

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 23

MAY 2017

SUPERINTENDENT



BUSD Sustains the Standard of Excellence

As the school year rapidly approaches its closing days, I want to say thank you, and acknowledge a job well done to all

Dr. Brian Jacobs

of our employees. Everyone has worked diligently to ensure that our students received that "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less" during the course of this year. I am fortunate to be able to work with such exceptional staff, wonderful students, involved parents, hardworking governing board members and communities that believe that our highest priority is the education of our children and young adults.

Preparing to wind down this school term means that we are

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 13

Career Technology Education

By Lisa Azevedo, CEO CalAPS

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) has almost completed the first year of career technology education instruction (CTE) with students in grades 10 -12! Last year the program opened with five courses. This spring semester our students are completing twelve courses between our participating districts of Lynwood and Bellflower.

Preparation for 2017-2018 school year is currently taking place. Students in both districts were surveyed to determine CTE interest areas. California recognizes fifteen CTE sectors with fifty-eight pathway offerings for students. For a list of the approved sectors and pathways, please visit: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/sf/documents/ctecpwposter.pdf>

CalAPS continues to focus on providing relevant career preparation courses aligned to the



California CTE standards. Academic concepts are taught within the context of career education. Our students are provided opportunities to create implement and demonstrate their learning often in the career setting. Please visit our website for more information: www.calaps.org. Watch for new and exciting course offering for the fall semester!

BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Dr. Sue ElHessen, President

My year as Board President has been busy, exciting and extremely validating as we work to sustain the "Standard of Excellence." I along with my Board colleagues have enjoyed visiting schools, having wonderful conversations with staff, students, alumni, parents and supporters of this outstanding school district, along with observing our students in multiple settings from the athletic field, to the arts.

Over the summer months while the students are away, district staff will be hard at work positioning BUSD for perpetual Excellence! They will be doing that by ensuring we have our teachers hired and materials ready to go when the students return on August 28th.

One of my priorities in working with the balance of the Governing Board is to ensure that as a district we provide students with additional pathways to the career field. That is why I am looking forward to seeing additional offerings in the trade aspect for our secondary students who may not choose to enter a post high school campus upon graduation. I really want our students to not only be college ready, but also career ready upon graduating from one of our high schools. The Board and I want to make certain that our high schools have the necessary resources and tools to assist students with a clear and determined pathway of their choosing.

Sustainability is another critical component of what we have begun in BUSD. Dr. Jacobs has been charged to continue the efforts of sustaining the high school graduation rates, ensuring safe campuses, and extending learning opportunities beyond the classroom. Each of these have been established

in a highly effective manner, but we now need to make certain that they are sustained and strive to achieve to even higher standards of "Excellence."

In wrapping up my final thoughts of the year, I thank you for being as supportive and engaging as a school community is during this school term. If the energy and talents I have seen in our community and schools is any indication of what is to come, I am confident that there are even greater days ahead for the Bellflower Unified School District. There are so many reasons to be optimistic.

Our excellence and impact are far-reaching and forward-looking. I am fortunate to be a current Board member and I invite you to join with me to keep this positive momentum going. I wish you all the best as we end another school year. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to BUSD and to our students, have a wonderful summer break.

Board of Education



Sue ElHessen, Ed.D.
President



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Vice President



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Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D
Member



Not having a paycheck during the summer had been cataclysmic. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don't have to borrow for the summer."

ARRONDA H.
Intermediate School Teacher
Member Since 2013

School News

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Covering the
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Here we are at the end of another school year. It has been a successful year as Dr. Jacobs writes in his article on the front page. Also, he informs of the busy summer it will be for the maintenance crew and staff preparing for the Fall.

In this issue, you will read about students learning about college and career, sports day promoting health and physical activity, families learning together, Math Olympics, and so much more...

Our next issue is September 13 just in time to begin a new school year. Have a wonderful summer!

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Academic Accountability

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



Bonnie Carter
Director

Elementary Students Learn About College and Careers

Students no longer have to wait until High School to learn about college and careers. BUSD elementary school counselors create a variety of opportunities for students to think about their future path to success whether it be to attend college or start a career. Some students participate in College and Career Week when students are encouraged to wear college T-shirts, classroom doors are decorated, and books are made available for students' to research interesting careers and learn more about colleges. Other students participate in Career Café where they use their lunchtime to meet, listen to, and ask questions

of guest speakers from various professions including student teaching, civil and software engineering, and speech pathology. Teachers and school staff encourage students to dream about future careers and whether attending college will help them to meet this dream. At Stephen Foster this year, school personnel posted descriptions of what career they wanted as a child and which college they attended in an effort to inspire students to start thinking about their future. Throughout the year, elementary counselors also provide targeted college and career guidance lessons and class presentations to students and classrooms because informing students about college and careers early helps Bellflower students to achieve a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Curriculum & Instruction

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



Dina Hernandez
Director

GATE Enrichment Programs

Bellflower Unified School District proudly offers GATE Enrichment Programs for all BUSD GATE identified students. GATE students throughout the district are given the opportunity to select an enrichment class. This program allows our highest achieving students the opportunity to extend their regular classroom learning and engage in rich meaningful educational experiences.

