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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District



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October 2017–April 2018



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Superintendent



Dr. Brian Jacobs

This Is It!!!-This Is The Year!!!

Welcome BUSD families and friends to what is going to be a year of GREATNESS!! As superintendent, it is a true honor to be able to continue on our journey towards sustaining the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.” I am extremely excited and highly motivated to begin the 2017-18 school year for several reasons.

First, we continue to outperform the majority of local school districts as well as California with our annual graduation completer rates. Between all three high schools, we are at a 94% completer rate, and 98% and 97% respectively for Bellflower High School and Mayfair High School. We also continue to be a district of choice for many families across LA and Orange Counties. Second, our hard working staff is dedicated to meeting each child and young adult’s academic, social and emotional needs in and out of the classroom. Third, our Board of Education and district leadership are committed to providing each school with the necessary resources to ensure success.

In addition to our outstanding staff and excellent academic instruction, BUSD offers several specialized programs such as, Dual Language Spanish at two K-6 school sites, multiple fine arts/music opportunities, and an elementary physical education program to all TK-6 grade students. We continue to excel with Advance Placement courses, while expanding the learning opportunities for Career Technical Education. These course offerings are not only available during the instructional day, but after school classes are also accessible through a program relationship with CalAPS.

Another of our greatest strengths is the true sense of community that radiates from each of our schools and throughout our district. Parents and community members give to our schools generously in terms of time, talent and resources. A key component of a successful and thriving community is how education and the educational experience is supported and valued by all community

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Board of Education



Sue ElHessen, Ed.D.
President

Hello, it is an honor and privilege to welcome you to the 2017-18 school year. As Governing Board President, I am very proud to have the opportunity to serve all three of our communities. As we begin this new school year, I would like to share a few things taking place in our district.

Once again, this year, we will be offering a Dual Language Program at the Intensive Learning Center and a new Kindergarten class this year at Washington Elementary.

The District continues to also offer Mandarin courses at the middle and high schools, while offering Enrichment classes for students attending the Home Education/ Independent Study Program. Each of these programs is an exciting language-learning pathway for our students.

Bellflower USD continues to offer quality programs and services within safe and clean facilities. It is because of the efforts of the certificated and classified staff that our classrooms are engaging and in well-kept condition for our students to enter each and every day. The clean and attractive appearance of our campuses and the safety of our students continues to be a top priority.

Many of the school facilities have been in need of upgrades and improvements to keep pace with the “Standard of Excellence.” With the passage of Measure BB, we have seen several improvements across the district. For example, Thomas Jefferson Elementary has new air-conditioned classrooms, while we have also completed roofing at all district locations. The District now has Wi-Fi at each of the school sites and many other new technologies being added to begin this new school year. Thank you for your support in passing such a valuable bond measure.

Some of the additional learning facilities and programs throughout BUSD include enhanced computer labs, additional computers and LCD projectors in classrooms, guidance programs and counselors, career academies, vocational training such as the Paxton/Patterson Labs at

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 19

Board of Education



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Welcome back to another new school year. This is always an exciting time for students meeting new friends, reconnecting with old friends, meeting their teachers and finding their way around the school. By now the students have settled into a routine and are focused on their academic goals.

The enthusiasm in Dr. Jacobs' message on page 3 is contagious. This is an exciting time to be a student in the Bellflower Unified School District!

This is our 6th year publishing the excellence from the BUSD. We are pleased to have a new glossy cover booklet format.

We continue to find new ways to promote the excellence in our public schools. We have added a podcast option on our website with the superintendent's message for each of our 36 publications. You will also find a podcast contest with a word for the month to email and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a GAZUMP game.

Our next issue will be May 2 to bring you the highlights of this school year.



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Summer sessions begin **June 18** • Fall semester begins **August 25**

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

The High School Journey Continues

In 2016-17 the Home Education Independent Study Academy launched a high school program that offered students in ninth and tenth grade the opportunity to learn exclusively at home through online platforms or in a blended environment that included face-to-face instruction for English and math courses. For the 2017-18 school year, the school excitedly welcomes the addition of 11th and 12th grade students and has

almost tripled enrollment. While twelfth grade students are offered the traditional option only at this time, eleventh grade students may select the traditional or blended program.

Other exciting announcements include an October visit from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for a “Substantive Change” visit to determine the school’s eligibility for extending accreditation to include 11th and 12th grade. In addition, the school recently received its College Board code and will soon apply for an a-g course list through the University of California system. Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy is also looking forward to implementing a new online platform, Edmentum. The implementation of Edmentum, Middlebury

Interactive Languages, dual enrollment opportunities with Cerritos College, and opportunities to participate in California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS), will ensure that students have a wide array of opportunities in preparation for 21st century college and careers.

Las Flores Academy continues to offer participation in extracurricular activities. Furthermore, we proudly support the first of several athletes who will participate in sports at their “home” schools this school year, as well as several students who dance competitively outside the school system.

In closing, the school’s design continues to offer secondary students an educational alternative to the traditional high school experience that will prepare them for college and careers while offering the opportunity of flexibility in scheduling and connecting to personal interests. As the school continues to grow and develop, we look forward to shaping the program to meet the varying needs of the 21st century learner. Bellflower Unified School District maintains a commitment to meet its students’ needs by this unique academic opportunity that provides a “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less”. There remains space in grades 9-12, so those interested in enrolling should contact the school office at 562-804-6565.

