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School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 11, Issue 97

May 2017

RBUSD Promotes College Ready Environment



Redondo Shores students visit El Camino College (please see page 8)

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Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

In RBUSD, Administrators Do More!

Landing an administrator job in the finest school district in the South Bay is not easy. Word is out that, before submitting an application seeking an administrator job in Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD), one must be willing to go beyond the listed job description. In most school districts, part of the administrator job description reads: "... and other duties as assigned." Some districts will tout that this phrase is a nice way of saying, "You will do whatever we tell you" (as long as it's legal and ethical, of course). Sure, in nearly all of our administrator job descriptions "other duties as assigned" is included.

Getting back to the unwritten word in RBUSD, the Board of Education and I ask even more from our administrators. In fact, as an easy example, the first component in their formal evaluation rates their resilience (e.g., constructive reaction to disappointment and failure and willingness to admit error and learn from it). Think about it—from the word go, we are asking our leaders to take risks that benefit (y)our children. We are not asking or evaluating them on how they effectively and quietly manage the status quo. We are asking for more—much more.

When administrators are hired, the paper screening, interviews, and final background check are thorough and not necessarily traditional. To say that we spend a significant amount of time hiring each administrator is an understatement. The final piece of the hiring process is a 30–90 minute interview with me, one-on-one. Of course, I follow the human resources playbook as to what I ask and don't ask, but what I push is truly the secret sauce of RBUSD. Are you willing to advocate for a student-centered and educationally progressive agenda for the betterment of our learning community? Are you willing to speak up, lead, and model positive change for the betterment of our learning community? Are you willing to embrace calculated risks for the betterment of our learning community? Are you willing to look beyond your site's sidewalk and engage the residents, when appropriate, for the betterment of our learning community? Are you willing to work collaboratively and positively with all of our employees for the betterment of our learning community? On a related note, when you have an employee who needs closer supervision and coaching, are you willing to have a direct, candid, and positive conversation with him or her for the betterment of our learning community? I can go on,

Board of Education



Brad Waller
President

Change is Good

I am honored to have been both re-elected by the people to serve for another four years, and elected president of the RBUSD Board of Education for the next year at our most recent meeting. I look forward to a year of growth and change. Change is good. Without change we stagnate and fall behind.

There will be lots of change at the school district. Plan to see construction start on The Kensington Assisted Living facility at our Knob Hill property, new classrooms at the high school, and more work around the district in the next few months. We have new Next Generation Science Standards to start implementing next year. We also see warning signs that state revenues may be declining, signaling budget constraints and maybe even a recession in our future. As a board we have been planning for adversity and ensuring we have adequate reserves to deal with another.

One change I would like to see is to have civility return to our city, elections, and public meetings. As adults we all need to model the behavior that we would like to see in our kids and set the example for them to look up to.

My four years on the board of SoCal ROC (Southern California Regional Occupational Center) also taught me to adapt to change. With their loss of state funding, the board was able to create a new funding model that has allowed this wonderful school that gives career technical education to students and adults to remain open. They are still struggling, but I am optimistic that a stable funding model will be found over the next four years.

What change are you looking for? Let me know.

but you get the picture. In fact—and I have been doing this a long time now—some candidates decline to accept the position after this meeting, and sometimes I clearly see the candidate is "not a match." Good. Like a marriage, better to know everything before you commit.

In RBUSD, we ask a lot from our administrators. They are managers and leaders—this is a requirement. They understand the differences between managing and leading, and they make magic happen, wherever they are located. The Board of Education and I thank them for the zealous efforts, their care for our students, and their care for the adults with whom they interact on a daily basis. As a favor, the next time you see one of our great administrators, please say thank you!

Redondo Beach Unified School District

1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

(310) 379-5449 • www.rbusd.org



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

School News

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You might want to get a comfortable chair and plan to relax awhile as this issue will keep you spell-bound. You will read about state testing tips, exploring different cultures, the Battle of the Books, the and much more...

Our student book reviews have received rave reviews and should be helpful when looking for just that special book this summer.

The Miller Children's & Women's Hospital of Long Beach article on page 7 offers important information about bike and helmet safety.

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contests on pages 10 and 16. When you find the words in the list, there

will be one word left and that is the answer you email me to enter the contest. You love contests! We publish 31 *School News* publications and we receive the most entries from RBUSD readers. Remember all ages may enter.

As always, thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. In addition to loyal readers we are fortunate to have loyal advertisers who make it possible for us to publish. Please tell them you saw their ad in *School News* the next time you use their services or products.

Our next issue is June 7 just in time to congratulate the Class of 2017!

Beach Cities Health District



Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

Second Opportunity to See *Screenagers*

By Ali Steward, BCHD Director of Youth Services.

I remember my first cell phone. My parents purchased it for my siblings and me to use "in case of an emergency only" on our 20-mile commute to school on country roads in Iowa. It came in a faux-leather bag with a coiled cord, and had to be plugged into the cigarette lighter to function.

Luckily, both of those things are relics of the past.

Parents' decision to purchase a cell phone for their child is very much a thing of the present, though. For many, it's a matter of when, not if. Most teens – 85% of those ages 14-17 – have cell phones, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Additionally, so do 69% of 11-14 year olds and 31% of kids aged 8-10.