Classes are offered twice a year in the winter and in the spring during the second and third trimesters of the school year. Ten classes were offered in the first session and 13 classes will be offered in the second session to accommodate all the students who signed up to attend. The classes are offered at ten different elementaries. They are offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays once a week for an hour. The sessions are six weeks long. We had 200 students participate in the first session. With the addition of the three new classes we will be able to accommodate 260 students of the 264 who signed up.

The following classes are offered:

Brixology—Engineers Shape the World— This STEAM program allows students to step into the shoes of an engineer. Students build a LEGO project inspired by an engineering theme.

Chess Masters—Students learn the fundamentals of the game and how to play.

Discovery Cube Science—Students have hands on experiences with different aspects of science.

Illustration Station—Draw. Create. Illustrate. Students learn to draw characters, scenes, storyboards, and create a three panel comic.

Mad Science—Students learn the differences between physical & chemical changes through hands-on investigations. They will experiment with inertia, gravity, and the science behind magic tricks.

NASA—Space Academy of Future Space Explorers: Students explore the far reaches of our solar system and experience astronaut life as students participate in a space station building mission.

Newton's Lab—Students study density, physics, reactions, chemistry, and aerodynamics.

Spanish Explorers—Students are introduced to the Spanish language using interactive methods.

Team Adventurers—Students focus on teamwork to get through a minefield and other obstacle courses.

Young Rembrandts—Students will discover the power of drawing while learning art history.

In addition to these classes, GATE enrichment also includes differentiated instruction within the regular school day in the classroom through the extension or addition of lessons or projects.

Educational Services

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



Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant Superintendent

Language Learning and Pathways to Biliteracy in BUSD

Ní hǎo! This means "hello" in Mandarin. Mandarin is one of the world languages that Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) offers for students to learn. BUSD provides a variety of educational programs which promote multilingualism as well as the social and cultural understanding linked with different world languages. Learning a second or third language can open the doors of opportunity for students. Fluency

in more than one language is prized and rewarded with higher salaries by many businesses and companies. BUSD offers a range of language learning pathways for students including language immersion at the preschool and elementary levels and world language programs at the middle and high school levels. Language learning in BUSD's 21st century classrooms is fun, engaging and highly interactive! Teachers incorporate the use of technology as well as high levels of students' oral language production into their lessons.



Ariel Salazar and Eduardo Smith Seal of Biliteracy recipients, Mayfair High School, June 2016

The California State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. BUSD strives to help students recognize the value of their academic success and see the tangible benefits of being bilingual. BUSD graduating seniors who meet State Seal of Biliteracy criteria not only receive the State Seal on their diploma, but are also recognized with a special ribbon and medallion, to be worn at their graduation ceremony. In June of 2016, 76 BUSD graduating seniors earned the California Seal of Biliteracy.

Being biliterate is beneficial to students beyond college and career readiness. Multilingualism strengthens how the brain functions, and is associated with increased cognitive flexibility and stronger problem solving abilities. Additionally, children who are biliterate tend to demonstrate better performance on achievement tests.

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

Early Childhood Education

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



Cristina Blevins
Director Child Development

ECE Program Enrollment Opens

The BUSD Early Childhood Education Program will open enrollment for the 2017-18 school year on May 1, 2017. If you have a child who will turn 3 or 4 before September 1, 2017, please come by and pick up a registration packet. Program offerings for the 2017-18 include AM and PM California State Preschool Program sessions at Whitewood, Craig Williams, Las Flores, Thomas Jefferson, Washington, Frank E. Woodruff, and Pyle. AM session hours are 8:30-11:30 AM; PM session hours are 12:30- 3:30 PM..

In addition, Fee-Based slots will be available at Thomas Jefferson and in the Dual Immersion classes at Whitewood and Washington. Monthly cost for the fee-based program is \$325.00 per month, plus a one time, non-refundable \$50.00 enrollment fee. All session for California State Preschool Program and

Fee-Based are Monday through Friday. Registration packets will be available for pick up starting May 1st. In addition to the registration packet, additional documents such as, your child's birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records, and child's physical exam must be submitted for a packet to be accepted. Families applying for the Fee-Based program will have the opportunity to return the packets any time after May 1st, 2017. Enrollment for Fee-Based slots will be on a first come, first serve basis. Enrollment for California State Preschool classrooms, free of charge to qualifying families, will begin on May 29, 2017. Families applying for the State Preschool Program will be required to submit all income documents for the month of May when they return their packets on or after May 29, 2017. Enrollment for the State Preschool Program is based on need.

