

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



Volume 12, Issue 105

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## Board of Education



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[bchd.org/resources](http://bchd.org/resources)

For parent and student resources, go to  
[southbayfamiliesconnected.org](http://southbayfamiliesconnected.org)

## Superintendent



**Dr. Steven Keller**

### School Safety Is a Daily Pursuit

If you read *School News Roll Call* regularly, then you have likely read the details of our relentless pursuit of school safety. The short version highlights state-of-the-art technology and cameras, extensive and robust fencing, narrowed school access points, school check-in systems, door safety latches, safety plans for varied emergencies, trauma kits in every classroom (and teachers

who have been trained how to use those kits), and, of course Run, Hide, and Fight training for all staff provided by the Redondo Beach Police Department (RBPD). Related and as important, we address the bigger issue of serving each and every student's social-emotional needs, as this also minimizes the chance that this same student will potentially harm others. As you can see, there are several layers to school safety involving various staff members, community organizations, and RBPD.

Prior to the March 14 national walkout to honor the 17 lives that were lost in the Parkland, Florida school shooting, I received several e-mails and phone calls from parents asking, "Why isn't Redondo Beach Unified School District sending information home about the walk out?" Simply stated, this was not a district event. It's not appropriate for Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) or for any RBUSD employee to endorse or promote a student walkout. Of course, we encouraged parents and students to write to their elected officials in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to share their opinions regarding gun violence. We also noted that there was a "walk and protest" event on March 24. The parents I spoke with, for the most part, understood this. Some still did not. They wanted all students to walk out.

Of course these protests regarding gun violence are important on so many levels. The First Amendment is certainly something I hold dear, and, as a school district, we, of course, honor this right. But I want to clearly state that the safety of your child on and near campus is a daily effort. The marches will come and go. They certainly have symbolic meaning. What's most important for me (and hopefully you) is that each and every day you drop off your child at one of our schools, you feel the school is indeed a safe space for him or her. RBUSD, in conjunction with RBPD, is constantly looking at new processes, technologies, and personnel roles to better address a worst-case scenario. As yet another example, we will pilot a new crisis technology tool in the next few months. It's an elaborate but potentially effective tool in the event of a crisis. You will hear more about this should the pilot realize success.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

## Board of Education

### Great Accomplishments



**Brad Waller**  
President

It has been an eventful year for me as Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) Board president, with many highs and lows. Looking at my calendar for the last year, I have been to over 100 meetings and events as a School Board president. My personal highlight was accepting the class of 2017 (including my own daughter) at the Redondo Union High School graduation ceremony last June. But there were many other accomplishments that demonstrate how great our schools are.

As I write this, the girls basketball team has already won the league title and the CIF Southern Section championship, and they are on their way to the state championship. Not to be outdone, the boys water polo team won their first Southern Section championship; and this was the first year ever for girls wrestling.

I had the honor of traveling to Washington, D.C., to accept a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award on behalf of RBUSD for our high-performance buildings and ocean-friendly grounds, which allow us to host sustainability learning in our schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

I have been participating in the District Science Leadership Committee to develop curricula that will be implemented soon as part of teaching the Next Generation Science Standards. After seeing these changes, I believe that we will be preparing our students to be problem solvers and critical thinkers – skills that will be of help no matter what career paths they choose to follow.

The hardest thing I had to deal with as president this past year was something I was not prepared for: the deaths of three of our students. The names Ciara Smith, Ryse Williams, and Vincent Barbee will forever be etched in my memory. Each of them touched our hearts in different ways. I am so proud of our students and the community for the outpouring of love and support they showed for the families and each other during those difficult times.

Through the good times and bad, the students, faculty, staff, and administration of RBUSD have made me delighted to say that I am the president of the Board of Education for the Redondo Beach Unified School District.

### 2018 Board of Education Meeting Dates

April 24* (Organizational Meeting)	May 22 June 12
May 8	June 26

\*Due to local holiday schedule, only one April Board meeting

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



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Valerie Reid • 310/874-2716  
[valerie.schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com)

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:** Charlene Erb

**COPY EDITORS:**

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Nancy Lueder

**Netragrednik** by Neta Madison



**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**

P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

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The articles in this issue highlight efforts to make every day Earth Day.

