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School News

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Covering the Buena Park School District



Volume 1, Issue 2

February–April 2017

2017: Student Opportunity & Achievement at BPSD



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LET'S GET READING!

One year ago, the Buena Park Literacy Collaborative, led by Superintendent Greg Magnuson, Mayor Art Brown, and Library Director Mary McCasland, challenged Buena Park children to read 5 million words.

So far, we have read nearly 20 times that goal!

Buena Park is making "Big Brains for Little People!"
Come join us!!

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This fun reading app in English and Spanish is FREE to residents in Zip Codes

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¡VAMOS A LEER!

Un año atrás, Buena Park Literacy Collaborative, dirigido por el Superintendente Greg Magnuson, el Alcalde Art Brown y la Directora de la biblioteca, Mary McCasland, retaron a los niños de Buena Park a leer 5 millones de palabras. **Hasta el momento, ¡hemos leído casi 20 veces más que el objetivo!**

Buena Park está desarrollando "¡cerebros grandes para personas pequeñas!". ¡Comparte con nosotros!

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SUPERINTENDENT



Greg Magnuson
Superintendent

2017: Great Promise for BPSD Students

As we enter the new year, I extend my warmest wishes to our parents, students, and staff. Visiting each school during the first week of January, I have found our students and teachers invigorated and energized about their work and the activities at their schools.

With the start of 2017, we welcome Ms. Irene Castaneda as our newest member of the Buena Park School District Governing Board.

Ms. Castaneda represents BPSD Trustee Area 4, which overlaps the Gilbert and Buena Park Junior High School attendance areas. Ms. Castaneda also serves on the Buena Park Library District Board of Trustees and has children attending our district's schools.

It is indeed an amazing time in Buena Park School District as we turn the page from 2016 to 2017. Our class sizes remain among the smallest in Orange County, enabling our staff to commit more time to both individual and small groups of students. Our staff and students have embraced the "digital learning revolution" using numerous software applications, iPads, and new classroom capabilities for interactive learning, access to real-time resources, and spawning greater creativity in their school work. Further, the work of our early literacy staff is demonstrating the promise of the investments we've made in this important area. We are seeing higher reading levels, expanded vocabulary, and stronger writing skills in our four- to eight-year-old students.

In this issue of the Buena Park School District *School News Roll Call*, I invite you to enjoy several examples of the great work of our students and staff, as each of our principals has selected an element of his or her school program to share with you. Additionally, from our district office, I invite you to read about our exciting partnership with Biola University, to hear about our Pathway to Early Learning, and to be introduced to our team of professional counselors, who support the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students.

For all of us at the Buena Park School District, it is not only our pleasure to share the stories of our students', parents' and staff members' work with you, it is an honor to serve our community and meet the promise of "Improving the Lives of Our Students and Families." Find out more about the exciting programs at BPSD schools, follow our daily activities, and provide comment at www.facebook.com/BuenaParkSchoolDistrict and on our Web site at www.bpsd.k12.ca.us.

Did You Know?

Early Learning Pathway

The Buena Park School District's Early Learning Pathway provides our youngest learners in pre-kindergarten, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten with the opportunity to build a strong foundation of learning that will continue to grow as they gain more knowledge and skills.

Teachers in the program use the California Preschool Foundations to offer environments and integrated activities that are intentionally focused on the individual learning styles and needs of all our children. The foundations are aligned with the state kindergarten academic standards, with additional learning content placed on social-emotional development and supporting English language learners. When these foundations are used as a guide for how young children master learning skills, young students can transition from preschool/transitional kindergarten to kindergarten with more ease and success. Our rich program provides opportunities and experiences to support and strengthen our children's social-emotional competence, language and literacy skills, and math and science abilities.

Please contact the district office for more information at (714) 522-8412.

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Happy New Year!

New beginnings are always filled with hope and excitement of what is to come. Students are focused on their goals, which is evident in the articles in this issue. In fact, you might want to get a comfortable chair and plan to read for awhile. In this issue you will read about the importance of parental involvement, connecting with your child, fine art in the classroom, researching historical events, succeeding in reading, and much more. Also, on page 5 the Child Nutrition Department shares with you their focus on supporting student nutrition education and healthy eating habits.

