

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 16

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2015

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Brian Jacobs

Hi and welcome to the 2015-16 school year, it is energizing to know that BUSD is ready and well positioned to continue sustaining the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less." The promises to unite people, programs, and resources in new ways, from the California Standards, RTI (Response to Intervention), and Positive Behavior Interventions Systems, we are more than ready to assist our students to Excellence!

The priorities outlined below are critical to our continued success. As a parent, community partner, or employee, you are integral to ensuring that our schools are highly effective centers of learning. These priorities align with our current budget, as well as our Local Control Accountability Plan:

- Cooperation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the California Standards
- Excellent instruction (Direct Interactive Instruction) for all students and quality staff development for employees
- Intervention through RTI model at all schools
- Increased support for Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
- Increased attendance and school safety
- Maintaining the highest of graduation rates
- Supporting second language learners and special education students with high quality staff and instructional materials
- Gifted and Talented – Honors and Advanced Placement Courses
- Groundbreaking facility improvements thanks to Measure BB – HVAC at Thomas Jefferson
- Increased application of technology instruction and student access to technology within classrooms

Continuing this year is the shift in education's funding model. Adopted last June by the State Legislature was a new funding model known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). Governor Brown's budget reform was designed to create greater local discretion when it comes to funding student programs and instructional services.

The LCFF has provided the Governing Board and multiple district and community committees the opportunity to provide greater input into the development of the educational spending plan.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Jerry Cleveland, President

Hi, it is great to welcome everyone to the 2015 school year. It is an honor to be able to serve all three of our communities as a Board Member, and especially now as the seated President for 2015. To follow are some facts and thoughts I would like to pass along.

The Bellflower Unified School District currently serves a student population of just under 13,000 K-12 students, within an eight square mile area in southeast Los Angeles County. It includes most of Bellflower, a large portion of Lakewood and a small portion of Cerritos. Several of our schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, three have been honored

as National Blue Ribbon Schools and two were acknowledged as Title I Achievement Schools. Somerset Continuation High School has recently received its fifth commendation as a California Model Continuation High School. The district also includes an alternative education program, and a new Home Education/Independent Study Program, while also serving pre-school students in Head Start.

Bellflower USD continues to offer quality programs and services within safe and clean facilities. It is because of the efforts of the certificated and classified staff that our classrooms are engaging and in well-kept condition for our students to enter each and every day.

See BOARD OF EDUCATION • Page 10



Jerry Cleveland
President



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Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

Attendance Matters!

The Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) believes that every student deserves to learn every day. In order to learn, students need to be in class on time every day! Studies show student attendance habits start as early as kindergarten and bad habits only get worse as students get older. Students who miss only 2 days a month are at risk for not learning to read proficiently by third grade and not graduating on time. A student, who is late just 5 minutes each day, misses 2.5 days a year of instructional time!

Tips to help get students to school each day:

- Build regular routines for bed time and the morning. Go to bed, get up and leave for school at the same time each day.
- Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school. Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety; contact the school counselor if this is a concern.
- Keep a chart to record your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see. Include leaving on time as part of the chart.
- Be the example; avoid scheduling medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session. Excused absences are still time out of the class and time away from learning.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.
- Seek support from school staff or community groups with any concerns in getting your child to school.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Kay Coop



Welcome back to another exciting school year. I hope you had a wonderful summer. We look forward to our fourth year publishing the excellence from the BUSD.

On the front page Dr. Jacobs wrote about the District priorities to continue sustaining the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

In this issue the principals welcome you back to school and included some bio information. The common thread in this District is collaboration for student success.

Our next issue November 4.

School News

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Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Las Flores Home Education/Independent Study Academy

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



Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Providing a Connection Between Home and School

The 2015-16 school year has begun, and the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy Leopards are ready for another incredible academic season! As we enter our 4th year since establishment, we are thrilled to welcome many new students. The program's unique characteristics continue to draw families from a wide range of backgrounds, which creates a rich, multi-faceted student population. Embracing this diversity, the Las Flores Home Education Academy community continues to be a learning environment where parents have the common goal of assuming an active role in their child's education.

This year we are excited to see the addition of a "New-Parent Coordinator" who will act as a liaison for incoming families to ensure they receive the support needed to smoothly transition into this innovative learning community. A series of grade level Meet 'n Greets the first week of classes has already occurred. The goal is to help new families develop relationships with current families to collaborate throughout the year. We eagerly anticipate more of these types of activities as we strive to strengthen instruction for our students and build a strong learning community.

