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School News



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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less

Brian Jacobs Ed.D.
Superintendent

Wow, where have the first three months of school gone? It seems just a short while ago that I was welcoming you to the new school year. As your superintendent, I am extremely proud of the energy and extra efforts being put forth every day by our teachers, classified staff, and administrative team. With their undying desire to see each and every child succeed, Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) is well on its way to meeting the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less." It is this mantra that drives the teaching and educational practices on a daily basis in our classrooms. I look forward each and every day to enriching and supporting the learning experiences for your students.

This school year has already been filled with a great deal of exciting, motivating, and strengthening of the educational environments for the children and young adults of Bellflower-Cerritos-Lakewood. The enthusiasm began with Learning Pathways being created to ensure that every student is "growing smarter" each and every day. The district continues to offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum, which allows for each student to master the grade-level content standards and find high levels of success with the California Standards Test. Each elementary school offers Accelerated Learning Pathways to ensure that our gifted and talented students are being academically challenged on a day-to-day basis. In the secondary

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Time for Giving



Bellflower Middle School/High School reminds us November is upon us and the upcoming holiday season will soon be celebrated.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D.
President

Did You Know?

First of all, let me say welcome back to school. This year is going to be a very challenging time for all of us. Everyone knows how tough the state cutbacks have been on our schools, but I think it's important to look back at all the wonderful things our parents, teachers, children, and staff have accomplished, despite the lack of help from the state.

For instance:

- Bellflower, Mayfair and Somerset High Schools received the maximum six-year Western Association of Schools Accreditation
- Our Academic Performance Index scores improved again from 777 to 789 with new scores
- Bellflower Unified School District's high school graduation rate is at 91.2 percent
- Our staff was able to find over \$5 million in grants
- The district restored Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) funding to all schools
- Elementary music programs were preserved
- The district developed a Jump Start Kindergarten and a Home School/ Independent Study Academy

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A New Era Of Assessment Is On The Horizon— It Is Called The Common Core

By Brian Jacobs Ed.D., Superintendent
Background and Development

The Common Core Standards are our nation's call to academic action. They are not intended to be new names for old ways of doing business, but are a push to give our students what they need in the real world. Nationally, educators and legislators have come together to build on lessons learned from two decades of standards-based reforms. It is time to recognize that academic standards should not be empty promises to our children, but promises that we intend to keep.

In August 2010, the California State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the California Common Core State Standards for grades K-12. The SBE adopted the national core standards and added topics at some grade levels to strengthen areas the California state officials felt were not strong enough.

The Common Core State Standards define what needs to be effectively taught to California students in order for them to succeed in school and beyond. These standards will begin to be instituted here in BUSD in the fall of 2013.

Common Core Standards Mission Statement For BUSD

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to know and be able to do so teachers and parents know what they need to do in order to help their students. The standards are designed to be vigorous and applicable to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our students' need for success in college and careers. With BUSD students fully prepared for the future, our communities will be best positioned to compete successfully in the local and global economies.

Belief Statement

We at the Bellflower Unified School District believe that the Common Core State Standards will benefit our students by providing a consistently challenging, yet attainable, level of progress in each content area at each grade level. Regardless of socioeconomics, our students will learn the skills and knowledge to help them achieve in their future academic and/or career settings. In the Bellflower Unified School District, we welcome the challenge that implementing these standards will bring to not only our students, but to us as educators and instructional leaders. With the implementation of the California Common Core State Standards, our children and young adults will model the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!"



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Thank you for your positive comments on our first issue of *School News* covering the BUSD. Your excitement is contagious!

I am delighted to introduce our newest syndicated columnist, Alana. She is a student at Intensive Learning Center and her first column is on page 9. She will begin by reviewing a book from her favorite Daisy Meadows Series.

Fall is definitely in the air and the holidays are on the way. Happy Thanksgiving to you from our staff. Our next issue is January 9, 2013.

