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School News

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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

NOVEMBER 2016–FEBRUARY 2017

SUPERINTENDENT



State of the Schools Breakfast

Happy Holidays! We hope that all of the students, teachers, staff, and administrators of our wonderful district had a happy and healthy start to the new school year.

As we move forward into this school year, we continue to look at a brighter horizon for our district.

In late September, we were able to gather together as a community as the Brea Education Foundation hosted the district's inaugural State of the Schools breakfast. District employees, parents, community members, and dignitaries gathered together at the Brea Community Center to hear how Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) is paving the path and "Building for the Future" of all Brea students. Brea Junior High School students led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Guests were also treated to performances by the Brea Olinda High School Drum Line as well as a beautiful rendition of "Dream a Little Dream of Me" by Brea Olinda High School junior Kristin Camacho.

As attendees dined on fruit and pastries, I was honored to share videos and a presentation that highlighted the district's recent accomplishments, summer facilities projects, and new program additions, including an upcoming partnership with Fullerton College. This was the first year of the breakfast, and it was amazing to see the support of the community and everyone together in one room.

The district is hoping to make this breakfast the place to be every September!

Dr. Brad Mason

*By Dr. Brad Mason
Superintendent*

We are committed to the continued growth of our students to prepare them for successful futures in a 21st century world.

Results of the 2016 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests showed that student scores throughout Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) showed improvement in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. Now in its second year, the Smarter Balanced assessments for BOUSD in standardized tests for English language arts showed that 67 percent of BOUSD students met or exceeded standards compared to 57 percent in Orange County and 49 percent in California. In standardized tests for math, 59 percent of BOUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 48 percent in Orange County and 37 percent in California. Our subgroups—English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged and Hispanic/Latino—also remain above the state and Orange County averages.

Growth and Excellence



While we are proud that BOUSD scores remain above state and Orange County averages in both ELA and mathematics standards, statewide assessments provide valuable information about overall student progress and areas for improvement, but they do not provide a holistic view of student achievement. As a district, we evaluate students throughout the school year to provide support to students who require additional development or enrichment.

I am pleased to see positive growth in grade levels throughout the district. This is a good indication that the collaborative efforts of teachers and staff and the dedication of our students are allowing us to move in the right direction. There is still a lot of work to be done, and we will not shy away from that challenge. We are committed to the continued growth of our students to prepare them for successful futures in a 21st century world.

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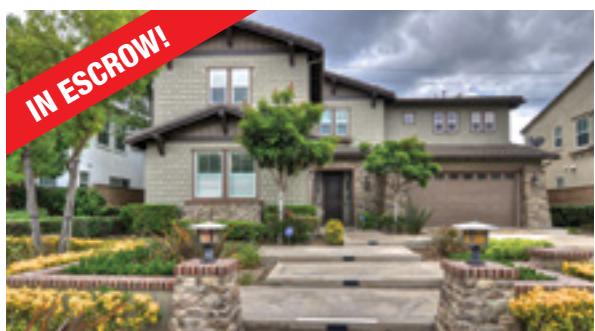
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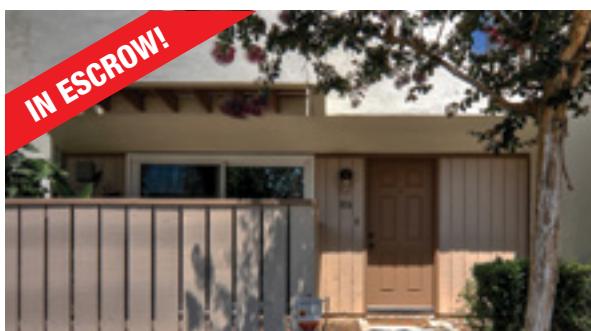
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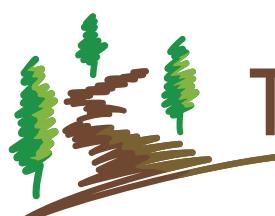
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This school year is off to a great start and seems to be going fast.

In this issue you will read about College & Beyond, Counselor-in-Training program, Round Up, AVID, STEM and so much more...enjoy!

We had a record number of entries in our September contest. I enjoy your comments when you email your answer.

Our next issue is March 15, 2017. Until then Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed services who are not home with their families.

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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.

