

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 11, Issue 102

December 2017

2017 was a Good to Great Time at RBUSD!



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Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

What's the Good News?

Yes, we've all heard it—these are tough political times. What's the good news?

Redondo Beach Unified School District is staying positive and optimistic in spite of the media's hype over the present state of our country. Yes, we made it through the great recession thanks to our forward-thinking and prudent Board of Education, but now we are faced with political strife in our country.

Let me change the narrative and say we have

much to be thankful for:

- Residents of Redondo Beach who supported Measures E, C, and E (and look at our facilities, our efforts to minimize our carbon footprint, and our technology)
- Safer schools highlighted in last month's *School News* article
- Higher test scores and student achievement
- RBUSD is now a destination district; we officially hit the 10,000 student mark! Please note that there are no new large developments to point to for this growth and our out-of-district "permits" have declined over the years
- RBUSD graduates continue to attend elite/nationally-ranked colleges and universities
- RBUSD boasts a thriving PTA and Ed Foundation

The future looks bright with our upgraded facilities, excellent staff, new programs, terrific parents, and most importantly... the BEST students around.

I am sometimes accused of being the "glass half full" leader or the "positive spin doctor." Have at it! What's the alternative--pessimism, negativity, blame, criticism, and despair? No, thank you. I would much rather my daughter have a leader who realistically sees a positive future for y(our) students. Based on RBUSD's measurable and demonstrative results over the last several years, we have earned a strong sense of optimism. So enjoy that beverage that is half full. I'm willing to bet it tastes great!

Board of Education Meeting Dates

2017	December 12*
2018	
January 9	April 24*
January 23	(Organizational Meeting)
February 13	May 8
February 27	May 22
March 13	June 12
March 27	June 26

* Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in December, and April.

Board of Education

SoCal ROC



Michael R. Christensen
Member

As we approach the end of the fall semester, I marvel at how well our district is preparing our students for bright futures whatever they chose to do and wherever they chose to go. With two students at Redondo Union High School (one a senior filling out her college applications) and one at Adams Middle School, I get to see firsthand the great programs developed and delivered by our administrators and staff.

To the awesome teachers, staff, and administrators of the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD), thanks for all you are doing for our students!

Preparing our students to enter college is a primary focus of what we do. However, there is another RBUSD resource I'm not sure all district students and parents are fully aware of that can help them on the pathway to success, whether that pathway leads to a university, local junior college, or other post-secondary training.

Have you heard of the Southern California Regional Occupational Center? SoCal ROC, as it's sometimes referred to (or just SCROC), is part of the California public school system and offers programs for high school students as well as adults in the South Bay and surrounding communities. Our district is one of the six South Bay school districts that formed a Joint Powers Authority back in 1967 and created SCROC. My position on our District Board of Education allows me the privilege of being a member of SCROC's Board, a position we rotate among RBUSD Board members. In fact, our current RBUSD Board president, Brad Waller, just completed serving four years with distinction on the SCROC Board including time as its president.

For 40 years, the Southern California Regional Occupational Center has remained a model for the state through the development of innovative programs with a major emphasis upon technology. I've seen firsthand the great things they are doing in the lives of their students. SCROC and RBUSD are aware that Career Technical Education can fill a role for almost everyone, from the college-preparatory student desiring greater academic challenge and the opportunity to apply knowledge learned to the individual seeking to enter the job market with upgraded skills. SCROC is forming new alliances with South Bay technology and aerospace leaders, which will provide even more high-tech opportunities in the years to come.

If you are interested in how SoCal ROC might fit into your plans, talk to your school administrators and check out their Web site at <http://www.socalroc.com/>. You will be glad you did!

Redondo Beach Unified School District
1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(310) 379-5449 • www.rbusd.org



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

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Covering the
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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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Optimism is alive and well at RBUSD! I have written many times how contagious Dr. Keller's optimistic leadership is so it is no surprise his end of year message on page 3 is highlighting the positive. In today's world it is refreshing and an inspiration to meet people who find the positive side of life even when they have every reason to be depressed.

In this issue you will read about making good health and nutrition choices, how to manage holiday stress, giving to others, Project Unified, the Athletic Mentorship Program and so much more.

Children model the behavior or their parents and loved ones. Please think twice before you drive and text or make a call. The children in your car are watching you. A current television commercial shows a man starting to make a phone call because his children are not in his car and a child runs out in front of his car after a ball—your child might be the one at risk from another driver texting. Please join the unofficial club of responsible drivers and put down your phone while driving.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and happy New Year! Our next issue is February 7, 2018



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Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

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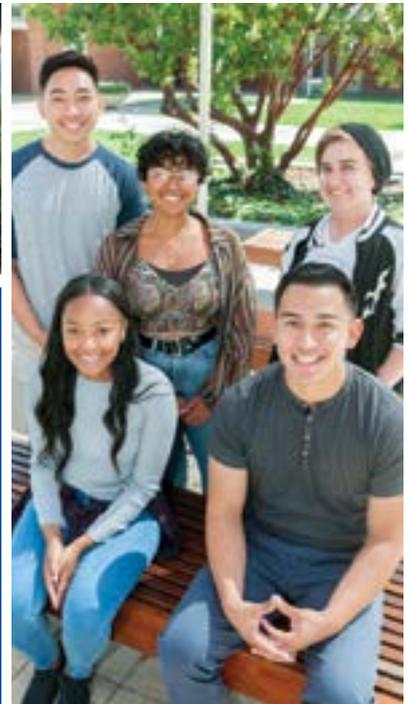
Has your elementary-aged student come home saying this yet? If so, they are sharing one of the many lessons learned in Beach Cities Health District’s LiveWell Kids nutrition and garden programs. Launched in 2005, LiveWell Kids is an obesity prevention program developed specifically for K-5 students in Redondo Beach elementary schools. Today, due to strong leadership from RBUSD and a continued commitment to health, the obesity rate has fallen from 20% to 7.8%, while state and national numbers continue to rise.

