

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Bellflower Unified School District



Volume 6, Issue 25

May 2018



Board President, Laura Sanchez-Ramirez reads to Albert Baxter students in celebration of Read Across America Day.



LA County Sheriff Deputy, Aaron Escobedo reads to Baxter students for Read Across America Day.



BUSD Governing Board President, Laura Sanchez-Ramirez joined Craig Williams staff and students to celebrate the unveiling of a mosaic mural made from bottle caps! The mural was designed and created by Craig Williams Elementary School students who participate in the school's After School Education and Safety Program (ASES). The creation of the mosaic was made possible by a grant through Arts & Services for Disabled – Accessible Arts Workshops and the California Arts Council. The mosaic will be hung inside the school's cafeteria for all students to enjoy!

Board of Education



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
President

Reasons to Celebrate

Bellflower Unified students have had an amazing year.

As the school year comes to a close I would like to reflect on some reasons to celebrate.

Our athletes were recognized for excellence on and off the field this year. We had a student travel to Australia to participate in the Down Under International Games, in cross country. We earned five suburban league championships and are

hoping to earn more before the year is through. We had many Mayfair students recognized for their achievements at the Lakewood Hall of Fame ceremony.

Our students are civically engaged in the world around them. We are finishing up our last session of Teen Court in which our students participate in the judicial system. Students work alongside judges and court staff to hear cases and determine the guilt and consequence for teens in other communities. Our schools participated in walk-outs on March 20 and hosted events on campus to bring awareness to tragic school shootings.

Our programs for exceptional learners has worked to increase inclusion opportunities for our students both in the classroom and out. We have partnered with the Special Olympics to provide programs that include athletic and physical activity for students. The highlight of the year was the Unified Sports game at half time during a Mayfair basketball game. We are looking forward to our preschool event in June.

Our elementary students participated in the City of Bellflower, Community Recycling Awareness Calendar. Thirteen of our students had artwork featured on the calendar.

2017-2018 has been a great year for BUSD! We look forward to continuing to celebrate our students and their achievements throughout our spring events, promotions, and graduation ceremonies.

Special congratulations to our graduating classes as they move forward whether it be a 4-year university, junior college, trade school, military or the work force. May you never stop growing and learning because you are the future of our community.

Interim Superintendent



Tracy McSparren

Thank You

As the school year draws to a close, I want to thank all BUSD Team members for their hard work and their time devoted to making Bellflower Unified School District successful. It takes a team effort to ensure that students have a safe, supportive and engaging school. I am grateful for everyone who does their part each day to make sure our students have opportunities to learn and grow.

Thank you!

I also want to thank our parents and encourage you to continue or start engaging with the school community. Research shows that most parents do not understand the educational programs in their children's school and what teachers require of their students on a daily basis. Effective parent involvement is a true partnership between schools and families. Creating a partnership, especially around academics, is what works for student achievement. Our most recent data show that we have approximately 57% of parents participating in some way on our campuses. Our goal is to increase this by 10% each year. We need your help and it is not too late to join us! It is not too late to get involved. Communicate with your child's teacher, or come to one of our spring events. We have the following opportunities available to come see our schools and what our students have learned this year.

- **May 8 Open House:**

Baxter, Pyle Ramona, Woodruff, Washington

- **May 10 Open House:**

Foster, ILC, Jefferson, Lindstrom, Williams

- **Secondary Open House:**

May 15, Mayfair; May 16, Somerset; May 17, Bellflower

Start planning now how you will stay involved in the upcoming year, join PTA, volunteer in a classroom, attend school activities and performances, and most importantly, get to know your student's teachers.

Together we can all work to ensure our students have the tools and support for success!

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

Board of Education



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

It is hard to believe we are ending another school year. Thank you for being loyal readers and continuing to include School News among your reading choices. Our next issue is October. Until then have a wonderful summer and don't forget to include the library among your activities.



Hey, Long Beach

Let's bank together.