As we forge ahead we also look forward to continuing integration of technology into our instruction as we transition students into 21st century learning. With Wi-Fi in place, students will use Chromebooks throughout the day across the curriculum. Students will also be using the Google platform to create documents, surveys, presentations and other work that can be accessed from home. This will enable parents to gain even greater insight into what their students are learning and will provide an additional connection between home and school.



The halls proudly display a quilt designed by students and sewn with love by Lorena Banuelos, the mother of a first grade student at Las Flores Home Education.

In closing, we look forward to another year of learning adventures in a place where school, family, and community come together to build tomorrow's life-long learners and leaders.

Bellflower Unified School District

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-8

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.

Bellflower Unified School District Exciting Opportunities for Homeschool Parents

Classic Model

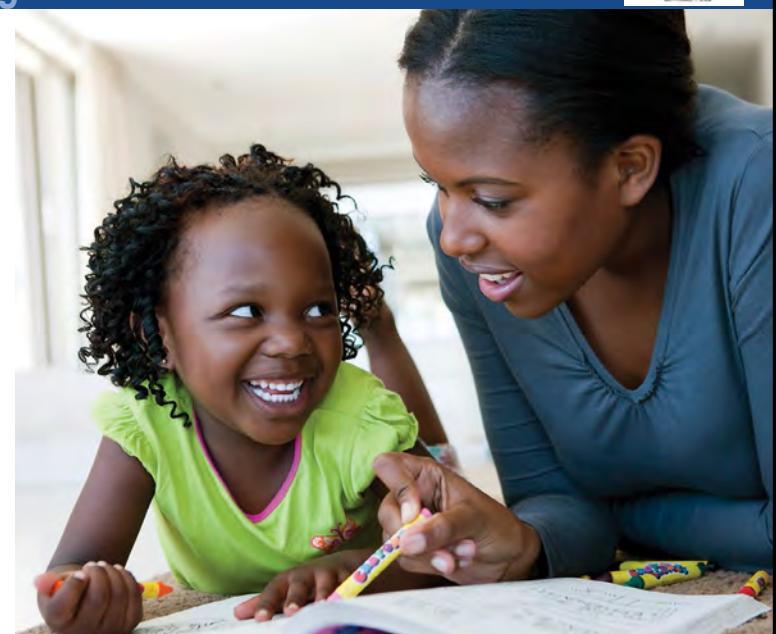
Grades K-8: Parents are the primary teacher five days a week. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Core Model

Grades k-8: 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

Each week students have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in an engaging, standards-based lesson and activity as well as a music, technology and Mandarin class.



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

Academic Assessment & Research

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



BUSD Anticipates the arrival of CAASPP Student Score Reports

Bellflower Unified School District eagerly anticipates the delivery of the CAASPP Individual Student Score Reports. Parents, students and teachers alike are looking forward to celebrating student successes from the first year of Smarter Balanced Assessments taken between March and June of 2015.

Students in grades 3-8 and 11 took an English language arts and Mathematics assessment last school year. Additionally, students in grades 5, 8 and 10 took a science exam. The results are being compiled into a single document for families which will be mailed home.

The new assessments come with new scoring bands and numerical values. Student scores now fall into four performance bands in ELA and math: Standard Not Met, Standard Nearly Met, Standard Met, and Standard Exceeded. The third and fourth band represent proficiency on the exam. Science scores will still follow the older CST performance bands: Far Below Basic, Below Basic, Basic, Proficient and Advanced, with the fourth and fifth representing proficiency. Students in grade 11 can also expect an Early Assessment Program (EAP) score. Grade 11 students scoring Standard Met or Standard Exceeded can earn conditionally college-ready or college-ready status.

The new score reports will feature two improvements over previous score reports:

- Surrounding students' numerical score will be a bracket representing a score range. This range indicates where a student's score may fall if they took the same test again. This range is an important addition because it acknowledges that both computer-adaptive assessments and children are variable. A student may take the same test on a different day and get a slightly different score. The bracket represents the range in which a student should fall.
- Families will also get additional information about a student's progress through claim-level data. In addition to an overall numerical score, the score report will provide performance bands in seven areas of learning. There are four claims in ELA and three in math. They are: Reading, Writing, Listening, Research/Inquiry, Problem Solving & Modeling/Data Analysis, Concepts & Procedures, and Communicating Reasoning. For each claim, students will be in three bands: Below Standard, At or Near Standard, and Above Standard. The purpose of the additional detail is to help families and teachers celebrate success and target areas for growth.