Five times per year, more than 400 trained parent volunteers teach students interactive lessons about the importance of nutrition, gardening and farm-to-table practices in an effort to develop healthy habits. Nutrition lessons focus on mindful eating practices, the importance of physical activity, food labels and marketing tactics and increasing water consumption. In LiveWell Kids garden lessons, students get their hands dirty as they plant vegetables and herbs and build their own compost in order to take care of their garden.

If your child asks you to plant a garden, try a new fruit

or vegetable, or to help them read a food label while you are grocery shopping, join them in their quest for healthy habits. You can learn to LiveWell at home by cooking together as a family, filling up half your plate with colorful fruits and vegetables, and turning off all electronics and connecting at the dinner table.

If you are interested in participating as a parent volunteer or want to learn more about LiveWell Kids, including healthy recipes, go to <http://www.bchd.org/LiveWellKids>.



Free College Classes for South Bay High School Graduates!

Enrollment fees for the first year will be paid for full-time students who are enrolled in the El Camino College **SOUTH BAY PROMISE**.

To be eligible, in-district high school students must complete the Steps to Enrollment and complete a South Bay Promise form by **April 30, 2018**.

SOUTH BAY PROMISE students receive priority registration, access to in-demand English and math courses, and additional support to connect with student success programs and services.



El Camino College

For more information, go online:
www.elcamino.edu/southbaypromise

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

409 N. P.C.H., #310, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/954-2004 • www.rbef.org



Hanh Archer
President

Year-End Tax Donation

Give yourself a pat on the back and a BIG thank you if you have already invested in RBEF this school year. We have raised more than \$530,000, a first time in RBEF's history. For those of you who haven't, good news, there is still time!

If you are searching for a worthy cause to donate to for a year-end tax deduction, look no further. The answer is RBEF. You can make a one-time investment or donate in monthly installments online at www.rbef.org.

RBEF accepts stock donations!

If you have appreciated stock (or bonds or mutual funds) that you've held for many years, consider donating that instead of cash.

Tax Savings for Stock Donations — You can receive two tax savings by contributing stock as a gift to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

1. Deduction for charitable contribution
Federal and state tax law permits taxpayers who itemize

to deduct the current value of charitable contributions from their adjusted gross income. To qualify for such a deduction, the stock must have been held by the taxpayer for more than one year.

2. Save on capital gains tax

Contributions of stock may have no tax liability on the difference between the cost of donated stock and its current, fair market value (FMV): i.e. there may not be tax on the capital gains.

Please contact your own qualified financial adviser when considering gifts of appreciated stock. If you would like to contribute a gift of stock, please visit www.rbef.org.

All investments received by December 31, 2017, will be included on our recognition boards at each school campus. Year after year, RBEF continues to enrich the education for all RBUSD students at every level—elementary, middle school and high school. Help us to keep these worthwhile arts, college readiness, science, math, sports and music programs in our schools for the following school year.

Thank you for your continued support and have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Redondo Beach Council PTA

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



Patricia Harris DiLeva
President

Tis The Season

The holiday season is officially upon us, bringing parties, presents and pressure -- too much to do and too little time to enjoy. The American Psychological Association, offers the following healthy, long-lasting techniques to help parents effectively manage holiday stress:

Strengthen social connections— We know that strong, supportive relationships help us manage all kinds of challenges. So, we can view the holidays as a time to reconnect with the positive people in our lives. Also volunteering at a local charity on our own or with family can be another way to make connections; helping others often makes us feel better, too.

Set expectations— It is helpful to set realistic expectations for gifts and holiday activities. Depending on a child's age, we can use this opportunity to teach kids about the value of money and responsible spending. We need to remember to pare down our own expectations, too. Instead of trying to take on everything, we need to identify the most important holiday tasks and take small concrete steps to accomplish them.

Keep things in perspective— On the whole, the holiday season is short. It helps to maintain a broader context and a longer-term perspective. We can ask ourselves, what's the worst thing that could happen this holiday? Our greatest fears may not happen and, if they do, we can tap our strengths and the help of others to manage them. There will be time after the holiday season to follow up or do more of things we've overlooked or did not have the time to do during the holidays.

Take care of yourself— It is important that we pay attention to our own needs and feelings during the holiday season. We can find fun, enjoyable and relaxing activities for ourselves and our families. By keeping our minds and bodies healthy, we are primed to deal with stressful situations when they arise. Consider cutting back television viewing for kids and getting the family out together for fresh air and a winter walk. Physical activity can help us feel better and sleep well, while reducing sedentary time and possible exposure to stress-inducing advertisements.

I hope these suggestions help you stop to smell and the roses a little and enjoy the season!



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

ARRONDA H.

Intermediate School Teacher
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RBUSD Alternative Education

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Anthony Bridi
Principal

The Gift of Giving

By Lissa Watts, Counselor

The autumn months call for a traditional pattern of celebration. The holiday season allows for opportunities to reconnect with friends and family, explore newfound interests, and revisit past passions.

This is a time of giving. Many people head to the stores during the holiday season to begin their celebrations of giving.

However, there are many other ways to experience the rewards of giving without ever purchasing an actual “gift.”

This holiday season consider these ways to give; to your loved ones, your friends, your community.

- Time; undivided attention is the best
- Authentic meaningful gifts, which could be home-made and not store-bought
- Acknowledge others effort and hard work
- Volunteer or donate time to a local shelter, hospital, or other community agency

So, why is giving important?

Evidence shows that when we give we can improve our health and our own feelings of happiness. Researchers have suggested that giving helps decrease stress, thus improving physical health and overall wellness. One example was a study conducted in 2006, by Rachel Piferi of Johns



The Redondo Shores community representing thematic days during Red Ribbon Week!

Hopkins University and Kathleen Lawler of the University of Tennessee. They found that people who provided social support to others had lower blood pressure than those who didn't. In addition to health benefits, when you give, you also evoke gratitude in others and promote cooperation and social connection.

What is Alternative Education doing to give this season?