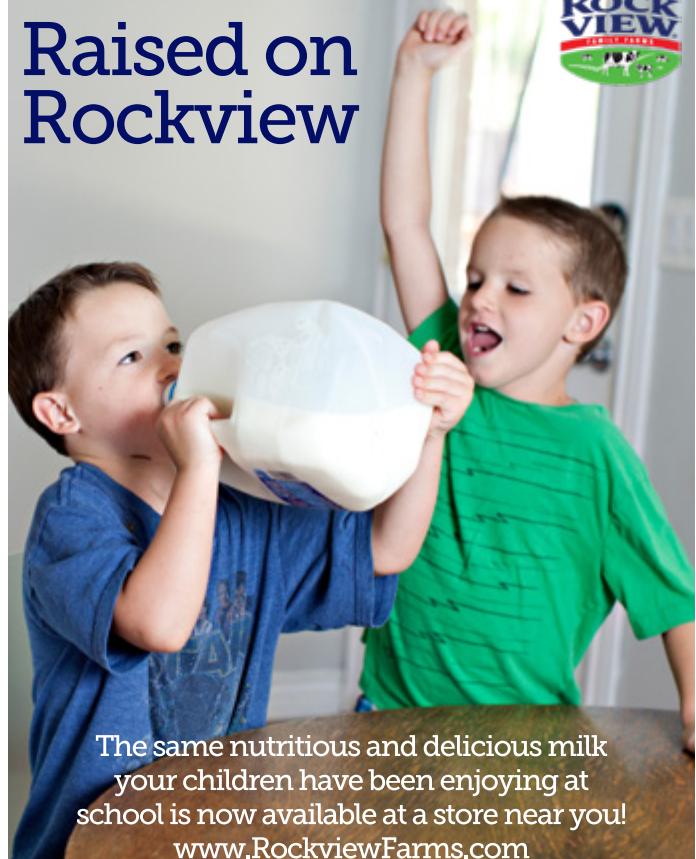
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Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Trip to Downtown LA

On Wednesday, January 24, 2018, students from the BAE Center began a Project Based Learning assignment that spanned across four core subjects; Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. This integrated project kicked off with a field trip to downtown Los Angeles to visit distinct cultural and ethnic enclaves including Koreatown, Little Tokyo, Olvera Street, and Chinatown. Students had the opportunity to learn about the historical

significance of each unique area as well as visit cultural and historical locations. Student explored and researched interesting elements related to each site, including information about the establishment of the sites and the history or historical significance behind their development. For Math and Science, students calculated the distance they traveled and coupled this information with the amount of calories they used to take the walking field trip. For English Language Arts, students synthesized their learning into a seven slide Google Slide presentation which they presented to the class as whole.



BAE Center students in Union Station

Bellflower Unified School District

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-12

The Home Education Independent Study Academy offers homeschooling parents the best of both worlds: the opportunity to learn at home or at the Las Flores Educational Center. In addition, parents have the assistance of a credentialed teacher and access to standards-based textbooks while retaining the autonomy to design their own student's learning based on California standards. Our goal is to assist parents with the implementation of a creative, well-rounded, standards-based curriculum that is tailored to the abilities and interests of their own children.

Classic Model

Grades K-12: Parents are the primary teacher five days a week. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Core Model

Grades K-12: Students attend school three full days per week and are taught at home two days. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review the work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Enrichment Fridays

Friday of each week students in grades TK-4 have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in engaging, standards-based lessons and activities. Activities include such things as visual and performing arts, technology, and cross-curricular hands-on activities. In addition to this, students participate in a music class, a Mandarin-world language and culture experience, and technology lessons. Students in grades 5-8 participate in a modified Enrichment Friday schedule that targets their needs as middle school students. Weekly these students engage in both a STEAM project and an elective activity each of which integrates aspects of oral communication, technology, and visual literacy.