The State of California will be publishing additional statewide data in the coming months. BUSD's initial results looks promising. While we will have a lot to celebrate this year, there will always be opportunities for growth as we launch into a new school year.

Educational Services

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Language and Literacy in the 21st Century

Bellflower Unified School District strives to provide a world-class education for all students, one that ensures students are not only college and career ready, but also prepared to follow their hopes and dreams as well as share in the rich culture of our community and compete in today's global economy. Strong language and literacy skills are essential in order to realize this vision for our students. The Councils of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) outlines the capacities of literate individuals as:

- They demonstrate independence.
- They build strong content knowledge.
- They respond to varying demands of audience, task, purpose and discipline.
- They comprehend as well as critique.
- They value evidence.
- They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
- They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.

Academic Accountability

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Integrating Technology in the Classrooms

California Standards require that students be able to demonstrate the ability to use technology for research, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, communication, collaboration, creativity and innovation. In order to ensure that our students acquire these digital skills and be college and career ready, several professional developments were offered this summer to support teachers with the implementation of technology into their lessons.

Our own Bellflower Unified School District teachers led many of these trainings. This collaborative approach to teaching and learning fosters a professional learning community where teachers learn from each other. Topics included the use of Google Drive, Google Sites, Google Classroom, Google Apps, and other Technology Tools.

Technology tools and devices make learning much more student-centered and interactive. They also provide teachers with a host of additional engaging features to enhance their instruction. When technology is effectively integrated into content areas and across the curriculum, it helps make teaching and learning much more meaningful and fun. Technology also changes the way teachers teach, offering educators effective ways to reach different types of learners.

Instructional Personnel

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



Welcome New and Returning Staff and Students

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year! Instructional Personnel congratulates new staff to the Bellflower Unified School District. Thirty six new teachers have joined our elementary and secondary sites to provide an outstanding educational learning experience for our students. New administration including assistant principals, elementary counselors, administrative psychologists and district administration have also joined the BUSD team to support staff, students and families.

The start of a new year is an exciting time for everyone! There is a nervous energy and enthusiasm in classrooms and on the campuses. Teachers are excited to meet their new students and students are excited to meet their new teachers.

The Bellflower Unified School District staff is an amazing staff. We are committed to meeting the "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less" in each of our departments, classrooms, offices and facilities. Our goal is to provide extraordinary learning environments for students allowing them the opportunity to discover what life is all about and who or what they may want to do or be upon graduation.

The Instructional Personnel department congratulates the new members of our team and welcomes new and returning staff and students. We look forward to an amazing school year!

As a parent, you can help promote the development of strong language and literacy skills for your student by:

- Spending time in one-on-one conversation with your student; talk about your day, interests your student might have and a variety of topics. Avoid questions that prompt a one word response from students like "fine" or "good" and encourage them to expand their answers and conversations. Solicit their opinion and ask them to tell you why they have that opinion.
 - Encouraging reading of all kinds as well as modeling enjoyment of reading with a wide variety of literature sources including books, magazines, newspapers and online content. Talk to your student about what they have read. Have them share the main ideas, key points or reasons they agree or disagree with the author.
 - Sharing with your student about your family heritage, language and cultural. Express your thinking and invite your student to contribute their unique point of view and personal experiences.
- Together, we can promote 21st century language and literacy!

Elementary Education

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Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

Teacher Training: Gearing Up for School

One of the prevailing thoughts about educators is that teachers leave for summer vacation without a backward glance to their classrooms. In the Bellflower Unified School District, our teachers meet throughout the summer respite to refine and enhance curriculum and learn effective, research-based strategies to support students' learning. This summer, BUSD teachers studied how to teach cross-curricular content using the Depth and Complexity Icons with Dr. Sandra Kaplan from the University of Southern California. Teachers also studied the California Mathematics Framework and revised their mathematics curriculum accordingly with support from the Irvine Math Project at the University of California, Irvine. Teachers learned about the learning progressions across the grade spans with Great Minds.