We make time to connect as a student and staff through potlucks and a multitude of ASB activities. Student's efforts are acknowledged and celebrated daily and also monthly at our awards assemblies. We also seek opportunities to collaborate with community agencies to volunteer. These efforts create a sense of belonging and community here at Shores. How will YOU give this holiday season?

RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8683x1312, 1321 • www.rbusd.org



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

The Gift of Giving

By Kathy Martens, Site Supervisor

What we personally feel when we give to someone else is very complex. We might feel valuable because we can affect another's life. We might feel relieved because someone's suffering is reduced. We might feel uplifted by lightening the load for others. We might feel grateful to be able to give. We might feel overjoyed at having increased the amount of

love in the world. We get so much out of doing for others. But when the giving becomes second nature, the true gift emerges.

Humans, by nature, are not unselfish and giving; we want to give to ourselves first. But when we learn to give, we sense how much larger we become. How do we learn to give? Someone has to give us the opportunity to give. Someone has to show us that thinking of others and learning to give to others are beautiful things.

At Washington Child Development Center, our students are learning to give by responding to needs of the community each month. In September, several students in preschool and school-age classes donated goods and made pictures for those in need after the floods in Texas. In October and November, students brought in canned food for the Shared Bread program, which provides hot meals for those in need in the local area. Students learned about compassion and empathy through supporting both of these organizations.

The hope is that, through teaching about the value of giving and opening the eyes of young students to the importance of recognizing the needs of others, we will help them develop their sense of belonging in the world and see what roles they can play to make the world a more beautiful place. Mother Teresa said it best: “It's not how much we give...but how much love we put into giving.”

This holiday season, let's hope we can all practice this!

Spread Fun. Not Flu!



Graham Tse, M.D.
associate chief
medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Healthy kids of any age can get seriously sick from the flu, and they can spread it to family and friends. One of the best ways to stop the spread of the flu is to get vaccinated. Almost everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year. But did you know, there are other ways to stop the spread of germs?

You and your family can prevent the spread of flu at home, work or school by following these simple steps.

- Step 1:** Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away.
 - No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your sleeve (elbow) or shirt (shoulder).

Step 2: Clean your hands often.

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or long enough to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- No soap around? Use hand sanitizer gel or hand wipes.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

Step 3: Avoid close contact with people who have the flu.

- If possible, when your child has the flu, keep them home from school to help avoid spreading germs.

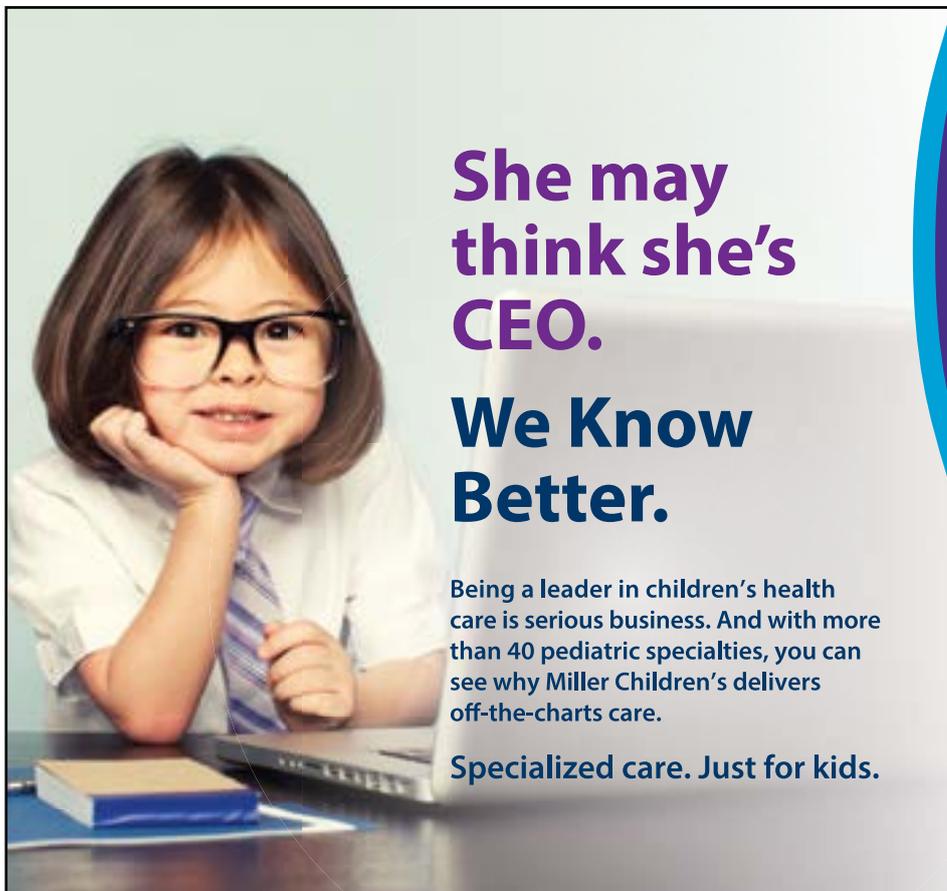
Step 4: Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects at home or school, especially if someone is ill.

The number of flu cases increases drastically by December each year, with flu season peaking in January, February or March. As we head into the holidays, remember to spread fun, and not flu!



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A Time for Unification

There is a *U* in RBUSD, and it stands for *Unified*. The December holiday season is a time for us to commit to supporting and uplifting one another and to unite as a large school community.

Project Unified is one such effort. It is a joint project of the school district and the Redondo Beach Council PTA. We are entering our third season of giving by supporting approximately 60 RBUSD

Dr. Annette Alpern
*Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services*

families. Each school site's PTA "adopts" a number of families that have been identified for support. Gifts and clothing for children as well as grocery and gas gift cards for the family are the items most often requested and collected. In order to maintain privacy and confidentiality, each receiving family is identified by a number, and the items are sorted and packaged for delivery by our RBUSD central office administrators during December.