Las Flores Educational Center & Home Education Independent Study Academy

Our Program: The [Home Education Independent Study Academy](http://www.lasfloreseducationalcenter.org) offers families that home school their children and high school students the best of both worlds. Students and parents have the assistance of a credentialed teacher and access to standards-aligned textbooks and computer-based classes while retaining the autonomy to design their learning time based on their own schedule and interests. Our goal is to assist students and families with the development of a creative, well-rounded, standards-based academic experience that is tailored to their needs. In addition, our unique blended programs enable students to learn in the privacy of their home as well as at **Las Flores Educational Center 10039 E. Palm Street, Bellflower, CA 90706.**

Check out our website at www.lasfloreseducationalcenter.org • Schedule a tour or more info (grades TK-12 (562) 804-6565

Classic Model

Grades K-12: 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 TK-8: 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.

Traditional Model

Grades 9-12: Students learn at home five days a week through online courses in science, social science, math, electives including world language, and English that meet a-g requirements for UC/CSU admission**. Physical Education requirements are completed independently. Assignments are submitted Fridays by 2:00PM. All tests are taken at Las Flores Educational Center.

Blended Model

Grades 9-11: Students attend math and English classes three days per week at Las Flores Educational Center. Science, social science, and electives — including world language courses that meet a-g requirements for UC/CSU admission** are taken online. Physical Education requirements are completed independently at home. Assignments are submitted Fridays by 2:00 PM. All tests take place at Las Flores Educational Center.

Enrichment Fridays

Each week students in grades TK-8 have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in an engaging, standards-based lesson and activity as well as a Mandarin language experience class, music, and technology. **pending approval of course list



Academic Accountability

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



Bonnie Carter
Director

BUSD Celebrates Continued Success

BUSD students continue to perform well on the State test: CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) for English language arts and math. BUSD results are on par with or incrementally exceeding the District's 2016 results. Reclassified English learners continue to be strong performers in comparison to the County, which is a direct result of BUSD's focused effort to close the achievement gap. BUSD views these assessments as an academic checkup. They are one indicator of student progress; however, the data supports that we are growing in the right direction

as we continue to refine instructional practices, integrate technology within classroom lessons, and utilize data to inform instructional decision targeting student needs. BUSD administrators and teachers began the year dialoging around the most current data with a focus on celebrating successes and determining areas of needed focus. This form of conversation will continue during the course of the year to ensure that BUSD sustains the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Individual Score Reports were sent home for all students who took a CAASPP assessment last year. Information regarding how to read these reports and more detailed information about the CAASPP assessments can be found on the BUSD website www.busd.k12.ca.us.

Curriculum & Instruction

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Together ahead

Welcome back!



Dina Hernandez
Director

In the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, we are very excited to start the year with the implementation of our recently adopted English Language Arts and English Language Development Instructional Materials.

After a careful review process, Bellflower Unified adopted Wonders for Pre-K to 5th, StudySync for grades 6th through 12th, and Maravillas for our Dual Immersion classes.

The district is excited to offer these rich, robust reading, and language arts programs for our students for the 2017-2018 school year!

Our new instructional materials are designed to help students meet high academic standards and prepare them for future success. In addition to a plethora of printed materials the new adoption comes with a digital platform, ConnectED, which provides teachers and students with many resources that enhance instruction and makes lessons much more engaging. The platform facilitates individual and differentiated instruction, and gives students the option of accessing the instructional materials and resources from home. The digital interface also includes a Data Dashboard, which records, organizes student assessment data, and provides teachers with the information they need to track progress, plan, and design lessons based on student needs.

To support teachers with the implementation of the new instructional materials, the district offered a professional learning opportunity. 275 teachers participated in this professional development on August 23rd. In addition to the initial training, we will continue to provide additional support to our teachers throughout the year.

For additional information regarding our new adoption, please contact your child's teacher.

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)



Lisa Azevedo
CEO CalAPS

New and Exciting Course Offerings

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) has begun its second year serving the students of Bellflower and Lynwood Unified School Districts. The second year of implementation brings new and exciting course offerings for students. New to the program are courses in Baking and Pastry Arts, Early Childhood/Child Care Worker, Emergency Medical Response, Heavy Construction, Makerspace “Fab Lab”, Pharmacy Technician and Sports Therapy/Athletic Trainer. We continue to offer courses in Entrepreneurship, Firefighting, Health Occupations, Law Enforcement, Careers in Education and Culinary Arts.

Courses have received the UC a-g “g” approval status. Students in the Pharmacy Technician, Sports Therapy/Athletic Trainer and Firefighting programs will receive both high school and college credit for the courses after meeting all requirements. Many of our courses will encourage students to participate in leadership opportunities and various student competitions such as SkillsUSA and HOSA.