My parents handed me a simple telephone – but in this era of digital deluge, you'll be handing them a lot more. That's why it's important for parents to set boundaries from the beginning about social media, gaming and usage.

Luckily, the Redondo Beach Council PTA is bringing you another opportunity to view *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age*. The documentary found that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at a screen, and revealed that all that screen time is causing friction at home and school.

Screenagers shows how tech time impacts kids' development, and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find a healthy balance.

Like our digital lives, the screening will transcend the borders of the Beach Cities. RBUSD will join the Hermosa Beach City School District, Manhattan Beach Unified School District and South Bay Families Connected to offer the screening at the Mira Costa High School Auditorium on Wednesday, May 10 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Register at southbayfamiliesconnected.org/events.

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Redondo Beach Council PTA



Raymur Flinn
President

A Year in the Life

Every school in Redondo Beach is part of the Redondo Beach Council PTA (RBPTA). In addition to their duties at school, every PTA president is a part of RBPTA, along with other hardworking volunteers. RBPTA meets monthly to assist one another and to create districtwide opportunities. RBPTA has had a record year for programs and collaborative efforts.

We started with our backpack program, which provides school supplies for our neediest students. RBPTA, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) and the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) pooled resources and partnered with a fun school and office supplies shop, which donates supplies for every item purchased. This partnership helped provide 6,563 school supplies to students in need not only in Redondo Beach but also across the U.S.

Our Power of Choice workshop offered our parents and students sixth-grade and up an evening with a diverse panel of experts to help navigate the pressure of the teen years in a healthy manner.

During the holidays, Project Unified completed its fourth year. This program provides gifts for our families in need. RBUSD and RBPTA helped 60 families. Items included gifts for the students, food and gift cards.

Movie Time!

We brought the movie *Screenagers* to the entire South Bay community free of charge. It was so well-received that we will be providing a second screening in May in conjunction with the Manhattan Beach Unified School District.

RBPTA just provided a free cybersafety event for our families to provide them with tools to help navigate the cyberworld. Our final event will be an awards ceremony on May 22, when we recognize student reflections winners, award scholarships to graduating student PTA members, and present volunteers and community members with Honorary Service Awards.

It has been an honor to have served as president of RBPTA for the past two years, and I am excited to welcome Patricia Harris DiLeva, who was elected to serve as Council President for the 2017-18 school year.

RBPTA is proud to work collaboratively with RBUSD and RBEF to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students. We thank you for your continued support.

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278
www.rbusd.org

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation



Hanh Archer
President

Growth and Change

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) is excited to announce growth and change within our organization.

I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as President of RBEF. Previously, I served as Vice President for 6 months, 2 years as a member on the Board of Trustees, and 3 years as Site Advocate for Tulita Elementary School. As a parent of three RBUSD students, I've witnessed the changes throughout our community and our school district. I am committed to supporting RBEF's vision and mission of providing all students opportunities for educational growth and success. A Practicing attorney since 2000, I am the principal and founder of Hanh N. Archer, A Professional Corporation located in Torrance.

Edward (E.J.) Caldwell was recently elected Vice President of RBEF. He has served as a member on the Board of Trustees for the past 3 1/2 years. E.J. and his wife Zoe have two young children, one attending Beryl Heights and a future RBUSD student. E.J. participated in Leadership Redondo, an 18-month program designed to prepare community members for future leadership



positions. He is a practicing attorney and currently the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Program Manager at West Basin Municipal Water District.

Raymur Flinn joins RBEF as our new Executive Director. She is no stranger to the community – serving as an active member

of our district PTA since 2009 and a mother of two RBUSD students. Raymur has extensive experience in a variety of settings, including for profit and non-profit environment, with expertise in fundraising, marketing, client service and comprehensive event planning. Her experience, knowledge, and integrity are a great match for the work, the Foundation, the RBUSD, Redondo Beach community and investors of RBEF.

Emma Hutner completes the team at RBEF as its new Administrative Assistant. She is a recent graduate of the University of California, Davis with a Bachelors of Art in Design. She is excited to be a part of the next chapter for RBEF.

Together with our Board of Trustees, we are positioned to make an impact on Our Kids, Our Community and Our Legacy. 409 N. P.C.H., #310, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/954-2004
www.rbef.org

Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Bike and Helmet Safety: Myth vs. Reality



Aileen Imai
Injury Prevention
Coordinator,
Kohl's Cares Injury
Prevention Program,
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), millions of American rides bicycles, but less than half wear helmet, and only 48% of children ages 5 – 14-years old wear bicycle helmets when riding.

At Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, pedestrian-automobile incidents are the No. 1 reason kids are rushed to the trauma center.

Learn about common bike and helmet safety misconceptions with the Kohl's Cares Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's.

Kohl's Cares and Miller Children's care about the children in our community. For more information on pedestrian, bike and helmet safety, visit MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares.