Way back when...my children were in elementary school newspapers were the only product recycled. In an effort to encourage students to be environmentally conscious, we had a weekly contest to see which class brought the most newspapers to school to recycle. I fondly remember our PTA members standing by the curb with yardsticks measuring the stacks. Things have changed over the years with newspapers decreasing and recyclables increasing. Fortunately, children are learning at an early age they have a responsibility to protect the environment. In this issue you will read about the ways teachers, students and the community are working together to be ecofriendly.




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# South Bay Adult School

3401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-3340  
[www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org)



**Dr. Anthony Taranto**  
Director

## Energy and Water Efficiency

On February 8, 2018, South Bay Adult School (SBAS) hosted a "Making Your Home Healthier and More Comfortable the Energy and Water Efficiency Way!" workshop. Presented by the South Bay Cities Council of Government Services Center (SBESC), in partnership with Southern California Edison (SCE), the Gas Company, West Basin Municipal, Sanitations Districts of Los Angeles County and Metro; participants

learned of resources to make their homes more comfortable and energy efficient.

This free community workshop provided information on ways to finance energy, solar and water efficiency projects, utility programs, rebates, and renewables.

### Here are a few things to think about:

- Did you know that refrigerators more than ten years old are about 40% less efficient than newer, Energy Star-qualified models?
- Windows waste plenty of energy and money. Experts say as much as 25% of your home's heat can escape through leaky windows.
- Point-of-use and tank less water heaters eliminate water waste.
- A single dripping hot water faucet can waste 212 gallons of water a month. That not only increases water bills, but also increases the gas or electric bill for heating the water.

Visit [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org) or [www.sbesc.com](http://www.sbesc.com) to learn more about this class and other conservation workshops.



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**Hanh Archer**  
President

The SKECHERS Pier to Pier Friendship Walk was a major success for RBEF and RBUSD! RBEF received our largest grant check in the 9-year Walk history. We are donating a total of \$128,455 to the individual school sites. This grant will fund many amazing projects and programs at y(our) schools. A big “Thank you” to all those who made it possible through their hard work and the energy. We are extremely grateful for your involvement and could not have done

this without YOU! Please save the date for next year’s event on Sunday, October 28th.

## Rock’n RBEF: Annual Spring Gala

Our annual Spring Gala “Rock’n RBEF” with a silent and live auction on Friday, May 4th at the Portofino Hotel and Marina. Entertainment by Pine Mountain Logs. Wine Tasting and tasty eats! Last year’s event sold-out early, so be sure to get your tickets at <http://rbef.org/spring-gala>. Can’t attend the event? Make sure to bid on great selection of online auction items.

## Beach Cities Health District

514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/374-3426 • [www.bchd.org](http://www.bchd.org)



**Ali Steward, MPH**  
Director  
Youth Services

### Thyme to Turnip the Beet

Food writer Michael Pollan says everything he’s learned about food and health can be summed up in seven words: “Eat food, not too much, mostly plants.”

While there are loads of “food-like” products in the supermarket, your best bet is to load up on items that don’t need bold claims on the packaging. The bashful broccoli doesn’t need to exclaim that it’s packed with fiber, just like the modest melon doesn’t need to shout that it’s full of Vitamin A.

And now that it’s spring in the South Bay, there are even more opportunities to take advantage of California’s bountiful harvest. There’s a farmers’ market nearly every day of the week. And the LiveWell Kids gardens at Redondo Beach elementary schools are overflowing with produce, ready to be harvested and sampled by curious students who are expanding their palates at an early age.

Earth Day is a good reminder about Dan Buettner’s Blue Zones Power 9 Principle of “Plant Slant” – most of the longest-lived people in the world only consume small amounts of meat, occasionally, while eating a rich array of fresh fruits and vegetables, packed with disease-fighting nutrients. Throughout the Beach Cities, you can find Blue Zones Restaurants offering “Blue Plate Specials” that are plant-centric and delicious.

For the bacon lovers, it’s important to recognize that the philosophies of both Pollan and Buettner allow for flexibility. I grew up the Midwest farmer’s daughter, and bacon was the family business. So I understand the importance of finding balance. It’s up to you to determine what feels right for you and your family.

To learn more about healthy eating in the Beach Cities, go to [bchd.org](http://bchd.org).

