

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 75

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION



### Democracy and Education

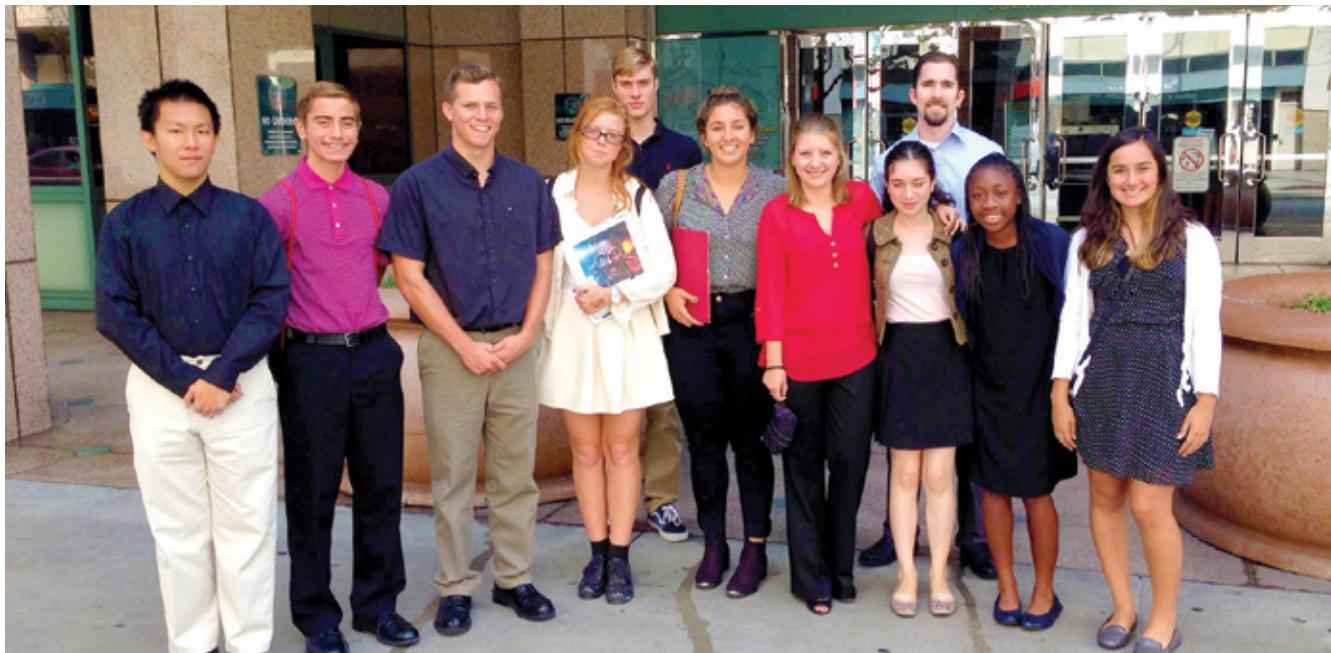
Election Day has come and gone, and once again we all got to see democracy in action. Lots of changes are in store for us, both nationally and locally. With school funding being critical to the academic well-being

of our children and the economic well-being of our community and with the key to "getting the funding right" residing largely in Sacramento, the School Board and district leadership are keenly interested in how these local changes will effect strategies that can lead to long-term improvements in state school funding.

Our local elected officials are on the front lines of this effort. I would like to give my personal thanks to two of those outgoing officials, who have worked so hard toward getting Redondo Beach Unified School District its fair share of funding under the new Local Control Funding Formula. Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi has been a tireless advocate for funding enhancements and equity, and he and his fantastic 66th District staff have been great partners in our joint efforts to "fix" a broken system. Thank you, Al, and best wishes as you and your staff move on to the next stage of your lives and careers!

Senator Ted Lieu and his staff have also been great supporters of our South Bay school districts. We look forward to our new 33rd Congressional District Representative-elect Ted Lieu going to Washington, D.C. and doing great things for education in the U.S. Congress. I'd like also to congratulate our new Assemblyman-elect David Hadley and Senator-elect Ben Allen and express our interest in working with them and their staffs toward the continued improvement of school funding for the South Bay and the Redondo Beach Unified School District...the best location and the best school district in Southern California!

## Teen Court is Now in Session



Redondo Union High School Mock Trial students are ready to witness court in session at the Appellate Court. (please see page 8)

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

### Participating in Our Democracy

Like many homes across our country on the evening of November 4, my household was locked into the election results. Discussion in the headlines and within my own family included impact to education, changes in party representation, and decisions about civil liberties.