The smiles, hugs and genuine appreciation we hear from the parents and guardians are overwhelming. I am truly grateful for the generosity demonstrated by our students, our staff and our families and want to personally thank each and every person who has contributed in little or big ways to this worthy endeavor, Project Unified!



South Bay Adult School

3401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-3340 • www.southbayadult.org



A Stellar Century

South Bay Adult School (SBAS) will celebrate an important milestone in 2018: 100 years as a successful, growing place to learn in the South Bay. Originally established in 1918 to meet adult education needs, programs were held in community centers or rented facilities.

In 1938, Redondo Evening High School was approved as an adult school. During the war years, the school was open 24 hours a

day, seven days a week, offering war-production training classes that included ship fitting, aircraft riveting and welding, blueprint reading and elementary drafting. By the late 1940s, classes shifted from labor intensive to general interest: art, business, general education, homemaking, arts and crafts, PE, music and industrial arts.

In 1956, the Redondo Evening High School became South Bay Adult School. Close to 100 classes that included parent education, art, sewing, and shorthand were offered at Aviation High, Mira Costa, and the Redondo campuses. World War II veterans enrolled in the high school diploma program; over 120 students graduated from SBAS in 1959. English as a second language (ESL) classes were also offered.

Our programs continually adapt to meet changing community needs. Our South Bay Family Tree (SBFT)

Parent Education program has been part of the South Bay for over 60 years, offering hands-on exploratory learning to families in a safe environment. SBAS is also home to the Edison Preschool. In partnership with the Quality Start Los Angeles (QSLA) the preschool received a perfect score on the Quality Rating Improvement System review.

Through the Adult Education Block grant (AEBG) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), we offer ESL, Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) classes. All programs ensure that adults have the education and skills required in a competitive economy.

At SBAS, we're thankful for the role we play in the community by helping adult students reach their academic goals. We're committed to providing the best educational experience to all students. Our staff incorporates College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRSs), English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPSs) for adult learners, and 21st century learning skills in their daily instruction. We continue to expand our focus on helping students transition successfully to career or postsecondary education. We've built many strong partnerships with El Camino College and other members of our consortium in order to provide better support and transition services to our students, who are looking to move forward on one of these pathways.

Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



Lisa Veal
Principal

More Dads, Please!

Volunteer opportunities in middle school? Most would say that they are slim to nonexistent, but not at Adams Middle School! We not only encourage parents to stay involved as their children matriculate to middle school but we also strive to provide multiple volunteer opportunities for them to do so over the course of the year.

Research indicates that children who have active and involved parents are more likely to perform well in school, have fewer discipline issues, possess positive attitudes toward school, and have greater enrollment in college. Additionally, fathers specifically play a special role in school. Their presence demonstrates the importance of education and provides positive male role models for our students to emulate.

One way fathers and father figures are able to get involved at Adams is through the WATCH D.O.G.S (Dads of Great Students) program. WATCH D.O.G.S. is a father-involvement initiative from the National Center on Fathering. It was created in 1998 as a vehicle to increase male participation in schools. Adams is excited to have joined the effort last year by being the first middle school in the South Bay to launch the program!



Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads Of Great Students)
Thank you.

In its pilot year, we found much success with the program at Adams. Goals of WATCH D.O.G.S. not only include increasing parent involvement in schools but also increasing safety by being an additional set of ears and eyes, allowing fathers to spend meaningful time with their children, and providing children who do not have a father present in the home access to a positive male role model in the school setting.

Our D.O.G.S., students and teachers alike report how positive they have found the experience to be. The commitment is only one day, and in that short amount of time, our father figures are making a difference at Adams. We appreciate our dads!

Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Teachers as Learners

Over the last several years, new California curriculum initiatives have been at the forefront of education, particularly in the areas of math and English language arts. Less well known to many are the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), becoming live in California in the spring of 2018. Like the California State Standards, the NGSS offer a major paradigm shift in how

we have previously delivered classroom instruction and framed learning.

The new standards embrace three distinct dimensions for learning science; when combined, these dimensions will help students to develop a more meaningful and cohesive understanding of science throughout their careers as learners. These dimensions include: cross cutting concepts that assist students in making connections across science domains; science and engineering practices that articulate what scientists do in the real world; and disciplinary core ideas that identify the key ideas in science by grade level.

How does such a major shift in curriculum and instruction come about in our Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) classrooms? Our teachers

re-enter classrooms as learners themselves. While the students in RBUSD enjoyed a day off on November 1, our teachers met at the high school to immerse themselves in collaborative study in grade-level groups to further study the standards and participate in NGSS lessons and hands-on activities. The collective practice was facilitated by our site administrators and taught by our district science lab teachers. Kindergarten teachers, for example, worked in groups of four or five and engaged in a hands-on activity in which they experimented with ramps and balls in order to determine the effect of pushes and pulls on objects to further understand the concept of motion. Teachers



Science lab teacher, Karin Sato, engages kindergarten teachers in the student of Next Generation Science Standards.

studied literature as well as cross-cutting concepts and science and engineering practices in order to understand the key idea of motion within the larger context of physical science.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Mind/Body Connectedness

When Beryl students aren't exercising their bodies and minds with morning exercises, jogging around the track, and taking brain breaks/activity breaks, they are competing in the NFL Play 60 Challenge. Beryl students joined the NFL Play60 Challenge last year and beat the other 19 schools by exercising in excess of 60 minutes every day for one month. 60 students who

met the challenge were chosen to visit a Los Angeles sports venue to participate in a Rams play day and run an obstacle course, meet Rams players, and have a fun-filled day at the venue. As a school reward, the Los Angeles Rams came to our school for an assembly in November.

Beryl students are also exploring the benefits of flexible seating options. Flexible seating options stimulate students' sense of

touch, and this kind of stimulation can help students focus, especially students with attentional challenges. Research has shown that students learn best when they have some control over their environment, and flexible seating also allows students to choose where they work and change their position or seat when needed. Uncomfortable students tend to be distracted and unproductive. Comfortable students are calm, focused and productive. Through various seating options—yoga mats, standing tables, low tables, scoop chairs, lap trays, couches and traditional desks—the students at Beryl are working on meeting their individual needs within an evolving classroom space.