Students enrolled in the Entrepreneurship course will be “pitching” their ideas during our local “Shark Tank” presentation. Students enrolled in Firefighting Occupations are learning all aspects of the fire department while preparing for the CPAT exam. Our Health Occupations students are spending time at Lakewood Regional Hospital rotating through various departments job shadowing. The Law Enforcement students are learning the legal aspects of report writing and proper arrest procedures. Our Culinary and Baking and Pastry courses are busy cooking delicious food! Our Careers in Education students have begun their tutoring sessions with students. The EMR and Athletic Training students are quickly learning the fundamentals of the human body and proper procedures for preventative and emergency care. Our new “Fab Lab” course is building drones, controlling robots and investigating topics in green energy and film/ photography.

CalAPS courses provide Career Tech Education for students in grades 9 - 12. Courses run two days a week from 3:45 pm to 6:00 pm. Transportation is provided to students who requested transportation between sites and between the two participating districts. For more information about the program, and to see pictures of our latest courses please visit the website: CalAPS.org.



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Early Childhood Education

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Bettie Guerrero
Program
Supervisor

Off to a Great Start

Our preschool teachers welcomed 292 eager to learn preschool children to their classrooms. Program staff also welcomed Bettie Guerrero to a new role as Preschool Supervisor. Mrs. Guerrero has been a part of the BUSD instructional team for 23 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and classroom experience to her new role.

BUSD preschool serves children three and four years of age and provides preschool classes at seven different elementary school sites: Craig Williams, Ernie Pyle, Frank E. Woodruff, Las Flores, Thomas Jefferson, Washington, and the Intensive Learning Center. BUSD early childhood education programs connect children and families in the community with early learning services and parent education programs. Children learn through hands-on experiences and discovery as BUSD strives to prepare children to enter kindergarten ready

to learn, with a healthy self-concept, positive attitudes towards school and a love of learning. BUSD preschool classrooms provide age-appropriate curriculum designed to develop social, emotional, physical and cognitive abilities in our students. Preschool Language Arts curriculum is aligned with district adopted programs to support student learning and connections to transition kindergarten and kindergarten Language Arts instruction.

Through exploration, BUSD preschool students engage in an active, school-readiness oriented learning environment. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and participate in on-going parent education opportunities on a variety of child development and early education topics. BUSD's State Preschool program is offered for free to qualifying children ages 3 and 4. Fee-based and dual immersion programs are also available to interested families. For more information about BUSD preschool and early childhood programs, please contact the Early Childhood Education Office at (562)-461-2227 or stop by the office at 9301 Flower St., Bellflower CA 90706.

Educational Services

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Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant
Superintendent

Welcome!

On behalf of Bellflower Unified School District's (BUSD) Educational Services Office, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! We look forward to supporting BUSD children and families with a

variety of programs and services throughout the school year. The Educational Services Office works in collaboration with schools to provide a wide range of direct services to students including preschool programs, dual immersion, independent study, alternative educational programs, after school education and safety programs, as well as academic interventions. We also strive to support parental involvement and work directly with schools to offer parent education programs such as Latino Family Literacy Project and Parent Institute for Quality Education.

As we begin the school year, we are particularly excited to launch a new intervention model for academically struggling students in grades 4-6. The new model will



provide more than 1,100 Chromebooks to students to use both at school and at home. The Chromebooks will enable students to access intervention software beyond the school day and continue to develop and strengthen critical grade level skills. For many students, technology is a highly motivating means to reinforce academic skills because students enjoy using the technology devices, are able to self-pace and can learn according to their personal preferences and learning needs.

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year!

The Intensive Learning Center continues to grow in both our traditional K-6 English and Dual Language Spanish classrooms. This year we have added a third traditional English kindergarten classroom, a dual language classroom in the first grade as well as two dual language classrooms in the fourth grade. Our Dual Language Immersion program follows a research based instructional model where kindergarten

and first grade students are immersed in 90% Spanish instruction with 10% English instruction, second grade is 80% Spanish, 20% English, third graders receive 30% English and 70% Spanish instruction, and fourth graders receiving 40% English and 60% Spanish instruction.

Bellflower Unified School District is committed to continuing to build the Dual Language Immersion program into fifth, and sixth grades and then into Mayfair Middle and High Schools in the next few years. We will work together in our community to build the next generation of graduates who are Bi-literate in both English and Spanish. If you are interested and would like to learn more about the Dual Language Spanish Immersion program at the

Intensive Learning Center please feel free to contact the school office.

We continue to work each day with all students to build our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) across the ILC community. When students at the ILC SOAR it means that they practice positive skills such as these:

S = Show Kindness

O = Own your Behavior

A = Act Responsibly

R = Ready to Learn

At the ILC we work to find students that represent these SOAR characteristics and then present these students with a Gotcha certificate. Gotcha certificates can be saved by students and when they receive five Gotchas they can be redeemed for a prize in the office or with Assistant Principal, Mrs. Almada.

To further support students and our community the Intensive Learning Center, Mrs. Erika Miranda is our onsite case manager. If your family is going through a difficult time and your resources are limited please feel free to reach out to her.

Finally, Please check out and bookmark:
Intensivelearningcenter.org

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Welcome to the 2017-2018 School Year

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school that serves students from local campuses who attend the school. The BAE Center affords an educational option specifically designed for students in grades 7–12 who have been

expelled from the school district; have been transferred for

problems with absenteeism, excessive behavior, and/or academic failure by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), school administration or probation; or have shown other factors exhibited by at-risk youths.