I am sure that my nearly four-year-old daughter doesn't understand much of the conversation that occurred that night, but she did see is that we were engaged in a contest, a race of sorts. She attended to our tone and our passion, especially when the results made us hold our breath. We are raising a child who will not only have an expected place at a college or university, but one who will also become an active, civically-minded citizen.

These are clear expectations. Highlighting the importance of voting, of making one's voice heard, will be a priority as my daughter matures. A Harvard Institute of Politics poll released last week claims that only a quarter of voters aged 18-29 exercise their right to vote. It is incomprehensible that this demographic, the very "product" turned out from schools across the nation, is not represented in decisions made in our country. The reasons and excuses are numerous, but the lack of participation is appalling and screams for remediation. So, while it is the role of a parent to be a child's first teacher, it is all of our responsibility to instill the importance of participation in our democracy, regardless of position (or in our case... age).

## Board of Education



Brad Serkin  
President



Michael R. Christensen  
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Member



Brad Waller  
Member

## Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

2014 – December 9

### 2015

January 13	March 10	May 12
January 27	March 24	May 26
February 10	April 14	June 9
February 24	April 28	June 23

(April 14 – Organizational Meeting)

## Parents: \$44,000 Up for Grabs



**Jens Brandt**  
RUHS Assistant  
Principal/  
Blue Zones  
Project Liaison



**Dr. Denise Bevly**  
BCHD-  
Youth Services  
Senior Manager

*By Dr. Denise Bevly*  
BCHD Youth Services Senior Manager

Local schools can earn some serious green by parents going Blue...Zones.

The Healthy School Pledge Drive recently extended through Jan 12 means Beach Cities Health District will continue to give \$1 to schools for every Blue Zones Pledge completed. The pledgee even selects which Beach Cities school receives the money from BCHD, which has promised up to \$44,000, with each Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach school eligible to earn \$2,000.

The Blue Zones Pledge is a personal commitment to improve your physical, social and emotional health by making small behavioral changes that have a big impact – including eating more fruits and vegetables, walking three times a week, volunteering or learning a new hobby. It can be completed quickly online at [bchd.org/bzppledge](http://bchd.org/bzppledge). Paper copies of the pledge are also available by contacting your school PTA president.

Earning cash for your child's school is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

- Encourage everyone in your family to complete the pledge. One pledge = BCHD donating \$1 to the school of your choice.
- During the holidays, have your friends and extended family members who live in the Beach Cities take the pledge.
- Ask your neighbors to support your child's school by taking the pledge.

Remember, \$44,000 in funding is up for grabs in the Beach Cities, so make sure your school doesn't miss out on this opportunity!



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



The years go by far too fast for adults and not fast enough for children. As Superintendent Dr. Keller says in his article on the front page one of the rights of passage is the privilege of voting. Another is being of age to drive and along with that comes tremendous responsibilities one of which is to not text and drive. Please set an example for your children.

Happy Holidays!  
We are always mindful of our men and women in the armed forces and we appreciate their service.



Our next issue is February 4, 2015 and we'll have a brand new look!!!

Covering the  
**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## Beach Cities Health District

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

## Connect With Family – It's Healthy!



**Dr. Lisa Santora**  
Chief Medical  
Officer

*By Dr. Lisa Santora, BCHD Chief Medical Officer*

"Good morning. I love you. It's a beautiful day!" This is my family's daily greeting, created by my husband on a day I woke up in a bad mood. Now, it is the first thing we say (or are reminded to say) to each other.

A great way to start every day is to demonstrate and express gratitude. Gratitude is a key pro-social emotion – helping us create and sustain positive social relationships throughout our lifetime. It allows us to detect benefits from the actions of others; it reinforces positive behaviors; and it motivates us, and others, to engage in pro-social behavior. Gratitude is the glue that holds our social connections together.

Research teams from Brigham Young University and University of North Carolina studied more than 300,000 persons for 7.5 years. They found that individuals with strong social connections live 50% (average 3.5 years) longer than less connected people.

Our family is our strongest social connection (even if you aren't emotionally close to your family). Research shows that we are more altruistic with our family than our closest friends – a phenomenon called the "kinship premium" (or in lay language: "blood is thicker than water").

During the next couple of months, we will be spending a lot of time with both friends and family. Take some time to express your gratitude for their friendship and kinship. It will strengthen your social bonds and help you live longer, too.

Find more information, at [bchd.org/bzp](http://bchd.org/bzp).

## Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

## Internet Safety 101



**Lisa Christensen**  
President

With the recent arrival of multiple Chrome books in my home, I've become keenly aware that I need to step up my game in regards to internet safety for all my kids, regardless of grade or age. My kids have become far more tech-savvy in the past few months and I want to be able to keep them safe as they take off on this technology journey.