For More Information go to:
www.BUSD.k12.ca.us

Call: (562) 804-6565 Ext. 6600

or visit us at:

Las Flores Educational Center
10039 E. Palm Street
Bellflower, CA, 90706

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)



Lots of Choices

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) has provided seventeen different career technical education course options for students in grades 9-12 this year. New courses added to CalAPS during 2017-2018 were Cybersecurity, Emergency Medical Responder, Heavy Construction, Makerspace "Fab Lab", Pharmacy Technician and Sports Therapy/Athletic Trainer.

CalAPS courses align to the CA CTE and pathway standards. CalAPS courses are UC a-g approved and



some provide both high school and college credit. Instructors encourage students to participate in leadership opportunities within organizations such as SkillsUSA. In fact, sixteen CalAPS students are going to the state level competition during the month of April!

CalAPS continues to focus on providing career preparation courses in alignment with current industry standards. Students are provided opportunities to create, implement, and demonstrate their learning often in the career setting.



- **CTE courses for students grade 9 -12 in the Bellflower and Lynwood Unified School Districts**
- **Transportation is provided**



Register Online Now – CalAPS.org
Questions: 562-866-9011 extension 2184/2185

Intensive Learning Center

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



Programs Designed for Success

The Intensive Learning Center (ILC) is a community of intensive educational programs designed to help all students succeed academically and personally. We are a single campus with multiple outstanding academic programs. These programs include a traditional K-6 English program, an ever-growing Dual-Language Immersion Spanish/English program, Whitewood Special Education Preschool, Whitewood Dual Immersion Spanish/English Preschool and the Whitewood State Preschool.

The ILC has had a very active winter. Our sixth grade students participated in their very own science fair, and spent 5 days in the snow at Outdoor Science School where they participated in nature hikes, learning about the ecosystem, built self-confidence climbing a rock wall, and this year...snow sledding! Our primary classrooms were overjoyed to celebrate Arbor Day with a presentation from the City of Lakewood Parks and Recreation

Department from "Super Woody" and his band of superhero friends who save all of our planet's trees from destruction by a band of super villains.

The talent for the ILC came out at the annual "Variety Show" where over 20 student acts of song, dance and comedy thoroughly entertained the school community. At this show the Parent-Teacher Association honored several parents and staff members with Honorary Service Awards for the community.

Among those honored were Teacher, John Young; Parents, James Pettit, Andre De La Cruz; and PTA President Michelle Cervantes. The ILC is an outstanding educational institution because of the effort of these community members and all of the dedicated students, parents, and staff. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!



Sixth grade students prepare their volcano for the science fair.

Las Flores Home Education/Independent Study Academy

10039 E. Palm St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6565 • www.lasfloreseducationalcenter.org



A Community of Learners

Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy (TK-12, WASC Accredited, a-g pending) is an institution where a myriad of learning situations regularly occur. To begin with, the Las Flores teachers and administrators share and model rigorous, effective teaching strategies with one another. One can often find us together before and after school planning lessons and discussing ideas to improve upon our instructional delivery. We cheerfully welcome input and actively seek educational advice from each other. In addition, the daily routines at Las Flores encourage the students to continuously collaborate. The multi-age classrooms at our school enable younger students to learn from their older peers, while also establishing opportunities for older students to strengthen their foundational skills. Furthermore, the teachers and parents at Las Flores are constantly gaining information from each other and collaborating. Regular workshops and classroom visitations provide parents with instructional strategies that they can implement at home with their students. Many of

these techniques allow parents to support and enhance their students' classroom learning experiences at home. Likewise, the Las Flores parents have proven to be an enormous asset to the teachers and administrators. Many of our parents have ideas that approach teaching the standards in a unique way, and all of the parents possess invaluable insight into their children's learning modalities. Several of our Friday enrichment activities have even been planned and executed by our amazing parent partners. It is exciting to have been able to watch the evolution of our parents creating their own learning community. Over the past few months, I have witnessed parents teach each other's children, co-op, share ideas, plan community after-school learning excursions, and establish global communication avenues. I am proud to say that Bellflower Unified's Home Education Independent Study Academy is a place where parents, students, and educators have a symbiotic learning relationship that equally fosters the growth of all stakeholders. Please see our website for more information on our amazing program. We are currently accepting enrollment for the 2018-19 school year, and we would love to increase our spectacular community!