The program's purpose is to teach students to make appropriate decisions about behavior, have regular attendance, and strengthen their academics in order for them to return to their regular school and be successful. Because of the structure of the program and small class sizes, Bellflower Alternative Education Center has a low recidivism rate.

Students learn social and interpersonal skills, workplace skills, and independent living skills in order to live meaningful and productive lives...

We are looking forward to providing a
"Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

The Adult ReEntry program offers an alternative to the traditional high school setting and provides students needing additional time to complete their high school graduation requirements or the opportunity to prepare for a high school equivalency test in a flexible educational environment with individualized learning support.

The majority of the students are referred from one of the district's three high schools: Bellflower, Mayfair and Somerset.

The Adult Transition Center provides individualized support for special education students 18 to 22 years of age to transition successfully from high school to adulthood within the larger community. Students learn social and interpersonal skills, workplace skills, and independent living skills in order to live meaningful and productive lives.

We are looking forward to providing a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less," for the BAE Center students to return to their comprehensive high schools, the Adult ReEntry students to receive a high school diploma, and the Adult Transition Center students to live fuller lives.

PTA Council

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/886-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us

By Linda Morgan, President

Welcome to what we believe will be a great school year!

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA), founded in 1897, is a nationwide network of 4 million families, students, educators and community leaders working at the school, district, state and national levels to improve education, health and safety conditions for our children.

I'd like to thank those that have already joined the PTA and are working hard to reach our goals, guided by our mission to positively impact the lives of all children and families, as well as the District for their support.

All ten of the elementary schools in our district, as well as both Mayfair and Bellflower Middle/High Schools, currently have a PTA or PTSA, and many of you may have already seen some of the wonderful things that our PTA units are doing: providing Reading and Art Programs, funding for buses for field trips, assemblies, and scholarships, and much more.

PTA is about staying involved with what's going on with your school, but what that means might be different for everyone. Joining PTA is the first step of commitment, showing that you care about your kids. Then contributing as you can, coming to meetings or volunteering for PTA sponsored events.

When it comes to children's education, parent involvement is key.

We'd love for you to join us! Here are just a few of the upcoming PTA events throughout the district:

- October 23-27 - Red Ribbon/Drug Free Week
- High School Football Games (see school website for specific dates)
- March 6 – Council Association meeting where we'll recognize Reflections Art Program winners

Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

Best Year Ever!

As we are already into what is going to be a year of GREATNESS for BUSD, here are some simple steps to making sure that your child has that best year ever. Work with your child to see the value in each of these steps.

- Be grateful: recognize that education is a privilege, not a burden, sure it is more fun to play video games and sleep in, but that will not help make dreams a reality.
- Go to school on time every day: research shows students who miss 10% of the year are at increased risk of falling behind, failing classes, and dropping out.
- Be healthy: get plenty of sleep each night, eat a healthy breakfast, and drink lots of water. Your brain needs all of these things to work and grow.
- Get organized: use a planner or an electronic calendar to set reminders for assignments, projects and events.
- Respect your teachers: teachers at school and home (think Mom and Dad) are not your friend; you do not have to like them. Their job is to teach you and push you to be more than you are now; they deserve respect as they help guide you toward the future.
- Make yourself uncomfortable: do something different, join a club, sit at a different table at lunch, don't make unwise decisions, but push yourself to grow.
- Find a study buddy: Find a friend you can contact when you get stuck on homework, or forget a book to get the math problems.



Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Great New School Year

The Baxter Bears are back for a great new school year! Students and teachers left summer behind and returned to school on August 28th. Already back into their regular routines, students are engaged in reading stories from our brand new English Language Arts textbooks. The new English texts are aligned to the California State Standards and

incorporate technology throughout the reading and writing lessons. Parents will be thrilled to see students researching and writing reports on their ChromeBooks throughout the year. Additionally, students will be focused on problem solving in mathematics. Our Intervention Teacher will introduce students to a variety of problem solving techniques that will assist our students in being college and career ready in mathematics.

Another exciting new support for students is our after school program, Think Together. Students in Kindergarten



Albert Baxter students busy at work in the first days of school.

through sixth grade participate in recreation, enrichment classes and homework help aligned to the school day.

To learn more about school events and activities for the year, check out our website at AlbertBaxterElementary.org. I look forward to another year as part of the Baxter community, working together to support our students in reaching academic excellence.

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

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 2017-18 school year at Bellflower Middle/High School. I am honored to be the principal of Bellflower Middle/High School, a school with a rich tradition and legacy of excellence. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your student to provide an enriching educational experience. Beyond our core academic courses, Bellflower Middle/High School offers

courses in technology, art, career technical education, choral and instrumental music, drama, and physical education. A well-rounded high school experience includes active participation in co-curricular activities. Students should become involved in our athletic programs, visual and performing arts programs, ASB, and student clubs. We encourage all parents to join PTSA, which provides financial support for our students and programs on campus.

