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School News

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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

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Bellflower Unified Celebrates Successes, Declares Vision for Progress

By Dr. Brian Jacobs, Superintendent

Bellflower Unified School District is raising student performance and collecting accolades while expanding programs that will boost student readiness for college and careers.

The District celebrated those successes and provided a map to the future during a State of the District address this winter attended by more than 100 Bellflower Unified administrators, community leaders and area legislators.

The entire crowd was clapping to Kool & the Gang's "Celebration" during the high-energy presentation on the District's significant achievements, which include seven 2016 California Gold Ribbons, a 2015 California School Boards Association Golden Bell and a 2016-18 PTA National Partnership Award.

The District's performance on state English language arts and math tests – already strong – also rose in 2016, showing significant improvement at every grade level and outperforming neighboring school districts.

Indeed, over the last 5½ years, Bellflower Unified's educators have transformed practices to create an even higher quality of education for all students, emphasizing the success behind our push for the Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.

Successes include:

- Bellflower High School and Mayfair Middle School civics programs received Awards of Excellence – the state's highest honor – in 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- Somerset High School was named a Model Continuation School in 2016 – its sixth such honor.
- Graduation completion rates reached 99 percent at Bellflower High and 97 percent at Mayfair High.
- English learner reclassification as English proficient students reached its highest level in five years.
- Classroom technology expanded to include 7,669 devices, with one for every three students.
- Students raised state test scores significantly at every grade level.
- A discipline system has reduced suspension days from 3,245.9 in 2014-15 to 483 in 2015-16.
- The District earned fiscal independence from the Los Angeles County Office of Education
- Early childhood programs have been expanded to include Spanish language dual immersion.
- An independent studies program for homeschooling families expanded into ninth and 10th grades.
- New counselors are assisting at the high schools
- Ten new teachers on special assignment help in English and math instruction.
- A partnership with Cerritos College allows students to earn college credits while in high school.
- A partnership with Lynwood Unified has doubled the number of career technical education classes.



Audience members clap to Kool & the Gang's "Celebration" as Superintendent Dr. Brian Jacobs recounts Bellflower Unified's many successes during a State of the District address on Jan. 27 at Bellflower High School.

These achievements are just the beginning. The District is already busy on plans to build new athletic fields at Bellflower High and a state-of-the-art building for science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics at Mayfair High, enhance athletic fields at Mayfair High, expand elementary dual-language immersion to a second school and expand college partnerships.

Our students are much better off than they were 5½ years ago. We still have challenges before us and we still have hills to climb. But we're going to continue with this laser focus. Working collaboratively with all stakeholders, we will continue to make great things happen.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



On the front page Superintendent Dr. Jacobs begins with the District successes and there are many to be proud of.

In this issue you will read about educating parents to increase students' academic achievement levels, preparing students for future vocations and life outside of high school, K-Kids giving back to the community and so much more.

Thank you as always for including School News among your reading choices.

Our next issue is May 3.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Whale Watching Excursion

The students from the Bellflower Alternative Education Center enjoy a whale watching excursion out of San Pedro. Students were on the high seas to see first-hand, the migration of Pacific Gray Whales as they make their journey from the Bearing Sea of Alaska to the warm waters of Baja California, Mexico.

The Pacific Gray Whales feed in the cold waters of Alaska from April to November. They then make the 12,400 mile round trip journey to the warm waters off Baja California between December and April for breeding, and then start the long journey back to the cold waters of Alaska after giving birth. Over their 55 to 70 year life span, Pacific Gray Whales can weigh as much as 40 tons and reach a length up to 50 feet. The whale's common name stems from the gray patches and white blotchy marks on its dark skin. Students and staff were lucky enough to see several whales on their outing off the southern California coast.

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school that provides an alternative educational option for students in grades 7-12. The BAE Center helps teach students to make appropriate decisions about behavior, regular attendance, and strengthen their academics in order for them to be successful in school and at home.



Disembarking from the whale watching excursion

Bellflower Unified School District

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-10

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.

Classic Model

Grades K-10: 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-10: 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

Friday of each week students in grades TK-4 have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in engaging, standards-based lessons and activities. Activities include such things as visual and performing arts, technology, and cross-curricular hands-on activities. In addition to this, students participate in a music class, a Mandarin-world language and culture experience, and technology lessons. Students in grades 5-8 participate in a modified Enrichment Friday schedule that targets their needs as middle school students. Weekly these students engage in both a STEAM project and an elective activity each of which integrates aspects of oral communication, technology, and visual literacy.