## Redondo Beach Council PTA

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)



**Patricia Harris DiLeva**  
President

### One Cup at a Time

I’m an avid recycler and have been for many years—even before it was easy like it is now, where all you need to do is throw your recyclable items into a big blue bin. My roommate and I, way, way back in the days when dinosaurs roamed the earth, would gather our recycling, throw the giant bags into the back of her convertible, and make our monthly trek to the recycling center in Santa Monica, the only one in a five-mile radius, to drop off everything off. And not for money, mind you—just for the pure pleasure of doing our part for the environment. Now, when I see my teenage daughter carelessly throwing a paper cup in the kitchen trash instead of the recycle bin, I remind her of my recycling hardships “back in the day” and that her generation is the one that will have to live with the giant landfills overflowing with cups if she and her fellow Generation Z compatriots are not more careful. She dutifully grabs the paper cup out of the trash and places it in the proper receptacle. Another paper cup saved! Until the next time!

Sunday, April 22, is Earth Day, an international reminder to take good care of our Mother Earth in order to maintain a sustainable planet for future generations. I’m all for this annual ritual, but I’d like to see us strive to make every day Earth Day in order to endeavor to reduce our carbon footprint on a regular basis. To conserve our natural resources by turning off the light switch when we leave the room, wash our cars less, walk the short distance to run an errand instead of driving—these are the little everyday things we can all do that will make a big difference if done on a consistent basis.

So, let’s all try to keep that Earth Day mojo going on April 23, April 24 and beyond. It’ll make a difference. And if I’m lucky, it might even inspire my daughter to throw her cups into the proper place without a reminder. A girl can dream, can’t she?

## Does Your Child Suffer from Allergies?



**Terry Chin, M.D.**,  
assistant medical  
director,  
Pulmonary  
Institute,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Allergies occur when the immune system mistakenly identifies a harmless airborne substance as harmful. The immune system then produces antibodies – which are substances that normally protect your body from things that make you sick – to attack this harmless substance.

The next time the body comes in contact with it, these antibodies recognize it and signal the immune system to release chemicals, like histamine, into the bloodstream. These immune system chemicals cause a reaction that leads to the symptoms of hay fever.

Hay fever is caused by an allergic response to outdoor or indoor allergens.

Common allergy triggers can include:

- Outdoors: tree pollen, plant pollen, insect bites or stings
- Indoors: pet or animal hair or fur, dust mites, mold
- Irritants: cigarette smoke, perfume, car exhaust

Hay fever causes cold-like symptoms, but unlike a cold, it isn't caused by a virus. Symptoms of hay fever are:

- Runny nose
- Itchy eyes
- Congestion
- Sneezing
- Sinus pressure

It's often hard to distinguish the difference between allergies and the common cold. Allergies are characterized by histamine, which is released in and around the nose and is associated with itch. When someone has itchy eyes, nose and throat, plus sneezing that lasts for a few days, it's most likely allergies.

However, it's important to have a pediatric allergist/immunologist determine what your child is allergic to. Allergies can be overwhelming, but they don't need to be. MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's has an expert team who help diagnose and manage allergies in kids, so they can live healthy lives.

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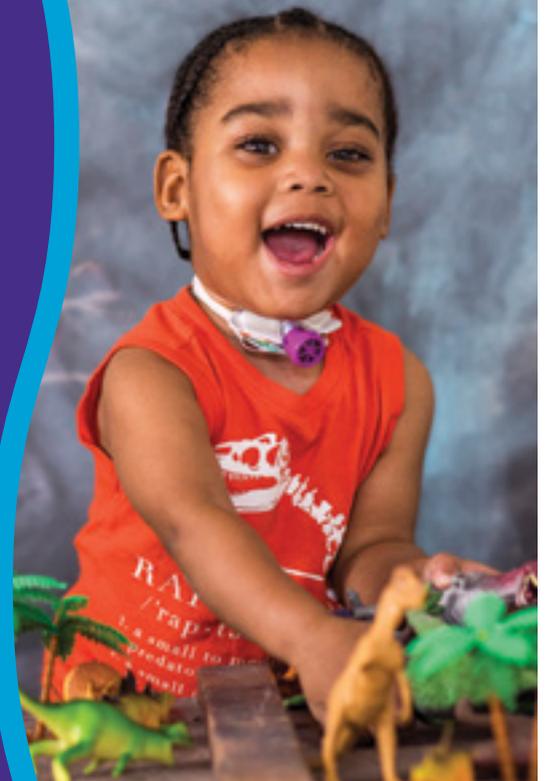


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## Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



**Lisa Veal**  
Principal

### Easy Being Green!

In January, Adams Middle School welcomed hundreds to its campus for the It's Easy Being Green Environmental Festival.