School News

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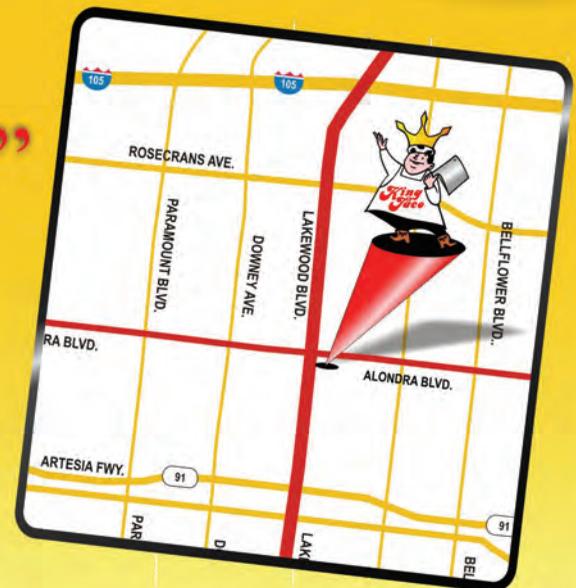
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Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Leadership through Service

Election time is here at Albert Baxter Elementary! Each fall, students elect representatives to our Student Council. The purpose of student government is to involve children in activities that build citizenship and encourage community service.

Advisor Steve Kuyper believes that, "Students who are involved in Student Council get practice in leadership roles which prepare them for future careers." This group provides a great forum for students to get involved in school decision-making. It also helps increase their

interest in civic issues and community involvement.

In addition to planning spirit days, our Baxter Student Council members participate in community-based service projects that help develop leadership skills. This year the Council will provide meals for families, hold a coat drive, and even fund-raise for cancer research.

Vice-President Jackie Cardenas said, "The Student Council makes me feel like I am doing the right thing for people." Baxter student leaders believe in giving back to the community.



Student Council President Imani Wheeler, Vice-President Jackie Cardenas, Treasurer Iverson Ipina and Secretary Cristina Ochoa Jimenez

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Dina Hernandez
Principal

Read, Read, Read

At Jefferson, we are constantly encouraging our parents and students to read. There are many great benefits to reading.

According to Dr. Stephen D. Krashen, "Parents need to know that children will get far more benefit from being read to, or from seeing parents read for pleasure, and from reading comics, graphic novels, magazines and books, than they will from working through workbooks."

Reading and education go together hand-in-hand. The more we can encourage our children to read and love reading, the more they will love learning and education. Reading is an active mental process; it gives you glimpses into other cultures and places of the world. It improves concentration, focus and memory; it reduces boredom; and it gives you great topics to talk about with your child!

Reading is also one of the most effective ways for language learners to acquire language skills in context. When children get hooked on books they acquire a large vocabulary, and also develop the ability to understand and use complex



grammatical constructions. They can develop a good writing style, and become good spellers as well.

So take advantage of this wonderful fall weather. Grab a book, a cozy blanket, and read, read, read!

Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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



Michael Lundgren
Principal

Time for Giving

November is upon us, and the upcoming holiday season will soon be celebrated. This time of the year reminds us of beautiful moments and happy holiday memories, celebrated with family and friends. It also gives us another chance to relive them and create new ones. This is also a time to be thankful for all that is positive in our lives: family, friends, health, and happiness.

Every holiday season, Bellflower Middle/High School students, in support of the Bellflower Volunteer Center, show their generosity and community spirit by collecting canned food or non-perishable food items to help needy Bellflower families during the holiday season. This year the canned food drive will be held from November 12 through December 10. The Volunteer Center works closely with Bellflower Unified School District's Caring Connections program to reach out to our local residents who are in need during this time of the year. Bellflower is the single largest contributor to the canned food drive, having donated over 5,000 canned food items last year! This year, our goal is to surpass that number and to help even more city residents.

I encourage all of our families and students to do what they can, because every little bit helps! Wishing you Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year!



Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Great Starts and the Arts

Stephen Foster Elementary School is very proud to welcome a new class to its campus this year—Transitional Kindergarten. Our Transitional Kindergarten class is made up of 22 very excited and eager-to-learn four-year-olds, who will all turn five between November 3 and December 2, 2012. These diligent students have already learned the routine and can be seen lining up for lunch in the cafeteria, happily playing at recess, and learning to read and write and listen to their teacher in the classroom. We are proud of how well our youngest lightning bolts have settled into life here at Foster, and we wish them many years of academic success at our school.

The rest of the student body is also hard at work, and academic progress, as usual, is our top priority. We complement our academic success with the fine arts in order to provide our students with a well-rounded educational experience. This year is no exception, as our students will study and recreate the work of three artists through the Meet the Masters program. This month, our students attended an assembly about Winslow Homer and recreated one of his most famous art pieces. Music is equally important to us, and the Orange County Opera visited Foster on October 9 to present "The Daughter of the Regiment." The singers were available for questions after the performance, giving our students an insight into the world of opera and classical music.

At Foster we believe that infusing the curriculum with fine arts enhances the study of all academic subjects for our students.

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

5900 N. Canehill Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/804-6525 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/lindstrom.htm



Deborah Apple
Principal

School Spirit

Our Lindstrom students have been off and running—and I mean literally! Our annual Jog-a-thon was a tremendous success. Students came to school all energized and ready to jog laps to earn money for our school. Parents and other community members volunteered by helping to mark students' backs as they finished a lap, handing out water, or just providing moral support as students ran. Teachers warmed up their students and even participated in running with them. The community spirit at Lindstrom is amazing!

This PTA fund-raiser is implemented to fund our many programs such as assemblies and field trips and to provide support in the area of technology. This year, the emphasis has been on improving technology within the classrooms. Without our wonderful parent and community support, our students would be denied these great experiences. It definitely does "take a village."

Not only do you see this school spirit happening with the PTA but also in each and every classroom. The teachers are hard at work implementing many new

teacher techniques and strategies. I commend the staff here at Lindstrom for the dedication and diligence to incorporate the soundest teaching practices to benefit each and every Lindy Lion's academic achievement. Way to go, Lindstrom staff!



Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Great Futures

The phrase, "Leadership is action, not position" was the message shared with our fifth- and sixth-grade candidates

for the Ernie Pyle Student Council president, vice president, secretary and treasurer offices. It was also taken up by the fifth- and sixth-grade class members who cast ballots after hearing speeches from these excellent candidates.

While four candidates were elected to a formal leadership position on the Council, all Ernie Pyle Panthers can be leaders through the positive actions they demonstrate as members of our learning community.

Some of the leadership ideas and actions that the candidates spoke about included the importance of having a school community where everyone is treated with respect. They also spoke about having family nights and spirit days, and about how everyone needs to do their part to keep our school clean.

It was a tough decision indeed for our fifth- and sixth-graders, but the ballots have been cast. Advisor Riquel Ober and her 2012-2013 Student Council members are now busy planning for an exciting year of activities and service.

Congratulations to all of the candidates for offering to serve their community. Our Pyle Panthers build great futures and great leaders!



Mayfair *Middle/High School*

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



Matt Eeles
Principal

Celebrating Success

Mayfair Middle/High School is off to a great start. We have many things to celebrate as we prepare to conclude the first quarter of the school year.

Academically, our Academic Performance Index (API) score increased by a staggering 12 points, and our teachers are working to raise the bar even higher this year with the implementation of Direct Interactive Instruction.

The fall athletic teams are faring well, and we have hopes that they will all be moving on to the playoffs. The band has started on a high note, with a first place finish in its first band show of the year, Duarte's "Get Fit on Route 66."

We have also enjoyed some individual student successes already this year. Senior Rasmi Elasmir has been named a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship, and senior Alexandria Arenas received a \$10,000 scholarship sponsored by Nordstroms and a laptop computer.