Superintendent Magnuson's message on page 3 starts the year off bringing you up to date on the programs and activities available for the Buena Park School District students including the partnership with Biola University. You can read more about it in the Literacy Laboratory article on page 5.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. If you would like to share the news with friends and relatives, we are always happy to email you a digital copy.

Don't forget to enter our word search contest on page 10.

Our next issue is April 26.

School News

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Counselors

6885 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8412

BPSD Counselors Making a Difference

By Ramon Miramontes, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent,
Educational Services

The Buena Park School District believes that a comprehensive school counseling program is an integral component of the school's academic mission. School counselors set the tone for developing the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for children to become healthy, competent, and confident learners.

Through a comprehensive developmental school counseling program, counselors work as a team with school staff members, parents, and the community to create a caring climate and atmosphere. By providing education, prevention, early identification, and intervention, school counselors can help all children achieve academic success.

The BPSD counseling program is aligned with American School Counseling Association's (ASCA) national standards in the academic, career, and personal/social domains and includes the following service models:

Classroom Guidance—The counseling program's standards-based curriculum is delivered to all students at the prevention level through classroom guidance lessons. Each kindergarten through second-grade class receives one lesson per week for eight to 10 weeks, and instruction in third through sixth grades is based on grade-level needs. Lessons address academic, career, and personal/social topics. Personal/social lessons address issues such as friendship, conflict resolution, anti-bullying education, coping skills, decision-making skills, self-esteem, and self-regulation.

Group Counseling—Group counseling usually consists of six to eight weekly, 30-minute sessions. These sessions occur during the regular school day. Typically, groups do not meet during recess or lunch, as these are important times for socialization and physical movement. Topics include friendship, social skills, self-regulation, study skills, and conflict resolution. Group topics are determined by need and the impact the issue is having on the student's academic progress.

Individual Counseling—Individual counseling sessions are typically eight to 10 weeks on a one-to-one basis. Topics include anxiety, changing families, grief/loss issues, and self-regulation. If an issue requires additional support, resources and/or referrals are provided.



Crisis Intervention—Crisis intervention is provided as an immediate response. If the issues are ongoing or traumatic, referrals are promptly made.

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Literacy Laboratory

Literacy Lab Partnership

By Ramon Miramontes, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services

In May 2016, Dr. June Hetzel, Dean of Biola University School of Education, and her staff visited Pendleton and Whitaker Elementary Schools to observe literacy instruction and the supporting educational technology. Recognizing that these schools are exemplars for early literacy instruction, the university and Buena Park School District (BPSD) have established a working Literacy Lab partnership. As part of this partnership, Biola undergraduate and graduate students are placed with BPSD kindergarten through third-grade teachers to complete 30 fieldwork hours. As the 2016–2017 school year ends, the Literacy Lab partnership is “graduating” its first cohort of future teachers.

Just after the beginning of the school year, seven teachers from Pendleton and five teachers from Whitaker opened their classrooms to 18 eager Biola students, who assisted in student assessments, small-group instruction, and individual student support. Due to the success of the program and the dedication of our participating teachers, BPSD will host 55 students in at least four BPSD schools beginning in the second semester of this school year.

“This is an exciting opportunity for our teaching staff and Biola students to share knowledge as well as new and proven teaching methods for the benefit of students and both organizations,” noted BPSD Superintendent Greg Magnuson.



As stated in the partnership agreement, this model of collaboration is based on the premise that established and consistent relationships between the university and the school district will allow for quality placements with highly qualified, effective district teachers and ensure that Biola students positively impact school culture and student learning at respective school sites. Consistency, quality, excellence in teaching and

learning, and commitment and dependability are the core values and intentional outcomes of this collaboration.

A special thank you to BPSD teachers Maria D'Allura, Cindy Flores, Amy Biesiada, Shelly Michel, Monica Young, Marcie Miladinovich Young, Kristin Sherman, Arlene Fraser, Ashlee Ignacio, Sally Santos, Jenny Feeney, and Kim Ivora for opening their classrooms as Literacy Labs.