Thanks to Grades of Green, Adams kicked off its conservation efforts three years ago. This year, we decided to step it up a notch, and through the innovative thinking of Adams Eagle Rylee Goldfarb, the Grades of Green Youth Corps, the Be Inspired



**Rylee Goldfarb and Beach Cities Health District volunteers man an educational booth**

program produced by a major entertainment corporation, Beach Cities Health District, the school's ASB and Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) student groups, and many other nonprofit organizations, Adams held an environmental festival that was unparalleled!



**Two Adams students enjoy the bunny adoption kennel**

The festival was student led and showcased creative reuse craft booths, educational displays, green games and community collections for used goods. The event targeted families with school-age children, and it was a day enjoyed by all.

As Earth Day approaches, Adams is proud of the work it is doing to educate and involve its community in becoming more ecofriendly!

## Birney Elementary (K–5)

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



**Mira Baskaron**  
Principal

### Making an Impact

Birney Elementary School is dedicated to teaching students their impact on the earth. We are on a mission to improve the way students view trash and to encourage them to consider where that trash goes once disposed of. Grades of Green is an eco-friendly program that educates our students on living in a cleaner and healthier community. Its aim is to motivate children

to think about their personal impact on the environment and ways they can make healthy choices.

We have emphasized our efforts on campus to support reducing our lunchtime waste. This lunchtime recycling program, in its third year, has decreased the number of bags of trash we generate, thanks to a waste-sorting system students follow that separates waste, recyclable items, and food and other products that can be used as compost. Student council students are also promoting the sorting program by rewarding "secret sorters" with PAW dollars for doing an outstanding job sorting their trash. Additionally, students are participating in Waste Not Wednesdays by packing trash-free lunches.

We are excited to team up with Redondo Union High



**Teaching Birney Bobcats about sorting and recycling.**

School's efforts to clean our beaches. Beach clean-up day took place on Saturday March 24. We are proud of our Bobcats and their continued effort to participate in programs that will lead to a cleaner and healthier community. Way to go, Birney Bobcats!

## Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
*Principal*

### **Eco-Friendly Campus**

*By Laura Urquhart, Assistant Principal*

As an institution of learning, Alta Vista Elementary prides itself in educating environmentally conscious students. With the help of parents and community helpers, our students have the opportunity to share in environmentally friendly practices and lessons that will help them make healthy lifestyle choices as well as become responsible stewards of Mother Earth.

When it comes to being green, Alta Vista is a school campus that makes ecofriendly living the norm. Walking through the school, you will notice multiple recycling bins for bottles and paper, solar panels installed on top of the turf field, and the school garden that serves as an outdoor learning lab where students learn about healthy living and sustainability.

The goal at Alta Vista is to help our students become leaders in a changing world by providing models of green practices and behavior.



**Alta Vista Student Council members know that RECYCLNG ROCKS!**



**Mrs. Tuler's 4th graders getting their hands dirty in the Alta Vista garden.**

## Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

### **Becoming Eco-Friendly**

Reduce, reuse, recycle—that is the name of the game. It is evident that energy conservation is a top priority at our school. We educate our students and staff to make a difference in their communities with programs to recycle, reduce waste, save energy, and conserve resources. We turn off lights, recycle more, and reuse materials in classrooms and the office environment.

Classrooms 17 through 20 on the playground have natural light provided by skylights, and energy is reduced throughout the day when lights are turned off and natural light is utilized. Our students are taught how to recycle at lunchtime with blue cans for recyclables as well as green

cans for leftover food, so that it can become compost. Every classroom has recycling bins that are filled to the brim at the end of every week. Student council members take the recycling out each Wednesday, collecting bins from classrooms, the office, and the lunch area.

A big conservation push is to use less paper in our daily work. Staff and students reduce the amount of paper used, and we have upgraded our communication techniques and our technological processes to promote a paperless environment. In addition, our LiveWell garden has a green waste can in order to compost and recycle as we plant and take care of our gardens.

We always welcome new suggestions as we continue to grow an eco-friendly future!

## Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

600 Harkness Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • [www.rbusd.org/jefferson](http://www.rbusd.org/jefferson)



### Big Changes, Small Footprints

As we welcome in Earth Week this April, we take pause to celebrate the many ways in which we as a school community help the environment and Mother Earth. When one reflects on these practices

and programs, it is important to note the significant changes in practice that have occurred since we adults were children and that our students now take to make smaller footprints on the environment.