California PTA suggests starting with these three steps when discussing internet safety. First, Communicate With Your Kids. Opening lines of communication with your child is key when discussing the potential dangers kids may encounter on the internet. Empower your child to make responsible internet decisions. Second, Knowledge is the Best Defense. Place all computers in an open, common area of the home. Check your child's internet history frequently. Parents should have knowledge of your child's online passwords, and use them often to check their accounts. Third, Start Now. Internet safety should start long before they wander into the web. Helping your child navigate the internet safely will only lead to a more positive experience for everyone in your family.

Here are a few internet safety websites that California State PTA recommends to parents: <https://www.common SenseMedia.org/>  
<https://www.ncta.com/cableimpacts>  
<http://isafe.org/wp/>  
[http://www.cox.com/aboutus/takecharge.](http://www.cox.com/aboutus/takecharge)  
[http://www.cox.com/aboutus/takecharge\\_vanity](http://www.cox.com/aboutus/takecharge_vanity)

# Happy Holidays from the School News Staff!



## Classes for Lifelong Learning



**Vivian Ibarra**  
Director

Classes for lifelong learning is the motto for students at South Bay Adult School but what does that mean? Lifelong learning is finding your own goals and improving your knowledge and skills needed reach those goals. Here at SBAS your goals might be personal, educational, or career. Adults who sign up for classes to learn English get their high school diploma often want to attend college or improve their opportunities for a better job. This fall South Bay Adult School is pleased to announce a partnership with El Camino College designed to help students reach those next goals.



Practice for the GED with our online programs.



Working together to learn English is the first step for some students.

Did you know that El Camino College offers career technical courses and certificates as well as classes to help you with an AA degree or transfer to a four year school. Many of our students want to continue their education at the community college and unsure of the process. We are working together to help our students register for and take classes at El Camino. We recently held two information sessions at our campus with Outreach Counselors from El Camino College. They described the registration process and the many options and opportunities available at El Camino. The counselors are coming back to our school to help students enroll in the college, take placement tests, and have an individual counselling session to plan their future education. Enrollment is free and easy at El Camino College. Working together we can our students succeed with their lifelong learning goals.

Watch for our new winter catalog coming out November 24th with the winter term starting in January. We invite you to watch for our catalog or visit us on the web at [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org) to sign up for a class and reach your lifelong learner goals.



## A Time of Gratitude



**Ted Craddock**  
President

In the spirit of the holiday season, the Redondo Beach Education Foundation would like to thank all of its donors and supporters. The year 2014 should end as being another record-maker for fundraising, and this means more investment in our schools.

It takes a team effort to reach new heights. Our amazing RBEF board members, site reps and director have put countless hours into reaching our goals. We also have fantastic corporate partners who invest back into their community. We have a district superintendent and administrative leadership team who always go the extra mile to help us be the best Foundation possible.

Thank you to everyone who registered for the October Skechers Walk. We had about 1,400 walkers that morning, and it was a pleasure to see the school teams all participate together. We are proud of the fun and generous spirit that our Redondo students, parents and staff members displayed.

When we hear from the Skechers Foundation about how much money we raised, we'll share the news. Donations raised through the Walk will go back to the schools to help fund site-based needs and programs.

We also want to thank everyone who participated in the 2014 Donor Drive, especially those of you who continue to make monthly contributions.

It is through these gifts from our generous community and corporate and philanthropic partners that we are able to provide and maintain an exceptional staff and quality program for our schools. Thank you for helping promote college readiness, and for supporting science, music, and the arts.

Winter 2015 starts January 5, 2015  
Register by December 12 for an Early Bird discount!\*

**southbayadultschool**  
California Adult Schools  
LEARNING FOR LIFE

Classes for lifelong learning! [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org)

\*exclusions apply.

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The World Is  
Changing**

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Connect your world

**GED/High School Diploma**  
Life is better

Find out more about SBAS @ [www.facebook.com/southbayadultschool](http://www.facebook.com/southbayadultschool)

Pick up your free brochure at your neighborhood school office!

## Preparing Future Graduates



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

Every fall, the majority of our Redondo Union High School twelfth-grade students spend a considerable amount of time completing applications to attend colleges and universities throughout the country. We are confident that RUHS, the “Home of Scholars and Athletes,” has prepared them well for this post-secondary experience. But how can we be sure? How do we know?

One explanation is that we offer 25 different honors and Advanced Placement college-level courses each school year. And our annual pass rate for the AP exams is greater than 80 percent! Our school has produced 40 CIF championship finals, a highly competitive Academic Decathlon team, and nationally recognized programs in yearbook, school newspaper, MCJROTC and robotics.

