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School News

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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

MARCH / APRIL 2016

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Brad Mason

As we continue to make strides to provide the best educational programs for Brea students, we are constantly looking for ways to enhance our curriculum. I couldn't be more pleased to announce that the Brea

Olinda Unified School District has been approved to receive \$400,000 in funding through the Career Technical Education (CTE) Incentive Grant. CTE offers a unique opportunity to engage students in an enormous variety of subjects, incorporating academic, creative and technical skills with the specific goal of preparing students for life after high school. These funds will be vital in improving and expanding some of our elective offerings throughout the district, specifically at the junior high and high school levels.

With these funds, we will be evaluating our elective programs at Brea Junior High School and Brea Olinda High School. We are looking at ways to improve our program offerings to ensure our students are well armed with the appropriate tools they need to thrive in the 21st century. The skills our students need to be successful in the 21st century are different than what they once were. Career-focused junior high and high school education programs boost academic achievement by making learning more relevant. We are working hard to evaluate our existing programs and will be adding electives that provide technical and "soft skills," such as teamwork, problem-solving, and personal responsibility, which help to prepare Brea students for their future careers. Studies have shown that career and technical education programs help all types of students: those who want rigorous academics and even college credits in a particular career area as well as those searching for a career pathway that will unlock new opportunities. We are thrilled to begin using these funds to add to our programming, and we look forward to continuing to give the best to our students.

Building a Magnet School: Laurel Elementary School's Summer Transformation

By Dr. Brad Mason, Superintendent

Big things continue to happen in Brea! We couldn't be happier to announce the opening of the district's very first magnet school this fall. For nearly 95 years, Laurel School has been providing elementary education to students in Brea. This summer, it will undergo a complete transformation and reopen its doors as Laurel Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration.

Just as its new name implies, Laurel Magnet School will emphasize innovation and career exploration. As I've stated before, I see schools as one of the strongest community assets the city of Brea has to offer our businesses, and we want our community to have a part in the education and programming we provide to Laurel students. That being said, a main focus of Laurel Magnet School will be partnerships with local businesses. We want to see Brea business leaders sponsoring classrooms and providing students with opportunities to solve real-world problems that affect their industries and employees. Additional areas of focus for the school will include a 1:1 student to technology device ratio and project-based Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs. Curriculum for Laurel will focus on a "hands-on, minds-on" learning approach, to give students the tools they need to address 21st-century issues.



Families can get excited that students residing within the Laurel attendance area or who already attend Laurel will be automatically enrolled in the new magnet school. Students who are interested in attending and reside within the district but outside the Laurel attendance area (or who do not currently attend Laurel) will need to go through an intra-district transfer process. By Board policy, intra-district transfer requests, which are transfers for families residing within the Brea-Olinda Unified School District boundaries, must be received by the district no later than March 31, 2016. Students who require a transfer from outside the school district will need to apply for an inter-district transfer. The window for inter-district transfers to the Laurel Magnet School will open April 1, 2016 and close on April 29. All transfers (both intra- and inter-district) will be approved based on space availability.

Opening a magnet school has been an ongoing discussion for the past few years. One million dollars in proceeds from the sale of Brea Corporate Place in 2014 have been allocated by the Board to support the school's startup and planning costs.

I am excited about the momentum we have created this year, and I look forward to continuing to work with the community to ensure that our students are given every opportunity to learn, grow, and excel in their education.

To learn more about Laurel Magnet School, please visit www.bousd.us.