Not all professional developments are led by outside speakers. Some of the most powerful learning occurs when teacher leaders facilitate collaborative conversations around research and best practices. This summer, four dynamic teachers led transformative three day institutes focused on close reading, text dependent questions, academic vocabulary, writing, and structured, supportive



collaborative grouping. After reading research from educational experts, BUSD teachers worked collaboratively to impact students' learning in their classrooms.

It is an exciting time for both teachers and students. Welcome back to another wonderful year!

Secondary Education

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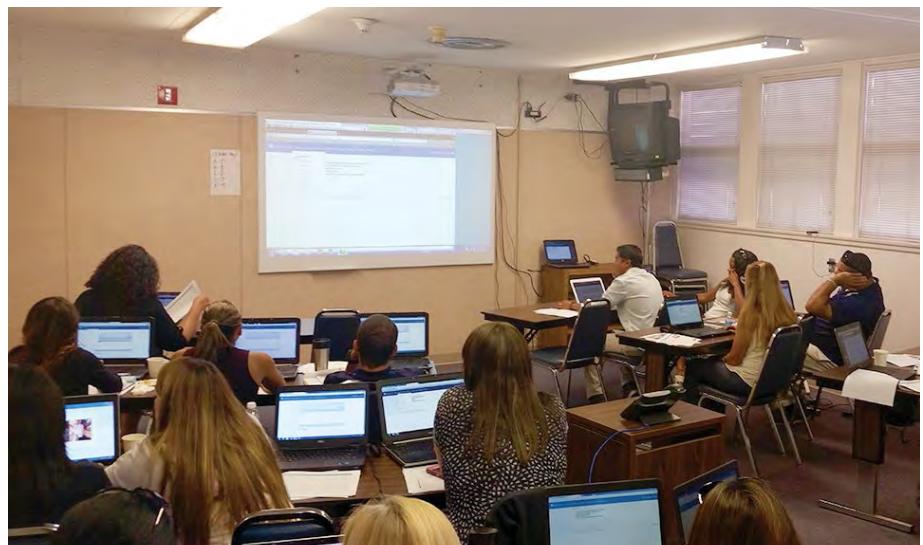


Colleen McKinley
Director

Prepared for a Strong Academic Year

The Secondary Education Office has been very busy this summer preparing for the 2015-2016 school year. High school math teachers decided to transition from offering traditional math courses (algebra, geometry, and algebra 2) to offering an integrated math course sequence to better align to state standards. Bellflower Unified will offer integrated math 1 in lieu of algebra in 2015-2016, and teachers have been busy this summer preparing. The scope and sequence was developed, the course was submitted to the UC/CSU system for a-g approval, and an intervention support class was designed. Math teachers will again work with the Irvine Math Project out of the University of California, Irvine this year. UCI will provide professional development and support to teachers in the implementation of this new course. In addition, integrated math 1 teachers are piloting a new textbook.

Not only were math teachers keeping the district busy this summer, world language teachers spent time planning curriculum and learning how to use their new textbooks and resources. An adoption committee selected new textbooks for our Spanish and French programs and world language teachers from Bellflower High School and Mayfair High School collaborated on this project all summer.



Counselors and administrators were also present this summer planning for the implementation of a new college and career readiness platform called Naviance. This exciting tool will be introduced to students and their parents in the 2015-2016 school year. Naviance will provide college and career planning tools to students and their families.

All of these elements will make for an even stronger academic year for the students of BUSD!

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Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Ready for a Successful Year

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year from the Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center, Adult ReEntry program, and the Adult Transition Center (ATC)!

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school that accommodates approximately 50 students from local campuses who attend the school. The BAE Center affords an educational option specifically designed for students in grades 7-12 who have been expelled from the school district; have been transferred for problems with absenteeism, excessive behavior, and/or academic failure by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), school administration or probation; or have shown other factors exhibited by at-risk youths. The program's purpose is to teach students to make appropriate decisions about behavior, have regular attendance, and strengthen their academics in order for them to return to their regular school and be successful. Because of the structure of the program and small class sizes, Bellflower Alternative Education Center has a low recidivism rate.