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
800-MEMORIAL MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares

- **Myth:** Only small children need to wear helmets.
- **Reality:** California law requires anyone under 18-years-old to wear an approved helmet when riding a bicycle.
- **Myth:** A helmet does not help prevent a head injury.
- **Reality:** According to the CDC, wearing a properly fitted helmet decreases your child's risk of head injury and is an important injury prevention method.
- **Myth:** Any helmet is safe to wear.
- **Reality:** You should only wear a helmet with a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission label, which certifies that a helmet meets or exceeds safety standards.
- **Myth:** Vehicles will always stop for pedestrians.
- **Reality:** Vehicles may not always stop for pedestrians. It's important to follow the rules of the road:
 - Ride with the flow of traffic (in bike lanes when possible)
 - Obey traffic signs
 - Stop at red lights and signals
 - Stop and look both ways
 - Always wear a helmet

Teaching Kids to Stay Safe

Bike & Helmet Safety **Pedestrian Safety** **Car Seat Safety**

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RBUSD Alternative Education



Anthony Bridi
Principal

College Ready

By Lissa Watts, Counselor

College is realistic and attainable for our students. From the moment they enter Redondo Shores, our staff members work diligently to prepare them for life after high school. A variety of opportunities also abound both on and off campus to support their personal growth and individual academic interests.

We provide a college-ready environment during the school day. The school's core courses are A-G approved, which provides the rigor necessary for students to be prepared for a college-level curriculum. Our students also have access to college and career preparatory electives.

Outside of the regular school day, Redondo Shores students are also encouraged to take concurrent enrollment classes at El Camino College (ECC). This year we offered an ECC "Introduction to Public Speaking" class and an "Introduction to Administrative Justice Course" on our Redondo Shores campus. In addition to the course offerings, the seniors can also complete a portfolio which includes a resume, two letters of recommendation, a personal statement, and a college scholarship application.

Our strong relationship with ECC bridges post-secondary ideals. It allows the students to become better prepared with transitioning into the collegiate world. Weekly availability of an ECC counselor also provides them with priority registration, and the knowledge and selection of course offerings that can align with their individual interests and future career goals.

We currently have 41 students who have applied for Fall 2017 admission at ECC. And on March 24, we took a field trip to El Camino College where the students could take their entrance exams, complete their orientation, and tour the campus itself.

Excitement builds over the course of the year as our students become exposed to the different academic environments at the local community colleges and four-year universities. This year, colleges like ECC, Cal State Long Beach, and Cal State Dominguez Hills have provided various guided tours for our students. Through these enrichment experiences, our students have found that college is attainable, and that their own success is inevitable.

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277
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South Bay Adult School



Dr. Anthony Taranto
Director

Adult Education

In 2013, an analysis conducted by the Georgetown Center on Education and Workforce showed that by 2020, at least 65 percent of job openings in the U.S. will require some post-secondary education or training, although not necessarily a four-year degree. A majority of these jobs are in growing high-demand and mid-level careers, and pay family sustaining wages.

These jobs include retail/hospitality/tourism, agriculture, water, environmental technologies, information and communication technologies/digital media, and advanced manufacturing, just to name a few. However, according to the National Skills Coalition (2016), only 44 percent of workers are trained to the middle-skill level, thus creating a skills gap in the workforce. As an adult education school, we provide a high-quality program that will better prepare individuals to fill this gap.

At South Bay Adult School, our students can also obtain their high school diploma, high school equivalency (GED), learn to speak English, and learn how to become a U.S. citizen. All of these programs provide individuals with the vital foundational skills they need to succeed economically and socially, thus helping to reduce this skills gap. Our students are also taking lessons in the California Career Zone, a web-based career exploration program designed to match students with occupations that align to their personalities, skills, and interests.

In addition, we have partnered with El Camino College (ECC) to offer classes that can help our students not only improve their foundational skills, but also assist them in their transition to ECC. Currently, we are hosting three ECC courses designed to build academic language, listening, and note-taking skills. As part of their coursework, the students also create an educational plan that will align them to either a career and technical education field in high-demand areas or a transferable degree pathway.

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Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

Occupational Therapy

By Jessica Silberling, Executive Director, Special Education

Did you know that RBUSD has a team of six occupational therapists (OT) working hard to support all our district's students? School-based occupational therapists support academic achievement and social participation throughout different aspects and settings of the school day, working to help children with their fine motor, visual motor and sensory skills and prepare them for college, career and community integration.



OT, Kelly Rodenkirch, runs a Handwriting Without Tears group in kindergarten at Madison Elementary School.

Another great way our OTs work involves helping classroom teachers design sensory-friendly classrooms. Mrs. French, a Birney second-grade teacher, has worked closely with the OTs to build an amazing classroom that includes wiggle bands, wedge cushions, options for standing, wobble stools, ball chairs, and daily yoga.

District OT Marita Kakuk best sums up her department's dedication in this statement: "I love making an impact on children, and I love seeing them succeed. There is nothing like having a child master a task that was difficult for them for so long. You can see the difference in their confidence and willingness to learn."

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310/937-1221

2600 Ripley Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8636 • <http://www.adamsmiddle.org>



Lisa Veal
Principal

STEM, Anyone?

Adams Middle School continues to expand its STEM program to ensure that its students are provided a variety of options to explore their interests and develop their skills in these areas.

Our Project Lead the Way engineering class allows students to enjoy hands-on learning while developing their 21st century skills. We also now offer a robotics course in



Adams families engaged in a VEX robot competition at STEM Night

which students learn to design, build, and code using the VEX system.

