share strategies for helping with writing at home. Future workshops will focus on math strategies also. When we work together, our students benefit enormously!



When we have a special event at Ramona, our parents can also be relied upon for their help and participation. On November 18th, music and cheering were heard coming from Ramona field. This excitement was because of the first annual Ramona Jogathon! Our students ran laps to raise funds for school while parents and staff cheered them on. The event would not have been possible without our parent helpers. Parents helped set up the course, marked students' lap cards, and served water to our students to keep them hydrated. This truly was a family event at Ramona and the strong parent presence ensured the success of the Jog-a-thon. When parents participate in all aspects of school life at Ramona, it shows our students that their education is important to all the adults in their lives and we will continue to work together for all of our students to achieve a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

Somerset Engages Students through Multimedia

Students from the multimedia design class went on a field learning experience on Monday, November 9th, to the Mann Chinese Theater in Hollywood. The Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival and the American Film Institute donated tickets for 40 Somerset students to attend along with teacher chaperones Mr. Brian Ahumada and Mrs. Jill Adams. Students watched a documentary called "Landfill Harmonic," an amazing movie about a town in Paraguay that wanted a high

school band. Unfortunately, there weren't enough instruments for everyone but the students and teachers innovated by creating instruments from the materials obtained from the city's dump. Somerset students were able to meet the directors and actors of the film gaining access to people in the film industry. In addition, students watched a performance by the actual high school band from Paraguay featured in the documentary. This field learning experience gave valuable insight into the arts, media, and entertainment industries.



Somerset students taking pictures with members of the high school band from Paraguay.

School News

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Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Parent Connections

The Craig Williams community celebrated 46 parents graduating from the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) program on December 3, 2015. These parents attended a nine-week training program designed to learn how to effectively support their children during their educational journey. This program is the first of its kind at an elementary school in the Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) and is building bridges for students and parents as they transition to middle and high school.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Mayfair Middle and High School Principal, Mr. Matt Eeles who encouraged parents to continue being involved in their students education and attend further PIQE classes when they move onto the Middle and High School campus. All parents received certificates of completion, a yellow rose, and were recognized by BUSD Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Mrs. Stacey Larson-Everson and Craig Williams Principal, Dr. Michael Remland.

Craig Williams will continue to support parent involvement in our school environment and will be offering free ESL classes on campus beginning Monday, January 11th. These classes will be held Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and run from 9 until 12am. For more information please call the Craig Williams School office at: 562-804-6540.



Graduates from the morning PIQE Spanish speaking class.



Graduates from the evening English speaking PIQE class.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Sulema Holguin
Principal

Creating a Community of Learners through Co-Teaching

At Washington, we believe that part of our job is to help a student become well rounded by teaching acceptance through empathy. When we focus on developing an instructional plan for both our students in our Special Education and General Education, we look at the strengths and needs of our students. This year we have focused on providing more inclusion support and co-teaching opportunities. When you see a moderate to severe student who has very limited speech ability being compassionately assisted by a general education peer, it is a win/win situation. Allowing teachers to work collaboratively in order to meet the diverse needs of the students also has benefits for the teaching staff. Two teachers share their experience.



Betsy Kim: Mrs. Chung and I have now been co-teaching for over a year, and we absolutely love the outcome that we see in both our classes. Speaking as the Special Education teacher, I have noticed that our students are learning both academically and behaviorally by observing their general education peers. I have a student that used to trace everything we wrote in highlighter. However, during a co-teach activity, I noticed he was writing the numbers on his own as he worked with the general education students at their desks. I was extremely impressed and excited. I would have never known that he had the potential to copy letters and numbers until I watched him work independently during our co-teach lesson.

Kacey Chung: From just one year of co-teaching, I have witnessed how it can benefit all students. The interactions between our two classes developed friendships that also helped students with their social skills. Many talk about how co-teaching can benefit students with needs, but I witnessed how it can also benefit those in general education. My students now have a better understanding of empathy and how to care for and help others. It was heartwarming to see how much my students absolutely loved seeing our friends from Room 304 every day.

As a school, we are all committed to meet the needs of all our students because every student belongs to all of us.

Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Moving into the New Year at Woodruff

As we celebrated the holiday season, Woodruff Elementary participated in two fun family nights with Halloween Reading Night and Christmas Comes to Woodruff. Both events were held in the evening with 300-400 students and family members enjoying time with our school staff and one another. Activities included grade level crafts, read alouds, games, raffles, Book Fair, Santa's Secret Workshop, pictures with Santa, and tasty dinners from food trucks.



This was a fun way to strengthen the home-school connection in a relaxed, community atmosphere. As we move into the New Year, Woodruff students are encouraged to increase literacy skills. Nightly reading is promoted through our Accelerated Reader program that requires students to read at independent levels and complete a Reading Log. Students in all grades are taught to A.C.E. (Answer, Cite, Explain) the text. As classes discuss aspects of literature, students must support their ideas by directly quoting the text to prove their answers. In kindergarten this may be a student pointing at the picture and explaining how that ties to the answer. Sixth graders will write an answer, directly quote the text, and relate the information to their own lives with a thorough explanation. We are confident 2016 will be a successful year for our Woodruff Wolves as they all strive to increase literacy skills!

Thank you for reading *School News!*

Taking Action to Advance Civic Learning



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

In its latest report card on U.S. history, geography and civics, the National Assessment of Education Progress has presented a dismal picture. Only 23 percent of eighth-graders tested at or above proficient in civics with no significant sign of progress since 2010.

These numbers serve as a call to action.

California and our nation are facing a crisis in civic learning. The problem is growing by nearly every measure – including record low voter turn-out – and this is putting our democracy at risk.

Preparing students for informed, engaged participation in civic and democratic life is not just essential; it is entirely consistent with the goals of increasing student achievement and closing achievement gaps.

In response to this problem, California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye teamed up with State Supt. Tom Torlakson to establish the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning.

The Task Force has released a report with recommendations to elevate the status of civic learning in schools.

We now also have a pilot network of six local partnerships. Los Angeles County – along with Alameda, Butte, Fresno, Sacramento, and San Diego counties – is taking action.

I am leading the Los Angeles County Civic Learning Partnership, along with David Rattray, executive vice president of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Associate Justice Laurie Zelon of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District.

We are reaching out to districts to adopt school board resolutions, policies and Local Control Accountability Plans that incorporate the Task Force recommendations.

At LACOE, our California Democracy School Civic Learning Initiative has provided schools professional development, coaching and technical assistance, as well as mini-grants to create innovative programming at each site.

This year, we are creating a series of 12 online professional development webcasts that will be available to districts at no cost. These resources are available on our website, lacoe.edu.

Civic learning deserves a lot more attention and support in the education community. We need to ensure that our students develop the knowledge and skills they need to participate in our democracy.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put in the subject line)

Entries must be received by February 15, 2016.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| BALALAIKA | LYRE |
| BANJO | MANDOLIN |
| BASS VIOL | ORGAN |
| CELLO | PIANO |
| CLAVICHORD | SITAR |
| CONTRABASS | UKULELE |
| DULCIMER | VIOLA |
| GUITAR | VIOLIN |
| HARPSICHORD | ZITHER |
| LUTE | |



Congratulations to Tracie Maysudaira
Winner of the November Word Search Contest!

Using Music to Teach



Saskia Garel

As a parent, if you're like me, you obsess about your child being ahead of the curve when it comes to learning everything from reading and writing to potty training and manners. You also want to ensure that any obstacle they face will be easily overcome with the skills you provide them with. In my experience, music has been my greatest collaborator. Not only in the "play classical music for my baby to make him a genius" kind of way, but actually using music to teach any type of information or skill. With my son, I would put on a one-woman show at mealtime, playtime, bedtime and basically every time in between. Yes, it was a bit or a lot excessive, but I just didn't want him to struggle or be bored and uninspired. I wanted to stimulate his little brain and expose him to everything.