Special Education & Student Services

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

Attendance Matters!

Did you know that students who miss school are more likely to struggle and have academic difficulties? Per the State of California, the definition of a chronic truant is someone who misses 10 or more school days a year without a valid excuse. If your child is ill and does not have a medical note, or you go on vacation on school days, they both count as an unexcused absence. We only have a few months of school left. Please encourage your child to come to school each day!



Reading is a Family Affair. Whitewood Preschool hosted a Dr. Suess themed family literacy picnic.

Students greeted their parents in Cat In The Hat masks.

Students and their parents enjoyed lunch, made, an edible craft, and participated in reading fun.



Make the most of your summer at Compton College!

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Albert Baxter Elementary

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Bears Exploring Career Paths

What do you want to be when you grow up? This has been the typical question asked of every elementary student each year. Popular answers range from pop singer, basketball player, astronaut to the more modern YouTube star. Albert Baxter Elementary students are discovering new and exciting careers through a college and career readiness program.



Second grader Jared Higuera listens to a dog's heartbeat with Lakewood veterinarian Dr. Naef.

At monthly VIP lunches, students learn about careers from experts in our community. While students enjoy a healthy lunch, they interact with professionals such as a Disney animator, a dental hygienist, and a CR&R Environmental Services Sustainability Coordinator. What is a sustainability coordinator and what do they do? The aim of the program is to encourage students to ask these exact questions and to discover unique career opportunities. (By the way, sustainability coordinators work on turning “trash” into usable resources.)

Exposure to a variety of careers helps students to understand that nearly all career paths require ongoing education and experience. Sixth grader Aliah Shaw told



Third graders Isaiah Chavez and Tre Broman are suited up with some help from a Lakewood Sheriff's Deputy.

parents at a School Site Council meeting, “I like the VIP lunches because I learn about jobs that I never knew existed. It makes you think about what you want to be when you grow up so you can take the right classes.” Baxter students are right on track to successfully enter higher education and pursue a viable career path.

Bellflower Middle School / High School

15301 McNab Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/920-1801 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/bellflower-high.html



Michael Lundgren
Principal

Busy Schedule

As we approach the end of the 2017-2018 school year, I would like to inform you of some important dates and activities going on at Bellflower Middle/High School, as well as, begin talking about the 2018-2019 school year. Our annual Open House will take place on Tuesday, May 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. The evening will begin with performances from our Middle School band and choir, a brief PTSO meeting, and finally, classroom visitations beginning at 6:30 p.m.

- Middle School Awards Night will be held on Tuesday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the gym.
- Senior Awards Night will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at 6:00 pm in the gym. This night is by invitation only.
- 8th grade promotion will be held on Wednesday, June 13 at 8:30 a.m. in the gym.
- Finally, the Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2018 will take place on Thursday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Ron Yary Stadium.

The 2018-2019 school year will be starting earlier than in previous years. The first day of school will be Monday, August 20. School will begin at 9:30 a.m. Have a safe and restful summer!

Stephen Foster Elementary

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



**Confidence
Johnson**
Principal

The Busy Bolts!!!

Over the last couple of months we have had a lot to celebrate. Kicking off 2018, 8 students reclassified as English Language Learners. This is a major accomplishment for students to achieve as they are now proficient in English (Speaking, Listening, Writing, and Reading). Next, students in grade 5 participated in our Wax Museum depicting famous individuals in History. Axel Hernandez was General George Custer.