In addition to course offerings, Adams formed its First LEGO League this year. Our teams not only competed against other teams but were also able to develop lifelong skills of collaboration, communication and problem solving.

A final component of our expansion has been Adams's STEM Night, when we welcome our community to the campus for an evening of fun STEM-related activities. Adams is proud of the work it's doing to prepare its students for jobs of the future!



Mrs. Vallejo shares a topography activity at STEM Night using an augmented reality sandbox

815 Knob Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8650 • <http://altavista.rbusd.org>



Susan Wildes
Principal

Schoolwide Wellness

It started as a small team of parents and staff interested in addressing the physical and wellness needs of the school community. In collaboration with the Beach Cities Health District, the Alta Vista Wellness Council evolved and grew to include students and community members to analyze the needs of students, staff and families and develop initiatives to address them.

Over the last few years, the reach and influence of the Wellness Council has strengthened, providing room



Andrea Archambault, Alta Vista parent and health coach, presents to parents, "What's Up Gut? The Key to Reducing your Stress and Anxiety."

parents healthy snack and party guidelines, developing the school's inaugural Field Day, and offering parents health-education classes. The Alta Vista Wellness Council, in collaboration with fourth- and fifth-grade student leaders, has also been tackling

issues important to our student body, such as investigating refillable water bottle stations and offering fellow students bike-safety training in collaboration with the Redondo Beach Police Department and the Beach Cities Bicycle Club.



Alta Vista students engage in the first annual Field Day

Word Search Contest
Words Associated with School

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 RBUSD 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!

- | | | |
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Beryl Heights Elementary (K-5)

920 Beryl St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8611 • <http://beryl.rbusd.org>



Karen Mohr
Principal

State Testing Tips for Success

Our State testing window opens on April 27, and third through fifth grade students will be taking the testing on their chromebooks. To help your child do well on their testing, please:

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before each day starts.
2. Make sure that you provide a light, healthy breakfast.
3. Have your child dress comfortably.
4. Please arrive at school on time
5. Most importantly, send your child off to school with confidence, building words of praise and support like "You'll do great! Believe in yourself! I love you!"

A positive interaction before testing always helps motivate students to do their best and gives them a

feeling of self-worth and confidence. Suggest that your child breathe deeply to relax before and during the test and remind your child to be mindful and read directions carefully. A good strategy is to read all possible answers and work out their problems before they answer. Tell your child to check his or her answers before turning in the test and remind them to take their time; it is not a timed test. Please do not schedule trips, dental or medical appointments, or early pickups for testing days. Most of all, remember that it is just one indicator of how a child is doing and communication throughout the year with your child's teacher is always the best way to determine your child's success.

As always, at Beryl we strive to be the best we can be and with your help and support, our students will be successful in all that they do.

Lincoln Elementary (K-5)

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8646 • <http://lincoln.rbusd.org>



Jane Tasker
Principal

Jumping for Joy

Lincoln students have learned a lot about healthy hearts this year! Thanks to the help and support of our entire community, Lincoln has just been named the top school in the state for the 2017 Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for the American Heart Association!

The American Heart Association has been able to impact many lives since this program first started 35 years ago. Thanks to the contributions of our Lincoln families and other participating schools, the American Heart Association has been able to work with health care providers to reduce the number of people dying from heart disease and stroke by 25 percent. Jump Rope for Heart donations have also funded scientists who went on to win Nobel Prizes for their work.

We know that these things don't happen by chance, but directly as a result of the efforts of all who are involved. We credit our success to the dedicated committee of teachers that coordinates services and communication with families, students, and our liaisons at the American Heart Association. This program is successful on many fronts. We give back to those in need, we learn more about heart disease and prevention, and we also have an amazing time doing it all.



Lincoln raises over \$46,000 for the American Heart Association

This year our students at Lincoln celebrated with a full jump-rope day complete with different stations, including various jump-rope events, a fun dance party, and healthy refreshments courtesy of the Beach Cities Health District. They also got to witness a once-in-a-lifetime "Sumo Wrestling" contest between myself and a former Lincoln principal, Mr. Winckler. This event in particular was the most fun I have ever had at school! I'm so proud to lead a school that values health, wellness, and contributing to society.

Birney Elementary (K-5)

1600 Green Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8626 • <http://birney.rbusd.org>



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Mindful Mornings

Our "Mindful Mornings" at Birney School have kicked off in a big way. These special events, taught by school counselor Mrs. Hale, first began in February.

Mindful Mornings are designed to help our students' cognitive development so that they can be at their best during the school day. On average, a person spends about 20 years of the formative stages of their life in school.

These years shape a person's perspectives towards life, and can determine his or her future.

Mindfulness is all about learning about our mind and how it works. Mindful Mornings will help the students know how to manage such stresses as testing, anxiety, the need to concentrate, coping, relaxation, and impulse control. Our Mindful Mornings group focuses on activities like deep breathing for calming and impulse control; discussions around parts of the brain and their functions; strategies for calming the mind and body; how kindness relates to emotions in the body; and much more.

Our children stand to gain much from Mindfulness if started early. The benefits can come in many forms, too: psychological, behavioral, social, physical, and emotional.