Beryl's staff and students know how to have fun and stay connected. Whether it be through Red Ribbon Week, spirit

days, staff-bonding adventures or staff games, we always make sure to add a little fun in our day. We are a team, we work at staying connected to one another and to students, and we strive to work together as one for the benefit of all.



Play 60 Challenge winners at Beryl Heights.

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

We Give Back

As the holidays are fast approaching, it is critical that we get our students thinking about giving back to the community and those that may need additional support during this time of year. The Birney student leadership team is on a mission to help those in need by researching organizations that impact the community and developing a plan for Birney students to get involved.

One way that Birney gives back is by participating in Project Unified. Families needing extra support during the holidays are identified by administration throughout the Redondo Beach Unified School District. The Parent Teacher Associations at each school site organize a way to have the school community help with donating items that would be beneficial for the various families. At Birney, each grade

level "adopts" a family by working together to donate items for the anonymous family. It is a wonderful opportunity for the community to work together and give back. Once all items are in, our wonderful PTA combines the items and delivers them to our district office. District office administrators deliver those items to the homes of the families.

What a wonderful way to give back to the community and know that our choice to help others is developing our character and setting us up for a life of giving back!



Project Unified gives back

Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

The Spirit of Giving

The arrival of the holiday season brings a fun and festive time to Jefferson. Our students always get excited about school-based activities and events such as holiday projects, parties, and performances.

While many of these activities are signature practices of the school season, we believe that it is important to have our students look beyond themselves by trying to turn their focus towards helping and giving to others outside our community. Through Jefferson's partnership with the PTA, we are able to support two different projects at the holidays: Project Unified and the Giving Tree. Both of these projects donate gifts to families in need.

Outside of the holidays, Jefferson's commitment of giving to others also continues throughout the entire school year. We have initiatives such as Operation Gratitude, which



Operation Gratitude donates candy to our troops.

collects candy after Halloween to send to the troops. Additionally, Jefferson also holds its annual Jump Rope for Heart event in February, which raises funds for the American Heart Association for its research and heart-care awareness efforts.

Through these collective efforts, Jefferson is proud to have the spirit of giving all year long. Happy Holidays everyone!



Jefferson gives back through Jump Rope for Heart held in February.

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jason Johnson
Principal

Watch DOGS

Watch Dads of Great Students (DOGS) is an innovative program at Lincoln Elementary School and other schools across Redondo Beach Unified School District that brings fathers and father-figures onto campus for a day of volunteer service. This program asks for the committed involvement of men in order to better promote engagement with our students. Over 25 million children across the nation are affected by fatherlessness, and nearly 18 million students in kindergarten through 12th grade live in homes without their biological fathers. In addition, many struggle with emotional fatherlessness, where the father lives in the home but struggles to emotionally engage in a child's life.

No judgment here. As a new father, I experience a day-to-day struggle to remain present for my daughter while also balancing the demands of work. I appreciate how Watch DOGS provides structure to encourage us to take one full day from our jobs and spend it with students. Our dads provide positive male role modeling for our students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important. Also, they provide an extra set of eyes and ears to support and improve our campus climate.

Last month, we held our third annual Watch DOGS Pizza Night. Dads brought their children to campus to have dinner together and learn more about the program. Lincoln fathers showed up big, with over 200 RSVPs. This commitment from our dedicated dads demonstrates why the Lincoln community is a special place.

One final note—while I am proud of the accomplishment of the Watch DOGS program, this is also an opportunity to recognize the tireless commitment of our mothers on campus. Our Lincoln moms, through their involvement in PTA, our garden, Hands on Art, and other programs, make this school run. Moms, we salute you!



Dads have dinner with their kids on Lincoln campus.

Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

It's Not All About the Numbers

As we continue transitioning to the new Common Core State Standards in mathematics, one of the most important things that we can do with our children is to have productive and critical discussions about mathematics. Many of us who experienced mathematics education in the '70s, '80s or even the '90s are accustomed to mathematics as a subject that is based in "fact," where $5 + 5$ is always equal to 10. However, the reality that we all confront in our jobs every day is that sometimes it does, and sometimes it doesn't. You may receive two shipments of five packages each, but two of the five packages in the first shipment could be damaged and unusable; in this case, one could argue that even though you have two shipments of five packages each, because of the damage to one shipment $5 + 5$ will only mean 8 packages. The point is that life is never as neat and clean as numbers on a page, so we must train students to think critically and actually understand what the numbers mean.

According to the book *Intentional Talk: How to Structure and Lead Productive Mathematical Discussions* by Elham Kazemi and Allison Hintz, there are five structures to mathematical discussion that you can engage your child in. First, you can get students to compare the strategies that others (including you) use to solve problems. Second, make students justify the reason that they used a particular strategy to solve a problem. Third, have the students explain why a solution is the most efficient one to solve a problem. Fourth, have your child clarify the meaning of the words they use or the strategies they invoke to solve a problem. And finally, if, after discussion, a mathematical problem has been shown to have a misstep in the calculation, have students talk about revising their answers. These are all very valuable steps in helping your child to have a deeper understanding of the mathematics he or she is learning.

If you need additional resources, or maybe you would just like to see some of these new concepts in mathematics, visit the Madison Elementary School Web site and click on the link "Math at Madison" under the programs menu to see videos of mathematics in action.

Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

A High Tech Education

Whether it's a video-game console, a computer, a smartphone, or an iPad, children are fascinated with technology. At Parras Middle School, we are seizing on our students' desire to use technology in order to improve their education. Redondo Beach Unified School District implemented a 1:1 Chromebook program across the school district because they realized how beneficial it would be for students. As a result, every student at Parras Middle School brings a Chromebook to school to use in the classroom.