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

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)

Spring Semester Courses



Lisa Azevedo
CEO CalAPS

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) just started our Spring Semester. Courses in Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Digital Photography, Careers in Education, Firefighting Occupations, Health Occupations, Law Enforcement Services, Culinary Arts and Film and Video

Production have captured the attention of students enrolled! Specialty Saturday courses focus on the Law Enforcement Explorer program and the LA Metro Fire Academy/Cadets.

Students enrolled in the new Careers in Education course will be spending part of their learning time in the classroom and part of their time at Ramona Elementary School. Students will gain classroom experience tutoring and assisting staff with the after-school APPLE Program while on the elementary campus. The CalAPS students will be provided weekly support and mentoring to ensure the highest quality instructional support for the APPLE program.

Students enrolled in the new Digital Photography course will be provided experiences working with modern camera equipment and digital software. Students will gain experience shooting various pictures and editing their creations using software programs. Student's will create a digital portfolio of their work which can be kept and used job and or college applications.



Students enrolled in the Firefighting courses have already begun their fitness drills and preparing for the CERT certification. Students are provided multiple opportunities to work with fire equipment. In fact, the classroom has newly purchased materials as well as a donated hydrant.

The fire instructors have a special demonstration scheduled for the end of the month. A local tow company, Kenny's Tow, will be donating a car and LA County Fire will be instructing students on procedures using the "jaws of life." It will be an exciting afternoon for all students. Visit our website for pictures of the event! www.CalAPS.org.

In summary, CalAPS courses provide Career Tech Education for students ages 16 and older. Classes run two days a week from 3:30 pm to 6:15 pm. Saturday Law Enforcement

Explorers run 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and the LA Metro Fire Academy runs 8:00 am -3:00 pm. on eight scheduled dates. Transportation is provided to students. For more information about the program, and to see pictures of our latest courses please visit the website: www.CalAPS.org.



Academic Accountability

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



Bonnie Carter
Director

School Accountability Report Card

Report cards are not only for the students! Schools also receive a report card that is publically available by February 1st annually. Just as a student's report card is a tool to inform parents about their child's progress, the School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is also an informational tool. The purpose of the SARC is to provide parents and the community with important information about a school including a general profile, demographic data, school safety and climate information, academic data, curriculum and instruction descriptions, and

staffing and expenditure information. The information included in the school's report is based on the previous year's data and includes a current school profile. When viewing the on-line report card, click on the tabs to the left of the webpage to access all of the information provided as the report is a multi-page document. The report card may also be translated or downloaded by clicking on the icons on the right of the report card website.

All Bellflower Unified schools post its SARC annually at: www.busd.k12.ca.us and will provide a hard copy of the report card on request at the school's main office. If you have any questions regarding a school's report card, feel free to contact the main office of the school site.

Curriculum & Instruction

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



Dina Hernandez
Director

Bellflower Elementary Music Programs

We are very fortunate at Bellflower Unified School District to have amazing elementary music programs. Our 5th and 6th grade students have the option to choose between participating in band or chorus. We have approximately 500 students participating in band or GATE band and over 1,750 students participating in elementary, honors, advance chorus, ensemble, or dance programs.

District wide, over 1,650 chorus students participate in two performances each year in the fall and then again in the spring and about 130-150 students are selected for speaking parts.

The Ensemble and Elementary singers are comprised of 68 of the most talented students throughout the district. These performing groups tour various schools in our district, but also perform at large venues like Disneyland, California Adventure, and Knott's Berry Farm.

The Elementary Dance Program consists of 12 GATE identified students that bring an exciting element to many performances each season. They represent our district showcasing their talents as they perform with the Ensemble each year.

The Advanced Chorus is a GATE group of 35 students who focus primarily on music production, while fostering choral and vocal singing skills in hopes that they would eventually move into Ensemble or continue in the arts in 7th grade.

The Elementary Honor Chorus include between 50-70 students who are selected each year to sing at the District Choral Music Festival, held at either BHS or MHS.

Our wonderful elementary music programs provide students with multiple options and opportunities to participate in any of the above mentioned programs. We invite you to come see one of our performances. For further information you may contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.



Educational Services

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



Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant Superintendent

Getting to Know Multi-Tier System of Support

BUSD schools are committed to helping all children succeed. Our schools have many ways to help children learn and to ensure those who need additional supports are successful. The Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) is one way schools provide those supports. By definition,

MTSS is a tiered framework, which promotes students' success through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices.