Most recently, the implementation of the Project Lead the Way programs (PLTW) in engineering and biomedical sciences has allowed our students the opportunity to engage in real-world STEM experiences while still in high school. Our AVID program (Advancement Via Individual Determination) also supports students who will often be the first generation in their family to attend college.



**Class of 2014 graduates looking forward to beginning their post high school experience.**

Our students’ SAT and ACT scores far surpass those of other students nationally and in California. Redondo Union High School is a place where each of our Sea Hawks can soar. Thanks to the ongoing dedication, commitment and support from our staff members, students, parents and community, Redondo Union and the RBUSD truly are the place to be.

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## Pathways to Purpose



**Sue Hall**  
Principal

*By Lissa Watts, Alternative Education Counselor and Unique Campa, Art Teacher*

At Redondo Shores High School and Redondo Beach Learning Academy, we believe our students are on their own pathways to purpose, and we want to support each of them to succeed. Some of the programs that directly impact students in this endeavor are: PTSA; Associated Student Body (ASB); service learning; work experience; Wilderness Challenge; Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SCROC) classes; El Camino courses; leadership groups provided through Beach Cities Health District and the Clare Foundation; and school-based counseling groups.

In addition, students are being challenged daily to find and work towards their purpose in the classroom. Journaling, art, photography, creative writing, senior portfolios, hands-on projects and directed instruction are instrumental in helping students find their way. We asked students, “What is your purpose?” Some of the answers to that question include: finding happiness; attending college; attaining a specific career; maintaining sobriety; raising a child; and joining the military. While the answers vary among students, we know that ultimately they are all on their own pathways to success!

Many of our students are volunteering in the preschool and elementary schools and helping younger children reach their potential, too! They find their own strength and purpose by serving their community and making a difference in the lives of others. Others are working in Special Education classrooms and serving as mentors for students with disabilities. We are also proud of our leadership students, who are involved in several activities, ranging from Yearbook Committee and Event Photographers to Tournament Directors and Spirit Week Committees. ASB, led by Unique Campa and Allison Parsons, serves as a community-building club by developing school spirit and providing students with the opportunity to take part in creating and administering school activities. The students enjoy working together and supporting each other to reach their goals.

## South Bay Hands On Art

2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • [www.southbayhandsonart.com](http://www.southbayhandsonart.com)

## Fields of Lavender

*By Co-Chairs Alicia Rubio & Sue-Anne Silkes*

A virtual trip to Paris and a lesson in Impressionism was the basis of this month’s Hands on Art Lesson “Fields of Lavender”. A historical study on Camille Pissarro and a lesson in the impressionist style of painting resulted in beautiful fields of lavender on a French countryside. Students were introduced to the history of perspective drawing and the illusion of space using one point focus. Mathematical properties behind the concept of perspective drawing and then the knowledge to create a painting showing depth were also introduced. Students gained a better understanding of foreground, middle ground and background in landscape drawings and paintings.

Next month, print making based on contemporary Pop Art.



**Callie an 8th grader at Adams Middle School creates her Lavender Fields.**

## Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)



**Gary Feldman, MD**

Medical Director,  
Stramski  
Children's  
Developmental  
Center

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common childhood brain disorders, affecting millions of children between the ages of 4–17 in the United States.

A child with ADHD might have trouble focusing on tasks or subjects because the part of their brain that controls attention and activity is different, than a child without ADHD. Common symptoms of ADHD include difficulty staying focused, difficulty controlling behavior, and hyperactivity.

### A child with ADHD might:

- Daydream a lot
- Forget or lose things a lot
- Squirm or fidget
- Talk too much
- Have trouble taking turns



Diagnosing ADHD takes multiple steps. There's no way to tell if someone has ADHD from blood tests, X-rays or other medical tests. Doctors diagnose ADHD based on history, interviews and special evaluations — such as vision, hearing and learning tests. In most cases, ADHD is best treated with a combination of medication and behavior therapy.

As a parent, you can help your child by structuring situations in more positive ways. For example, restrict the number of playmates to one or two, to prevent overstimulation. Or, if your child has trouble completing tasks, divide large tasks into smaller, more manageable steps to help your child accomplish their goals.

Your child may be eligible for an “individualized education program” or “free appropriate education” if they are attending a public school. In order to make sure that your child is receiving the proper attention at school, be sure to discuss their specific needs with their teacher or school counselor.



## 45 Years and Counting



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

Child development centers first started during War II because there was an enormous demand for women's labor in the war industries. At the end of the war, federal funding stopped, but California was one of the few states that continued funding programs.