Mayfair wishes all of you a very happy holiday season!



Senior, Alexandria Arenas and her counselor, Jasmine Lane after Alexandria is awarded the Nordstrom scholarship.

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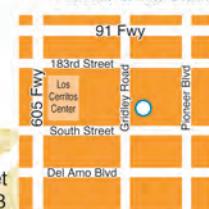
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Ramona *Elementary*

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



Rams are Readers!

Ramona Rams love to read. The books in our library fly off the shelves and into the hands of anxious students anticipating a literary journey.

Our staff believes that it is not enough to merely allow students to borrow books. We know that a true passion for reading comes from increased access to books and the excitement of sharing a good story. Every year, one of our teachers, Mr. Edlen, coordinates a reading event that fosters our students' love for reading. At last year's reading event, Ramona students had an opportunity to participate in a book exchange in which they were able to bring books from home to exchange for books brought by other students. Over one thousand books are exchanged at this event every other year. Students leave the exchange, new books in hand, with a renewed interest in embarking on a literary adventure.

This year, we are looking forward to sharing stories with our friends and families at a Family Reading Night in January. During this event, students, teachers and parents bring their favorite stories, dress in their pajamas, and spend the evening sharing stories in the cafeteria. At Ramona, our scholars learn that reading is not just something you do but it is also a door to new worlds and ideas and is the pathway to success.

Bonnie Carter
Principal

Somerset *High School*

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



Embracing Learning

This year, Somerset High School and District Independent Study opened their doors with two exciting events.

Somerset held its Back to School "Morning Meet and Greet" on September 6. This event gave parents an opportunity to visit classrooms, meet teachers and obtain course information. Mr. Dixon, the principal, first welcomed the parents to the event and then introduced his staff members and district administration. The entire staff was pleased with the turnout, and is looking forward to a similar morning schedule for the open house event in the spring.

Somerset Reentry and District Independent Study welcomed visitors on September 28 with a showcase of online learning. The Somerset Reentry program serves district students over 18 years of age who need to extend their graduation date. Independent Study is a voluntary program, and is available to students in grades seven through twelve who can work independently with the support of their families.



Reentry Level 2, Ms. Erin Bello,
monitoring students as they work on GradPoint

The Bellflower Unified School District's Somerset Reentry and Independent Study program is unique in that students have access to the teacher and computer lab every day. The students are embracing online learning. With the adoption of GradPoint, they are now busy earning academic and elective credits, with the added ability to gain instant feedback and 24/7 access to coursework.

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Honoring Our Hero: Craig Emery Williams

November is always a wonderful time of year at Craig Williams Elementary School. Each year as we celebrate Veterans' Day, we take pride in honoring our very own hero, our school's namesake, Craig Emery Williams. Our school was named in his honor and as a memorial to the American men and women who fell in battle while in Vietnam. This recognition acknowledges the sacrifices and contributions of all who have served in the armed forces.

Keisha Sawyer
Principal

Craig Emery Williams was born on April 26, 1947. He attended school in the Bellflower Unified School District. He graduated from Mayfair High School in 1965 and was drafted into the armed services in 1968. He served in Vietnam until March 6, 1969, when he deliberately placed himself in the line of Viet Cong fire in an attempt to save one of his wounded companions. He was buried with full military honors and was posthumously promoted to the rank of corporal by the United States Army.

Craig E. Williams' family and friends have kept a close connection to our school. We take pride in ensuring his legacy continues to live in the hearts and minds of our entire school community. We proudly display memorabilia in our front office to honor his legacy. We welcome you to join us at our annual Veteran's Day Program and continue our tradition of paying homage to our hero and school community members who have served our country in the armed forces.

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Frank Woodruff *Elementary*

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Beverly Swanson
Principal

Reading Resources

The Woodruff Elementary School Wolves are off to a great start for 2012-2013! Our teachers have been learning a new style of teaching called Direct Interactive Instruction. All classrooms are implementing the new strategies, and we are seeing improvement with student engagement and academic success.