In California, MTSS is an integrated, comprehensive framework that focuses on state standards, core instruction, differentiated learning, student-centered



learning, individualized student needs, and the alignment of systems necessary for all students' academic, behavioral, and social success. So, what does this REALLY mean? It just means that ALL students will be provided the instruction they need to make progress towards standards. Individual children's progress is monitored and results are used to make decisions about further instruction and intervention.

The MTSS process is flexible and designed by schools and districts to meet the needs of their students. The intention is to empower all students to learn through systematic school-wide support and ongoing collaboration involving teachers, administrators, families, and community partners so that schools are readily able to identify and match the needs of all students.

If you would like to learn more about MTSS, you may access additional information at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/ri/>

Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

BUSD Partners with the Special Olympics

Mayfair High School has begun a Unified Sports program with Special Olympics. The program is focused on promoting social inclusion through sports. Students with and without disabilities compete together

on the same teams. The program began this year with a basketball game at lunch. Students voluntarily came into the gym to watch their friends play basketball. The event was so well received that a second Unified game was held during the boys varsity game against Artesia. Brandon Neri (LAFF Club member), pictured was all smiles while making a basket. Mayfair staff is dedicated to inclusion of students with disabilities in all aspects of the school. Mayfair staff members have sponsored the LAFF (Learning, Acceptance, through Friendship and Fun) Club for many years. The club is focused on promoting inclusion, acceptance, understanding and tolerance between peers with and without disabilities. The LAFF Club meetings include dancing, eating, relay races, singing and playing dodgeball. The students are excited and planning their first after school dance. A video of the event can be viewed at <http://monsoonathletics.com/2017/02/07/highlight-video-unified-sports/>



Brandon Neri, LAFF Club Member



Preschool students with teacher, Socorro Acosta.

Young Athletes was first introduced to BUSD as part of the special education preschool program in 2014. Preschool students participate in coordinated physical education activities on a weekly basis through the Young Athletes Program. Teachers follow a physical education curriculum that focuses on teaching basic sports skills, such as kicking, throwing, balancing and navigating obstacles. In addition to building sports readiness, students are encouraged to learn cooperative play while building social and language skills. The program culminates with a Special Olympics event where students display their sports skills while family, teachers and friends celebrate their accomplishments.

Early Childhood Education

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



Cristina Blevins
Director Child
Development

Program Expands

BUSD's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program had a successful first half of the school year! BUSD provides early childhood programs to meet the needs of the local community. Programs include California State Preschool, dual language immersion preschool, fee-based preschool, and a parent engagement

program known as Bellflower Early Learning Link or BELL. The BELL program engages over 100 families weekly in unique early learning activities that involve both parents and children. Just this past month, in January 2017, early childhood services expanded to serve additional preschoolers by adding a state preschool class at Thomas Jefferson Elementary. The Jefferson program welcomed a morning class, which provides early education to 3 and 4 year olds from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. BUSD looks forward to continuing to provide quality education and care to BUSD families and increasing program offerings in 2017 and beyond.



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

Who's got talent?

Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy's students do! On January 19th, the curtains in the school's auditorium parted to showcase a wide variety of acts, fit for broadcast on shows such as America's Got Talent, The Voice, and So You think You Can Dance. Audience members were treated to performances in such areas as dance, music, comedy, magic, and even martial arts. The evening began with a flash-mob performance from Las Flores moms who bopped about with glow sticks sporting 80s garb to Cyndi Lauper's "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun."

The incredible talent displayed by the students, left the crowd speechless at times and roaring with jubilant appreciation throughout. The show was the second for the school organized by parents, Shauna Douglass and Susie Kline. The evening of performances was followed by a raffle for themed gift baskets filled with goodies donated by families. Ruth Leopold, parent of a first-grade student, coordinated this fundraiser that earned the school close to \$500 for science camp scholarships and science enrichment supplies.

The school event was beyond well-received by parents, teachers, and students alike. Everyone anxiously awaits its return in the 2017-18 school year.



Tia Pruett, first grade parent, leads students in a dance routine to "What Does the Fox Say?"

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Stay Healthy and Engaged

The Intensive Learning Center has begun 2017 by opening our Jump Start Kindergarten classroom. Our Jump Start classroom is designed for students who were too young for kindergarten in August and turned five years old between December 3, 2016 and February 2, 2017. This classroom is designed to give students an opportunity for the youngest of students to get familiar with the basic and routines of the school setting while participating in many regular kindergarten activities. We are very excited to welcome Ms. Theodora Lach, our Jumpstart teacher as the newest member of the ILC team!