To further help students improve their academic achievement, our school has invested in a number of online resources. We have purchased subscriptions to informational databases that have been approved for student use. This allows for our students to conduct their research for papers and projects without having to cull unreliable sources of information that are suggested by Google. Students can access the databases by going to our main web page.

Parras Middle School has also made hundreds of fiction and nonfiction books available for checkout to students through our online library. Our online library allows

students to download books to Kindles, Chromebooks and



Students use their Chromebooks in class everyday.

iOS devices. All they need are their student ID number and birth date. The online library is filled with award-winning titles and the most current books.

Technology has also helped parents. A powerful tool used by parents and students is Infinite Campus. Infinite Campus gives parents and students the ability to have up-to-date information related to assignment grades and attendance. Parents and students can access it from their desktop computers or by using the IC app on their smartphones. The app can be found on our school web page.

With the help of Measure Q, the technology bond that was passed by our community, Parras Middle School is well prepared to educate our students in the 21st century!

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Jens Brandt
Principal

Athletic Mentorship Program

Redondo Union High School (RUHS) is a campus that provides unique and inclusive opportunities for all students. One program that has had a tremendous impact on our entire community is the Athletic Mentorship Program.

In its fifth year, this program pairs students from our Independent Living Skills and Essential Skills classes with varsity athletic teams to participate in drills, games, and activities that are typical in a varsity practice. The Independent Living and Essential Skills students are provided with team shirts, water, and healthy snacks. The Athletic Mentorship Program reminds us how beautiful the world is when we all

come together to embrace our differences and learn from each other.

Teacher Jessica Parmar stated, “The first year I saw my students playing with the athletic teams, I knew that RUHS was where I wanted to stay. There is nothing more rewarding and inspirational about my job than seeing the impact these events have and continue to have on our students.”

Both students with disabilities and typical students benefit immensely from the chance to socialize with each other in a setting outside of the classroom. Dr. Mallet explains, “I often get emotional when I witness the students from the athletic teams cheering for our students. Honestly, it is one of the best parts of my job at RUHS. I look forward to seeing all students grow from the experience.”



Here we see both the RUHS Football Team and students from the Independent Living Skills and Essential Skills classes together in the Sea Hawk Bowl.

Tulita *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Full STEAM Ahead!

RBUSD teachers are working hard on studying and implementing a new set of science standards known as “The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).” The NGSS provide an important opportunity to not only improve our educational efforts in science, but also our standard of student achievement.

The timing of this NGSS release comes as California is also implementing the California State Standards (formerly known as Common Core) in English language arts and mathematics. This shift to new standards in science education is important for many reasons. The NGSS are aligned with the California State Standards to ensure a systematic blend and pace of learning in all content areas. These Standards overlap in meaningful and substantive ways, and offer an opportunity to give all students equal access to learning.

The NGSS present students with performance expectations based on basic content and grade-level expectations of knowledge, and are meant to build on their individual knowledge from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Students engage in lessons that incorporate

three dimensions: science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas. The NGSS help students focus on deeper understanding of content as well as content application.

At Tulita, our special Instructional Leadership Team is spending much time collaborating on the new Standards. It is also making sure that our students have access to resources and material to help them make deep connections to the subject matter. Our district-wide professional development day in early November focused on NGSS by grade level, thus allowing our teachers hands-on training that they could take directly back to their classrooms.

Our third- through fifth-grade students will continue to receive hands-on experiences in the science lab, which will enhance what our teachers are teaching in the classrooms. At Tulita, we are full STEAM ahead in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math!



Tulita teachers engaging in a science investigation on wind erosion.

Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



Andrea Bittick
Principal

Educating the Whole Child

By Laura Urquhart, Assistant Principal

Washington Elementary understands that the demands of the 21st century require a new approach to education in order to fully prepare our students for college, career, and citizenship.

Instead of narrowly focusing on academic achievement alone, our goal is to educate the

“whole” child. This approach will develop and prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Washington understands that the best way to address the comprehensive needs of students today is by partnering with families and community members in the educational process. This partnership ensures that each student is healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged.

Thanks to the support and advocacy of our parents, the community, and the RBEF, we are able to offer the following opportunities and programs: WATCH DOGS, Running Club, Green Team, garden and art programs, Lego Robotics, music, and band.



Washington's Green Team



Gardening at Washington

Toy Store Items—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.

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| BIKE | MARBLES |
| DOLL | CRAYON |
| TRIKE | PENS |
| BOOK | COMPUTER |
| LEGOS | DOLLHOUSE |
| SOLDIERS | BUGGY |
| BALLS | KITCHEN |
| BUBBLES | TEA SET |
| CROQUET | BAT |
| BLOCKS | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES | |

Entries must be received by January 15, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



Congratulations to Roman Atenza
Winner of our November Word Search Contest!

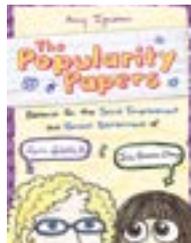
Richard's BookReview



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.



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South Bay Hands On Art

Keeping Up with the Times

By Co-Chairs Sandi Arthur and Karen Ford Cull

While art may be timeless, Hands on Art is pushing ensure that the teaching of art keeps up with the times.

Some fundraising dollars will be channeled towards technology - specifically laptops, projectors and document cameras that can readily display instruction, visuals and video clips to every student in the class in a way that they can clearly see and hear - even in the back of the room. Laptops will be used to bring PowerPoint presentations and video clips to the experience.

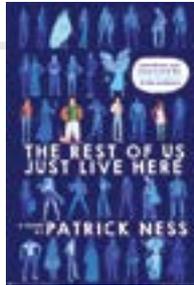
Book Review By Katrina



Katrina D.