In October we began our Two Million Minutes Reading Challenge. To support this endeavor, we have purchased Accelerated Reader Enterprise (AR), an online, software system which allows students to read books at independent reading levels and complete comprehension quizzes on the Web. Students will have access to over 150,000 quizzes, and most books are part of the AR program. Parents will have an array of resources available, including AR BookFinder, to determine book levels, online monitoring of students' reading goals, and e-mail alerts when students complete comprehension quizzes.



In addition to AR, we are establishing a reading room next to our library. This will be an inviting place where students can cuddle up and read. After their weekly library visit, students can take their favorite books into the reading room to begin working towards their AR goals. The room will also be available to classes for special guest readers or independent reading time.

Woodruff Wolves are focused on academic goals and working each day towards a standard of excellence.

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Washington *Elementary*

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Sulema Holguin
Principal

Creating a Learning Community

What is a learning community? Washington Elementary is focused on creating a learning community that extends beyond the school. For us, a learning community is one in which all decisions are made in the best interest of students' academic success. Our mission is that our learning community will provide all students with an enriched learning environment that includes high expectations for all students. In order to achieve this, we must create a learning community that includes all the stakeholders.

A strong learning community that is focused on preparing students to become self-sufficient and contributing adults in their community is a mission critical for our school. This form of learning community will be an asset as we strive to hit those high targets of academic success. In order to do that, we are partnering up with our parents, families and community members. Studies show that when schools regard their relationship with families as a partnership in which school and home share responsibility for children's learning, the result is an increase in the levels and types of parent involvement as well as the support that families demonstrate for the school. When this partnership is extended to include the larger community, the benefits are greater yet. Perhaps most important is that when responsibility for children's learning is shared by the school, home and community, children have more opportunities for meaningful, engaged learning. Students are able to see the connection between the curriculum in the school and the skills that are required in the real world.

As we enhance our programs, our goal will be to partner with parents and community members to create a learning community that will benefit the academic success of our students.

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Things to Consider Before Saving for College



Susan D. Marshall

Saving for college can be an overwhelming thought for young families that are just starting out and are trying to buy a first home. If you are also saving for retirement, the cost of college can be paralyzing.



The changes in governmental rules also provide challenges. For example, 529 Plans originally were not considered in the financial aid calculation but now are. Here are four suggestions that can smooth your way.

1) Make sure you contribute to your retirement plan before you contribute to a college savings plan. Most advisors recommend contributing the largest affordable percentage that your employer will match. If you are a stay at home spouse, set up an IRA or a Roth IRA. Just be aware that these plans typically are invested in stocks, bonds and mutual funds that carry greater risk. The good news is that currently, retirement accounts are generally not considered in the financial aid calculation at most schools.

2) Buying your own home should be a top priority as soon as it makes financial and practical sense. It will serve as a future investment. You will build equity over time and it may provide you with collateral that may be used in the future to help pay for college.

3) Make sure your income is protected. What does that mean? Should you lose your job, become disabled or not make it home; will your family be able to have the resources to go on? Make sure you have the life and disability insurance to protect your family's future.

4) Have an accessible and safe emergency fund. The accounts that provide savings and liquidity are Long Term CD's, Fixed Annuities, Indexed Annuities and Cash Value Life Insurance. Many times working with a trusted advisor will help you find money you don't realize you have. By repositioning assets you may increase your cash flow and add to your savings. When you do begin saving for college, plan and save to maximize your funds and minimize any penalties.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article e-mail her at Susan@College4Less.com.

Art To Grow On

Don't Forget to Enjoy the Holidays



How can it be the holiday season again? I made a mindful effort to not overbook fall activities for our two boys, a first-grader and fourth-grader. I have good news to report that our fall has been a good one! We had lots of park visits, scooter time, and friends over—and even some down time. Sports were still on the agenda, but we cut back a bit, and it made such a difference! My new “moderate” mode became easier and easier as the weeks progressed, especially as I heard more laughter, talked more at the dinner table, and saw more creative play, from painting and taking scooters apart (yes, I allowed this) to movie night.