The Intensive Learning Center wants all students to be able to come to school healthy and happy during this cold and flu season. Please remember to practice good hand washing technique, get plenty of rest at night, and eat healthy balanced meals to help ensure all students have the ability to come to school eager and ready to learn.

We continue to work towards building all students skills and competencies towards meeting the rigorous demands of the California Content Standards. This school year all ILC students in grades 3-6 will take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP) between April 3rd and June 2nd. Please make every effort to ensure your students are healthy and at school in time to learn every day. Working together to stay healthy and by staying engaged in daily classroom learning all ILC students will have the ability to do their best in these upcoming state assessments.



Students in Mrs. Chupp's first grade classroom reading to Bellflower Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Brian Jacobs.

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Kind Kids

Albert Baxter students are making a difference in the world, starting with small acts of kindness for a week. As part of our school focus on Being Kind, Baxter Bears completed a Kindness Challenge. Students were given a checklist of kind acts to perform each day. As they completed these acts of kindness they were given a paper leaf, and that leaf was attached to a Kindness tree that's on display in our center hallway. Some acts were simple such as push in someone's chair or say thank you to your teacher.



Second grader Kingston Sula adds a leaf to the Baxter Kindness Tree.

Barrientos points out, "In a world with many values, kindness is the one that is needed to keep us all connected."

Other acts of kindness required creativity like make a bookmark for a friend or compliment 5 people. Student Council Co-President Leslie Trejo believes, "When sixth grade students gave compliments to each other, the students felt like they belong to a kind school."

Kindness Week follows the Kindness Adventure assembly provided by our PTA. The assembly inspired our students to be kind-hearted and open minded by introducing them to the students at Bidii Primary School in Nairobi, Kenya. School counselor Melvin

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

Preparing for Life Outside of High School

Our seniors are continuing to prepare themselves for life outside of Bellflower High School. Through the efforts of our curriculum and guidance office and our career center, seniors have the opportunity to search for scholarships and other ways to help them fund their college education. Information about various scholarship opportunities has been made available to all seniors. On Thursday, February 9th, Bellflower High School hosted a Cerritos College Night for parents and seniors. Students received information on Cerritos College's Cerritos Complete initiative which provides scholarships for all graduating Bellflower High School seniors for their first year. In addition to tuition being paid for, some students may also qualify for book vouchers. Students learned about the series of mandatory steps to qualify for this unique opportunity. In addition to financial incentives, students who participate in Cerritos Complete get early registration opportunities and receive a personalized full time schedule for the fall.

We are also proud to share that Yvette Valtierra was selected as a winner in the annual BRAVO Awards Essay Contest. Yvette was awarded a \$500 scholarship and was honored at the Bellflower BRAVO awards on Thursday, February 9th. Yvette wrote a wonderful essay sharing her thoughts on how to make her community a safer place to live.

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

New Website and App

With 2017 well under way, I am proud to announce that Thomas Jefferson has been given the opportunity to partner with Apptegy, an educational consulting company, to develop an incredible new website and corresponding app for our school. The website we have created will provide Jefferson families and the surrounding community with a one stop shop for all things Jefferson. This includes a live feed that consistently shares out important information and reminders, a calendar that lists all events and activities students participate in, as well as a staff page with contact information for each teacher.

In addition, our website houses resources for students and parents, articles, monthly cafeteria menus, and any office forms that parents might need. What is even more exciting is that all information found in the website will also be available in our school's app — which is available for download in iTunes and Google Play stores for free! Links to our school's Instagram account, which serves to provide families with a virtual window into the daily instruction and activities at our school, will also be available on both the website and app.

We here at Jefferson appreciate the important role that technology plays in education today, and are grateful for the support that Superintendent Dr. Jacobs and Directors Bonnie Carter and Dina Hernandez have given to us as we embark on this exciting new project. I am confident that these new tools will not only provide us as a school with additional ways to communicate with families, but will also build greater collaboration between TJ and the community, ensuring that each of our Jackrabbits receive an educational experience that meets a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

BOLTS Math-tastic

One of our district initiative is focusing on Universal Design for Learning (UDL). UDL is defined as, "The design of instruction for all student use, without need for adaptation or specialized design. Teachers designing UDL classroom consider products and environments with a variety of characteristics that enhance all students' learning."