For more information on enrollment for the ECE program, please contact the ECE office at 562-461-2227.

Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant Superintendent

Helping Your Student Make Good Decisions

Decision-making is an important life skill. Often as parents, we want to tell our child what the right thing to do is and solve the problem for them; after all, we have been there and done that. This is not always the best solution; instead try these steps.

Provide guidance, but do not prevent your child from making mistakes. Help them learn from mistakes, sometimes natural consequences provide valuable life lessons for students.

Identify the Problem, sometimes students blame others, they are failing math because the teacher doesn't explain it well, they forgot to do the project, because you did not remind them. Do

not accept that response. Ask questions, "What do you think is going on?" Have them spell out the problem.

Brainstorm options, often students think there is only one solution to a problem, have them list all ideas, even ones they think are a bad idea, they can then...

Weigh the pros and cons, have your student write down the pros and cons of each solution. This will help students see the best choice. Ask questions to help them choose between two good choices, but encourage your child to make the decision on their own. This way they cannot blame you later if they wish they had chosen differently.

Make a plan to implement the choice help your student decide what steps to take. Be sure your student reflects on the choice and whether they made a mistake, this important step will help them make a better choice in the future.



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Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Defending Healthy Relationships

Bellflower Unified School District's Adult Transition Center (ATC) hosted a sports day in March, at Mayfair Park in Lakewood. Sports day is an event to promote health and physical activity for our physically and developmentally challenged students who attend the ATC program. There were approximately 100 adult students, staff, and volunteers who participated in the activity-filled day. Sports day is an opportunity for students in the Bellflower Unified School District program to interact with students who are part of the Adult Transition Co-Op, which consists of four other Adult Transition programs from our local area.

In promoting healthy relationships, students from the Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center were on hand to help facilitate several of the sports activities in play that day. The relationships between the adult transition students and the BAE Center students are true blessings for both groups of students and makes our school community a better place. Relationships between the students are not limited to sports day, but occur every day with ATC students helping to serve student meals at the BAE Center, and BAE Center students performing community service at the ATC.



Defense! Defense! Adult Transition and BAE Center students take a moment from defending the goal to defending themselves from the sun.



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

I Made a Difference

In March, one of our very special Intensive Learning Center Parents was celebrated by City of Lakewood Mayor, Mr. Ron Piazza. Mayor Piazza presented parent Amanda Carstens with an, "I Made a Difference" pin for the City of Lakewood at the morning flag assembly. Mrs. Carstens can be seen in front of the Intensive Learning Center every morning helping to keep the drive through and drop off area of students moving smoothly and in a safe manner. As an ILC PTA member and volunteer Mrs. Carstens has gone above and beyond for the good of the ILC school and community.



City of Lakewood Mayor, Mr. Ron Piazza presenting Intensive Learning Center parent volunteer Mrs. Amanda Carstens with an "I Made a Difference" pin for the City of Lakewood.

The ILC also took some time to celebrate the contributions that Grandparents make in the daily lives of all of our students. As part of our partnership with the PTA, Thursday March 30th was officially "Grandparents Day" at the ILC. Over 230 Grandparents were welcomed in the morning at the flag assembly and then went on to classrooms with students to participate in a variety of activities for the day. Many grandparents

Intensive Learning Center

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



Students in Mrs. Pinto's kindergarten class are read a story from a grandparent on "Grandparent's Day" at the Intensive Learning Center.

read books, participated in art activities, or were read to by students in their classrooms. Following this, grandparents and students had some time to participate in a short brunch together in the cafeteria before getting back to work in their classrooms.

The ILC has had an excellent year of continuing to build a community while working to expand on our amazing educational programs. Working together, with small class sizes, no combination classes, abundant technology, effective curriculum and rigorous instruction provided by a highly dedicated school staff the opportunities for our ILC students are endless!

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

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

Innovative Educational Experience

Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy students in Mrs. Moak's 5th-8th grade English, evaluated and synthesized a wide variety of sources to write informational compositions on two distinct topics of interest. Fifth and sixth grade students wrote about heroes, while seventh and eighth grade students conveyed information about their ultimate dream jobs. Upon completion of their assignments, students wrote short speeches and collaboratively created the rubrics to assess. The culminating activities were a "Career Fair" and "Wax Museum" where students, parents, and faculty could move about the cafeteria to listen to students speak on their topics. Fifth and sixth grade students came to life as their characters and told first-hand accounts of their hero's lives.