Finally we had our annual talent show titled “Spring Into Talent!” Numerous students showcased their talent by singing, dancing, playing instruments, and even magic acts. We were also proud to have Mrs. Elliott’s entire class participate in singing and dancing to “Barbara Ann” by The Beach Boys. Everyone had a wonderful time. Thanks Mrs. Jimenez and Mr. Gonzales! Congrats to our 2018 Honorary Service Awards winners: Mr. Gonzales, Wendy Boyd, Shannon Powers, David Flietstra, Teresa Jass, Terri Erickson, and Heather Sumlin!

Thomas Jefferson Elementary

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



**Tiffany
Dominguez**
Principal

SBAC Testing

Hello again Jefferson Jackrabbits and families! As we make our way into spring, it is time once again to participate in SBAC testing. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students in 3rd through 6th grade to show how much they have learned in language arts, math, and science this year! These tests are taken online and assess students’ knowledge of State Standards, as well as their ability to apply this knowledge to real-life situations. Our testing window this year will be from May 14th - 25th. During this time please help your children to do their best by ensuring that they go to bed early each evening and get a healthy breakfast each morning. In addition, please schedule appointments in the afternoon so that students do not miss these very



6th Grade students using Chromebooks to take SBAC Practice Tests

important tests. Thank you again for all your support as we work to meet a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!

School News



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Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

9500 N. Canehill Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/804-6525 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/lindstrom.html



College & Career Readiness!

Expanding a student's vision of the future is of the utmost importance and begins at an early age. In order to assist in informing families & students of postsecondary options, Lindstrom has proudly partnered with Cerritos College to give our second graders a glimpse into the college life!

On March 27, 2018, second grade students visited Cerritos College & participated in their Falcon for a Day event. Students were greeted with a rally, a tour of the campus that explains career and college opportunities. The tour concluded with a lunch prepared by students of the culinary arts program & students receiving some Falcon 'SWAG'!

College & Career Readiness week will begin on April 16, 2018. Students will participate in activities promoting postsecondary options. Activities will include learning

Lisa Luna
Principal

traits of a good employee, filling out a job application, creating a college pennant & more! Sixth graders will also be given the opportunity to research a college or university of their choice to learn & present the programs they offer.

College & Career Week concludes on April 20, 2018 with a schoolwide Career Day. Local fire department & law enforcement agencies will be bringing fire engines, police cars & an ambulance for students to view. Many of our parents will also be attending our Career Day to share their careers with our Lindy Lions as well.

To continue supporting the importance of College and Career Readiness, Lindy Lions of all ages will be making Mondays College Gear Days where we will all wear college gear to promote a favorite college or university.

We are excited to be able to bring these events to our students to show them that Lions can ROAR their way into a successful future!

Ramona *Elementary*

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



Transforming Goals into Action

At Ramona Elementary, our daily work is focused on our school's vision and mission. Our vision is to build lifelong learners who are equipped with the skills and perseverance to excel in the 21st Century. Our daily Mission proudly declares that we are dedicated to challenging and supporting all scholars in making growth toward their goals through collaboration and critical thinking. As a staff, we have collaboratively developed three site goals from kindergarten to sixth grade to help us fulfill our vision and mission and ensure that our students meet and exceed the standards of their grade level. Goal one states that we will use all Thinking Maps at a high level for critical thinking. Goal two calls for student engagement in rich text-based discussions that foster critical thinking and goal three focuses on continuing to promote independent writing through the use of the flee map. There are specific actions and strategies attached to each goal designed to help our students become critical thinkers who are fully prepared for 21st Century learning. We are committed to these goals as we know they will help our students meet and exceed standards and achieve at even higher levels. Evidence of our goals in action can be seen on a walk through the classrooms of Ramona and the quality of the student work on display.

Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Our teaching staff not only developed these goals, they also monitor them for effectiveness and constantly refine lessons and strategies as our students grow and learn. We know that learning never stops and does not have a specific endpoint so we continue to strive for excellence and push ourselves daily. Ramona teachers monitor effectiveness by engaging in site instructional reflections three times a year. This very important professional development opportunity allows teachers to observe and be observed by their colleagues. Three times a year, one third of our teachers spend the day walking through Ramona classrooms to observe their colleagues and our scholars at work. After the walkthroughs, the team takes the afternoon to debrief and discuss what they observed. They highlight our strengths, monitor progress towards our site goals, and establish next steps in instruction to help us achieve our mission of helping all students meet and exceed standards. Finally, the team meets with the staff to discuss their findings. After a few months, the next team of teachers follows up on this feedback and assesses how we are progressing. Based on their observations, new recommendations are made and shared with staff. This cycle of action research helps us to continuously refine our practice to help our Ramona scholars meet a standard of excellence daily.

Ernie Pyle Elementary

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



Jessica Cummings
Principal

Communication Skills

Ernie Pyle teachers and students are building connected classroom communities using restorative justice practices. Panthers from TK to 6th grade are eagerly applying talking circles as an effective tool in building strong, safe, meaningful relationships on campus. School counselor, Jennifer White, and guidance technician, Dominique Coumparoules, have provided professional development and presented classroom lessons. Utilizing restorative

practices, encourages students to be an integral part of the solution process. Circles provide students the confidence and skills needed to become more responsible for their roles in creating and solving problems. Responding to challenging situations through authentic dialogue provides opportunities for staff and students to work together to make things right. Classrooms using restorative practices are calmer and have fewer undesired behaviors to manage during class time, which means more instructional time. The Pyle community is developing communication skills through inspiring experiences that teach everyone to work together to "Make Things Right!"

Mayfair Middle School / High School

6000 N. Woodruff Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-9981 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/mayfair-high.htm



Julie Stanley
Principal

SOONS - Show Respect

Imagine a school where everyone treats each other with respect. A school where students support one another and success is measured by your academic achievements and your character. Here at Mayfair Middle/ High School, these qualities are not only valued, but we strive daily to make them part of our school culture. Our students organized

an event to help "spread the word to end the R-words as a starting point toward creating more accepting attitudes and communities for all people. This is just one of the many examples where our students encourage one another to build each other up by showing respect. As we quickly approach the end of another amazing school year, I would like to thank the entire Mayfair community, for the way you continue to support the administration, our teachers, and our students. Our student success would not be possible without your support.



Somerset High School

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



Career Fair

Our annual Career Fair held on March 15th, was a great success with over 20 colleges and career professionals sharing information to Somerset students. Students attended presentations and visited booths and displays in the school's quad, becoming informed about various careers which included a wide range of options from engineering to travel and tourism. These

presentations helped spark interest and taught our students the steps and training needed to enter these careers and vocations and to the endless possibilities open to them after high school graduation. We are grateful for the many new presenters that helped make our Career Fair special. Students were also able to earn credit by interviewing professionals about their job responsibilities, working conditions, and educational requirements to enter their profession. Students modified their resumes and created personal budgets based on their future goals.

Mark Kailiponi
Principal



Somerset students visit with animal care and control professionals from SEAACA.

Washington Elementary

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



Mathematical Relationships

Washington has been continuing down the pathway of math innovation! For the second year in a row, our 4th-6th grades are departmentalized, which allows the teachers to become experts in subject matter. Teachers have been delving deeply into the Common Core standards and are implementing exciting strategies in order to increase engagement and academic outcomes for their students.

Dr. Angelica Montelongo
Principal



In sixth grade, students practice applying skills on Google Classroom assignments, then take online tests through SchoolCity that reflect the types of performance tasks they will see on the SBAC. The fourth graders get to show their understanding of mathematical relationships through Thinking Maps. In fifth grade, teachers are embracing an inquiry-based model that requires students to collaborate, make sense of problems, explain their strategies, and critique the reasoning of others. A special thank you to our math pioneers Mrs. Bonner, Mrs. Aceves, Ms. Konyalian, and Mrs. Lor!