Mrs. Bomgaars, our 6th grade math teacher designed a lesson of Graphing on the Coordinate Plane from our Go Math and UCI (Irvine Math Project) curriculum. The students used x and y coordinates to plot the distance from our school to local places of interest. This lesson definitely enhanced all students' learning while working in small groups.

CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.NS.C.8

Solve real-world and mathematical problems by graphing points in all four quadrants of the coordinate plane. Include use of coordinates and absolute value to find distances between points with the same first coordinate or the same second coordinate.



Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Lisa Luna
Principal

K-Kids, Superkids!

Lindstrom Elementary has a special group of 4th – 6th grade students that go above & beyond their Lindy Lion duties of following our ROAR motto of being Respectful, Only doing our best, Always being safe & being Responsible. This special group of students are our Kiwanis Kids, also known as the

K-Kids. Under the leadership of Mrs. Charmaine McLaughlin, these students host a variety of community service events that allow these students to give back to the school & surrounding communities.

In December, the K-Kids hosted a toy drive at our site, where students donated toys over the course of three days. Those toys were dropped off at a local fire station and donated to Toys for Tots, where they would be distributed to children in need. K-Kids also worked in conjunction with the Mayfair Key Club where they wrote letters to service men and women who were stationed away from home for the holidays.

K-Kids has also taken the lead in Lindstrom's Grades of Green Trash Free Lunch Challenge. During this challenge, the K-Kids are helping our students sort their trash into the following categories: waste, recyclables, liquids & unopened food packages. The goal of this challenge is to be the top Trash Free Lunch school that will win a \$1,000 science grant. K-Kids has been an integral part of teaching our students how to sort, recycle and reduce waste.

The next project for K-Kids will be the Pennies for Patients drive. Students will donate change they have to Pennies for Patients, which will be donated to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to assist with blood cancer research.

These K-kids are super kids who are making a difference with each activity they do by giving back to our community & helping our school community to be a part of it. Go K-Kids!



Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

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



Julie Stanley
Principal

Monsoons Serving Others

The Mayfair Monsoons would like to welcome everyone to the New Year. As we begin 2017 it is with great pride that I reflect on the kindness and generosity the students and staff exhibited during the holiday months in an effort to support our community members.

Mayfair is fortunate to have two wonderful case managers, Socorro Melgarejo and Myra Rodriguez, as they work countless hours providing resources to our Mayfair families. With the assistance of Caring Connections, staff, and students, we were able to make the Thanksgiving Holiday special for over 20 families with baskets of food filled with all of the Thanksgiving fixings. Through the Caring Connections Coat Drive, Mayfair staff and students donated 50 coats and jackets for community members in need. Mayfair students and staff also contributed Christmas gifts to over 50 families during the holiday season. Additionally, the Monsoon family collected over 25,000 cans for our annual canned food drive for Project Shepherd. The culture at Mayfair is one that exemplifies service over self.



Students loading the 25,000 cans collected for Project Shepherd.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

We are All Learners

Ernie Pyle had the great fortune to have Mrs. Kristy Spear, formally teaching 1st grade at Pyle, take a Math TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) position at our school.

It's exciting to see the work the teachers are doing together in math. Mrs. Spear works closely with teachers on math planning and incorporating the instructional shifts called for in our new California State Standards. One of the changes with the new standards is having students engage in collaborative academic conversations about math. Students share their reasoning and the strategies they use to solve problems, build upon each other's ideas, and clarify their thinking or change their thinking after hearing what their peers have shared. That's very rigorous work! Students also model their thinking using tools such as math manipulatives- base ten blocks, counters and blocks or drawings. Teachers in grades 4 and 6 are team teaching with our TOSA. Pictured is Ms. Chisholm and Mrs. Spear team teaching a group of our 6th grade students who are modeling their thinking with manipulatives before engaging in a rich and rigorous discussion about the math.

Whether it's students or teachers collaborating, we are all learners at Ernie Pyle.



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Strong Mathematicians

At Ramona, we are committed to providing our students with a strong and challenging program in all subject areas. We have many elements in place that are enhancing our math program. One very important focus is the addition of another

intervention teacher to our already strong intervention team. At the end of the first trimester, Ms. Eugina Thomas came on board as a math intervention specialist. Ms. Thomas works with students, teachers, and parents to increase math achievement for all students. Ms. Thomas is running a push in mathematics program at Ramona. This means she goes into the classrooms and co teaches with the classroom teacher. As a staff, we are committed to increasing math talk and engaging our students in meaningful math application tasks that are based on the eight standards of mathematical practice. Ms. Thomas and the classroom teacher facilitate group activities that allow our students to solve problems mathematically and understand the real life applications of math. Ms. Thomas has also been trained in Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) and is sharing these strategies with the staff during staff development sessions. Our kindergarten team has embraced a CGI strategy, counting collections, and all of our teachers encourage student to be efficient mathematicians, embrace a growth mindset with all challenges, and always justify their answers. As always, our Ramona scholars rise to the high expectations we set for them.