Arovista Elementary (K-6)

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



Round Up: A Family Tradition

Round Up at Arovista Elementary School is a magical time. It is a time for families to get together for some good ol' family fun. It is a time for graduates to come back and visit their favorite teachers. Most importantly, it is a time to start the year off with some great memories that will last a lifetime!

Round Up is a tradition at Arovista. Our second-graders showed their stuff on the square-dancing floor, which is always a favorite event! Our silent auction is always a big hit, and



there were some bargains to be had! Our student council leaders, under the direction of Mrs. Noffal, sold hats, bandanas, and slap bracelets to celebrate Western Day.

Another favorite event is the Cake Go Round, which was hosted by our own Mr. Book!

As usual, we had a fantastic time. Our PTA and dedicated parents make this day a reality!

Karen VanDine
Principal

Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

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



Building Pathways

The year is quickly moving forward as our first quarter comes to an end. Notably, one of Brea Canyon's highlights this quarter involved the Brea Olinda Unified School District's (BOUSD) Counselor-in-Training (C.I.T.) program.

The C.I.T. program and Brea Canyon continued their partnership during this school year with two events in September. Rebecca Smith, child development teen coordinator, introduced the C.I.T. program to students and families at our Coyote Back to School Night on the evening of September 27.



This initial presentation was followed by a student body assembly on Friday, September 30, where Rebecca brought with her Chris Becerra, director of child development services, and a panel of two Brea Canyon/C.I.T. alumni. They spoke on behalf of the program as current employees of the BOUSD.

As a result of our collective C.I.T. outreach efforts, we had 19 Brea Canyon students indicate that they were interested in the program, with 19 C.I.T. application packets in hand. If students are chosen to participate, they will be able to earn one high school elective credit for every 30 hours they intern at a Child Development Center.

Go, C.I.T. And go, Coyotes!

Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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



Not Just Our Dream, But Our Plan!

Brea Junior High prides itself on preparing students for 21st century college and careers, and has added a new elective opportunity to prepare our students for their futures. AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)

is a program dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities.

Within the AVID class, students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help during the school day from college tutors, visit local college campuses, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. This year, BJH is offering four sections of AVID for both seventh- and eighth-graders, with over 100 students taking advantage of this new course.

All our AVID students proudly embrace the vision that "college is not just our dream—it's our plan!"



Brea Country Hills Elementary (K-6)

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



Tis the Season for Cougars

The Brea Country Hills Elementary School Cougars are getting into the holiday spirit in many ways. Our annual Color Run was a fantastic fund-raiser for our school, illustrating the giving nature of our community as we work together to help enrich our school.

The student council leaders organized a service learning project with students on Halloween, visiting a local memory care center. The leaders created a partnership with the community business to visit other times during the year as well.

First-graders will be performing at the annual Brea Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Civic & Cultural Center. They look forward to sharing songs and goodwill to kick off the holiday season here in Brea.

Cougars continue to support each other and the community during December with Toys for Tots and the student council-sponsored canned food drive. Our school is truly one where learning and community come together to make it one happy place to be!



Teachers See the Possibilities

In Jennifer Swanson's high school English class, seniors master material that prepares them for college and careers, gaining writing and communication skills that will benefit them throughout their lives.



Arroyo High School, Expository English Class, Teacher: Jennifer Swanson '96, M.A.Ed. '99

Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

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



College and Beyond

Ensuring our students are prepared for life after they graduate from Brea Olinda High School (BOHS) is one of our top priorities. To that end, the BOHS Guidance Office hosted various events in October to make sure Brea students and families are equipped with a wealth of information as they begin to make decisions about college and the future.

Students and parents visited the BOHS gym to attend a college fair with over 65 out-of-state colleges and universities, as well as several from Europe and Canada. Additionally, over 300 parents and students packed the BOHS Performing Arts Center that same week for the annual Roadmap to College Night. Breakout sessions included Crafting the College Essay, Applying to the University of California and California State University Systems, Financial Aid, and the State of College Admissions.

We look forward to continuing to aid our Wildcats as they begin to make important decisions about the future.



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William E. Fanning Elementary (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • <http://fanning.bousd.us>



STEM Activities for 21st-Century Learners

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) are a daily part of what students learn at Fanning Elementary School. Teachers integrate lessons that are active and focus on student-centered learning environments. Students engage in questioning, problem solving, collaboration, and hands-on activities while they address real life issues.