Child Nutrition Department

6885 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8412

Smarter Lunches for Students

By Kelvin Tsunezumi, Assistant Superintendent –
Administrative Services

The Buena Park School District (BPSD) Child Nutrition Department has partnered with St. Jude Medical Center, the Orange County Department of Education (OCDE), and the Dairy Council of California to further promote healthy eating behaviors for our students. The team is working under the statewide Smarter Lunch Room Movement of California initiative to support student nutrition education and healthy eating habits by:

- Expanding nutrition education (i.e., explaining to students, parents, staff, and other stakeholders the benefit of healthy diet choices, enhancing knowledge of the intent and scope of school nutrition requirements, etc.).
- Supporting the Child Nutrition Department with financial resources and subject matter expert resources to meet or exceed new federal and state meal standards.
- Promoting consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat/fat free dairy.
- Increasing the visibility and availability of healthy food choices.

- Providing food choices that enhance taste expectations.
- Enhancing the lunchroom environment.

Within the district, numerous meetings have been held, and our partners have commented on how impressed they are with what the district has already accomplished. For example, the team notes that BPSD's salad bars (pictured below) are already presented and offered to students in accordance with the smarter lunch guidelines.

BPSD's Child Nutrition Department continuously strives to improve school breakfast and lunch menus. We are engaging with the Wellness Committee at the Spring into Fitness Fair (tentatively scheduled for April 2017) to have students and parents conduct taste tests. Taste tests will provide an opportunity for students and parents to try new foods, compare menu items, and cast their votes for their favorites. Various lunch and breakfast entrees will be sampled, with all sampled options conforming to stringent federal and state meal standards. Entrees that are well received will be added to our breakfast and/or lunch menus.



Gordon H. Beatty (K—6)

8201 Country Club Dr., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/523-1160



Making a Difference

It is a privilege and honor for me to work with such dedicated parents, who voluntarily dedicate their time to make a difference for Beatty Elementary School students. This dedication is evident in the activities and events that occur throughout the year. From the wonderful turnout at awards ceremonies and family events to the excited support generated at performances, special team tournaments, and academic activities, our parents are engaged in the academic journey right along with our students and staff members.

We are fortunate to have so many parent volunteers making Beatty a great place for our students to learn. As a part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, we encourage students to follow the Beatty Way: Be Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn. We celebrate students who have followed the Beatty Way by having a barbecue or other special event each month. We have over 500 students participating in these monthly celebrations, and we rely on our parents

to dedicate their time and energy to make these events possible. We appreciate all they do!

This year, parents initiated a revamping of our Beatty Home School Organization's annual jog-a-thon fund-raiser to become a fit-a-thon. One parent, Mrs. Dorothea Williams, explained, "I volunteered to chair the fit-a-thon because I believe that by teaching our students that being fit can also be fun, we will encourage them to stay active throughout their lives, which will help them to stay healthy, not only in body but also in mind, leading to happier, more productive lives." This event is planned to not only raise funds for student activities and resources, but also to promote a lifestyle of health and wellness. At the fit-a-thon, students will have opportunities to participate in various activities, including an obstacle course, a potato sack race, a bean bag toss, relay races, and more.

I can truly say that the staff members and parents of Beatty School are fully committed to achieving our school's mission to embrace diversity and develop lifelong learners who contribute to the global community and to living the district's theme to improve the lives of our students and families.

Buena Park Junior High (7—8)

6931 Orangethorpe Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8491



Getting Connected

It's not easy being a parent of an adolescent child. As developing young people, adolescent students are typically less likely to engage their parents in conversation about what goes on in their lives. These young people are seeking out new role models as a normal part of social development, and they are likely to talk the ears off their favorite teachers, coaches, or new friends in school.

Parents need both visibility and enough information to talk with their students about the things that are important, such as their grades, who they are hanging out with, and what school events are going on. Usually when you ask an adolescent a question like "How are your grades?" the answer will be "okay"—whether he or she has straight As or all Fs. So you need a little information about their day at school so you can ask specific questions that can't be answered with just a "yes" or "no." At Buena Park Junior High School (BPJHS), we have an app for that.

Hero and SchoolGO are software applications for tablets and smart phones that help to get that extra bit of information out of your adolescent. Hero can be

downloaded free by BPJHS parents. It enables parents to see if their students are meeting school expectations of being respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. The Hero app allows teachers and administrators to award Stallion Points to students to recognize good choices at school. You can then say to your child, "I saw that you got five Stallion Points in your science class today for being responsible. Can you please tell me how you earned those points?" You may still get an "I don't know," but you are more likely to hear about the team project and how your son or daughter was recognized for being a responsible member of the team. The application also tracks improvement issues, including late arrival to class and poor behavior inside or outside of the classroom.