In addition, Ms. Thomas works with our parents to ensure they understand the mathematical practices and are familiar with the shifts in math instruction. We provided a parent math workshop on February 6th and had excellent attendance at both the morning and evening sessions. Parents practiced number bonds, math application problems, Which One Doesn't Belong (WODB) and a variety of other K-6 math strategies. Parents left with a variety of resources and links and have asked for more workshops focused on math. We are happy to oblige and believe that when the home school link is strong, our scholars will continue to grow and achieve.

Finally, our math program at Ramona is supplemented with a computerized intervention called Spatial Temporal (ST) Math affectionately known as JiJi Math at Ramona because of the ST mascot, JiJi the Penguin. This program is designed to increase conceptual understanding. Our students work on a series of tasks guided by JiJi. When a task is successfully completed, JiJi is able to move on to a new and higher level. The challenge increases every time and many of our students have achieved very high levels and surpassed grade level objectives. The program works in tandem with standards-based instruction in the classroom allowing us to offer a very well rounded math program to our students. Our strong focus on mathematics at Ramona including a math intervention specialist, a strong parent education program, and an emphasis on conceptual understanding and math applications means increased achievement for all of the scholars at Ramona.

Somerset *High School*

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

Preparing Our Students

SkillsUSA is one of the organizations that prepares our students for their future vocations. Students in Mr. Ahumada's Advertising Design and Mr. Guzman's Computer Aided Design class competed in the SkillsUSA regional competition. Students worked hard to master the skills necessary to create advertising flyers, design and create chess pieces with a 3D printer, program manufacturing robots, and integrate home systems. Contestants were also rated on their professionalism during the competition.

All six students on Somerset's team qualified for SkillsUSA's state competition in San Diego from April 20th to the 23rd. Jose Lagunes and Alex Torres won Bronze Medals in additive manufacturing. Precious Ford won a Bronze Medal in advertising design. Michael Germani and Joel Murillo won a gold medal in robotics, and Francisco Zapata won a gold medal in Home Installation and repair. We wish Somerset's Skills USA team the best of luck at the state competition



Somerset's SkillsUSA team show off their medals.

(B) Mr. Kailiponi, Joel Murillo, Jose Lagunes, Michael Germani, Francisco Zapata, Mr. Guzman; (F) Alex Torres, Precious Ford, Mr. Ahumada

Washington *Elementary*

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



Dr. Angelica Montelongo
Principal

New Principal

It has been a pleasure to become a member of this great school community. I am honored to be the new principal, and am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff to provide the best possible educational program for our students.

The educational program at Washington will continue to be academically challenging, engaging, and also promote further exploration of new concepts. Parents, teachers, support staff, and administration all have an important role to encourage our children to become active learners. It is my sincere desire



to provide expanded opportunities for our students to acquire the skills to become productive citizens in a vastly changing society. Through a close and collegial partnership with everyone associated with Washington, I am confident we can continue to make Washington a better place for our students to learn and grow.

Currently, Washington Elementary has launched the Latino Literacy Project "Cuentos Familiares." Parents of K-3 students are spending one afternoon a week for ten weeks reading family stories. Each week parents are being introduced to a new book with different strategies to use with their children. This gives parents a chance to share what works for them and work through similar struggles when it comes to reading with their children. It is giving families the opportunities to build a love of reading that they can model for their children. Parents are also creating a family album with photos that they will be able to cherish for years to come.

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Stacey Williams
Principal

A Reading Community

To start off the new year, Craig Williams implemented the Latino Family Literacy Project. On Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:00am, the case manager and the assistant principal work with English Learner parents to teach and support the love of reading. Parents come to class excited every week to turn in the previous week's

book and are prepared to receive a new book for the next week. During each class, important vocabulary is discussed, the book is read aloud in English and Spanish, and strategies are introduced to assist their children while reading with them at home. Most importantly, time is set aside for the group to discuss the commonalities that they share with the characters. While this program is in the beginning stages, parents are ecstatic to participate and have been requesting for longer time periods to meet. Everyone is excited to promote a reading community at Craig Williams!



Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Learning Together – Increasing Language and Literacy

At Woodruff Elementary, parents are an integral part of our team through School Site Council, Parent Teacher Association, and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). Through ELAC, in addition to learning school governance with our single school plan, budget, and categorical funding, parents get a chance to have some fun and

experience learning through the eyes of their children. This year ELAC has partnered with our English Language Development Teacher on Special Assignment (ELD TOSA) to enrich our meetings. Parents voiced that they are interested in knowing what their children are learning and how they are developing language. Lessons have been presented in the areas of Designated and Integrated ELD. The lessons are interactive and engaging which have resulted in meaningful dialogue surrounding strategies to support children at home. Additionally, we are excited to launch The Latino Family Literacy Project this month. The Latino Family Literacy Project provides an opportunity for us to work with our Latino families promoting reading, family literacy, and English language development utilizing engaging and culturally responsive materials. With these programs in place, we hope to not only educate parents, but increase our students' academic achievement levels.



A Page-Turner



Isabella A.

Flexible Wings is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breathe because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!



I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a 10 year old who enjoys reading and writing fiction novels based on true events. Her latest collection of short stories is based on the mischievous adventures with her 9 year old sister. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Lucy's Book Review

Eleven and Holding



Lucy Davis

Author: Mary Penny
Macy is an eleven year old girl, and her birthday is fast-approaching. She swears to herself she won't celebrate without her dad. She doubts herself though, because whenever she asks when he is going to come home, she is always given the same answer: he's working on a important project right now. He will make it home for her big day, right?



Meanwhile, other things aren't much better. Her beloved grandmother's café is now in the hands of a "thief", her mom is getting on her nerves, and a new neighbor's lost dog completes her troubles. But soon, her only mission is to bring her dad home , no matter what.

I give this book three bookworms, because while it was entertaining, I found it a bit slow.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

A Story with Deep Meaning Side Stories



Christina J.

By Lloyd Alexander
The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen is a story about a Prince who, following the advice of a wise old man named Master Wu, sets off to deliver six specially chosen items to give to the King of an amazing Kingdom. Master Wu chooses some strange, random items as gifts: an iron sword, a leather saddle, a wooden flute, a bronze bowl, a sandalwood box, and a kite. But, there is a reason he chooses these gifts. They are all magical, and they are all eventually needed, not to give to the King, but to hand out, one by one, to other people to help these people with their struggles, which creates interesting separate stories about what the receivers of these items do with their new magical power. For instance, the sandalwood box contains a special ink with which the artist using it can draw objects and animals that come to life though the canvass and it helped the artist earn his living and improve his life. The kite in the shape of a bird allows the person holding it to fly, and it helped a girl fly away at the hour of grave danger! And at the end of the story the Prince learns that there is no King of an amazing Kingdom, and the purpose of his journey was to help his people and see life outside of the castle walls. I liked that the story was written in a way similar to classic Chinese literature and has deep meanings in each of its side stories, that all reconnect to the main story.



I give this story 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is a 7th grader. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself, in 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

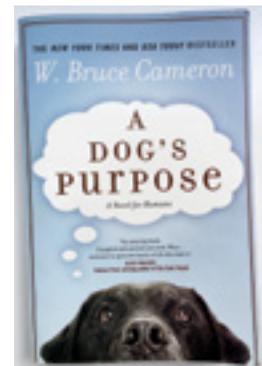
Keira's Book Nook

Man's Best Friend



Keira

A Dog's Purpose
By W. Bruce Cameron
This remarkable story is about a dog who was reborn as a golden-haired puppy. Bailey tries to find his purpose in life, which leads him to an eight-year-old boy named Ethan. During his life with Ethan he learns to be good. "Good dog, Bailey." This is one of the most important sentences Bailey has ever known. However, this is not the end of Bailey's journey. When he is reborn yet again he wonders when he will find his full purpose. By the way, this is a story for humans from a dog's point of view. It describes the unbreakable bonds between humans and dogs. This is a great book, and I could read it over and over again! I rate this book 5 out of 5 apples.



Keira Fukuwa is a fifth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys jazz dance, art, crafts and traveling. Keira rates books 1-5 apples with 5 being the highest.