Students gained incredible insight on public speaking during this innovative educational experience. The event was appreciated by the Home Education Independent Study Academy family and will undoubtedly make an encore appearance in years to come.



Eunice Dao, 5th grade student, poses as Helen Keller who is ready to be "activated" at the push of the red button.

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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

BOLTS College and Career Week

Stephen Foster College and Career Week was BOLTastic!

Ms. White, our counselor organized various activities for the students to participate in for College and Career Week. The activities included Guest Speakers Daily from various professionals such as: engineers, doctors,



Confidence Johnson
Principal

nurse, and game developers. The students received passes to attend sessions during their lunch recess periods. There was also a College and Career Station activity during recess. The stations were puzzles, college pennant artwork, College and University traveling library, college applications, mock resumes, and practice interviews. The students and staff were excited all week adorning college or university t-shirts of their interest or parents' alma mater. Classes also took part in a door decorating contest. Over twenty classrooms participated with the winner being room 21, Ms. Ishida's class.

Stephen Foster is preparing for students to be College and Career Week Ready for the 21st Century!



Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Families Learn Together

Each Friday morning in Room 53, you will see students reading stories with their teacher. These students just happen to be a little older than most on the Baxter campus: they are parents learning to read with their children. For the last ten weeks, Baxter parents have been participating in the Latino Family Literacy Project, designed to establish family reading routines for Spanish speaking and English speaking parents and their children. The goal of the program is to engage parents in reading

quality books, centered on universal themes, with their children.

Parent Ramona Olivares explains, "This beautiful program helped us to learn about other people and places in life. It also teaches us to read books in English and Spanish." Her daughter, Melanie, exclaims, "I liked that she learned how to read more in English and I got to learn more Spanish." "I was very proud of my mom doing this class. She would take books home and we would read them and spend time together," agrees fifth grader Ilianna Rodriguez. All of the parents and their children are looking forward to attending a second class next year.



Baxter families receive certificates at the final meeting of the Latino Family Literacy Project.

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

Dude Be Nice Project

In the month of April, Bellflower Middle/High School held our Bellflower's Dude. Be Nice project for the week of April 3rd through April 7th. Dude. Be Nice is a project that was launched to inspire young people to help bring a little more positivity to communities who have awesome people to honor and acknowledge for their hard work

and dedication. We decided to start the Bellflower Dude. Be Nice Project so our students could spread a little more positivity and appreciativeness on our campus and in our community. We began the week spreading the love and brought awareness to our campus on what "Dude. Be nice." is all about. We celebrated our wonderful classified staff with a Brunch Bar. All classified staff (secretaries, custodians, instructional aides, security, cafeteria staff, etc.) were invited, which includes over 50 staff members. The brunch was a way to show our appreciation for the work that all of our support staff members do on a daily basis.

To close out the week, our students wanted to show their appreciation and recognized some of our unsung heroes from our campus, our custodial staff. These men and women work tirelessly to keep our campus safe and beautiful and we could not be more appreciative! Dude. Be Nice week was a huge success for Bellflower Middle/High School.



Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

Connecting with the Community

We here at Thomas Jefferson are continually looking for new and exciting ways in which we can connect with the community and recognize the hard work and accomplishments of students and staff. As a result of this effort, Jefferson can now be found on Instagram! In just one month our school has gained over 130 followers, and those that follow us have expressed their excitement at being able to get a glimpse into the typical day of a Jackrabbit student. Our Instagram feed showcases the various learning activities that are taking place in classrooms, exciting campus events, and so much more! This use of Instagram to highlight all the wonderful things happening at our school is just one more way in which we are incorporating technology here at TJ and doing all we can to provide students and families with a Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less!



Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Lisa Luna
Principal

Lindstrom Celebrates Multiculturalism!

All children have preparedness, potential, curiosity and interest in constructing their learning, in engaging in social interaction and in negotiating with everything the environment brings to them. —Lella Gandini

The time to bring cultural learning to the students of Lindstrom elementary has come! Lindstrom will celebrate the various cultural backgrounds on our campus during Multicultural Week May 22 – May 26. Lindstrom will come together to demonstrate their appreciation for various cultures through sharing their cultural backgrounds through classroom reports, and cultural folktales. Students will also be encouraged to share, or wear, clothing items that represent their cultural backgrounds.

The culminating activity will be performed through the art of dance. Teachers and students have been working very hard on learning various cultural dances that they will perform in our schoolwide Multicultural Dance on May 26! Dances from Mexico, Japan, Hawaii, and others will be represented and performed in front of the entire school community!