The benefits of our Mindful Mornings also align perfectly with the district's goal of teaching the whole child. Some of the gains we hope to make with this activity are improved memory, where children can remember things more clearly (if started early, this can help to improve their grades in school). There is also greater creativity due to more focused attention, where the children are able to explore their minds and then formulate ideas. Childhood of course is when one's creativity is at its peak.

We can also see the benefits of reduced anxiety. The Mindfulness program can help children worry less and stay calmer in stressful situations. There is also the problem of impulse control, where Mindfulness can help a child become more "present" and concentrate on their body. Mindfulness can also increase their sense of self-confidence, when the ability to calm their minds will also help them face issues more securely. In the end, Mindfulness can foster a more positive outlook towards life.

Jefferson Elementary (K-5)

600 Harkness Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • www.rbusd.org/jefferson



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Preparing for Success

As we approach the 2017 statewide California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) testing window, many parents and families ask how they can best prepare students to do well on the assessments. Since the tests are cumulative, covering Common Core grade level standards taught through the year, putting in long hours of studying in the days that lead up to the test or during the test is not necessarily the best way to be ready for success. In fact, we don't recommend this approach to testing at all.

Instead, in order for students to do their best during testing, it's important to follow some basics: Get a good night's sleep the night before testing; have a complete breakfast the day of testing as well as a complete dinner the night before; having a high level of protein is ideal if you can; come to school on time the day of testing; and exercise each day during the testing window.

Students and parents should talk about the importance of testing and stress the value of trying their best without putting too much pressure on the student.

This year, CAASPP testing is occurring in the beginning of May for third-through-fifth-grade students. Testing will focus on language arts and mathematics for all grades as well as a new pilot test in science for fifth-graders. CAASPP testing is an important measure among several others, as the results give valuable information on individual student standards mastery and how our school is performing overall.

Our goal is to make the testing period as smooth and stress free for our students as possible. With your support, I know that we can achieve it so that our students can do their best. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Jefferson students.



Jefferson 5th Graders and their chromebooks are ready for the CAASPP

Madison Elementary (K-5)

2200 MacKay Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8623 • <http://madison.rbusd.org>



Drew Gamet
Principal

Exploring Different Cultures

At Madison Elementary School, we are fortunate to be in community where so many of our families hail from so many parts of the world. We have students who were born in 12 different countries and who claim 14 different home languages. These numbers don't even take into account students who were born here but whose parents come from a variety of countries from around the world.



Madison students celebrate diversity.

As a result, we have an incredibly diverse student body, exposing our students not just to textbooks and Web pages with pictures of far-flung locations but also to opportunities to experience people and cultures from around the world—all while staying right here at home.

Knowing this, we would be remiss in not celebrating this aspect of our school community. On May 19, Madison will be holding our annual Multicultural Night. This is an incredible event where parents and students come together to celebrate the diversity of our community and the strength and worldliness it provides. We will have tables where parents can display photos, textiles, and food that represent the cultures they are sharing. Students and parents will participate in performances and present a whole host of activities from many different countries. This year we will be adding, for the first time, storytelling, where parents and students can share children's stories connected to their countries.

None of this would be possible without your support and participation. So, if you would like to set up a table display, perform, or read a story, please contact Madison at (310) 798-8623.

Parras Middle School (6-8)

200 N. Lucia Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8616 • <http://www.parrasmiddle.org>



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Summer Opportunities

There are students who need additional support during the summer to help them be more successful during the regular academic year, and there are others who would like to pursue studies for enrichment purposes. In the Redondo Beach Unified School District, we are fortunate to be able to offer both opportunities with the help of the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF).

The RBEF has combined efforts with the Redondo Beach Unified School District to create RBEF Summer Sessions. During the summer, RBEF will offer a curriculum that has been designed by our credentialed RBUSD teachers and administrators to help students reach their fullest potential. The courses will be four-weeks long, and there will be academic interventions as well as enrichment classes.

Please visit www.rbef.org for more information. Summer School Session I will be from June 27 to July 14 from 8-1:30 p.m. Session II will be held July 17 to August 3 from 8-1:30 p.m. Classes will be held at Parras Middle School.

Our local community college has been a popular choice for many students. El Camino College offers summer academic classes in many different subjects for middle school students. They do charge a fee for their courses. Please visit www.ECCCommunityEd.com for more information.

It is important to note that students cannot skip a regular academic year of math in middle school by taking a math course through RBEF summer school or El Camino.

Please also have your student take advantage of summer reading for extra credit in their language arts class. There are a number of books on our summer reading list, which is posted at www.parrasmiddle.org.

Redondo Union High School

One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • <http://www.redondounion.org>



Jens Brandt
Principal

State Testing: Ready UR!

Now that we are already in the month of May, so begins the season of standardized testing. After a few weeks of AP Testing (the schedule for which can be found at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/home>, by the way), we jump right into State Testing. Some things will be the same as last year, such as all of our 11th-graders taking the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests in English and mathematics. A new consideration this year is that RUHS was selected as a "pilot site" to administer the new science test to all of our 10th-graders.



Sierra, Kevin, and other RUHS juniors enjoy collaborating in an after-school review session for AP US History led by Ms. Bein.

This test is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) that California adopted several years ago. Unfortunately, we will not be able to see these results, but we will at least have a chance to see what the test administration looks like.