First We Learn to Read



Then We Read to Learn

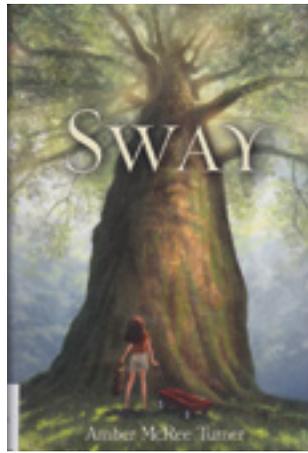
Alana's Book Review

SWAY



Alana F.

Cass Nordenhauer is a young girl whose ultimate dream is to be a volunteer for the Southern Mobile Aid Response Team alongside her mom, Toodi. So when Toodi finally returns home from a rescue mission, Cass is ecstatic to see her again. But after a confusing conversation with Cass' dad, Toodi



drives away in tears and Cass' dream is seemingly squashed. Afterwards, Cass' dad decides that he and Cass should go on an adventure together, and the pair hit the road to explore the countryside. Along the way, Cass' dad introduces her to Sway, a seemingly magical power which can change the way that one thinks in a matter of seconds. With the power of Sway, can Cass find a way for her family to be reunited, or will any memories of a stable life be forever lost to the wind?

I enjoyed this book immensely and would give it five out of five stars because I really appreciate how countless youth nowadays could relate to Cass and her home situation.

Alana is a student columnist. When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she enjoys playing video games and writing fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.

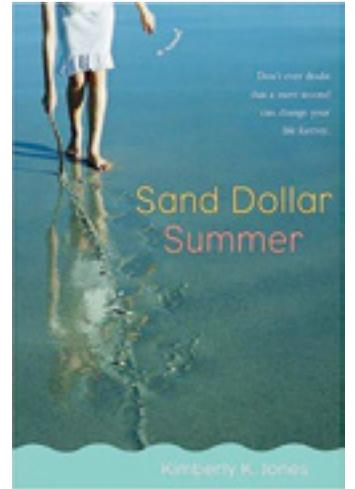
Courtney's Book Review

Sand Dollar Summer



Courtney M.

The book *Sand Dollar Summer* by Kimberly K. Jones is about a mom and her two kids Lise and Free. After Annalise dropped the kids off at school she went to go get groceries, but on the way home someone slammed into Annalise and she had many broken bones. But once she gets a little better they go to Fiddle Beach, Maine. As they passed all the great beach houses they continued on for at least another mile. They found a tiny shack and it was old, stinky, and basically going to fall down if you touched it. Meanwhile Annalise said let's go get in the water but Lise was terrified because she has never been in the ocean.



If you want to find out what happens next check out the book. I would rate this book with a 4 a good read.

Courtney likes to play Softball, Football, and ride her bike. She also draws, sews and sings on the worship team at her church. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Musical String Instruments Word Search Contest

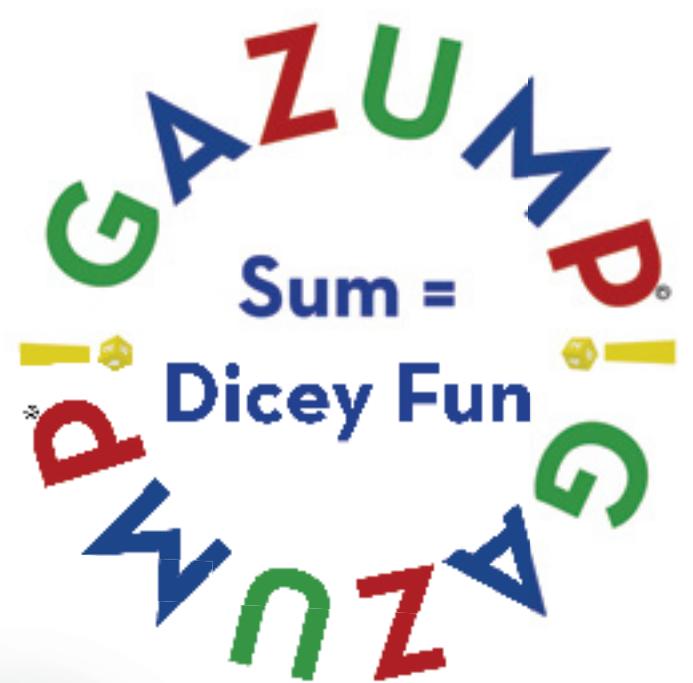
Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Bellflower in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------|
| BALALAIKA | GUITAR | SITAR |
| BANJO | HARPSICHORD | UKULELE |
| BASS VIOL | LUTE | VIOLA |
| CELLO | LYRE | VIOLIN |
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