The excitement is building with our students and they are very excited to bring a cultural piece of who they are to share with their peers and our community.

Celebrating the different cultures is an important aspect of our society, as it is what brings us all together.

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

End of Year Activities

We come to the end of another incredible school year here at Mayfair Middle/High School. I am so proud to be able to serve the wonderful students here and the entire Mayfair community. I extend my gratitude to the entire Mayfair community for the way you continue to support the administration, our teachers and our students.

As the end of the year is quickly approaching, we are preparing for the many celebrations and recognitions that happen at the end of each school year. I would like to share with you some important dates and activities that will be going on at Mayfair Middle/High School.

Our annual Open House will take place on Tuesday, May 16 beginning at 5:30pm. The evening will include an amazing performance by our award-winning Mariners group, a fundraising dinner including pulled-pork sandwiches, a brief PTSA meeting, Science projects displayed in the MPB, and classroom visitations beginning at 6:30p.m. Middle School Pride Night will take place on Wednesday, May 31 at 5:00p.m. on our campus. Eight-grade promotion will be held on Wednesday, June 14 at 10:45a.m. on campus. Senior Awards Night will be held at Arbor Road Church in Long Beach on Wednesday, June 7 at 6:00p.m. Senior week activities will kick-off with Grad Night at Disneyland on June 10. The last of our year end celebrations will be the Commencement Ceremony for the class of 2017 on Thursday, June 15 at 6:30p.m. in Ron Yary Stadium.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

College and Careers

Ernie Pyle students and parents are learning about college and careers. Forty-three parents are attending the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). One of the goals of PIQE is creating a college-going culture. Parents learn how to navigate the K-12 school system and gain information to ensure their child completes the A-G high school requirements for college admission. Students enjoyed our 2nd annual College and Career Week. Students had the opportunity to hear a police officer, a computer software salesman from Oracle, a computer software engineer at Google and an oncology researcher talk about their careers. During the morning recess students engaged in a variety of activities including designing their own college pennants, writing mock resumes and having their pictures taken in various career outfits. We sported college T-shirts and sweatshirts all week and classrooms competed in a door decorating contest. The first place winner was Mrs. Gotz's 2nd grade. It was a hard choice for the judges. All participants did a great job.

To get updates on other great happenings at Ernie Pyle you can follow us on Twitter @pylepanthers!



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Ramona Scholars Take Advantage of STEAM Opportunities

It's been a busy and productive year at Ramona with every grade level refining and improving current instructional practices while embracing common site goals designed and agreed upon by staff to increase student achievement. We also believe that it is important to provide students with extracurricular and hands-on learning experiences to deepen their learning. One such opportunity was the California Education Center (CEC) annual STEAMania competition on April 1st. This annual event invites students who are a part of our APPLE afterschool program to participate in a robotics competition. Teams from eleven area schools worked collaboratively to create robots that could perform a variety of tasks. The teams were issued with two challenges. First, they were tasked with building a robot bug which involved determining gear ratio and joint placement to get the robot from point A to B. The second challenge was to navigate a Mindstorms robot through a maze to see which team could complete the maze fastest. Students were evaluated on their engineering skills and ability to work as a team to problem solve and find practical solutions. Our team of three sixth graders, Aidan, Alonso, and David, were announced as the overall STEAM champions and presented with a trophy for their achievements. The boys were acknowledged and honored at our flag ceremony at school and serve as an inspiration for our younger students in the areas of science and mathematics. These areas have been a strong focus this year and teachers have given students multiple opportunities to collaborate and engage in critical thinking to solve problems. Clearly, this emphasis was a factor in our students' success.

The arts have always enjoyed a home at Ramona and this year was no exception with Mrs. Hanief and Mrs. Kirby's scholars presenting a musical called Character Matters. Our first, second, and third graders enthralled audiences with their performance on March 29th. The musical showcased the singing, dancing, and acting talents of these scholars and also delivered an

important message about the pillars of character and how they apply to our daily lives.

Finally, at Ramona, our teachers always strive to provide their students with meaningful learning experiences that will impact them even after they leave Ramona to move on to middle and high school. This year, students from kindergarten through sixth grade were in for a treat as they had the opportunity to attend the fourth grade wax museum. Every fourth grade student took on the persona of a historical figure in California history. For just a few pennies, each character came to life and told their story to a group of enthralled students. It was a great learning experience for our fourth grade students and their audience and really brought history to life for everyone. We learned about the lives of Gaspar de Portola, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, and Pio de Jesus Pico to name just a few. Our fourth grade teachers- Ms. Drucker, Ms. Moran, and Mr. Renaker put a lot of hard work into planning this wonderful event.

It's been a great year at Ramona and we are already planning for 2017/18. Supported by our families and communities as always, Ramona will continue to soar to new heights maintaining a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.