I grew up in Los Angeles in the 1970s and 1980s, and I also grew up with smog alerts, which were days when we could not play outside because the air quality was harmful to be outside and exercise in. While I was in a carpool that went to school, I can recall that every car I rode in would qualify as a gas guzzler and that the individually wrapped items in the lunch I brought with me were far from being trash free. As a child, never did I think my carpool could walk instead of drive. Nor was I taught that there are 5 R's: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle. My 3 R's were reading, writing and 'rithmetic!

Today, our Jefferson community is raising a generation of students with a much greater level of environmental



**Team Jefferson reduces their carbon footprint with the Walking School Bus.**

awareness and consideration for the impact we make on our planet. You can hear it in the way students talk and act. You can see it when you come to school. We have solar panels on campus. We have e-homework and use less paper. We compost and use recycling bins. Soon, we will have refillable-water-bottle stations.

It's a different time when it comes to raising our children to take care of the planet than it was when I was growing up. And while we still have a lot of work to do together, it is a time that is for the better for our children and our planet.

Happy Earth Week, everyone!

## Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



### The Composting Custodian

At Adams Middle School, I worked with students to create a Green Team responsible for composting trash and reducing landfill waste. When I came to Lincoln, I was excited to start the same program. Too late. Our fabulous custodian, Carlos Curiel, had already implemented a composting program that he runs with student volunteers every

day at lunch. This highlights how far we have come as a school district. Not the principal, our classified staff is leading the charge for an eco-friendly campus. Our classified team is integral to green efforts across the school district, oftentimes doing the dirty work involved in supporting the environment. Thank you Carlos and the RBUSD classified team for making green ideas a reality.



**Carlos Curiel and student volunteers support the environment at lunchtime.**

## Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



**Drew Gamet**  
*Principal*

### Protecting Our Environment

When looking at our school's impact on the environment, it is important for our school community to look at a variety of areas where we can be more efficient. Thanks to the community's support of Measure Q, schools across the district have solar panels to help generate electricity, restrooms use significantly less water than ever, and we are using much less paper,

thanks to students having one-to-one access to technology. As a school district, we are leading all business and public institutions across the city in creating environmentally conscious and sustainable infrastructures that will last for decades to come. However, what is the point of making all of these changes without using our actions to teach the students in our charge?

Thanks to the work of the district science leadership team, Redondo Beach Unified School District will be adopting science curriculum that is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). One of the most important parts of NGSS is the training of students to be critical and independent thinkers. We ask that they look at the world around them to seek out problems to solve and then use data to come up with solutions. Conserving electricity, saving water, creating less trash, and making sure that the trash we create is biodegradable are all problems our students will be engaged in solving. Are algae fuels, energy storage, offshore wind farms, and pumped hydroelectric plants the future of energy? Possibly. But what is more likely is that the solutions of 20 and 30 years from now haven't even been imagined yet. That is why it is critical that we give the students of today the tools to solve the environmental challenges of the future.

## Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
*Principal*

### Always Working to Be Green!

Parras Middle School has become eco-friendly in several different ways. As many people know, Parras is fortunate to have a beautiful artificial field, which has allowed us to save tens of thousands of gallons of water, stopped the use of any pesticides needed for grass, and saved the gasoline needed to power our lawn mowers. To top things off, when new artificial grass needs to

be installed in 10 years, the company that installed it will recycle the old turf!

Along with an eco-friendly green field, Parras has established an outstanding recycling program. The Green Team is led by Mr. Clark Woods, one of our instructional aides, and Mrs. Amy Beran, a teacher. The team is made up of a number of students who wish to have a positive impact

on the environment. Along with gardening and community clean-up events, the Green Team works during our lunch period to reduce waste at our school. Each day, they compost and recycle huge amounts of trash. Through the efforts of the Green Team students, our school has reduced its landfill waste from 30 bags of trash to just three! As a result of the leadership of the Green Team students, we won the Grades of Green Lunch Challenge in 2013-2014.

Parras was awarded the distinguished Green Ribbon School Award in 2016 by the California Department of Education for these and other eco-friendly accomplishments. The award recognized the school's recycling, solar, and green education programs after rigorous application process. Parras Middle School has also applied for the Green Ribbon Award for 2018, and we are anxiously awaiting the results!



**Dr. Steven Keller**

### SUPERINTENDENT • *From Page 3*

When I began my career as a teacher in 1986, never did I imagine that professional development for teachers and staff would be as much about school safety as it would be about teaching and learning. This is today's reality. And, like our great teachers, who are always attending professional development

activities to hone their craft in alignment with the latest and best research, we are doing the same with school safety. RBUSD stands ready to combat this topic with diligence and agility. It's a daily effort by many people. Thank you for entrusting us with your precious child. We take our jobs very seriously.