The Adult ReEntry program offers an alternative to the traditional high school setting and provides students needing additional time to complete their high school graduation requirements or the opportunity to earn their high school equivalency (GED) in an educational environment with individualized learning support. The majority of the students are referred from one of the district's three high schools: Bellflower, Mayfair, and Somerset.

The Adult Transition Center provides individualized support for special education students 18 to 22 years of age to transition successfully from high school to adulthood within the larger community. Students learn social and interpersonal skills, workplace skills, and independent living skills in order to live meaningful and productive lives.

We are looking forward to providing a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less," for the BAE Center students to return to their comprehensive high schools, the Adult ReEntry students to receive a high school diploma, and the Adult Transition Center students to live fuller lives.

About Mr. Patrick Dixon, Principal

Bellflower Unified School District is home for me, having been born and raised in the city. I attended Ernie Pyle Elementary School and Washington Junior High School and graduated from Bellflower High School. After high school, I attended Cerritos College and worked in a pizza restaurant in Bellflower. After 14 years in the restaurant business, I realized it was time for a change and became a full-time college student and a school custodian. I attended California State University, Fullerton, where I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in geography as well as my teaching credential.

I began my career in education at the continuation high school teaching geography and world history. Several years later, I attended the University of La Verne and Azusa Pacific University for my administrative credential. I became a program administrator in adult education, then an assistant principal, and finally principal for the alternative education programs. My heart and soul are firmly embedded in alternative education and continue to stress and support the importance of alternative education. I look forward to a successful school year in all three of these important programs.



Intensive Learning Center

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



SOAR

Welcome to the start of the 2015-2016 school year! My name is Dr. Isel Taylor, and I am happy to be returning to the Intensive Learning Center as principal. This year at the ILC in addition to expanding our Spanish Dual Immersion program to 2nd grade, we will be fully implementing school wide PBIS. PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. It is a system that is used by all staff members at the ILC to support our students by identifying and teaching appropriate behaviors and acknowledging students when they meet the expectations. Our motto at the ILC is S.O.A.Ring with Pride; our behavioral expectations are as follows: Show Kindness, Own your behavior, Act responsibly, Ready to learn

Hallway



At the beginning of the year all students and parents will have an opportunity to view a short video, written, directed and filmed by our Student Council. The video introduces the school wide agreement matrix that clearly outlines how our students should behave in all areas of the school. By emphasizing positive behavior and acknowledging students that demonstrate the ILC agreements we can continue to provide a safe, positive and productive learning environment where all our students can S.O.A.R with Pride and achieve a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

**Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School**

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Excellent Start to an Excellent School Year!

Albert Baxter Elementary is ready for an excellent 2015-2016 school year. All of the buildings on campus received new roofing this summer in preparation for the return of students. Measure BB funded the new white roofs that will keep students cool during the hot months. In addition, the school office received a facelift with a new coat of paint for the first day of school. Baxter Bears are ready for business!

A new counselor, Ms. Veronica Chiu, will support Baxter students this year. "I am very excited to be part of a district that values elementary counseling to assist each student in developing the knowledge and attitudes required to become competent and confident learners," states Ms. Chiu. Ms. Chiu's passions are "to help students identify their strengths and to provide the support necessary for each individual to achieve social, emotional, and academic growth." She looks forward to working closely with school staff, parents and students.



**Parent Beatriz Hinojosa and student
Kaleb Nuñez register for school.**

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

Collaboration Advances Education

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 2015-16 school year at Bellflower Middle/High School. I am honored to be the principal of Bellflower Middle/High School, a school with a rich tradition and legacy of excellence. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your student to provide an enriching educational experience. Beyond our core academic courses, Bellflower Middle/High School offers courses in technology, art, career technical education, choral and instrumental music, drama, and physical education. A well-rounded high school experience includes active participation in co-curricular activities. Students should become involved in our athletic programs, visual and performing arts programs, ASB, and student clubs. We encourage all parents to join PTSA, which provides financial support for our students and programs on campus.

Bellflower Middle/High School is excited to announce a new program beginning in the fall on campus, the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE). PIQE's mission is to connect families, schools and community as partners to advance the education of every child through parent engagement. Our vision is to create a community in which parents and educators collaborate to transform every child's educational environment, both at home and at school, so that all children can achieve their greatest academic potential. This nine week program begins on Wednesday, September 16 with two sessions for your convenience; 8:30-10:00 am or 6:30-8:00 pm. Meetings will be held in both English and Spanish. We hope to see you at many of the parent involvement events throughout the year!