Somerset *High School*

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

Career Fair

Our annual Career Fair on March 17th, was a great success with over 20 colleges and career professionals sharing information to Somerset students. These presentations helped spark interest and taught our students the steps and training needed to enter these careers and vocations and to the endless possibilities open to them after high school graduation. We are grateful for the many new presenters that helped make our Career Fair special. These new presenters included Dorothy McKim, a two-time Emmy Award winner and Oscar nominated producer for her short film "Get A Horse" which was shown before the Disney animated movie, Frozen. She clearly taught how hard work, perseverance, and an eye for quality storytelling, helped her rise from the staffing department in Walt Disney Studios to producing shows such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Lion King*.



Dorothy McKim explains what it takes to be a producer at Disney Studios to Career Fair participants.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Dr. Angelica Montelongo
Principal

Washington has Been Overflowing with Celebrations!

On March 3, our Kindergarten teacher Katherine Shaw received the Milken Award! For 30 years, the Milken Educator Awards, an initiative of the [Milken Family Foundation](http://www.milkenfamilyfoundation.org), have rewarded and inspired excellence in the world of education by honoring top educators around the country with \$25,000 unrestricted awards.

Mrs. Shaw has taught second and sixth grades as well as served as an instructional coach. Throughout her tenure, she has worked wonders with differentiating instruction to meet students where they are, closing academic gaps and guiding them to mastery. Katherine brings parents into the school community by forging relationships, welcoming them into her classroom, and sharing instructional strategies so they can reinforce concepts with their children at home. Her instruction has made a permanent impact on students. Former students visit to thank her for believing in them; some are even pursuing careers in education because of what they learned in her class (<http://www.milkeneducatorawards.org/educators/view/katherine-shaw>).

On March 27, the Bellflower Noon Lions Club presented our students with the origins and traditions of Flag Day. The ceremony opened with a Pledge of Allegiance led by a Color Guard presentation in conjunction with Boys Scouts of America. The presentation was followed by Superintendent Dr. Jacobs teaching the US Flag is a strong symbol of American identity and national pride. City of Bellflower, Mayor Koops explained the representation of the 13 stripes and 50 stars, and Board Member Jerry Cleveland shared the proper display of the Flag.

Today the flag we so proudly hail still sends a message to any distance that the spirit of a free people is unconquerable and that our democratic nation will always remain "the land of the free and the home of the brave."—Ronald Reagan



Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Stacey Williams
Principal

Budding Mathematicians

At Craig Williams, we are committed to providing our students with a rich and rigorous mathematics education. In order to support this effort, we have added another intervention teacher to our already strong team. Ms. Stephanie Williams took on the role of TOSA (teacher on special assignment) at the end of the first trimester. Her schedule is packed throughout the week with co-planning and co-teaching with classroom teachers around the topic of mathematics and best practices. In addition, she pulls out small groups of students to focus on specific math skills in order to strengthen their understanding of these key concepts.

Students are learning to demonstrate their understanding with a combination of manipulatives, drawings, and verbal explanations. Students are excited to learn new math concepts and to be able to share their thinking with the rest of their classmates. Ms. Williams has been training in CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction) and is sharing these strategies with each grade level. Teachers are putting strategies into practice and seeing outstanding results. The students at Craig Williams are able to identify multiple strategies for solving problems, challenge the thinking of their classmates, and defend the strategy they used to solve a problem. Our scholars are truly becoming mathematicians!



Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Math Olympics

Frank E. Woodruff Elementary has a great tradition of honoring our students who have mastered basic math facts during springtime flag ceremonies. We typically hold five to six Math Olympic Ceremonies where students “run” the torch, receive gold medals, and celebrate their mathematical knowledge. Across grade levels our students have mastered counting to 100, writing numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fraction to decimal to percent conversions. Each grade

level has a specific goal and time limit for students to achieve mastery of math facts. Teachers also display Math Olympian names in each classroom. This has become a favored tradition in our school community. Students are dressed in their best outfits and proudly wear their hard-earned medals. Parents are happily taking pictures to memorialize students’ milestone in learning. As an administrator, it is wonderful to observe such joy and celebration for academics. The home and school work together to support and assist all students in mastering basic facts as a foundation for complex mathematical reasoning and computation.



SUPERINTENDENT • From Page



Dr. Brian Jacobs

already in the works for 2017-18. During the time that our students are away from school we will be performing several maintenance procedures, providing professional development opportunities for our teachers, working on our Local Control Accountability Plan implementation, and developing a plan for a new wing of buildings at Mayfair Middle/High School, while also doing major athletic field renovations at Bellflower Middle/High School. However, it is also nice to reflect on some amazing accomplishments, as we prepare for the next school year!