A Realistic Read

The Rest of Us Just Live Here is about characters who aren't heroes or villains, simply side characters. Told from the perspective of Mikey, a senior who's struggling with the threat of life after high school, we



see there are two types of students in his town. There are the 'indie kids', with strange names like Satchel who end up saving the world from a zombie apocalypse or a vampire takeover. Then there are kids who observe, but never really take part. Kids like Mikey, his sister and friends who are going through difficult things without the supernatural factor. Patrick Ness explores the real life situations that teenagers face today, from eating disorders to having to leave all your friends for a different country and how these side characters still manage to deal with their problems in a heroic way. Though dusted with supernatural twists, this book is a realistic read for teenagers who are looking for a quirky book. I give this book 3 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.



Docent Sonia Boba uses a document camera to display a sample to the class at Alva Vista Elementary.

Document cameras can project anything the camera "sees" onto a screen in the front of the room. So instead of doing a demonstration on a paper taped to a vertical surface in the front of the classroom, (or approximated with a white board and dry erase markers) the project can be created exactly as the children's project is - and the kids can watch the demonstration live and greatly enlarged. The camera is also a wonderful way for kids to share their work with each other in front of the class. HOA has always aimed to bring kids the best in high quality art supplies and experiences that go far beyond what most of them have access to at home. Now we are working to add technology to that list.

2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
www.southbayhandsonart.com

Keira's Book Nook



Keira

A Brilliant Fantasy of Adventure

Time Stoppers - Quest for the Golden Arrow by Carrie Jones

Welcome to a land of friends, stubborn grandparents and elves. In this emotional book the author draws readers into an amazing fairy tale. (I laughed and cried a lot!) Aided by luck, a quiet desiring Annie joins forces with the enemies of The Raiff. The company of a mighty arrow helps them cross



dangerous lands. Full of intense force and simple luck, this is an intriguing book. Carrie Jones uses outstanding vocabulary such as moseyed. However, I thought it ended too abruptly. I recommend this book series for fourth to eighth graders to read. I can't wait to read the next book! (This book is such a page turner!) I rate this book 4 apples.

Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.



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Isabella's Book Review



A Magical Book

The Magician's Nephew by C.S. Lewis is about Polly, Digory and the witch. One afternoon they meet at Digory's uncle's room who gives Polly a ring. Polly grabs it and disappears. To save her, Digory touches a ring.



Once with Polly they explore Charn. Digory rings a bell, awakening the queen of Charn. The two did not like her and try to escape, but the witch clings on them. She thinks she is the queen of England and gives orders. Polly and Digory use their rings to return to Charn; only it wasn't Charn anymore. It was a dark place with a lion that as he sang, created things. It was, Narnia. Would they ever get out of Narnia? What would happen to the witch? Read on to find out.

I rate this book 4 of 5 stars because it truly is captivating

Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

Christina's Book Review



A Fun Read

Chomp is a fun story about a boy named Wahoo Cray and his father who is an animal wrangler. The Cray's Family backyard is a zoo full of rescued animals - boas, raccoons, turtles, monkeys, a crocodile, and an alligator. The family doesn't have much money as most of it goes to animal care, so they jump at the offer to let a reality show called Expedition

Survival shoot some scenes with the domesticated giant alligator named Alice. As the crew arrives, Wahoo realizes how staged the show is, with the main star Derek, a supposedly strong rugged man actually being a foolish, clumsy, egotistical spray-tanned fake, who constantly does something dumb and causes troubles left and right. After provoking Alice the alligator Derek nearly got ripped to shreds, but thinks he looked good taking on an alligator, and demands to do the rest of the episode with wild animals instead of the domesticated ones. More troubles... I liked that the main character is a calm, likable kid who is trying to earn money to save their house and is willing to tough out the ridiculous calamities. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

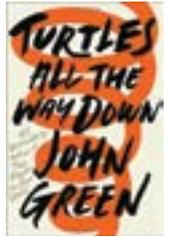
Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

Lucy's Book Review



Turtles All the Way Down

Meet Aza Holmes. The sidekick, the best friend, the student. Every day, her thoughts condense and spin in what she refers to as 'thought spirals' - where one follows the other and then they don't stop.



Lucy Davis

Soon, she and her best friend, Daisy, go looking for a reward: \$100,000 to anyone who can provide information about Russell Pickett, a billionaire gone missing. With that much money on the line and the possibilities it could offer, their lives become a mess of night vision cameras, Applebee's, Star Wars fan fiction, and one very lucky tuatara.

Once again, John Green creates a story that makes you laugh, frown, and gets you to think in ways you never thought you could. I expected a lot from this book, and while it was wonderful and enjoyable, the things that I expected seemed to be its inefficiencies.

Four and a half bookworms that are very much deserved.

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.

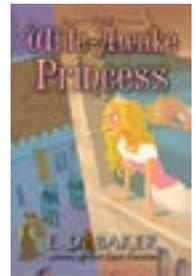
Alana's Book Review



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 triforce shards for its 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 triforce shards with 8 being the highest

Sophie's Choice



Sophie O.

Hurricane

By: Nicholas Edwards

Have you ever experienced or seen a hurricane? Well twelve year old Emily has. In this book, *Dog Whisperer: Storm Warning*, Emily and her dog Zack experience a hurricane in Maine... it is not typical for the state of Maine to have hurricanes. Emily and her pet dog Zack don't have the typical kid/dog relationship. Emily and Zack can read each other's minds! Zack has the ability to know when people are in trouble, and Emily can read his mind through images! When a hurricane warning is issued, everyone in Emily's town prepares for what could be a horrible hurricane! The hurricane happens at the worst possible time, when Emily was at school. Everyone has tried to be prepared since it was issued on the weather channel. But they are let out early at school, and her parents aren't with her when she goes to the protective center. Emily's parents assume Emily went to the protective center, but what they don't expect is what happens to them on their way to pick up Emily from the protective center. Even though Emily and her dog Zack can read minds, they cannot read into the future? Who will help Emily's town survive the hurricane?



Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.

Jenna's Review

Who is SAMOO?



Jenna C.