The second application available to our BPJHS parents is SchoolGo, which can also be downloaded for free. It gives parents day-to-day information, including student grades, events, and upcoming assignments. This information provides parents with the insight needed to engage and support their students.

The old African proverb is that it takes a village to raise a child. At BPJHS, we strive to engage our village to ensure our students grow up to be successful in all that they do.

Arthur F. Corey (K—6)

7351 Holder St., Buena Park, CA 90620 • 714/522-8389



Valerie Connolly
Principal

National History Day

The engagement of students is a priority for all of us at Corey School. One way we have achieved this over the last three years is by making history come alive for our fifth- and sixth-grade students through participation in the National History Day (NHD) contest.

Students and staff are excited about NHD because it is a project-based learning experience, which allows students to experience history in an interesting way. “I never thought school could be so fun and that I could learn so much!” shared a fifth-grade student after completing her NHD project on an influential woman in history.

This year’s NHD theme is “Taking a Stand in History.” Our students have done an amazing job on their projects. Students worked both individually and in teams to select and research important historical figures or events tied to the theme. During the

creation of their projects, students learned and applied their skills to create cohesive and meaningful final projects in a variety of forms, including websites, documentaries, performances, or crafted exhibits.

Each NHD project has been judged for quality, and each entrant or group has been interviewed about the process used and what the students learned about their topics. The top three projects from each grade level will be selected in February to go on to the county-level NHD competition at the Orange County Department of Education.

We are so proud of our students and excited about the positive impact of National History Day and project-based learning.



Charles G. Emery (K—6)

8600 Somerset St., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-5134



Julie Linnecke
Principal

Fine Arts Experience

“What I like about our art program is learning about famous artists and the techniques they used to create their pieces,” said a sixth-grader. As an elementary educator, I believe art is an essential component of a quality educational experience. Research shows that art supports the development of cognitive, social-emotional, and multi-sensory skills.

At Charles G. Emery School, our students experience

a comprehensive art program delivered in a systematic manner. This program teaches techniques and art history, but it also allows for student creativity.

Each month, students learn about the life of a famous artist through an interactive presentation. Then they are taught an art lesson based on the techniques and inspiration of that artist. Students are encouraged to take risks and develop their creative potential. Through art, they interpret, think critically, and create.

At Emery, our art programs help our children to become well-rounded individuals.



Proud 2nd Graders sharing their art samples



4th Grade Art Lesson – Claude Monet

Carl E. Gilbert (K—6)

7255 8th St., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/522-7281



Above and Beyond

Teachers at Carl E. Gilbert Elementary School are helping students to achieve ever-greater levels of academic success. I am extremely proud of our teaching staff. These professionals have stepped up to bring the very best research and instructional practices into our classrooms. A key part of student success is that our teacher-leaders go beyond their regular duties to attend extra trainings, understand student needs, and gather new ideas to enhance our students' learning experiences.

Among our teacher-leaders is fourth-grade teacher Mrs. Sweet, who is staying abreast of California's new language assessment and keeps our staff up-to-date on practices for improving accessibility and comprehension for English Language Learners (ELLs). A passion for student health and wellness fuels sixth-grade teacher Mr. Magnin to oversee innovations and improvements to our school's physical fitness and recess programs. A strong proponent of literacy and teacher development, kindergarten teacher Mrs. Milch is a National Board Certified Teacher who serves on several state and university committees representing educators in North Orange County and beyond.

A group of teachers, spearheaded by kindergarten teacher Mrs. Corbett and sixth-grade teacher Mr. Benedetto, meets

monthly to focus on next steps for promoting Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) across our campus. This teacher team was able to secure state-level recognition for our student Responsibility, Organization, Attentiveness, and Respect (ROAR) program. Finally, Ms. Huerta, a Special Education teacher, has been developing student leadership and recently connected with the Buena Park City Council to host a mock council meeting for our students at city hall.

Gilbert's parents and community partners can attest to the efforts of many other teachers who have gone above and beyond to lead programs and projects for the benefit of our students. Ana Lopez, co-president of our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) said, "We appreciate the extra efforts of (Gilbert's) teachers to assist our children and to support one another in creating a positive and successful learning environment for all."