Craig Williams Elementary

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



Stacey Williams
Principal

End of Year Festivities

Our sixth grade students recently returned from Sixth Grade Camp. During that time they were able to participate in hands on activities involving ecosystems, astronomy, life cycles, water cycles, and nocturnal animals. They continued to build their knowledge through trail lessons and real-life experiences at camp. Life skills were also learned as they socialized with peers and became more independent. They came home sharing stories of hiking, team building activities, and how great the food was at camp. In true Craig Williams fashion, our sixth graders demonstrated the PAWS expectations while up at camp and impressed the camp leaders with their behavior.

All incoming kindergarten students and families are welcome to attend our Kindergarten Visitation Day on May 16, 2018 at 8:45 am. We will inform parents of academic expectations, explain the daily school schedule, and visit kindergarten classrooms. We are eager to meet our new families and incoming students.

Our year will end with the staff versus sixth graders kickball game in June. Each sixth grade class will have the opportunity to play against the staff in this annual tradition. This group of sixth graders has been playing kickball together for two years now. This year the students just may beat the staff!! Come join us the last week of school to cheer on the students and the staff.



Frank E. Woodruff Elementary

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Spring Events and Celebrations

Spring is a season when students begin to flourish with academic progress and growth. Although we are excited about students' academic achievements, it is also a time for our school to celebrate accomplishments for both students and parents. All students have an opportunity to shine at flag ceremony by earning a Gold Medal in our Math Olympics. Students who demonstrate mastery of mathematical skills and standards participate in our Math Olympics ceremony, students and families are all proud of those who earn a Gold Medal. Fifth and sixth grade students share their musical talents during

band and chorus. Students in chorus may participate in our Spring Chorus Show and District Vocal Festival. Our band students perform in the Spring Band Concert, and may also be part of our GATE Band Concert and District Band Festival. GATE students are scheduled for a fun, educational experience at the Aquarium of the Pacific with an overnight field trip that extends their knowledge of marine life. Parents and community members are also honored during the Spring at our Honorary Service Awards. They are thanked for their dedication as volunteers at our flag ceremony and during an evening banquet. Many parents also participated in our Parent Institute for Quality Education to learn how to better assist their child in their education now and in preparation for college. We look forward to our Spring events and celebrations.

Alana's Book Review



A Whole New World

By: Liz Braswell

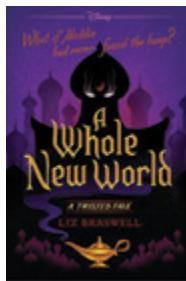
We all know the classic story of Aladdin. The street rat in love with a princess, finding his happy ending with faith and a magic lamp.

But what if Aladdin never found the lamp?

Witness Aladdin, Jasmine, and unexpected allies fight for all they've ever known. With no magic wishes for aid, they must forge their own path to victory. Will they save Agrabah, or will Jafar bring it to ruin?

I'd give this book seven out of eight triforce shards for being deep, thoughtful, and educational. I could hardly believe it was published by Disney. From what I've seen, Disney's tales are almost always missing just a bit of something- except for this one. Poverty, economics, social divides- these are things that Disney needs to be acknowledging more often- things that teach us valuable lessons. I honestly can't wait to see how other kids enjoy this book.

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



Alana F.

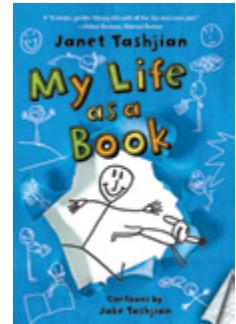
Richard's Book Review



Interesting Mystery

My Life as a Book

is about a kid named Derek Fallon. All Derek wants to do this summer is goof around and hang with his friends. But his parents have other ideas. They signed him up to a summer reading camp. Derek hates reading! Nothing in the world could be duller to him than reading a book. So he hid in the attic, and found an old newspaper there about his babysitter who drowned when he was a baby. He wants to learn more about her and finds that the story is she saved him from going into the rough seas but drowned ... But then with more digging he finds out that wasn't the case at all!



Richard J.

My Life as a Book has an interesting mystery and is relatable to someone who doesn't like to read. I give this book 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.