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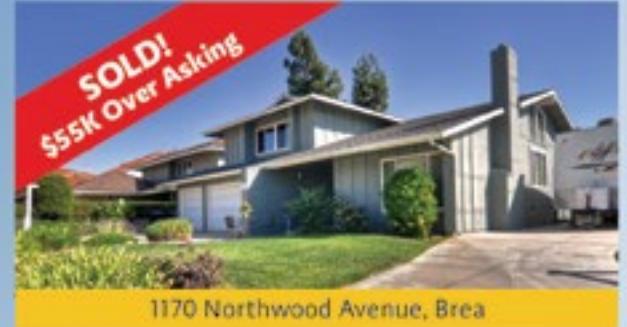
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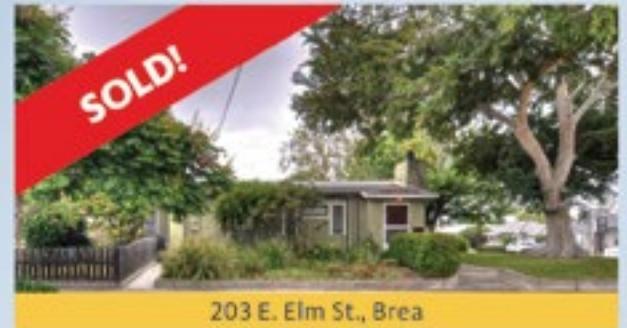
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our second year publishing the excellence from BOUSD. This is the best time to be a student with all of the programs and advances in technology. The classroom has changed dramatically the past few years and it is exciting to look to the future. As Superintendent Dr. Mason says in his article on the front page, the District is constantly looking for ways to enhance the curriculum.

In this issue you will read about the importance of parental involvement, students helping others, creativity and so much more.

Our next issue is May 18.

Brea Olinda Unified School District



Now Enrolling! School Age and Teen Programs

BOUSD's Before and After School programs offer a safe place for students and include homework assistance, enrichment activities, indoor play and outdoor recreation. Programs are located at every elementary school and Brea Junior High School. All program centers open at 7:00 a.m. each day and are open until the start of the school day. Sites reopen at school dismissal and remain open until 6:00 p.m. TK/Kindergarten Connection wrap-around programs compliment the traditional school day and provide a full day learning program for all of its participants and is also offered at each campus.



Full Day and Part Day Preschool

BOUSD's Early Learning Program was created to provide an enriched environment for early-aged children with benefits to their intellectual, physical, emotional and social development. State Preschool (income qualifying program) and Fee-Based programs are designed for potty-trained 3- and 4-year olds and are held at Arovista, Country Hills, Laurel, Mariposa, and Olinda. Full time and Part time options are available.

Seasonal Day Camps

Full day camp programs are offered during the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer breaks. Weekly tuition includes on site activities and off site field trips.



Registration/Information

For more information, please contact the Child Development Services Administrative Office at (714) 990-7527.

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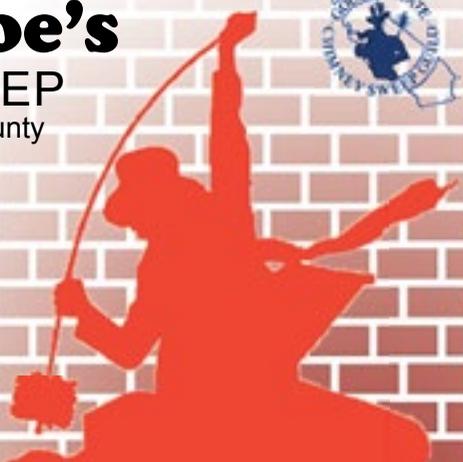
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March 25th at 6 p.m.



Easter Services

Sunday March 27th at
9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

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Arovista *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • <http://arovista.bousd.us>



Karen VanDine
Principal

Going Techie

Learning opportunities are rich and varied at Arovista Elementary School. The Arovista Allstars have been busy designing pathways for robots, constructing alarm clocks, writing digital stories, and using the Blockly language for coding. Take a peek into some of our classrooms.

Nine sets of Dash and Dot, our robot pairs, reside in Mrs. O'Rourke's fourth-grade class. Students gain experience in collaboration, creativity, and digital literacy, while having so much fun in the process. Students write code to direct Dash where to go. They have even programmed Dash to play the xylophone! Students are also understanding basic circuitry with Snap Circuits. Students can build exciting projects, such as radios, digital voice recorders, burglar alarms, doorbells, and more.

Several third- through sixth-grade classrooms took part in the Hour of Code, introducing students to the Blockly language. Students can continue to code at home by visiting code.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science. All of our students will be experiencing coding throughout the year.