Recognizing that the mission of the Bellflower Unified School District is to provide the pathway for all students to attain the expertise and develop skills of academic excellence that will empower them to:

- become lifelong active learners
- demonstrate respect for themselves and others in a dynamic, diverse, and global society
- become informed, productive, independent, and contributing citizens
- perform successfully in their chosen field and in society

This year has been a resounding success by so many measures. The energy level across the district remains higher than years past, and the acknowledgement for all of the successes we achieved this year together. As I reflect and celebrate with all of our staff, I offer some highlights. This year

- Teachers actively making classrooms even more engaging and creating learning environments that provide pathways for grade level success
- Technology has increased the student to device ratio to approximately 3:1, and the ultimate approval of 1:1 on target for the next school year
- Support staff being available and ready to assist with every aspect of the learning and operations of a school and district
- Graduation rates are the highest among other local districts

As district leaders, we have continued to engage with an organizational culture towards 212 Degree Leadership. We have made GREAT progress with the instructional techniques and strategies used by teachers and the administrative team districtwide has been a great support in making them all sustainable practices. While we still have a ways to go, we are moving in a direction that will encapsulate a successful future.

As Rob Ketterling has stated; “Anything worth having is worth working for. Change is worth the effort. When you begin to change, you’ll discover a world of opportunity you never dreamed possible. If you resist change, you’ll find yourself living far below your potential.”

In closing my final article for the year, I once again want to say “Thank you” to all of the employees of BUSD and acknowledge all of their hard work and dedication for the children and young adults each are called to serve. I would also like to reinforce that as we move into the 2017-18 school year, I desire the year to be one of even greater strides of excellence and higher levels of student achievement.

For 2017-18, BUSD leadership will focus on what is working well and work to replicate and sustain those elements; while noting what is not working to be reviewed and potentially ended. Systems are in place, technology is and will continue to grow, and the support offered to students and families to ensure our graduation rates remain the best among other local district will continue to charge BUSD towards annual celebrations of excellence! One of my missions as the instructional leader of BUSD is to Engage, Inspire and Empower. I hope that is seen in each aspect of our District. It is important that BUSD continue to advance student learning and student growth, while modeling the passion in preparing for the future!

Thanks for an amazing year as your leader – I am looking forward to next year and beyond.

Be Part of the Largest National Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children’s experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives - including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.



Receive up to \$150 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

UCLA

What will participants do?

There are 1-2 visits in the first year. During these visits, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan!

If interested, contact us:
ABCD Study @ UCLA

Phone: (310) 794-0089

Email: abcdstudy@ucla.edu

For more info, visit: AbcdStudy.org

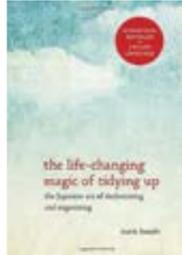
The Life-changing Magic of Tidying Up



Lucy Davis

Author: Marie Kondo

Imagine a life that is simple and uncluttered. In wake of the ever-popular minimalist movement, I read a book that inspired me tremendously. This eye opening book explains how to purge the unnecessary, and how it can affect your life. She covers every area of thought (and maybe more!) from how to decide what to keep, to understanding what it means to be a minimalist.



In just 224 pages, Marie explains how to take the first few steps in creating that lifestyle.

We live in a world with too much stuff. You only need what makes you happy, like Marie often says. It's time to start living clean, my friends!

I really loved this book, because it explains one of the simplest things in life: how to live simply. With five out of five bookworms, you should really give it a read.

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.

Courtney's Book Review

A Real Adventure Book



Courtney M.

The Lightning Thief
by Rick Riordan

If you want adventure, you should really think about reading this book. Have you ever been the new kid at a school or camp? Percy Jackson knows how that feels. Percy Jackson goes on a very interesting quest with his two friends just so he can save his mom from Hades, the God of the underworld.

I'm rating this book a big 5.



Courtney likes to play softball, football, and volleyball. 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.

Keira's Book Nook

Is Hitler The Enemy?



Keira

My Brother's Secret
By Dan Smith

This unbelievable, resplendent, captivating and emotional book shows how you can tell who to trust. Karl, like all good German boys is training to be in the Hitler Youth. However, his older brother Stefan wants nothing to do with it. When their father is killed Karl's faith in Hitler is shaken. He is filled with questions that need to be answered. Is Hitler a hero or deleterious villain? Karl soon finds out as he becomes involved in a rebellion against the Nazis. I couldn't put down this 293 page action packed book. I would recommend it for 3rd-7th graders. 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.