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 Please put BF in the subject line.

CARNIVAL	CAMP
HOME	SEASHORE
SCHOOL	FARM
PARK	ZOO
SLIDES	HIKE
SWINGS	BIKE RIDE
ROAD TRIP	REUNION
PARTY	CRUISE
MOVIE	SKATING
POOL	VIDEOS
FOREST	

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



MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Don't Play With Toy Safety



Danny Luna
injury prevention
coordinator, Injury
Prevention Program,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

According to the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), there were an estimated 166,300 toy related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments, and seven reported fatalities of children 12 years of age or younger during 2016. Register your toys to stay up to date with any recalls.

The Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach wants to keep kids safe in the community by providing safety education to children and families. For more information on childhood safety education and resources, visit millerchildrens.org/injuryprevention.

Many toy related injuries and fatalities can be prevented by taking some precautionary steps when buying new toys for your child:

- Purchase age appropriate toys recommended by the manufacturer.
- Read and follow all warning labels, especially for electric toys.
- Avoid toys with small parts that may become a choking hazard for younger children.
- Be cautious of toys with small batteries and magnets because they can cause serious harm if swallowed.
- Be aware of toys that may contain lead.
- Ensure that toys with movable parts do not trap or jam your child's finger.
- Be sure your child can breathe comfortably in toys they can enter, such as a tent.



2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
562.933.9151 • millerchildrens.org/injuryprevention

Teaching Kids to Stay Safe



Bike & Helmet Safety



Pedestrian Safety



Car Seat Safety

MemorialCare™
Miller Children's & Women's
Hospital Long Beach

Injury Prevention Program
millerchildrens.org/injuryprevention



Reading

By D.H. Coop

Reading is an elementary key to success in the educational system. Take, for example, a teacher assigning a reading exercise that will take an hour of reading. That assignment was based on a certain amount of time that it would take to do the reading, say, 500 to 800 words per minute. If one reads at a rate of 250 words per minute, then that reading time has just become a minimum of twice as long for that individual. I was one of those individuals and therefore identified as a slow learner.

I was not a slow learner. I process information differently, and the method of teaching reading did not allow for that difference. When I was taught to read, they started by telling me to use my finger to point at each word as I said it out loud. When I mastered that, they told me to stop using my finger. Later, I was told to stop saying the words out loud. Finally, I was told to stop moving my lips, and that ended the lessons on how to read.

The problem was, I was still saying each word mentally, and that slowed my ability to read fast. My mind would jump ahead of my reading and try to finish the sentences before I read them completely, and I would have to start all over and reread a number of times, slowing the process of reading even more. Therefore, I learned the tricks of not reading to pass assignments that most students use to get their work done on time. Plus, I developed a method of listening and memorizing material in class to compensate for the poor reading skills. I can honestly say that I did not read a book until I was around 20 years old.

One Solution!

So, how did I learn to become a reader? The solution for me was to break the habit of saying each word mentally as I read. The problem was not that I could not read. I could read, but just slower than my mind was willing to wait. The key was to go back to the finger and move it faster, allowing my eyes to move across the words without giving them time to pronounce the words. When one enters a room, he or she does not pronounce everything they see mentally in the brain. The brain registers every item without having to pronounce it mentally. The same principle can be done with reading.

A simple method to increase one's reading speed is to first find out what your reading speed is. Read for one minute and then count the words, and that will give you an idea of your speed. Then for practice, use your finger or a guide to move across the page fast enough so that you do not pronounce the words mentally. Do this for five minutes each day, and within 30 days, your reading rate should double. This will be frustrating at first because you're retraining your mind to work more efficiently without the conflict of trying to pronounce each word as you read it.

This will develop your reading skills and is not shortcut as scanning or skimming skills they are different from reading skills. Reading skills allow you to comprehend at a faster rate of speed when reading and makes reading more enjoyable. However, this is not a solution for all reading problems. It is a method that one can try—it did work for me. I am never without a book now.