Author: Javaka Steptoe

There was a little boy who wanted to be a famous artist. He drew from morning to night until he made a masterpiece. His drawings were not clean but still beautiful. His mother lay down on the floor with him drawing pictures. One day, he had a car accident. He was afraid but his mom read books with pictures of bones, skulls and other body parts. Then he was no longer afraid. He learned that art had a healing power. He became a teenager and went to New York City. There he drew a lot of collages, spray-painted the walls and signed the name "SAMOO". Everybody wanted to know "Who is SAMOO?" People loved his radiant and wild art.

I like this book because the illustrations are bright and interesting. It also tells you how Jean-Michel Basquiat became famous. I recommend this book to children who want to be famous artists.



Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

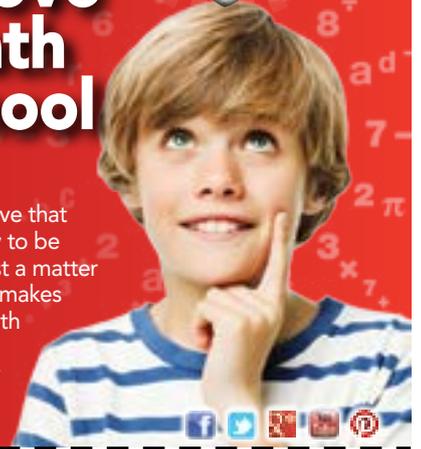
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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Rise, Shine, #Woke—Alphabet Rockers

“We want to grow children to shape the country,” said the creators of Rise, Shine, #Woke. Grow, not mold them into the mainstream. Woke is an African American Vernacular English term that means to be connected, to not be placated, to think for oneself, and to not remain ‘cool’ but ever active in social justice. That’s the substance of Rise, Shine, Woke.

This is the weightiest, most powerful collection I can remember reviewing. The no-fooling lyrics deal with resolving conflicting messages, persevering and celebrating differences instead of subscribing to the ideal of everyone being equal.



“It’s easy to say that we’re all the same and that for the most part, we’re equal. That’s not what we see...,” sing the artists on “Turn on the Light.” This is a “woke moment” for anyone who is or feels “different” in culture, race or nationality or as an outsider. It’s also discussion material for all children, no matter the experiences or culture.

The catchy “I’m Proud” goes beyond simple comfort in one’s skin. “The Nitro” gets you moving as the lyrics fly right by. You’ll want to download those lyrics from the link provided with the CD—you’ll need them!

The music is interspersed with conversational raps by children and inspirational dialogue from President Barack Obama, Maya Angelou and other African American guiding lights. The songs themselves could be thought of as the spirituals of the 21st century; like spirituals, they’re composed for jumping up, shouting out, and ultimately moving in a positive direction.

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

Rabina’s Review



Rabina K.

An Impactful Book

The Door By the Staircase

By: Katherine Marsh

This book is a magical, sumptuous, and an impactful book. It takes you through a journey full of curiosity and wilderness of thoughts.

Mary, unlike other orphans, is a very curious child. She pursues her curiosity to the limits of putting herself in danger. She teams up with her friend, Jacob, who is equally curious and brave as Mary, to unearth the hidden motives of Madame Z. Madame Z who adopted Mary from the orphanage was always a mystery to Mary. Mary did not know, who Madame Z actually is and why she adopted Mary.

I think this book really speaks to the reader. It teaches the reader the benefit of following your curiosity but with an arrangement to protect themselves if something wrong happens. I give this book ten out of ten stars.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing, she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.



Victoria’s Review



Victoria Lowe

Great Mystery

I would definitely recommend this book to kids like me who enjoy mystery stories. The reader has to recall a lot of detailed information from the earlier part of the book. The plot is very interesting! The main character is Serafina

who lives in the basement of The Biltmore Estates with her Pa. One night she finds a black cloak and soon realizes it has something to do with missing people. After a time, a lot more kids disappear. Serafina wants to figure out what happens to them. She partners up with the estate owner’s nephew, Braedon Vanderbilt. They try to find out who is in the black cloak. DON’T WORRY I WON’T TELL YOU ANYMORE!!!! There are a lot of page turners that leave you at a cliffhanger. I definitely hope that whoever decides to read this book will enjoy it as much as I have. This book gets a “Smile.”

Victoria Lowe is a 7th grade student. She loves school and enjoys spending time with her friends. Victoria’s favorite kinds of books have mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with “Smiles.” Victoria has an affinity for singing, loves musical theatre and is a member of the South Bay Children’s Choir.





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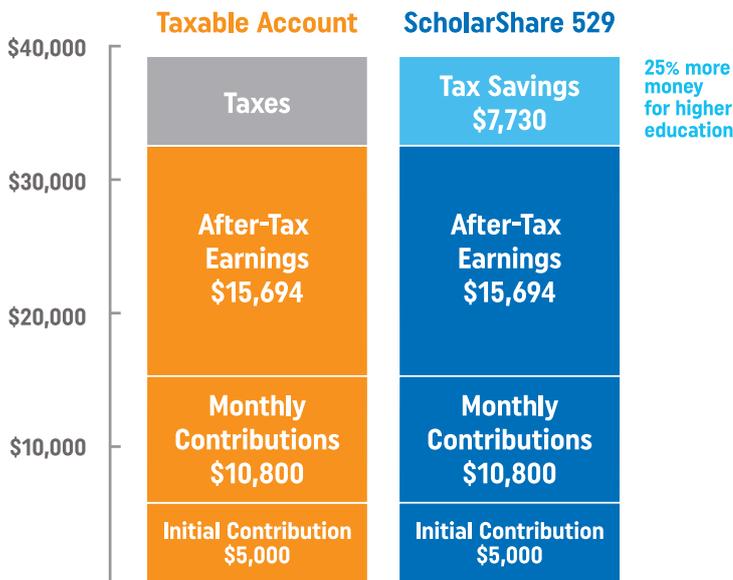
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- ★ Roster size of 6 players so everyone plays
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- ★ Under Armour apparel and basketball provided
- ★ Friend requests to play together are preferred
- ★ Coed Teams - K thru 8th grade (Jan - Mar)

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