## Tulita Elementary (K-5)

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



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna**  
Principal

### Keepin' It Green!

The Tulita Tidalwaves continue to be committed to being a green school. As the recipient of the California Green Ribbon Award, our students understand the importance of caring for the environment and world around us.

The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools recognition award honors schools for excellence in resource efficiency, health and wellness, and environmental and sustainability education. The recognition is part of a larger U.S. Department of Education effort to identify and communicate practices that result in improved student engagement, academic achievement, graduation rates, and workforce preparedness. It also reinforces federal efforts to increase energy independence and economic security.



**Tulita student uses water filling station to refill her re-usable water bottle.**

At Tulita, we are continuing our weekly recycling program. This year the program was supported tremendously by our student leaders through Student Council. Their initiative was to reduce the number of plastic bottles thrown into the trash cans. They have been running a recycling campaign since the start of the school year, and are then using the money earned from recycling to give back to the school. Every Wednesday our fifth-grade students collect recycling from all of the classrooms and contribute to the cause.

With the the support of our Tulita PTA and school district, Tulita students now have access to two water-filling stations. Our school encourages using re-usable water bottles to help reduce plastic waste. Two water-filling stations were placed around campus in high traffic areas, and in the staff lounge, to encourage teachers and staff members to also reduce plastic waste.

The Tidalwaves look forward to developing more eco-friendly programs and celebrating Earth Day on April 22. We know we can make a positive impact and help protect our environment. Keep it up, Tidalwaves!

## Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



**Andrea Bittick**  
Principal

### The Green Team

Students at Washington Elementary School have many opportunities to not only learn about sustaining the environment, but also to be active participants in creating an eco-friendly campus. Washington has a school garden, where every classroom plants and maintains a garden bed. Washington hosts an annual Beautification Day, where families and staff come together to plant succulents and flowers around campus and replant the large planters outside each classroom. We also have hydration stations throughout the campus to encourage the use of reusable water bottles. Our students are frequently encouraged to pick up trash and recycle, and they are even taught how to compost. Explorers exemplify the famous quote by Robert Baden-Powell: "Leave this world a little better than you found it."

Additionally, we are very fortunate to have a Green Team at Washington. The Washington Elementary Green Team is a group of 14 fourth- and fifth-grade students, who work to raise environmental awareness on campus to help ensure that Washington Elementary fulfills its commitments as a California Green Ribbon School. This

year's Green Team projects include: helping fellow students sort their trash at lunch; establishing an "idle-free zone" in front of the school to improve air quality and save fuel; and petitioning local restaurants to adopt eco-friendly practices.

The Green Team also decided to tackle the waste caused by single-use plastic straws. After working to have straws eliminated from the cafeteria at Washington, the team successfully convinced the district's director of child nutrition to eliminate plastic straws from all Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) school cafeterias. The students created posters and shared information about the impact of plastic straws on the environment. Their efforts will result in the elimination of the use and disposal of hundreds of thousands of plastic straws each school year. We are very proud of this huge accomplishment and the impact it will have in RBUSD.

The Green Team will also once again play a key role in Washington's popular annual Earth Day Fair. Leading up to the event, the team will organize a series of themed days for Earth Week, culminating in the Earth Day Fair on the evening of Friday, April 20, 2018. We hope you will join us for this wonderful celebration of our beautiful blue planet. The Green Team will be there sporting their bright green bandanas, so be sure to say hello!

# Redondo Union *High School*

One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 •



**Jens Brandt**  
Principal

## Getting Involved With Conservation

*By Guest Authors  
Justin Pioletti, RUHS Junior; and  
Jonathan Erickson, Assistant Principal*

The Environmental Conservation Organization, or ECO, commenced when co-president Alanna Grogan and Justin Pioletti decided to pursue a shared passion for the environment.

Their goal is to further develop environmental awareness at Redondo and get students more involved in conservation.

Alanna and Justin encountered the non-profit organization Global Inheritance while at a local concert. Global Inheritance collaborates with a multitude of music festival venues in order to promote environmental advocacy. One of their many contributions is hiring various artists to decorate recycling bins, which are used at the music festivals.