State tests are an interesting thing. It is easy to be ambivalent, and think, "Hey, if this doesn't matter for grades or for college admission, why should I care?" Good question! While there is some truth in that point, there are also some important reasons why it is worth taking these tests seriously:

- Even though not required for college admission, scoring well on these certainly doesn't hurt. Furthermore, there is an opportunity to test out of remedial English and math classes that some students would otherwise be required to take in college. (This is through something called the EAP, which you can read more about here: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/gc/hs/eapindex.asp>)
- These scores affect our school ranking. In turn, our school ranking positively affects home value and community desirability. Colleges analyze our academic rigor and test scores such as AP, ACT, SAT, and SBAC.
- We already exceed other local high schools in so many areas (course offerings, eco-friendly campus, sports), and we are close on this measure too. Let's continue the trend in outperforming our neighbors!

Finally, we look forward to making this year's testing season as FUN as possible. For instance, you may see our Ready UR campaign coming in various fun forms.

All details aside, what we really hope for is that all students enjoy doing their personal best, and celebrate their successes.

Washington Elementary (K-5)

1100 Lilienthal Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8641 • <http://washington.rbusd.org>



Kristen Holm
Principal

Preparing for Assessments

Our students have worked hard all year long to gain new understanding of concepts in various content areas. It is critical during the upcoming testing weeks that we remind our students to approach these state assessments with the flexibility of the growth mindset. Though the assessments are used to demonstrate how much our students comprehend, we can reframe the dialogue and focus on other aspects of these assessments that are useful for the overall development of our students' academic growth. For instance, parents and educators can highlight the use of these assessments to shape instruction and review each learner's progression.

To further demystify the process of state assessments, we can focus on the fact that state assessments cannot

measure our students' potential for growth. We can use these assessments as an opportunity to research unknown concepts, reflect on how to improve our students' approach to performance situations, and contextualize the test as proof of their continued learning and improvement—not so much as a moment to show off.

Overall, parents and educators need to be thoughtful in framing the dialogue with their students and promote the idea that learning is a process and intelligence is not something that is fixed. The idea that intelligence can be developed over time through perseverance is key to reshaping how our students approach difficult tasks, including assessments. In preparation for our state assessments, we can focus on the effort, help students identify strategies that help them work through a difficult problem or prompt, and, most importantly, praise the process.

Tulita Elementary (K-5)

1520 Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8628 • <http://tulita.rbusd.org>



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

The Battle is On!

Tulita is excited to be once again participating in the great “Battle of the Books.” This is a reading program for students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. It is based on a national program called “America’s Battle of the Books,” which is a reading incentive for students in the third through twelfth grades. The students read books and come together in groups to demonstrate their abilities and test their knowledge about what they have read.



Battle Relay at Tulita!

These student competitions are usually similar to the TV series Family Feud. However, the structure, format, and rules of the competitions may vary depending upon the educational goals, student needs, local resources, and personal preferences at the various school sites, school districts, county libraries, or offices of education.

The Battle of the Books program was introduced to our RBUSD elementary schools in the 2009–2010 school year. Each campus has a “School Battle” followed by a district-wide Championship Battle, which is typically held in April. At Tulita, we are lucky to have teachers, parents, and students who actively support this program, and volunteers (both teachers and parents) who foster a love for reading. We are also lucky to have a PTA that funds books for the library, prizes, and registration fees.

Tulita’s third-grade Battle of the Books was held on March 22. The fourth- and fifth-grade students battled it out on April 5 for their chance to represent our school at the district championships.

This fun and interactive program encourages a love for reading along with healthy competition. Teammates are chosen at random, and must work together to answer tricky in-depth questions based upon the books on the “battle” list. This year’s books included such titles as *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, and *Bud, not Buddy*.

Tulita wishes good luck to all of the teams that are battling in this year’s championship. May the best team of readers win!

Lucy’s Book Review



Lucy Davis

Lost in a Book

Author: Jennifer Donnelly

Love and Death have a bet. If the Beast hasn’t learned to love by the time the last petal falls, Death wins the wager. To ensure victory, Death slips a book into the Beast’s library, ensuring Belle will notice it.

When Belle finds it, she is seeking comfort in faraway places found in the pages of books. When she steps into Nevermore, Belle finds a world that is too good to be true, filled with nobility, exotic people, and a chance to travel. Like any good story, it takes a hold of her but; she knows it won’t last forever. As Nevermore kept a fast grip on Belle, it seemed as if it would keep her there forever.

This book gets five of five bookworms because this exciting original story of Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* takes you on a fast-paced adventure, and it will keep you reading until the end.

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.



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Ships 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 RBUSD 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!