The holidays ahead are to be celebrated with friends and family, and we are looking forward to a great season! I know the demands triple at this time, but I feel much more confident that we will enjoy this holiday season without the level of stress we have had in the past. Work will be busy with art classes, gingerbread workshops, parties, and special events, along with the boys' schedules and our family schedule.

Enjoy the holidays and celebrate the time you have together! Wishing you happiness, joy, and lots of creative fun for the New Year!

Enjoy each and every day!

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc. www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028

Rowing Your Way to College

Six minutes and 30 seconds. That's the magic time a male high school athlete needs to achieve on a rowing machine to receive a college scholarship. It's the strangest thing, relying on a machine known as the Concept 2 Indoor Rowing Machine, which measures the amount of work performed while pulling a lever. A football coach doesn't offer a scholarship simply because someone runs a certain 40-yard time. A basketball coach doesn't offer a scholarship because someone can dunk. A baseball coach doesn't offer a scholarship because of how far someone can hit a baseball. But in rowing, when a male athlete records a time of six minutes and 30 seconds, the word spreads like wildfire among college recruiters.



Brad Teter

Brad Teter, a high school rowing athlete at Marina Aquatic Center, and Andy Marshall, a high school rowing athlete at Long Beach Junior Crew, were up for the challenge. Jack Nunn, the owner of Powerhouse Fitness, reviewed their eating habits, examined their old workout routines, and helped them set goals. He developed detailed fitness and nutrition plans, which included daily rowing-related workouts. Both young men also attend Powerhouse Fitness indoor rowing classes at the boathouse and warehouse locations, which they enjoy due to the diversity of the participants.

Since Teter and Marshall have been training, they have gained muscle, increased aerobic endurance, and dramatically improved their rowing times. Both athletes aspire to achieve fast enough 2,000-meter scores to continue rowing in the colleges of their choice.



Andy Marshall

Powerhouse Fitness provides personalized athletic performance training combined with highly effective consulting services. This consulting service, which was developed through two decades of rowing for collegiate and national team coaches, focuses college rowing programs, the recruiting process, and the steps an athlete needs to take to be considered for recruitment to a college or university. Our goal is simple: To ensure that you maximize your rowing potential through training and knowledge, so you can reach your ultimate goal of gaining admission to the college or university of your choice.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803 562/688-1716, www.powerhousefit.com.

Note-ables

Mr. Diddie Wah Diddie, Randy Kaplan



Kate Karp

Here's how to create a blues artist moniker: Pick an ailment, a fruit, and the last name of a president and presto! you've got a groove going. It worked for Blind Lemon Jefferson.

Whether it works for musical artist Randy Kaplan is for you to discover in this extraordinary project. Blues music fuses seamlessly with education, history, biography and very clever lyrics in tunes originated by seminal blues musicians legendary or nearly forgotten—Muddy Waters, Bessie Smith, Hambone Willie Newbern and over a dozen others, all adapted as tributes, with no loss of essence or infusion of cuteness. Songs about running away from

home, a two-timing babysitter, and a neighborhood bully who doesn't quite get it are rendered in yodelin' blues, scattin' blues, slappin' blues—you always drop the *g* when you're talkin' blues—and a little ragtime. In between songs, enigmatic bluesman Lightnin' Bodkins—he got *his* name from his speed in making mittens and the extra bodkins he keeps the hair out of his eyes with—rasps out facts about the artists and the social conditions that had them singing the blues. He also persists in suggesting names for a reluctant Randy Kaplan, apparently the only person alive who knows of Mr. Bodkins. Hmmm...

The 20-page booklet accompanying the CD broadens the history and bios. Teacher lesson plans are available for free download at www.randykaplan.com.