Bellflower High School is proud to be the only high school in the Bellflower Unified School District to be offering Dual Enrollment classes! We currently have over 50 students taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity! Partnering with Cerritos College, both our juniors and seniors can enroll in either English 72 or English 100, college level classes being taught by Cerritos College professors on the Bellflower High School campus. Planning for these courses began last school year. Students took the placement test on campus, and students who placed in English 72 and English 100 were allowed to take the class. Students who successfully complete these courses will earn both high school and college credit. For our seniors who complete English 100, the college units they earn will transfer to any four year university in the country as it qualifies as "Freshman Composition." There are many benefits to having these classes housed on our campus. Students will complete one year of English in one semester- freeing up their class schedules for other electives or academic classes.



Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

Welcome Back

I am truly excited to be entering my third year as principal of Stephen Foster. I joined the Bellflower Unified School District in 2013 as the Assistant Principal for two years at Frank E. Woodruff and Ernie Pyle. Prior to joining BUSD, I worked as a teacher and Literacy Coach in Hawthorne School District for fourteen years and a private school

for three years prior to that. I have a BA in Spanish from Xavier University of New Orleans and a MA in Cross-Cultural Education from National University.

Stephen Foster is beginning its sixty-sixth year of providing education to the Lakewood and Bellflower Community. Staff and students are excited to begin the new school year.

We have new BOLT staff joining us: Marisa Torrez Chavez; Assistant Principal, Jacqueline Torres; RSP Teacher, Nina Rezvani; School Psychologist, and Gretchen Pleuss; Guidance Technician. Stephen Foster is honored to have them as part of our staff.

To kick off our school year, on September 6, 2017 students and staff donated monies to Houston victims affected by the hurricane with our "Hats for Harvey Day!" Each student was encouraged to make a minimum \$1 donation and wear a hat in support of the American Red Cross donations. Within this one day, \$891.50 was donated to aide support for Hurricane Harvey.



Ms. White, our counselor will continue to support teachers and students with various concerns as it relates to social and academic development. This year we have added a Guidance Technician to support our counseling program with lessons and essential focus based groups for all students.

Teachers will continue to meet in Professional Learning Communities as we implement our new curriculum Wonders (Grades TK-5) and Study Sync (Grade 6).

We are privileged to serve the students and their families in the 2017-2018 school year. We are charged up for learning! GO BOLTS!!!!

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

Happy fall Everyone!

Here at Jefferson, teachers and staff members have been working diligently throughout the summer to get ready for this school year, and have many exciting plans for students and their learning - including those that connect to our new district-adopted Language Arts curriculums Wonders and Studysync. In support of this and other instructional activities, we are continuing to incorporate technology in all kindergarten through sixth grade classes. With one LearnPad cart and nine Chrome carts currently in use - as well as four more carts being purchased this year - we are very close to reaching the district's goal of ensuring that each student has an electronic device to use throughout the school day! This technology also allows students to use Google classroom, Plickers, See Saw, and other engaging programs each day, significantly increasing the rigor of daily

instruction and allowing for teachers to meet the diverse learning needs of their students. Beyond the classroom, our school year would not be complete without continued communication and collaboration with our families. In order to do this, we will be hosting our extremely popular family nights, which include TJ Turkey Night, Family Clay Night, and Bingo for Books. We are also offering four weekly parent classes, and families will again have access to the most up-to-date school information via our app, website, and Instagram account! And finally, we are happy to introduce new members to our Jack Rabbit team. They include our assistant principal Evelyne Almada and School Counselor Jennifer White. We also have a new Guidance Technician, Adrian Avalos, and a new Library Media Assistant, Susan Kautsky. Each of these knowledgeable and dedicated individuals, along with our returning staff, will work to support students and their families, ensuring that we are providing them all 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

Lindy Lions are ready to ROAR!

Lindstrom has had a wonderful start to what will be a fantastic academic year!

Teachers and students were excited to return and we had a wonderful series of kick off assemblies where students were taught the importance of kindness & respect within the school. Teachers and students took a pledge by placing their thumbprint on a banner to show their dedication in working

towards letting others know that Lindstrom is a Kindness Zone! Students have been taught that kindness is a muscle that needs to be practiced every day, & while we may not always get along with every person that we meet, it is of the utmost importance to treat all people with respect.

We are proud to be hosting a “Random Acts of Character” assembly where students & teachers will learn the meaning of the five character traits: RESPECT, CARING, TRUST, FAIRNESS & ATTITUDE. Lindstrom will also be hosting

another STEM night in January where students will be taken through a “Discovering Science” journey! Later that evening, Lindy families will be able to have a hands on experience with a Museum Family Science Night!

This fall is sure to be filled with lots of fun-filled activities. We will be hosting our annual events which include our Jog-A-Thon, Red Ribbon Week, Fall Festival & more! We will continue with our band & chorus programs, as well as offer parent math workshops for various grade levels.

In addition to our extra-curricular activities, we will begin implementing the new ELA Wonders, Wonder Works & Study Sync programs. Our new ELA programs are standards based that incorporate collaborative conversations, research and inquiry, as well as comprehension & writing strategies.

It is sure to be a very busy, but productive year in our Lindy Lion Pride. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year & your participation!