In fifth grade, students collaborate on a design challenge, teaching them how to work in teams to accomplish a specific task. Students learn from experts in the field, such as a parent speaker who shared with fifth-graders about the forms of renewable energy and a chemistry professor who taught kindergarten students about chemical reactions by making slime.

Students use a variety of resources, including code.org to create code, using an electronic tablet to control Dash and Dot, our robots. We also have a Lego Innovation Lab, where students collaborate, build, and extend their learning through experimentation. Even our second-grade students use the lab to code in school and at home.

Our students, staff, parents, and community are working together to prepare our children for tomorrow.

Theresa Stevens

Principal



Mariposa Elementary (K-6)

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



Library Enriches Learning

Jeanne Steffanni, the media tech at Mariposa, is proud to share, after many years of waiting for funding, that the school is utilizing Follett Destiny Library Manager for managing our library resources. The software not only allows librarians and administrators to keep thorough, real-time track of our library's media assets but also gives students a fun means of discovery.

Some of its fantastic features that parents can access from home through their children's Google account include determining what books a student currently has checked out, what books the student has placed on hold, and the child's checkout history. The system is especially popular because it gives our students the capability to browse the books in Mariposa's library from the convenience of the lab, student machines, Chromebooks or at home. Not only can our children search for a book and look at their account but parents will receive an email if the child has an overdue book as well.



Mrs. Steffanni said that she was so glad that our students are now empowered to find titles using 21st century tools.

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration

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



Local Partnerships Bring Learning to Life

What makes a magnet school a unique learning environment? All magnet schools have a theme and a schoolwide focus. At Laurel, we focus on innovation and career exploration.

Here, we highlight our career-exploration emphasis. Each classroom was adopted by a local business to develop a career exploration partnership. In the fall, we began our study during our Career Exploration Kickoff event. This partnership allows students to see and explore how their learning applies in a real-world setting.

During the first visit, all partners came to share their education and career experiences as well as bring a hands-on activity in some cases. Laurel students participated in lemonade tasting and comparison, orthodontic exploration and landscape design, and they even got to discuss the life of a police officer!

Our partners will continue to return to campus periodically to present industry problems for our students to creatively solve. Later this year, some students will have the opportunity to travel to our business partners' places of employment to see their learning in action. Mark your calendar for Friday, June 2, 2017, when all our students will showcase their work and learning from their career-exploration partnership.

Thanks to all of our partners who support innovative learning at Laurel!

Heather
Bojorquez

Principal



Laurel is proud to host our community partners

Olinda Elementary (K-6)

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



A Wonderful Start

Our Olinda Eagles at every grade level have been keeping very busy this year learning and growing. Recently, our kindergarten and transitional kindergarten students went on an imaginary hike with the traveling scientist. The students discovered rabbits, chinchillas, toads, and a tortoise. They learned about the characteristics that animals have which help them to survive.

Our first-grade students have been connected to their Google accounts, and became herpetologists at our Scales and Slime assembly. In the second grade, we have implemented our weekly social studies, science, and technology rotations and STEM Fridays. The students have been strengthening their 21st-century skills with their STEM projects every Friday.

Third-grade students are starting to learn about biomes and adaptations in science. In language arts, the third-graders are writing an essay titled, "The Best Part of Me." In math, students are learning to graph and use the results to answer questions about comparing data. At the end of the unit, they will create a graph with information on the classes' favorite Halloween candy.

Our fourth-graders are busy learning all about ecosystems in science, and the regions of our state. They are finishing up a graphic organizer in our Google classrooms that depict all four regions. Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Cerwinski's class just finished up the novel Wonder, and are working towards becoming an officially recognized "Certified Kind Classroom." Ms. Berner's students have been busy starting on memorizing their states and capitals, and Ms. Jones' students started to learn coding with Spheros.

Our sixth grade is using Blendspace.com to create fun, interactive lessons that incorporate digital content and discussion boards. The students are making Salt Dough Maps to model the effects of weathering and erosion on the Earth's surface. We can't wait to continue learning and growing throughout the year!

Contest!

This student is in one of the pictures in this issue. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put Brea Olinda in the subject line.



Your entry must be received by December 15, 2016. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations Avalee Thompson
Winner of the September Contest!

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