BATTLESHIP	FRIGATE	SUBTENDER
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Richard's Book Review

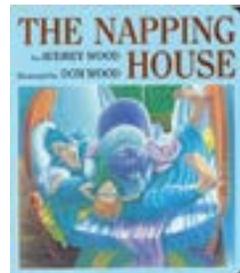


Fun Campy Story

The Napping House

By Audrey Wood

The characters of the rhyming story of *The Napping House* are the Granny, the Child, the Dog, the Cat, the Mouse and

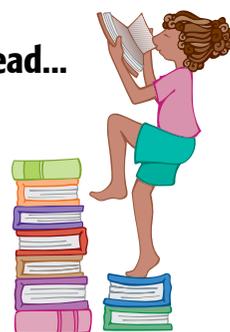


Richard J.

theFlea. One rainy, lazy day all the people and animals in the house climb into grandma's bed and fall asleep, one after another, stacked on top of each other. Then, while everybody is fast asleep, one character — the Wakeful Flea ends up rudely waking everybody up! It bites the Mouse, who scares the Cat, who claws the Dog, who thumps the Child, who bumps the Granny, who breaks the bed, so that nobody is sleeping or napping in the Napping House anymore! The style of this story is similar to the rhyming story of *The House That Jack Built*. I liked this campy story and with its many pictures on every page by Don Wood. It is a fun, colorful and easy book to read.

Richard J. is a second grader who likes math, coloring, fun activities, playing on the playground and reading. Richard rates the book 5 out of 5, with 5 being the best.

First we learn to read...



Then we read to learn.

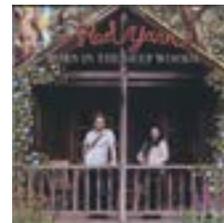
Note-ables



Kate Karp

Born in the Deep Woods

Red Yarn, alter-ego of performer and songwriter Andy Furgeson, has recorded the third element in his his Deep Woods Trilogy. Deep Woods is Red's own conception of a charmingly primal



place where woodland animals dwell—an earthly, loamy, good place to live. Each song was either written by Red or adapted from traditional folk tunes, all featuring animals and performed by Red and his wife, Jessie Eller Isaacs and a bucolic multi-instrumental band.

Deep Woods doesn't have the vibe of a traditional children's collection. In contrast to lighter songs associated with young music, it sings something deep and rooted. Red's musical background grew from those roots—authentic country, bluegrass, blues and heartland rock 'n' roll are woven with the lyrics and stitch together a warm, tuneful quilt. The title ballad lets the tortoise and the hare of the fable poetically tell their own story as turtle and rabbit. The traditional "Mockingbird" transforms into a Bo Diddley ditty with a toss of Elvis pepper and a pinch of Ray Charles salt. "Old Mother Goose" is given a new pair of dancin' shoes, and "Frog Went A-Courtin'" hops to a different beat. "Little Baby Born Today" is an old-style Bob Dylan tribute to new life and mothers, particularly Eller-Isaacs, who was pregnant with the couple's second child when it was recorded. The CD's lyric booklet bears some of the most beautiful, evocative illustrations seen in a music collection or anywhere else.

If you go into the woods today, you're in for a big surprise.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

South Bay Hands On Art

Reaching Out and Modigliani Project

By Co-Chairs Gina Clancy & Erika Snow Robinson

We had a reaching out project at the Redondo beach library and it was a great success! Over 75 children showed up! Special thanks to all of our board members who made this possible.



Melissa & Jasmine Puka at the RB Library with their Reaching Out program Starry Eiffel Tower

Our Modigliani project has also been a wonderful success, beautiful portraits on wood that have turned out beautifully.

Time has flown by, we only have one more project left for the year and we can't wait, La Tour de Eiffel promises to be great colorful fun. Hope you are all having a great Spring!

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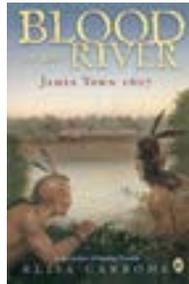
Alana's BookReview



Alana F.

Blood On the River

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.

Katies Review



Katie C.

The Forgotten Sisters

Princess Academy- The Forgotten Sisters by Shannon Hale is about a girl named Miri Larendaughter of Mount Eskel who goes to teach three abandoned princesses. Miri, although heartbroken that she must



stay with the three girls (Astrid, Felissa, and Sus) and cannot go home, she knows that it is her duty to tutor the girls to act like princesses. This is crucial because it will help save two kingdoms at war stop fighting. The princesses learn as taught. However, as time unravels, Miri learns that they are part of a deep buried secret that they themselves do not know. Then, she is faced with a question that is bigger than her mountain home. Will she risk her own life to save the others? This tale is wrapped in mystery, excitement, suspense, and the heartwarming presence of a reunited family. I strongly recommend this book and give it a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 7th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.

Jenna's Review

Vote for Women!



Jenna C.

Around America To Win The Vote

By Mara Rockliff

On April 6, 1916, a yellow car with two smiling women and a very cute kitten left New York. The women were Nell and Alice. They were planning to drive through all the states. They wanted to prove that women could do anything through this journey. They said, "Votes for women!" to people they met. Once when they were crossing a road, they had a horse who didn't let them pass. Nell gave a yellow flower which stands for Votes for Women. And the horse moved away. They travelled and travelled and had lots of adventures! On September 30, 1916, they finally arrived back in New York. They travelled 10,000 miles! They had a celebration with a yellow cake and on the top it said Votes for Women. I like this book because it is a true story about two brave women. The drawings are interesting too.



Jenna is a first grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. She likes happy ending stories. She likes art, dance and soccer.