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

Welcome Back

It is with excitement that I welcome you to the 2017-2018 school year. My name is Julie Stanley and I am honored to be the principal of Mayfair Middle/High School. Mayfair is a school embedded with academic excellence and rich co-curricular programs including athletics, art, choral and instrumental music, drama and technology. We also encourage students to take classes from our California

Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS), which is dedicated to developing and providing quality career and technical education for students. The devoted staff is committed to ensuring that ALL students are provided opportunities to learn and believe that teachers who challenge and care for their students make a significant impact on their lives. Our mission is to provide the pathway for all students to attain the expertise and develop skills of academic excellence that will empower them to be

successful outside the walls of Mayfair Middle/High School.

A crucial part of success for students is attendance. As a parent or guardian, it is essential for you to maintain an attitude that “Every Day Counts” for students to be in school and ready to learn each day. At Mayfair, we will assist in helping parents and families understand the importance of instructional time and school attendance.

Back to School Night was very successful with many parents/guardians learning about the academic and behavior expectations for students. Homecoming week was memorable for all students and staff as Mayfair celebrated with school dress up days, a school-wide assembly displaying Monsoon pride and the Homecoming court, followed by a parade through the city. Many students, staff and community members filled the stands for Friday Night Lights cheering on the football team and students returned to campus on Saturday night for the annual Homecoming dance.

Thank you for your continued support of Mayfair Middle/High School.

Thank you for reading *School News!*

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

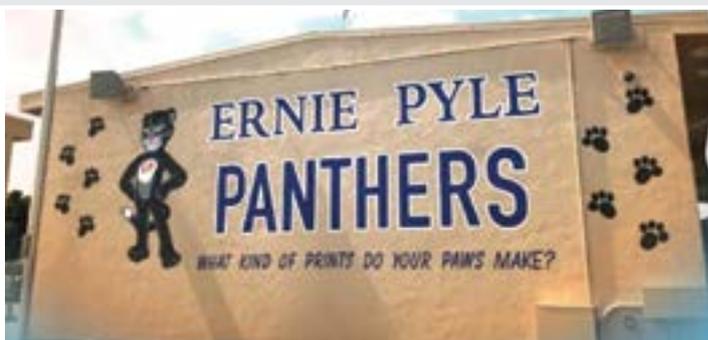
14500 S. Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6528 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/pyle.html



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Off to a Strong Start

We are excited to have a newly painted mural adding to the beauty of our campus. Our skilled and devoted staff has already begun challenging our panthers to be active participants in their learning journey. Pyle is indeed a joyous and caring community with the common goals of nurturing responsible, caring scholars while ensuring high-level learning.



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Starting the Year with a Renewed Mission

My name is Deirdre Reyes and I am honored to begin my third year as the principal of Ramona Elementary. Prior to this appointment, I worked at several other schools in BUSD as an elementary teacher, Reading Specialist, and principal.

The school year is off to a great start at Ramona. Last year, with input from all stakeholders, we updated the Ramona vision and mission statements. We pledge to work collaboratively to realize our vision for our students to be lifelong learners who are equipped with the skills and perseverance to excel in the 21st Century. Our outstanding teachers and staff members come to work every day ready to fulfill the Ramona mission of challenging and supporting all scholars in making growth toward their goals through collaboration and critical thinking. We are proud of our status as a Gold Ribbon School and we intend to build on our successes to ensure that all of our students reach their full potential as outlined in our mission and vision statements. Every year brings new learning opportunities for our students and the 2017/2018 school year is no exception. We are excited to begin a new textbook adoption in English Language Arts this year. Ramona teachers attended professional development at the beginning of the school year to ensure that they would be ready to deliver quality and engaging instruction to their students using the new curriculum from the first day.

Ramona Elementary is proud to begin the 2017-2018 year with a reestablished PTA. The PTA executive board is already hard at work and has many exciting events planned for the school year such as family nights, Veterans Day Celebration, Red Ribbon Week, and Read Across America to name just a few. The home school connection is strong at Ramona and benefits all of our students.



It is a busy and exciting time in education and the 2017-18 school year is packed with learning opportunities and programs that will keep Ramona students working at 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

Welcome Back

Career readiness, School Service, and Critical Thinking are a few of the focuses we have at Somerset High School. Back to School Night held on Wednesday, October 30th, was where students, teachers and parents were able to share these focuses with each other. The evening featured many of the curricular and instructional focuses that we have at Somerset that encourage critical thinking.

Every class allowed students to show their learning as they presented, taught or performed for their parents and other visitors. Some of the learning demonstrations included a putting demonstrations in PE, explanations of the new Study Sync curriculum in English, and demonstrations to parents of solving two variable word problems in math. Clubs such as Key Club that do service for the school and in the community also recruited new members into their

organizations. Other service organizations at Somerset include ASB, Leos Club, and PLUS and these organizations are planning projects that benefit the school and the community as a whole. Back to School Night also included a recruitment of Parents into the Parent Advisory Council. This organization of parents review school plans and organize schoolwide activities that bring students, parents and teachers closer together. Finally, career readiness opportunities have been added to Somerset's campus. This includes two articulated pathways in Computer Aided Design and Graphic Design Manufacturing and Production. The addition of new CALAPS classes after school at Somerset has also increased career preparation opportunities in the areas of Early Childhood Development and Construction. We look forward to a new year where students have opportunities to do service, hone their critical thinking skills, and prepare for their careers after graduation.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Dr. Angelica Montelongo
Principal

Welcome

On August 28, 2017 Washington welcomed its first class of kindergarten dual immersion students to the campus. Staff, students and families were excited to see the program launch as teacher Ms. Fletes greeted students and

parents at the door with "Buenos dias!" This unique program offers both native English and Spanish speaking students the opportunity to learn and excel in two languages. Students in the dual language immersion program are taught through a 90/10 model. Program goals include the development of native like bilingualism and bi-literacy, attainment of grade level academic achievement or higher, as well as positive cross-cultural attitudes and behaviors in all students. Last year, Washington opened a dual immersion preschool classroom and has continued to grow the program with the addition of the kindergarten class this year. We welcome all Washington Patriots to the 2017-2018 school year!



Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Stacey Williams
Principal

Hello everyone!

I am thrilled to begin another school year at Craig Williams Elementary School. We have a strong teaching staff that is ready to meet the academic needs of our students. Our classified staff is also prepared to meet the varying needs of our students.

I'm pleased to announce that Mrs. Chavez, our Assistant Principal, and Mrs. Fravien, our Counselor, will continue to support our students again this year. Our goal at Craig Williams is to provide outstanding service to our students and families. We will continue to implement research based instructional strategies in order to meet the needs of our students. Early

intervention is a key factor in determining student success. Therefore, our ELA and Math intervention teachers will again work with students and teachers this year to provide the most successful supports for students. PBIS continues to be a focus at Williams and students are working together to organize soccer and kickball games during recess and lunch recess. This may be the year that our sixth graders beat the staff at our Staff vs. Students kickball game. As always, we promote our PAWS expectations on a daily basis so that students remember to **P**romote Peace and Safety, **A**chieve their Goals, **W**ork Hard, and **S**how Respect. By combining high quality instruction with positive behavioral expectations, Craig Williams demonstrates a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!

Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Few HOWL's

Here at Frank E. Woodruff Elementary, we are emphasizing good behavior through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS).

We focus on specific behavioral expectations for students in all school settings. Students clearly understand how they should behave in the classroom, on the playground, and in common areas. At flag ceremony, our students "HOWL" by chanting Honesty, Ownership, Willingness, and Leadership. Teachers focus on these attributes as they teach the behavioral expectations. HOWLERS are given to students who make



good choices. Students collect HOWLERS and have the opportunity to "buy" prizes from the HOWLER cart during recess each month. PBIS is tied into our after school program, where students are encouraged to continue the same positive behaviors. Our school counselor is available for students who are having difficulty behaving appropriately or interacting with others. She emphasizes the same PBIS attributes while working with students for whole class presentations, in small groups, or one-to-one. With all school staff using the same PBIS expectations, students at Woodruff are well behaved and on task.



Alana's Book Review

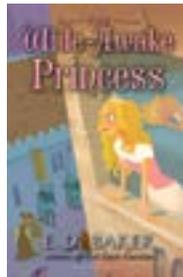


Alana F.

The Wide-Awake Princess

By: E.D. Baker

Long ago, in the kingdom of Treecrest, a baby princess was born, and was given many magical gifts. This little girl is known as Sleeping Beauty. So- as the



stories say- when the evil fairy cast the famed curse on the newborn, her fairy godmother lessened it. However, the royal family was so traumatized that they decided that their second daughter, Princess Annie, should be immune to all magic. Hence, when the sleeping curse fell upon her older sister, Annie was unaffected, and set off to find the one who could save the kingdom. Traveling far and wide, she battles things scarier than magic, like evil, fear, and stereotypes. But without any magical gifts, will she triumph?

I'd give this book eight out of eight trifold shards for it's cleverly hidden messages. It's also downright hilarious, and has had me laughing for hours.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd". When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 trifold shards with 8 being the highest



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Novelist –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.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | BROWSER |
| EDITOR | GOOGLE |
| IPAD | INTERNET |
| SPELLCHECK | BING |
| PRINTER | ASPIRIN |
| PUBLISHER | KEYBOARD |
| NOTEPAD | TELEPHONE |
| READERS | WIFI |
| PENCIL | IMAGINATION |
| IDEAS | |
| PEN | |

Entries must be received by **November 15, 2017**
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



Congratulations to: Nancy Gajjar
Winner of Our June Word Search Contest!

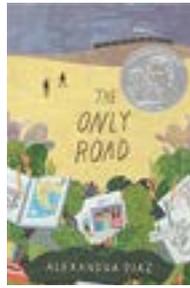
Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

The Only Road

Author: Alexandra Diaz
Life in Jaime's small Guatemalan village is pretty peaceful, excluding one group: the Alphas. Drug dealers that ask for 'favors' and new recruits. If you refuse, you die. So



when Jaime's beloved cousin, Miguel, is murdered for that very reason, the whole family is devastated. And the death comes with something else: a request for Jamie and Miguel's sister Angela to join them.

The only way Angela and Jamie can escape is to leave Guatemala, and that might be harder than it seems. Train hopping, refugee churches, immigration officials, and lost dogs are all part of their journey, and hopefully they can make it to the other side. The U.S. is promising safety, but the road to get there isn't.

I really enjoyed this book. It talks about serious topics while still keeping the mood as light as possible. Five of five stars are well earned in this wonderful story.