On January 22, 1969, the Redondo Beach City School District opened our first center, which was located at the South Bay Community Church of the Brethren on 190th street. On opening day, there were eight students, with a total enrollment of 40. Within one year, the enrollment grew to 120, with 30 on the wait list. In September 1970, we opened our second location at Lincoln and the third at Tulita, which supported the South side of town.

Now it's 45 years later, and we have four preschools and school-age programs at all eight elementary schools and both middle schools, bringing our current enrollment to 1,498 students.

### REDONDO BEACH SCHOOL REPORTER

18 - No. 2 Official Publication, Redondo Beach City School District February, 1969



1969 CDC Teachers.

## A Unique Developmental Center Tailored to Unique Needs

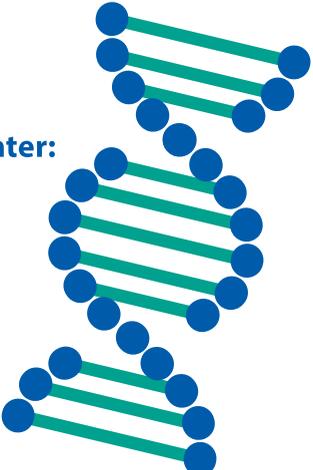


### Leading Comprehensive Care

**The Stramski Children's Development Center at Miller Children's is a comprehensive center that cares for children—from birth to age 21—with behavioral and developmental conditions, such as autism, Fragile X, ADHD/ADD, Down Syndrome, learning disabilities, behavioral sleep conditions, craniofacial abnormalities and cleft lip and palate.**

### Specialty Programs within Stramski Center:

- Behavioral & Neurodevelopmental Program
- Fragile X Program
- Craniofacial Program
- Sleep Disorders Program
- Genetics Program
- High-Risk Infant Follow Up Program
- International Adoption



Follow the leader to Miller Children's!



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MillerChildrens.org/Stramski



## Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Anthony Taranto**  
Principal

### Digital Citizenship

This is an exciting time for all of our Eagles as we incorporate the use of Google Chromebooks into the classroom. This valuable learning tool allows our students to connect, communicate, collaborate and share information with each other and their teacher.

Chromebooks can assist the facilitation of learning, as well as further engage our students in the learning and teaching process, to help extend it beyond the textbooks and traditional classroom walls. However, with the integration of technology comes student understanding about the importance of digital citizenship. Our students must now recognize the norms of appropriate and responsible behavior in regards to usage.

Our students need to be mindful of the following:

They must show respect for themselves before posting. They must protect themselves by not publishing personal details and protect their passwords. They must respect others by not using the electronic media to bully or harass, or pose as someone else online.

They must also protect others by reporting inappropriate materials or communications. They also need to respect the intellectual property of others.

Our students are digital natives. By acquiring digital citizenship, and applying digital etiquette, they will keep themselves and others safe.

## Beryl Heights *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
Principal

### The Importance of Parent/Guardians in the Learning Process:

**P**— Beryl School salutes the parents and guardians in our community. We couldn't do it without you.

**A**— Parents play an active role in our P.T.A.

**R**— Parents help read to the class and assist reading groups in several of our classes. They also model reading in their homes.

**T**— Parents track their child's progress on Easy Grade Pro.

**N**— Parents read weekly newsletters and keep current on their child's classroom activities.

**E**— Parents help set expectations along with the teacher.

**R**— Parents accept responsibility in assisting their child with homework and daily reading logs.

**S**— Parents supply our school generously with class and school wide donations.

**I**— Parents are in touch with the teacher through email and daily communication logs.

**N**— Parents are a necessary part of student success.

**L**— Parents instill the desire for life long learning.

**E**— Parents share their experiences and cultures, enriching our lives.

**A**— Parents attend important meetings such as conferences, Open House, Town Meetings, and Kindergarten round-up in the spring.

**R**— Parents raise children with character.

**N**— Parents provide a nurturing environment for their children.

**I**— Parents invest time and energy inside and outside the classroom.

**N**— Parents communicate the needs of their children.

**G**— Parents give of their time and talents, from P.E. lessons to Hands on Art.

Thank you Beryl parents and guardians for supporting our school and your wonderful students.

## Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
Principal

### Having An Effective Parent-Teacher Conference

Research reveals that students whose families are connected to school demonstrate improved readiness, achievement and social skills. One important way to strengthen that connection is through parent-teacher conferences. As the child's first teacher, parents have a wealth of information that can benefit the teacher and conversely, teachers can share important insights into students' talents and needs.

According to the Harvard Family Research Project, there are simple ways for parents to make the most of conferences in order to strengthen the family's connection to school.

Keep the emphasis on learning. Focus on how well your child is doing in school and how to do even better.