Isabella's Book Review



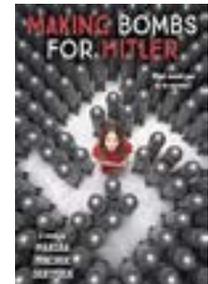
Isabella A.

A Book that Didn't Bomb

Making Bombs

for Hitler by Marsha

Forchuk Skrypuch is about World War 2. Lyda is a Ukranian girl living with her grandma and her sister. This book was very emotional because the Nazis broke her



family. Lyda and Larissa are taken to a work camp by train. The sisters try to stay together but, since they are not the same age, they are taken to different places.

Lyda pretends to be 13. The Nazi doesn't believe her, but lets her go. One Nazi tells her she is too short, but Lyda proves herself useful stitching. She is put to work in the laundry, later, she is put to work making bombs for the Nazis. The Nazis are her enemy so she and her companions decide to sabotage the bombs. Will Lyda get away with this? If she does, will she ever find her beloved sister?

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.

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Christina's Book Review



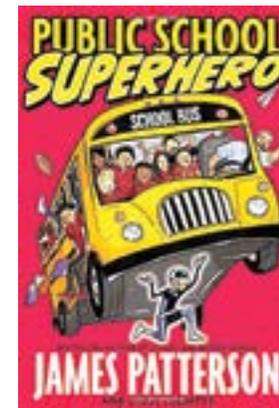
Christina J.

Power of Determination

Public School Superhero

By James Patterson and Chris Tebbetts

The story is about a middle school student named Kenny Wright, who imagines being a powerful superhero named Stainlezz Steel. Kenny lives in a bad area that has gangs and drugs on the streets and he meets older students, trying to influence him into doing things that will get him into serious trouble. Kenny goes to an underfunded, overpopulated school run by bullies. Kenny is known at school as "Grandma's boy" and, while he is constantly a target for the 7th and 8th grade bullies, he must try to get through the school year without being peer-pressured into doing wrong things that his alter ego Stainlezz Steel would never, ever do. At one point Kenny meets a bully named Ray-Ray, whom he has to teach chess to. After a while Kenny sees that Ray-Ray is a normal person, living in a bad home environment, and starts to understand why he is so aggressive to everyone. Overall, the book is about a boy's determination to get through life with the best possible outcome, with a little bit of action comics mixed in. I liked the book and it's fun, quirky attitude, and it's deep emotional conflict that gives the story a deeper meaning. I give the book a 4 out of five 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).

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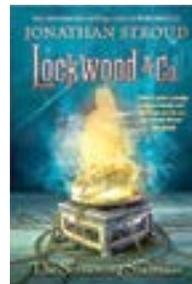
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Book Review by Abbas



A Creepy and Fun Read

Lockwood & Co. by Jonathan Stroud is a novel about teen psychic agents, Lucy Carlyle, George Cubbins and their leader Anthony Lockwood. Together they run the smallest ghost-



fighting agency in London, Lockwood and Co. There is an increased outbreak of ghosts in England known as The Problem which is where Lockwood & Co. comes in to help, with each member using their talents such as listening to ghost activity and seeing ghosts in plain sight. After they are offered a ghost hunting job in one of the most haunted places in London, Lockwood and Co. must work together to fight a fearsome ghost. Will they survive the night and work together?

This book was filled with many twists and unexpected sharp endings. I give this creepy tale 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.

Kan's Noveldom

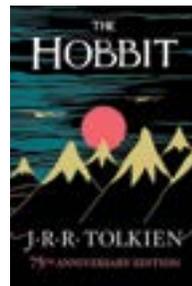


Kan S.

A Classic Tale of Intrigue

The Hobbit: Or There and Back Again, a Hobbit's Tale

By J.R.R. Tolkien
Welcome to Middle-Earth, a fantastical land of graceful elves, hardy dwarves, and peace-loving hobbits in their hobbit-



holes. J.R.R. Tolkien draws readers into a masterful fairy-tale, following the perilous adventure (aided by luck) undertaken by a quiet-desiring hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, snatched from his second breakfast—whose journey, internal and external, is central—as he joins forces with wizard Gandalf and the 13-dwarf company of Thorin, a mighty dwarf determined to reclaim his conquered home of Erebor. Across dangerous Wilderland, friend and foe, therein lies their destination, Erebor; they must liberate it from their archenemy, Smaug, the Fire-Drake. Full of intense force and simple luck, Tolkien sets the foundation for a modern fairy-story. A classic tale of intrigue with a nail-biting Quest, outdoing any expectation, globally successful and immensely entertaining, the novel has rightly earned its full 10 stars, navigating the reader throughout the landscape with both pure bravery and tremendous luck.

Kan is a seventh-grader who enjoys life at its fullest, most prominent, or feeling the thrill of vivacity run through him. With a passion for Tolkien, learning (of all subjects, particularly math and English), activity, politics, and commerce, he presses on through his existence with vigor, as a peacock would displaying its pulchritudinous plumage. Ten is his utmost book-score, and one the lowliest.

Courtney's Book Review



Courtney M.

A Real Adventure Book

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.

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- July 24 – 28:** LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503
- July 31 – August 4:** LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503
- August 7 – August 11:** LA Galaxy Volleyball Courts, 540 Maple Avenue, Torrance, 90503
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