Mrs. Diaz is guiding her first-graders and kindergarteners in the art of email. They sent their first projects to their teachers for review over the Internet. They have created digital stories and digital posters online. They truly are digital natives.

Mrs. Brown's fifth-graders are writing stories on Google Story Builder, where students see their creations turned into digital videos. Story Builder allows students to create mini-movies or video stories with the feel of Google Docs. The finished videos are then shared for all of the students to enjoy!

The coding and technology experiences available at Arovista will inspire our students to explore careers in the field of computer programming. The Arovista Allstars are definitely going techie!

Brea Canyon *High School (9-12)*

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • <http://bchs-bousd-ca.schoolloop.com>



Carol Christman
Principal

Students Helping Others

Brea Canyon High School (BCHS) students began the 2016 year by volunteering to Save A Life. On Monday, January 4, BCHS Leadership Club sponsored the Red Cross Blood Mobile. Students arrived to see the van in the parking lot where they would be donating blood throughout the day. Several community members also participated in the blood drive. A HUGE shout out to all the students who signed up to donate blood. A special thank you to Abel Gonzales, Brea Canyon High School senior, and to Mr. Verry, BCHS teacher, for organizing this great event.



Brea *Junior High School (7-8)*

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • <http://bjhs.bousd.us>



Kelly Kennedy
Principal

Acts of Kindness

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. —Aesop

Brea Junior High School believes in empowering its students to develop the knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make a positive impact in the

world around them. Over the years, we have supported many worthwhile causes.

Last year, our Pennies For Patients campaign raised \$5,340 for leukemia and lymphoma research, and we are looking forward to another successful drive this year. Since 2005, we have collected over \$50,000 for this charity.

In addition, we are proud to be celebrating our 16th year helping HomeAid Orange County to end homelessness in Orange County. Every year, our eighth-grade students write letters to local businesses and host a silent auction with the donations, which raised \$4,301 this year, making our grand total over \$42,000!

Our students are making a heartfelt difference in our community!



Brea Country Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • <http://countryhills.bousd.us>



Trish Walsh
Principal

A Great Time to Be a Cougar!

It's been a great year so far at Country Hills. Our school's goal is to re-energize our focus on learning, and we are doing it every day. Even our buildings and playgrounds have gotten a boost!

The students are learning so much in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. We are using new materials and technology all the time, like Think Central Math, Imagine Learning, Accelerated Reader, and more. The students are all thinking more critically in math with the "Go Math" program, our writing is more organized with the new "Step Up to Writing," and we are able to collaborate and be more creative with Google Apps for Education!

Aside from the new curriculum and technology being used in the classrooms, for added growth we are also stepping up our physical activities and special assemblies. We appreciate all that our district, school board, and PTA are doing this year for the students at Country Hills.



Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • <http://bohs.bousd.us>



Jerry Halpin
Principal

The 4 A's—Excellence!

2015–16 has been another banner year for Brea Olinda High School (BOHS) in the areas in which the school excels: the four A's—academics, activities, arts and athletics.

BOHS students have done well in the classroom and in academic competitions. As of the deadline for this article, over 400 students have registered to take at least one Advanced Placement (AP) exam, and juniors are preparing to take the statewide CAASPP testing in May. The Academic Decathlon Team finished third in the Super Quiz at the Orange County Academic Decathlon Championships, while seven students captured individual honors.

Cheer Squad competed in the ESPN National Championships in Florida, qualified for the finals, and finished 15th in the nation. ASB completed a very successful blood drive during the fall semester in which nearly 100 students, a tremendous number for a school of our size, donated blood.

Artistically, BOHS has produced over a dozen stage productions this year in dance, musical theater, vocal music, drama and instrumental music. Marching Band qualified for state championships, finishing in the top 10 for their division. Our competition show choirs—Masquerade, Spellbound, Tiffany and Company, and Thundercats—are in the middle of their competition season, attempting to qualify for Nationals for the fourth year in a row.