Ask questions. What do you see as strengths? How they doing compared to the rest of the class?

Ask to see examples of your child's work. Report cards are a common reporting tool, however nothing tells the story of the learning journey more than the work in the classroom.

Ask what you can do at home to help.

Find out how the school will challenge/support your child when they need it.

Make a plan. Write down what you will do, when and how often. Schedule another time to talk.

Talk to your child. Share with your child what you learned and how you will help with their learning journey. Children have great suggestions!

Assume best intentions. Both you and the teacher want your child to succeed. Understand that you will hear positive feedback as well as areas for improvement.

## Birney *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
Principal

### Safety First

Your child's school experience is vastly different from what yours and mine might have been. One stark difference is that today's students are growing up in a world in which media and technology are a very present and constant force. Teaching your children to be safe, smart, digital citizens is imperative as they navigate the high-tech world in which we live.

Children today spend a large portion of their day interacting with media and technology. These tools can serve as vehicles to educate, entertain, communicate, explore, create and socialize. You are the first generation of parents responsible for equipping your children with "digital citizenship" skills—the skills and knowledge to use technology and media safely and responsibly.

This begins with conversations. Talk to your children about what your expectations are in regards to Internet usage and safety. Discuss what sites they can and cannot visit. Define cyberbullying. Let them know that these conversations will be ongoing because, as technology and media evolve, adjustments need to be made accordingly.

It is also important to be mindful of your child's usage. Set a schedule that is balanced and ensures he or she is not spending an overabundance of time using media and technology. Time spent utilizing technology should not exceed time spent doing other activities.

Lastly, monitor, monitor, monitor! Find a place in your home's common area for your child to work and to house technological devices. It may be a daunting task to teach your children to responsibly use technology, but the end result will be well-rounded, happy children.

**Our next issue is February 4, 2015 and we'll have a brand new look! We are delighted to be converting to booklet size with glossy cover. Be sure to call Valerie (310-874-2716) or email [valerie@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:valerie@schoolnewsrollcall.com) to place your ad to be included and reach your target market.**

## Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

600 Harkness Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • <http://jefferson.rbusd.org>



**Dr. Oryla Wiedoelt**  
Principal

### Hands On Art

Thanks to the sponsorship of our Jefferson PTA, we are proud to have all of Jefferson kindergarten through fifth-grade students participate in our Hands on Art program, including our deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) students.

At Jefferson, we feel fortunate to have a semi-separate space for our Hands on Art program where the entire focus can be on art. Students create six art projects linked to a common theme throughout the school year. Sessions are led by two or more parent-volunteer “docents” assigned to each classroom. We are fortunate to have a large number of parent docents who volunteer

here at Jefferson.

To prepare for each Hands on Art lesson, docents spend multiple hours researching an artist, preparing a lesson, and assembling and organizing all of the materials required for our students to complete the art project. Students are then taught by our docents about the artist, the artist’s most famous pieces and the artist’s place in history. Students learn about the style and technique used by the artist and are then guided to re-create a piece of artwork.

Hands on Art encourages creative expression, allowing students the freedom to experiment with different media and techniques.

## Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
Principal

### An A+ for Assistants!

While a student’s teacher can be the primary difference maker for a child on a daily basis, there is a variety of additional staff members at Lincoln that make a positive impact on the lives of our students as well. With the front office staff, the noon-duty supervisors and our custodial team, Lincoln staffers put a lot of energy and focus into ensuring that students feel connected to school.



**Lincoln student working with one of our great Instructional Assistants.**

One group of employees to shine a spotlight on is our instructional assistants. Instructional assistants function in a variety of capacities ranging from supporting groups of students in one of our learning centers to individually supporting one student in a special-day classroom. The support that instructional assistants provide can be academic, social, behavioral or physical depending on the needs of the student. As a result, instructional assistants have the opportunity to work in a unique context and develop meaningful, constructive relationships with students.

## Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Drew Gamet**  
Principal

### Focusing on the Future

When educational professionals seek to improve student performance, we often look at learning the latest research-based instructional techniques, and having the best tools in technology. When parents are looking for the best educational experience for their children, they often focus on finding a school that has high rigorous standards and can meet both the academic and social/emotional needs of their children.

However, the barrier to learning for millions of students nationwide is the ability to clearly see the board at the front of the room, or the book in their hand!



**Madison students enjoy reading with glasses on.**

Luckily for Madison Elementary School, the Redondo Beach Rotary Club is bringing the “Vision to Learn” program to our school. Vision to Learn will work with RBUSD nurses to screen all of the students at Madison. A student not passing the screening will receive an eye examination, and if necessary, be provided with glasses free of charge.