Book Review By Katrina

A Gripping Crime Novel

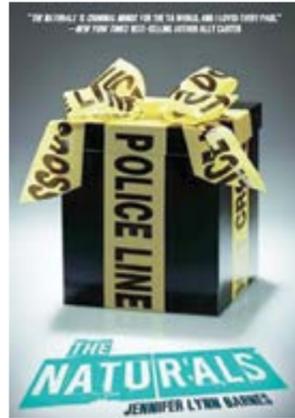


Katrina D.

The Naturals by

Jennifer Lynn Barnes is a book about a team of teenagers brought together because of their unique talents. But unlike other books, their talents aren't supernatural.

Talents like profiling just by looking at someone, being a human lie detector and managing to remember stats just to name a few came naturally. Now, this team of teens must solve cold cases that not even the finest CIA members could. Even with an unknown murderer on the loose. This book is filled with snarky comments, obsessive mystery and a writing style that cannot be matched. Honestly I couldn't stop reading this book until the very end, hungry to learn the murderer's identity. The characters are developed, the plot moves at a perfect speed and you find yourself holding your breath with every page. If you're looking from a gripping crime novel, then this is for you! I rate this book 5 out of 5 medals.



Katrina is a ninth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate the books from 1 to 5 medals with 5 being the best.

Michael's Book Review

The Missing Mitt



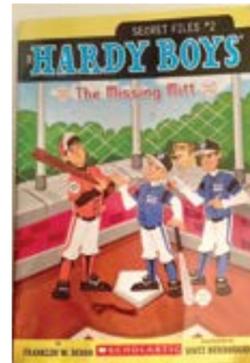
Michael H.

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and His brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had Jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.

I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

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.



Alana's Book Review

Blood On the River



Alana F.

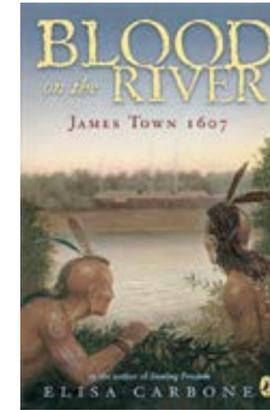
By: Elisa Carbone

Samuel Collins, a tough and hardened preteen boy, was only a young child when his mother passed away. Now snarky, immature (yet undoubtedly intelligent), and living on the streets of England, he isn't personable

in the slightest. But when he's given the chance to have a fresh start in the recently discovered "new world," will he take it? Will he put his aggression, pride, and past behind him, or will he endanger all those that care for him?

I'd give this book 5 stars because, while reading this, I couldn't help but compare Samuel to my younger self. Seeing the main character overcome the same social and ego issues that I overcame really made me appreciate this book. Elisa introduces young children to characters with more complex troubles and personalities than those in other children's literature, and that is truly amazing.

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.



Book Review by Abbas

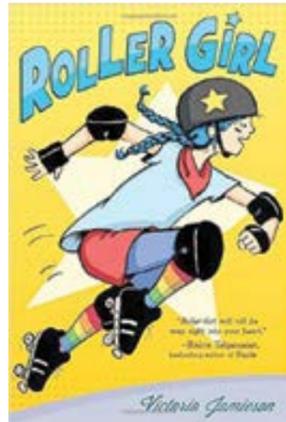
Amazing Graphic Novel



Abbas D.

Roller Girl is a graphic novel by Victoria Jamieson. This book is about a girl named Astrid and her best friend Nicole. One day the girls go to a roller derby. Astrid later on begs her mom to go to roller derby camp and her mother agrees by signing her up. Astrid is elated and

hopes her best friend will sign up too. Nicole signs up for dance class instead. This turns her summer upside down. Astrid's nemesis Rachel is now friends with Astrid because they're taking the same dance class. Rachel is a mean girl who keeps pressuring Nicole to stop being friends with Astrid. How will Astrid survive the summer without Nicole? This book is an amazing novel because it made me feel like branching out and trying new things can lead to new friendships. This book is great for people who love graphic novels and skating. Will Astrid continue her roller derby fame? I rate this book 5 out of 5 smiley faces.



Abbas D. is a fifth grade student who enjoys cooking in his free time, swimming and loves roasted marshmallows. Abbas will rate the books 1 to 5 smiley faces with 5 being the best.

Summer Fun 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 June 15, 2017
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game — fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Awesome | Lessons | Sunscreen |
| Barbeque | Lifeguard | Surfing |
| Beach | Picnics | Swimming |
| Fireworks | Pool | Vacation |
| Fun | Popsicles | Volleyball |
| Hot | Sand | Water |
| Ice Cream | Summer | Wave |
| Lemonade | Sunny | |

Congratulations to **Kimberly Hernandez**
Winner of the March Word Search Contest!





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