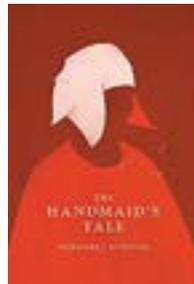
Lucy is a 6th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood is a dystopian story where women have lost all their rights. They are now considered objects and being bought, owned and sold is simply the way the world works. Women



are divided into a hierarchy of Marthas, Handmaids, Wives and discards, with men raining supreme. Fertile women are ranked Handmaids, much like Offred who can easily remember the days before the totalitarian system, back when she'd lived happily with her daughter. But now, living as a Handmaid to the Commander, she must stay alert. If she's caught trying to escape or find her daughter, nothing short of a traitor's death awaits her. Who can she trust, where can she go and, most importantly, what is she willing to do to survive and see her daughter again? A brilliant book, I recommend this book to everyone who enjoys dystopia books. This truly is a classic and I rate this book 5 out of 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth 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 her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

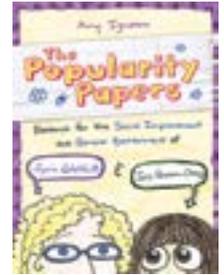
Richard's BookReview



Richard J.

Funny Book with a Message

The Popularity Papers is a book by Amy Ignatow. It's written like a diary by two middle school girl authors Lydia and Julie writing about their "observations"

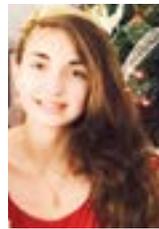


and very funny results on their attempts to be popular. They go through many things to be popular, trying and failing in a funny way at hair bleaching, joining the popular sports teams, and even pretending to like boys, which really backfires, and many other things, too. The results are funny, unpredictable, but don't make them popular. They learned in the end that it's important to be yourself and be liked by your friends, not the people who everyone says are cool and popular. This is a really funny book written and drawn in a way I would have done with markers, pens and pencils, and the story is relatable in the way that they work so hard to be liked and noticed.

I give this book a 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with his family.

Christina's BookReview



Christina J.

A Dangerous Secret

Belly Up is the story of a boy named Theodore Fitzroy solving what happened to the popular zoo mascot Henry the hippopotamus. One sad day Henry died at the zoo. Everyone seems



convinced that it was just a natural cause, but Theodore feels that something shady is going on. While investigating, Theodore found out somehow the only person willing to help and interested to find out the truth is Summer McCracken, the daughter of the owner of the FunJungle zoo. Unfortunately, after the hippo there are a few other deaths of animals – the jaguar, panther and a python. What the teenagers end up discovering is a very dangerous secret, which you will need to read about to find out. I like that this book was a light hearted mystery with interesting writing and a unique plot. I give this book out of 5 stars

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. 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).



Dr. Brian Jacobs

members. In BUSD, we are sincerely blessed by the support we receive and our students are the true benefactors.

BUSD continues to embrace innovative instructional teaching practices that work to engage our students to higher levels of student to teacher interactions that are even more rigorous leading to stronger achievement results. Our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) courses continue to grow and within two years, we will have a new state of the art facility at Mayfair High School to take learning well into and beyond the 21st Century. We have also made tremendous growth in expanding the availability of technology for our students and staff. At BUSD, we are committed to preparing our students to be successful leaders of the 21st Century.

In my 38-year journey from classroom teacher to becoming superintendent, as well as my experience raising two children, I know firsthand how every parent has big dreams for their child. As educators, we carry a tremendous responsibility to do everything we can to ensure all children have the tools and support they need to achieve those dreams. I am proud to say that in BUSD, that is a reality and we continue to provide excellence and experience creating personalized pathways to success for every child and young adult.

Kicking off this school year like so many others, inspired and energized to help students cross the line of graduation and kick-start successful futures, our mantra of the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less,” resonates daily for all students entering one of our 14 campuses!



Sue ElHessen, Ed.D.
President

both high schools. An enriched and enhanced program after school known as CalAPS, has grown to offering wonderful job related learning opportunities that reflect the Career Technical Educational components of our district and our surrounding communities.

With the implementation of the new California Standards at every grade level, a strong curriculum, and textbooks for every student, we are teaching fundamentals that will empower students to become active lifelong learners. We provide opportunities for support services for students at risk, to further enable them to become informed, productive, independent, and contributing citizens in today’s diverse society.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining these high quality programs and beautiful facilities while continuing to keep a balanced budget. We are continually looking for ways to strengthen our services and support programs in order to improve student learning. We have met that challenge with the adoption of the new Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control Accountability Plan.

Our students continue to be at the center of all of our decisions, goals, and strategic actions. We pride ourselves on being student centered, and have high expectations for them. We want every student to meet the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

Bellflower Unified School District
16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • (562) 866-9011
www.busd.k12.ca.us

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 **BUSD in the subject line)**

Entries must be received by November 15, 2017
 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP dice/card game - fun for all ages!

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers | Focused | Principal |
| Character | Homework | Recess |
| Classrooms | Instructors | Reunion |
| Curiosity | Integrity | Student |
| Discipline | Learning | Success |
| Educators | Mentors | Technology |
| Encourage | Nutrition | Thinkers |
| Excellence | Parents | Workers |



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