Research by UCLA shows that performing a school-wide screening, and then providing corrective glasses, can have a measurable effect on academic performance. As the Vision to Learn program says, giving students the ability to see clearly helps them “Focus on the Future.”

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# Redondo Union *High School*

631 Vincent Park, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • <http://www.redondounion.org>



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
*Principal*

## The RUHS Teen Court is Now in Session

*By Lindsey Corcoran, Assistant Principal*

"All Rise. The Redondo Union Teen Court is now in session," sounds a student bailiff in the Redondo Union Teen Court. The RUHS "Bingo Room" has been transformed into a Teen Court on the second Wednesday of each month. The doors opened in November with its first juvenile cases.

Teen Court will allow our Redondo students to serve as jurors for young offenders from neighboring schools. RU students will determine the best course of action for first-time offenders charged with misdemeanor crimes. They will also organize and run the court, which is presided over by Judge Stuart M. Rice of the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Torrance. The cases for each session will be provided by the Los Angeles County Probation Department.

Teen Court is one of many recent legal-themed additions to Redondo Union. Our students are also competing in the Los Angeles County Mock Trial Program, and they recently attended an appellate court hearing through the Constitutional Rights Foundation's "Appellate Court Experience."

After the hearing, the students were able to interview the justices regarding the day's case. The justices will later visit the students at RUHS and share the results of the hearing.

Learning how to help young offenders is only part of the Teen Court program. Students involved in the planning of Teen Court also attended a five-day training program at the Museum of Tolerance this past summer, in order to take part in a juvenile hate crimes court. The program "Stop Hate and Delinquency by Empowering Students" trained our students to understand the courtroom role of tolerance and empowerment.

Our students hope that this Court will truly help young people in the South Bay and Los Angeles areas. Each court session will begin at 3 p.m., with juror training prior to opening cases. Join RUHS during our second court session on January 14 at 3 p.m. in the Bingo Room.

# Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
*Principal*

## Our PTSA and RBEF Make a Difference!

Parras Middle School is fortunate to enjoy the enthusiastic support of its PTSA. For years our parent members have been actively involved in making sure that our students always have a special experience.

To begin the year off, parent members made sure that our registration days ran smoothly. They helped register over 1,100 students in a matter of days! To expose our students to the visual and performing arts, our parents have also arranged to offer four outstanding performance assemblies each year.

Additionally, parents lend their time to help the teachers in many different ways. For example, the PTSA helps them organize the Renaissance, Egypt, and Greek Days. They host our teacher appreciation days too, and also volunteer their time and labor for many others important things.

The culmination of the PTSA's hard work and organizational effort can be seen at the end of the year, during the promotion dance for our eighth-grade students. The parents completely transform the cafeteria and surrounding area into a themed party and dance. Simply put, Parras would not be what it is without our PTSA's strong involvement!

In addition to our PTSA's assistance, Parras Middle School has also benefited greatly from the Redondo Beach Education Foundation's work to help raise money for our programs. As a result of their efforts, Parras has been able to provide its students with an extensive after-school intermural program. Our students are able to participate in sports such as softball, soccer, flag football, basketball, and many more!



**Parras students cheer on their teammates against Manhattan Beach Middle School.**

The Foundation has also supported our science program by investing \$12,000 into the science lab. With the RBEF's financial support, we were able to purchase new digital microscopes, models and lab equipment for our students to use. Along with intramurals, the RBEF has also funded student-connectedness by supporting the "Where Everyone Belongs" program (WEB). This program connects the eighth-grade students with the sixth-graders. WEB helps the sixth-grade students make the important transition from elementary to middle school.

Because of the great efforts of our PTSA and RBEF, Parras Middle School has been able to offer a wonderful experience, and a quality education, to its students.

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# Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Tanaz Farzad**  
*Principal*

## Elementary Engineering with the Robowaves!

This year, Tulita Elementary School was excited to offer fourth- and fifth-grade students the opportunity to participate in FIRST LEGO League (FLL), integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) applications and show that fun and learning go hand in hand. At Tulita, we want our students to experience STEM at a hands-on level, and being a part of the Tulita Robowaves fulfills just that. It is amazing to see what an inspired mind can accomplish and to see our students truly blossom.



**Robowaves finish building their table with Coach.**



**Tulita Robowaves show off their robot**

to the world of engineering, both through foundational skills and work with volunteer engineers who assist with the program.

In the month of November, the three Tulita Robowaves teams represented the school at various FLL qualifying tournaments, competing against other FLL teams in our region. We are so proud of our Robowaves teams and the work they have accomplished this school year!