Beyond the individual leadership roles that many teachers accept, I am truly excited by the commitment of Gilbert's Instructional Leadership Team. This group includes a teacher from each grade level, including Special Education, who meet to: assess the current achievement of our programs; review research-based best practices to enhance student learning; and cultivate a climate of continued instructional improvement at Gilbert School.

The Grizzly staff members embrace their leadership roles. As our motto states, "Hear our ROAR!"

Mabel L. Pendleton (K—6)

7101 Stanton Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-8568



Teacher Collaboration

In an ever-changing world, where your new smart phone is antiquated in the blink of an eye, education must continue to evolve to provide students with the most innovative and relevant instruction possible. Pendleton School was one of



the first in the Buena Park School District to receive a 21st-century modernization. Our teachers went from traditional classrooms to innovative teaching and learning environments, complete with interactive walls, digital tablets, projectors, LCD displays, and furniture that changes configurations in a snap.

These new teaching opportunities have created exciting challenges for our staff to collaborate to learn and leverage the opportunities our new classrooms provide. With the support of our district's technology Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs), we got to work. During time set aside for teacher collaboration, Pendleton teachers Mrs. Biesiada and Mrs. Paulson, the technology TOSAs, administrative

intern Mr. Beckelheimer, and I led groups through the use of various types of presentation software and technology tools. After two sessions of professional development, our teachers were asked to plan a lesson using a specific technology application they had learned.

Following our collaborative sessions, Pendleton's teachers complete a survey to understand the effectiveness of our efforts. All the teachers found these sessions to be useful, and the majority felt it had a positive impact on their instructional practices. The survey also provided me with four areas of interest for future collaboration regarding technology.

I'm excited to see the progress Pendleton teachers are making and the successes students are experiencing in their classrooms. We will continue to collaborate regarding technology with one goal in mind: that teachers and students will be able to use these new tools to support higher levels of student achievement.

James A. Whitaker (K—6)

8401 Montana Ave., Buena Park, CA 90621 • 714/521-9770



Dr. Julie Perron
Principal

Succeeding in Reading

At Whitaker School, we understand that reading is fundamental, and students must be both confident and competent in reading comprehension and fluency. We focus on reading as a whole school, with numerous incentives and student recognitions. Here are some examples of the way we celebrate reading.

Reading Frenzy Assemblies—Each month, we have an assembly to recognize our high readers. The criteria for recognition is based on words read and “just right” books.



Reading Buddies—Fifth and sixth graders are the “big buddies” who mentor first and second graders, the “little buddies.” Little buddies have the chance to read to big buddies, and big buddies share strategies for strong

readers with their little friends. Participating students are excited to have reading partners.

Reading Raffles with Reading Leaves—When students read chapter books or pass Accelerated Reader tests with scores of 100 percent, they fill out leaves, which are then entered into a raffle. Each leaf is also placed on display on our Dreaming Big Trees in the office and the library.

We want Whitaker students to receive the message that reading is our top priority. We believe that providing multi-layered incentives gives students the motivation they need to keep succeeding in reading!



Weather 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 Buena Park in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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CYCLONE	MIST	TORNADO
DEW	RAIN	TRAUBEL
DUST STORM	SLEET	TYphoon
FAHRENHEIT	SNOW	VANILLA
FOG	SQUALL	



Congratulations Tala Alramahi

Winner of the November Word Search

Michael's Book Review



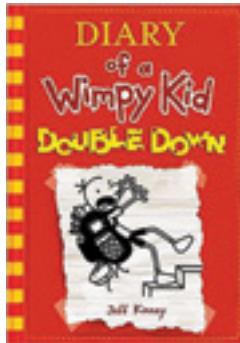
A Hilarious Book

Greg's imagination is at it again. He talks about how he feels like his life is being filmed and people are watching his every move. He also talks about how his family is secretly a bunch of robots, and worries that what his mom said about his nana watching over him since she died is literally true. His mom thinks video games and TV are turning his brain into mush. She tells him to explore his "creative side."

This is all happening near Halloween and Greg feels like frights are coming his way from every direction. He joins the band. That would make his mom happy and he would be invited to the Halloween party. Going to the party he freaks out when he realizes his mom isn't just dropping him off she plans on staying. Will she embarrass Greg and ruin his whole plan?

I give this book 5 stars although it didn't have a main story line it was hilarious and can't wait to read the next one.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.



Michael H.



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