Alanna and Justin got in touch with the executive director of Global Inheritance, who agreed to donate four bins to the club to help increase environmental awareness at RUHS. This initiative was huge success. Our students notice the bright bins and are much more likely to use them. Thank you, Alanna, Justin, and Global Inheritance for making our school more environmentally conscious!



**RUHS Juniors Alanna Grogan and Justin Pioletti**  
with the painted recycle bins that they brought to the RUHS Campus



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**Dr. Annette Alpern**  
*Deputy  
Superintendent,  
Educational  
Services*

## District's Color of Choice!

It can be hard if you are an avid Redondo Union Sea Hawk supporter, fan, student, alum or the like to embrace the color green. We do love our red! However, in this month's *School News*, we are not only asked to embrace green but to also highlight and support our green efforts and initiatives throughout the year. This focus on green—the best green around—helps us to shine a spotlight on how our schools conserve resources while also promoting healthy

lifestyles and environmental literacy.

While no perfect record exists for any state, California can still boast a long tradition of caring for the environment and preserving our state's stunning natural resources. In the Redondo Beach Unified School District, our students, teachers, staff and community partners serve as model Californians in that pursuit. In many cases, it is our youth that are leading the way to ensure a healthier planet for generations to come. As a result, our schools and school district have received both state and national recognition for this collective work. We were able to do this by demonstrating exemplary achievement in reducing

environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of schools, students and staff; and providing environmental education that teaches many disciplines that include STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), civic engagement skills and green career pathways.

In the past two years, eight of our schools have received the California Green Ribbon Schools Award designation. Additionally, last summer, a representative team from RBUSD attended a ceremony in Washington, DC, where we received and accepted the U.S. Department of Education's District Sustainability Reward.

I can't help but think that Dr. Seuss' Lorax would be proud



**Team RBUSD accepts the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon District Sustainability Award in the Summer of 2017.**

## RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • <https://rshs-rbusd-ca.schoolloop.com>



**Anthony Bridi**  
*Principal*

## An Eco Conscious Campus

*By Rose Vadakan, Teacher  
Math and Science*

At Redondo Shores High School, there are several ways in which environmental awareness is raised inside and outside of the classroom.

Embedded in the science curriculum, students take an eco-footprint quiz/survey. The results accurately depict their overall environmental impact. This information leads to interactive discussion about realistic ways they can reduce their negative impact on our planet. Many students are surprised by how much of an impact they have. We discuss how living in a first-world country makes it a challenge to reduce our footprint, but we learn that small changes can go a long way. Additionally, there are lessons on how human-created emissions lead to pollution, which exacerbates the greenhouse effect and contributes to global warming.

On a community level, we collaborate with the West Basin Municipal Water District and SeaLab for annual field trips. Students tour the El Segundo facility and learn about water quality and water recycling and become aware of the steps being taken to conserve water and reduce use impact. Students participate in a water-quality activity, in which they are challenged to take a sample of "dirty" water and clean it using natural resources supplied to them. Through this activity, they learn about basic filtration processes and how these have been applied to the larger facility. They also go through interactive exhibits that test their prior knowledge and educate them on the effects everyday activities, such as showering and flushing the toilet, have on water usage. At the end of the experience, the students are given water-saving kits to use at home, which help them to conserve water immediately. Shores also participated in a rain barrel design fund-raising campaign with the water district to help raise funds for environmental awareness education.

# RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8683x1312, 1321 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

## We Love the Earth!

*By Socorro Stephens-Wallace,  
Site Supervisor*

Lincoln Child Development Center (CDC) has Earth Day activities going on all spring. It's important to talk with young children about the environment and model environmentally responsible behavior.

At Lincoln CDC, we recycle, do campus clean-up, and practice composting. And, this time of year, we start working on our preschool and pre-kindergarten community garden, where we not only celebrate the earth but also our teamwork.

We undertake this project every year, and it has grown! Our garden is a great learning experience for all of our preschool and pre-kindergarten friends. Not only do they get to explore nature, but they also develop a sense of responsibility and pride.

Our kindergarten through fifth-grade students take



**Preschoolers reaping what they sowed**

part in a month-long recycling event. Our students collect recyclables and learn the differences between trash, compost, and recyclable materials. As a team, we work together to clean our play yard and gather plastic bottles, cans, and compost. With our friends and teachers, we sort recyclables into designated bags for plastic, cans, paper, and glass, which will later be taken to the recycling center. We use worms from our composting for the preschool garden.