Mr. Diddie Wah Diddie is one of the most remarkable children's music collections I've encountered. If you have to have the back-to-school blues, these are the best kind.

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

Alana's Book Review

Ruby the Red Fairy

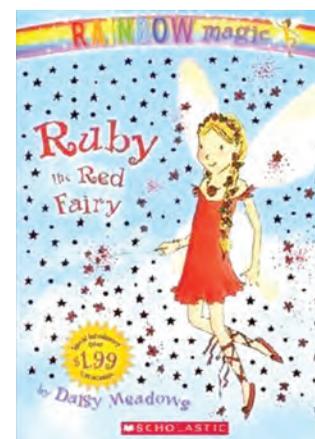


Alana F.

The book I'm writing about is called *Ruby the Red Fairy*. The author's name is Daisy Meadows. At the beginning of the story, Kirsty and Rachel meet while on their way to vacation on Rainspell Island. They quickly become friends because they both believe in magic. When they meet Ruby the Red fairy, the girls discover that Rainspell Island is filled with magic and they learn of the problems the fairies are having with the evil Jack Frost. In this book, Meadows introduces all of the main characters that are going to be in the series.

Meadow's writing is very vivid; I feel like I'm right there in the chilly room with Jack Frost, or staring at the rainbow that's covering the sky. She also uses great details in her writing, like when she said, "Kirsty gasped. The fairy was lighter than a butterfly."

I would rate this book as a 5-star book because you can feel like you are right there alongside Kirsty and Rachel, discovering magic with them.



Alana F. is a student at Intensive Learning Center. Alana is our newest syndicated columnist and will begin by reviewing the Daisy Meadows Series. She will be rating the books on a scale of 1—5.

Polly the Party Fun Fairy 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put BUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2012
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Thank you [Alana Flores](#) for this Word Search
Alana enjoys reading the Meadows' books from the Fairy Series.

BEHIND	LAUGHED	TROOP
CAMPFIRE	NODDED	TURNED
EXPLAINED	PACKED	UNIFORMS
EXPLORERS	PARTY	VILLAGE
FORWARD	PLAYED	WAVING
HAPPILY	REALIZE	WOODLAND
JAMBOREE	ROASTED	YEAR



Congratulations to **Raegan White**
Winner of the September Contest!

Intensive Learning Center

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



Isel Taylor
Principal

Home-School Connection Is the Key

While reflecting upon the past two months as the new principal here at the Intensive Learning Center, I find myself in awe of our teachers', parents' and students' commitment to the Standard of Excellence and Nothing Less. Teachers are diligently working to implement new instructional strategies and programs such as Thinking Maps, Nancy Fetzner reading and writing strategies, and Direct Interactive Instruction (DII). Students are focused and putting in their best efforts, and parents are working in a collaborative manner with teachers, establishing and reinforcing routines.

The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths of the Intensive Learning Center. The Intensive Learning Center has a strong tradition of supportive, hardworking parents. Commitment to the best for our students on the part of parents, students and staff is one of the keys to our success! Our school and home working together in an effort to build skills of knowledge, reinforce core values, and develop a strong sense of self-worth is an ongoing commitment. We must invest our time and energies in our most valuable resource—our children.



Las Flores

Educational Center

10039 E. Palm St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6565 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/homeEducation.htm



Home-Education Independent Study Academy

In the summer of 2012, many maintenance workers, administrators and teachers began putting together a very special home-school independent study program for students to come to in September. Many long hours were spent on cleaning and painting, decorating and gardening, putting in new equipment and computers, setting up a school library, putting together the science and mathematics labs, and accumulating a wealth of instructional and supplemental materials for the parent resource center. The anticipation of pioneering a new school program has now been transformed with daily routines in which students receive rigorous instruction that will lead to high levels of academic achievement. The parent support for this program has been nonpareil. With parents and teachers working together in partnership toward the same goal, every child will succeed.