Athletically, BOHS has won league championships in football, boys' and girls' cross-country, and girls' basketball—Ladycats—during the school year. Boys' cross-country captured their third consecutive CIF and second consecutive state championship, while girls' cross-country finished seventh in the state. Football finished as runner-up for a CIF championship. The Ladycats qualified as the second seed in the CIF-SS Open Division Playoffs, the highest division in CIF.

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Laurel *Elementary (K-6)*

200 S. Flower Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2520 • <http://laurel.bousd.us>



Heather Bojorquez
Principal

Learning About History

The year began with an exciting showcase of research and learning for our fifth- and sixth-grade students.

The school hosted its second Laurel History Night where the students presented projects that correlated to the National History Day theme of “Exploration, Encounter, and

Exchange.” These presentations culminated in four months of rigorous classroom research where the students could dig deep into the “4 C’s” of learning: creativity, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking.

One Laurel student shared with us that, “It was really hard, but I learned a lot about my topic. I am proud of the work I did.” As principal, I am always impressed with the poise and professionalism that is demonstrated at this event.

Laurel is also proud to be recognizing 17 students who will move on to compete in the County National History Day competition at the Orange County Department of Education on Saturday, March 12. Good luck to all of our Leopards! You make us proud.



Laurel students who will compete at the county National History Day competition.



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William E. Fanning *Elementary (K-6)*

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Susan Metcalf
Principal

Families are Partners

At Fanning, we recognize that true student success cannot be achieved without enlisting families as our partners in education.

Through our annual Jog-A-Thon, Fanning PTA raises funds to support enrichment programs that support academics and provide arts education. Donations help pay for buses for all students for field trips to Tanaka Farms, Griffith Observatory and Riley’s Farm. Art programs include our annual school play, John Yeiser music education and Fibo visual arts.

Large numbers of family members are on campus during holiday parties and academic activities. Our vibrant PTA Facebook page and school Instagram help share these experiences with family members who can’t attend.



We launched a new program to bring more fathers and father figures—grandfathers, uncles, etc.—to campus, called Watch D.O.G.S. As a program of the National Center for Fathering, Fanning joined more than 5,000 schools across the U.S. to specifically reach out to fathers to help support education and safety on campus.

Mariposa *Elementary (K-6)*

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • <http://mariposa.bousd.us>



Daryn Coburn
Principal

The Marvelous Imagination Machine

It's an annual tradition for The Imagination Machine, a group of actors who bring students' creative writing to life, to visit Mariposa School each February. All teachers are encouraged to have their students write stories and submit them just before winter break. The fictitious tales are mailed to the company and read. The staff selects 10 to 12 winners, and those are the narratives performed on stage.

PTA sponsors this amazing program, which gives students the opportunity to expand their creativity. The selected narratives and their authors are not revealed until the day of the performance. So, it is quite an honor for the "chosen ones" to learn that their tale will be acted out. The actors are professional and cleverly retell the stories with props and ad-libbing. At the end, the authors are recognized and receive a certificate. The event is anticipated yearly and inspires some creative works from many Mariposa students.



Olinda *Elementary (K-6)*

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • <http://olinda.bousd.us>



Robert Rendon
Principal

Readers and Leaders

The new year is off to a great start at Olinda Elementary School. Students and teachers are reading, writing, creating, and curating content to make learning come alive.

School-wide programs include our continued use of ST Math (JiJi Math), Imagine Learning, Google Tools, and Google Classroom. Students are participating in the JiJi Music piano program for one semester. They are learning to read music and to play basic chords in our state-of-the-art keyboard lab.

Carolyn Jago, an educational consultant, stated that our school goal should be to have students become independent readers and competent writers. If we accomplish these two goals, students will have great success. To reinforce and support reading, Olinda recently celebrated Community Leader Reader Day. All classrooms had the opportunity to enjoy hearing a book



read by a community leader, including a very special guest reader, former Olinda principal Mrs. Kennedy, who returned to campus to read to our classes.

Contest!

This chicken is in this publication.
When you find it, email the **page number** to:
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Your entry must be received by April 15, 2016
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

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