It is important to encourage children to do their part to take care of the earth. Here are some ideas for encouraging environmental awareness at home. Encourage your child to look for the recycle sign on items they use, and recycle when you can. Encourage your child's math skills by sorting and counting recyclable products. Explore compost, which can be used to fertilize your garden while allowing your child to explore how insects help us and the earth. Take your child to the recycling center and use the resulting money for something meaningful, such as a family treat, charitable donation, plants, or a movie.

## Fun Things and Places—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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put RBUSD in the subject line.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| CARNIVAL  | CAMP      |
| HOME      | SEASHORE  |
| SCHOOL    | FARM      |
| PARK      | ZOO       |
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**Entries must be received by May 5, 2018**  
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**Congratulations to Lia Willis**  
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## South Bay Hands On Art

### Paint It Red!

By Co-Chairs Sandi Arthur and Karen Ford Cull



South Bay Hands on Art hosted a "fun-raising" event in March, aimed at helping support Reaching Out and bring some extras to the core program, which is funded through the PTA.

Reaching Out is a sister program to Hands on Art. It uses supplies remaining from the previous year's projects to teach art at inner-city schools.

"We don't always have enough supplies to cover the need," said Reaching Out Chair Tracy Yagi. "So, this fund-raiser helps fill that gap." Money will also be used for program extras this year, like the technology additions.

"The community was amazing in helping us with this effort," said Karen Cull, co-chair of the program. "We had well over 100 items donated between baskets, 'experiences' and original artworks."

About 200 guests, mostly donning red attire, came to "Put on Their Red Hues and Chase Away the Blues," the event's theme. The casual evening featured a taco dinner, dancing and a photo booth, and you could even nominate a friend to receive a mini chair massage!

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## Sophie's Choice



**Sophie O.**

### Fun Read

*Happy Birthday*

*Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* is a book that is not only funny but also filled with loving characters and good messages.

*Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* is a kind old woman who

everyone loves. She has a magical solution to cure every bad habit. In the book, the children have lots of bad habits, including, being a picky eater, not brushing their teeth, and staying up too late. In the end, the children throw *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle* a party from the kids full of lots of surprises.

I loved this book because of the fun stories and big characters. I rate it this book 5 out of 5 stars because the stories in this book could have happened in real life!



Sophie Olko is a 5th grader who loves to read and write her own stories. She enjoys soccer, loves to bake, act, draw and sew. One day she would like to have her own baking show.



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## Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

### In 27 Days

Author: Alison Gervias

Twenty-seven days is a very specific amount of time, but if you're trying to prevent a suicide it's nothing short of a race against the force itself.



Hadley Jamison never really knew Archer Morales, but she made a deal with Death that if he gave her twenty-seven days, she could stop Archer from taking his own life. So, she tries her best to befriend the closed off, quiet kid from freshman English. He doesn't seem to want her help, but their jobs at a coffeehouse and tutoring sessions bring them closer together, and soon they're becoming quite the pair.

Problem is, chaos wants to pull them apart. With events endangering the people that she loves, will Hadley succeed in keeping Archer alive? Or will she run out of time?

I enjoyed this book immensely for many reasons. It's funny, suspenseful, thoughtful, and all around a great read. Five out of five bookworms.

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.

## Unforgettable Books



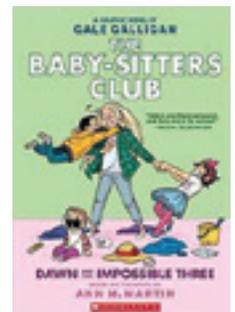
Sofia Atoofi

### The Baby-Sitters Club

Dawn Schafer is moving from sunny California to freezing Connecticut. She is eager to accept her first big job as a babysitter in the Baby-Sitters Club. But things don't go exactly as expected. Taking care of three kids whose mom seems too busy to even care about is a hard task. And getting along with the leader of the club, Kristy, isn't as easy as

it looks, either. But Dawn finds a way to steer through all these obstacles and makes joining the Baby-Sitters Club a success.

I really liked this novel because it teaches you about responsibility yet in a fun and interesting way. I rate this comic book 4 out of 5 stars, because the drawings were very detailed and funny.



Sofia is a fifth grader who loves writing. When she isn't submerged into a book, she enjoys doing gymnastics, acting, and singing. Her favorite kind of books are informational books, as she loves learning about new topics. She wants to become a writer or designer when she grows up, and hopes to someday publish a book, called Painting a Path, which she wrote for a school competition.



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