What I began to notice was that he had an unbelievable ability to learn and retain information because of the songs I entertained him with. By utilizing the combination of lyrics, rhythm and melody, music can aid in the learning experience. Tristan could spell his name as early as he could talk because I taught him the letters in his name to the tune of Twinkle Twinkle Little Star. At Tristan's daycare, I remember other parents marveling over his ability to recite, not only our home phone number but our cell numbers and his address—in case he ever got lost or separated from us in a crowd. At 6, he was one of the few people in his Scouts Troop that knew the entire pledge by heart by the second meeting, all because I put a melody to it... and to this day he remembers it verbatim, without even having to sing it.

It has been the same with my daughter, Mixie. Since I witnessed the power of music and the fantastic effects it had on my son's learning, I added to our repertoire. At two years old she can read phonetically as I never sang the ABC song to her in the traditional way. I sang it to her phonetically so when she sees a letter, instead of saying its name, she says its sound. If I show her a three-letter word like CAT, she basically sounds it out right away instead of having to discern that the letter C makes the CUH sound. I went as far as to make up songs that highlight sight words, letter blending, prefixes and suffixes. Even as they grow older the songs that I created for them as babies remain ingrained in their little heads. They never suspected that they were learning.

So, try music the next time you want to teach your child anything at all. You can use traditional melodies with your own words or make up your own tunes altogether. I promise you, you don't have to have a beautiful singing voice or impeccable rhythm...you just have to be enthusiastic and fun. A little tip: record yourself so you don't forget the wonderful creations you dream up! I did just that and put together a CD of 24 songs that I sing to my kids all the time. It's called *All in a Day's Play* and is available on iTunes and CD Baby.

BTW, Tristan is now 8 and hasn't conquered eating over his plate. I'm convinced there is just no song for that unfortunately, unless you count "Eat the Crumbs Right off the Floor" sung to the tune of Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes!!

Saskia Garel is a Mom/Singer/Songwriter/Author/Artist
Please visit www.saskiagarel.net

iFantastic!



Kate Karp

Whether you're teaching a dual-immersion or a bilingual primary class in English and Spanish or if you just want to introduce English-only children to Spanish, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band's *iFantastic!* fits its title (that's *fantastic*, natch).

The indie-rock band is a combo of accordions, harmonicas, percussion, guitars and vocalists, including Diaz's wife, Alisha Gaddis. The Jam Band's music has been featured on a major soft-drink commercial, and their previous albums have won praise, including being named Best New Children's Artist by *USA Today*. Their latest collection, sung entirely in Spanish, will have children and parents latching on to the music like a grab bar in a train and joyfully riding it all the way to the last stop.



Some of the songs on the CD were translations of previously recorded Jam Band tunes; the others were written for the CD. "Los números" ("The Numbers") will teach number names in Spanish, and "El gato astronauta," ("The Astronaut Cat"), charming in its own right, will extend the knowledge to simple addition. "A bailar" ("Let's Dance") involves directionality and body awareness through movement and a very catchy tune. "Tres ratones" ("Three Mice")

is a charmer of a repetitive tale: the title characters try to hold on to their own tales in a garden as they hide from a cat. The song's lyrics are simple and a natural fit for the rhythm and the accompanying Dylanesque harmonica played by Joe Harpcat.

The Spanish can be easily translated by anyone with a working knowledge of Spanish. They're available for free download at www.luckydiazmusic.com.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

A Bit of History

Music to the Ears

By D.H. Coop

I do not know exactly when music became important to me. It may have been on the ride in the car back from Valley Forge in 1949 with my mother, uncle, aunt and grandparents singing "Home on the Range." Or it may have been the radio shows of the day, such as *The Lone Ranger*, whose theme was from the *William Tell Overture*, or *The Green Hornet* and the theme "Flight of the Bumblebee." It could have been the two blocks of wood with sandpaper on them that I made music with in the first grade.

I do know that music made life enjoyable and that it became markers for events in my life. Elvis takes me back to the mid-fifties, Hank Williams to the lonely mornings in the fields, and Jack Benny to radio and television when families sat listening together to the same shows. Jack Benny would always get a laugh with his poor violin playing when in reality he was an accomplished violinist.

The truth is, music is good for our soul. For many of us, our music studio is in our bathtub or shower. What would humanity be without music and the teachers that pass the knowledge on to others? It is difficult to imagine a world without music.





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