Enrichment Fridays has some exciting hands-on learning adventures on the horizon. During the month of October, students will be learning about Johnny Appleseed and taste-testing different apple varieties, participating in pumpkin mathematics activities, and studying bugs in a mobile science lab provided by the Los Angeles County Vector Control District. In addition, we are looking forward to beginning a parent co-op where parents sign up to teach a session or sessions based on their skills, talents and hobbies as well as investigate various avenues to enable the students to become involved in community outreach on Enrichment Fridays.

One of our goals at Las Flores Educational Center is to make available to parents a series of workshops that will give them strategies they can use when working with their children at home. The topics are varied and range from how parents as teachers can teach reading fluency and comprehension; the mechanics of division, multiplication and percentages; using Thinking Maps in writing; and standards-based grading and homework. A complete list of dates and times will be posted on our website (www.busd.k12.ca.us).

Our growing reputation for excellence will develop even stronger teacher, parent and community ties. Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy continues to accept enrollment, and we welcome new students to our school. Call our office or e-mail tzylla@busd.k12ca.us for an appointment to witness firsthand the amazing educational opportunities we have to offer your family.

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Brian Jacobs Ed.D.
Superintendent

schools, the continuing expansion of Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) course work guarantees a highly thorough pathway for the student looking for additional academic challenges. With programs like these and continuing the efforts of the prior year accomplishments, BUSD is well on the way to daily attaining the mantra of “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

BUSD is an outstanding educational organization with a commitment to developing the partnership between schools, the student, the home, and the community. When this partnership is established, students, families, and the community share the overall satisfaction and pride that comes from honest work, shared commitment, and success. Whether you are a parent, a business owner, or a community member in the Bellflower-Cerritos-Lakewood area, I encourage you to contact our schools to learn how you can participate in helping the youth of our community become leaders and active citizens.

The mission for Team BUSD is clear and succinct—to develop critical thinkers and socially responsible citizens who actively participate in their individual learning and are fully prepared to embrace the future. We strive to accomplish this important work by attracting and retaining highly qualified staff, by initiating and sustaining important partnerships with other agencies and organizations, and by engaging the entire community in providing a rich and challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment.

As a district, we offer a Pre-school Head Start through 12th-grade education program comprised of 10 elementary school sites, two compensatory middle/high schools, a continuation high school, and a new Home Education/Independent Study Academy. All of the schools and programs offered within the BUSD do an outstanding job of preparing our students for the rigors of course work at any California State University, University of California, or private post-high-school experience. The students leaving BUSD are also fully prepared to pursue careers in the technical work force arena, the military/armed forces, or other civic jobs available for well-rounded and educated young adults.

A key objective of our district is to ensure that every student meets or exceeds state and BUSD academic standards. We accomplish this target by hiring teachers who are motivating and engaging, innovative site principals, and experienced support staff to design and deliver rich and thorough instructional programs. Academic achievement is a top priority at all of our sites.

I am excited and looking forward to another fantastic year. Remember that together we can ensure that BUSD will be the school district where “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less” is seen in everything we do each and every day.

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



Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D.
President



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
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Member

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



**Paul Helzer,
D.C., Ph.D.**
President

- The district provided after-school learning for 73 Afterschool Program Promoting Learning and Enrichment (APPLE) students
- The district continued to maintain Bellflower Alternative Education Center so that even our expelled students didn't end up in the county juvenile schools
- The district preserved our Head Start program
- Our Skills USA students received 25 regional gold medals and nine state gold medals

These and many more accomplishments have taken place in BUSD. They are too numerous to list.

All this was done by the outstanding dedication of our teachers, parents and staff, in the face of serious lack of funds and state support. It is with great respect and gladness that I welcome you back to the 2012–2013 school year, because all of these things could never have been achieved without the hard work and extra effort all of you have put into our schools. Your dedication and commitment to our children, our schools, and our community, in spite of all the difficulties, is amazing.

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