**Robowaves receive recognition at qualifying tournament.**

# Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Kristen Holm**  
*Principal*

## Gift of Reading

As this holiday season approaches and children begin to make their wish lists, I encourage you to share your love of reading with your child. Do you remember your favorite book or favorite subject to read about? I remember my favorite book—Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. It was one of my favorite books because it was the first chapter book I read all by myself from beginning to end.

At Washington, one of our goals is to motivate and instill a love of reading in all of our students. Here are just a few examples of what you might see during the school day:

## The Many Faces of Literacy

**Shared Reading:** Students and teachers read the same book or story and discuss what is being read. Students are encouraged to use the text to support their opinion and participate in classroom discussions.

**Buddy Reading:** An older student pairs up with a younger student, and they read a book together. The older student asks the younger student questions as they read, checks for understanding, and teaches them strategies when they get to a word they don't know.

**Book Clubs:** They're one of my favorites! Students choose a book to read in a small group with their peers. As they read the book, they talk about what they are reading, write chapter summaries, and make predictions from evidence in the text.

**Teacher Read-Aloud:** Students listen and visualize as the teacher reads aloud. The teacher frequently stops to check for understanding and asks the students to make predictions.

**Independent Reading:** Students are able to go on RAZ Kids or A-Z Reading on their Chromebook and improve their reading comprehension by reading short stories and by answering questions. They can also use their Chromebook to read up on topics that they are interested in or need to research.

**Library Visits:** Students also have an opportunity to select either a fiction or a nonfiction book to read independently.

It is obvious that Washington students love to read at school! Sharing a book at home with your child is the greatest gift you could give him or her this holiday season. I wish you and your family a very happy holiday season, and may the New Year be filled with laughter, love and reading.



**Students in Ms. Hwang's fifth grade class buddy read with students in Mrs. Laster's first grade class.**



**Students in Mrs. Hall's fourth grade class participate in a book club while enjoying great conversation and the outdoors.**

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**Contest!!**

The flag is somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
(Please put RBUSD in the subject line)  
The contest is open to all ages — children and adults!

Your entry must be received by January 15, 2015. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations to Linda Rondeau winner of the November Contest.

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U8 Boys... Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:45pm  
U9 Girls... Dec 8<sup>th</sup> & Jan 12<sup>th</sup> 5:45-7:00pm  
U9 Boys... Dec 9<sup>th</sup> & Jan 13<sup>th</sup> 5:45-7:00pm

**TRYOUTS AT PALOS VERDES INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:**

U8 Girls... Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:45pm  
U8 Boys... Dec 10<sup>th</sup> & Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30-5:45pm  
U9 Girls... Dec 11<sup>th</sup> & Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 5:45-7:00pm  
U9 Boys... Dec 10<sup>th</sup> & Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 5:45-7:00pm

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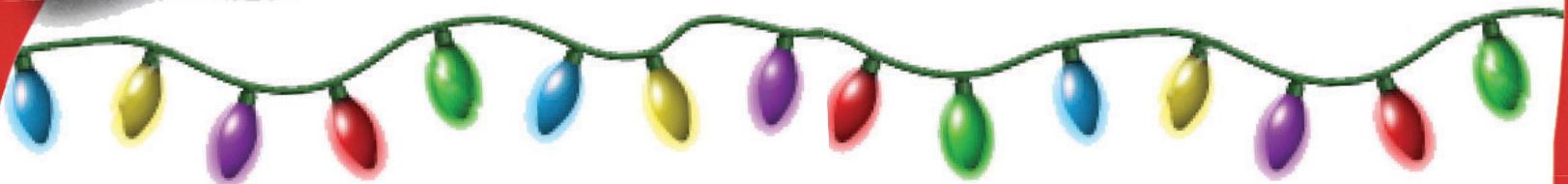
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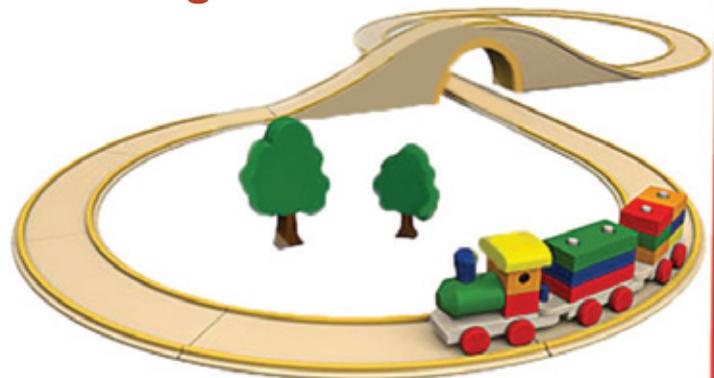
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