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



**Confidence
Johnson**
Principal

Looking Forward to First Year As Principal

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year. I am Confidence Johnson, and this is my first year serving as principal of Stephen Foster Elementary. I joined the Bellflower Unified School District in 2013 as the Assistant Principal at Frank E. Woodruff Elementary and Ernie Pyle Elementary. I previously taught in the Hawthorne School District as a third and fourth grade teacher for ten years, and a Literacy Coach for four years. My first years as a teacher began in a private school for three years. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Spanish at Xavier University of Louisiana and my Master's degree in Cross Cultural Education from National University.

I am excited to begin my first year as principal with the Foster BOLTS. Stephen Foster has and will continue to exhibit the district's mantra: Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less. Due to our Local Control Funding Formula we are fortunate to grade level span reduction in K-3. Our teachers will be able to implement and model necessary strategies needed to fulfill the California State Standards. We are excited to have the installation of learning technology with Thin Client computers in our primary and upper grade labs. This will enable teachers to incorporate and integrate lessons through web based activities. My philosophy is 21st century learners need tools to adapt to the ever-changing world.

This year we are pleased to announce our new support staff members: Jennifer White, Elementary Counselor and Jason Grenon, Physical Education Specialist. Both will be a wonderful asset and addition to the Foster family. Ms. White will be able to assist teachers and students with various concerns as it relates to social and academic development. Through the continuation of our Physical Education program, teachers will be able to collaborate regularly during their Professional Learning Communities, also known as PLCs to discuss essential standards and academic goals. Lessons will be designed to meet the various modalities and levels of learning while monitoring student progress.

The Foster staff and I are privileged to serve the students and their families in the 2015-2016 school year. We are charged up to learn!!!

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



**Tiffany
Dominguez**
Principal

Infusion of Technology

Happy September! My name is Tiffany Dominguez, and I am excited to be taking on the role of principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. This is my 15th year in Bellflower Unified School District, having previously worked as a classroom teacher, intervention teacher, and assistant principal. I feel extremely fortunate to be back for another fantastic year, and am grateful for the opportunity to help lead such a wonderful school.

As a new year begins, Thomas Jefferson Elementary continues to be a district leader in the use of technology within classrooms – setting the standard for 21st century learning. Not only does every room come equipped with projectors, interactive white boards, and Mimio tablets, we also have an extensive amount of LearnPads and Chromebooks that students use daily. Our school is fortunate, as well, to have a full time technology teacher who provides support and instruction to students and staff.

In addition, we have begun to use Life Size – video conferencing technology that allows students to interact with others from anywhere in the world! It also enables multiple classes to participate in a lesson at the same time – no matter where they are in the school. Google Classroom is being used in many grade levels, and we are in the process of developing a media room. This will be a place where students can create videos, school newscasts, and projects using the latest technology available!

This infusion of technology helps foster student collaboration and engagement. It also makes learning more interactive, and provides our teachers with tools that help to enhance their instruction. As principal, it is my goal to continue to move Thomas Jefferson forward in the use of educational technology and know that it will have a significant impact on our students' ability to become college and career ready!

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Looking Forward to A Successful Year

It is with great pleasure that I begin this school year as the new principal at Esther Lindstrom Elementary. Previously to joining the Lindstrom Pride, I was principal for six years at Ramona Elementary, Assistant Principal at Thomas Jefferson and Stephen Foster, and a teacher within the Bellflower Unified School District.

Bonnie Carter
Principal

I joined the educational field as a second career after working for ten years as a legal secretary and paralegal. My passion for ensuring that ALL students are provided with an opportunity to learn and experience the excitement of mastering new skills propelled me to go back to college to complete coursework to become an educator. I earned a bachelor's degree with a concentration in kinesiology from Cal State Long Beach and a master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University of Irvine.

Esther Lindstrom has a history of academic excellence and has received recognition as a California Distinguished School and a National Blue Ribbon School. These accolades are a direct result of Lindstrom's dedicated teachers and staff, supportive parents and enthusiastic students. I look forward to getting to know the school community over the next few months and to working together to continue the commitment of the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Mayfair Middle School / High School

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



Highest Quality Academic Program

It is with great pleasure that I welcome everyone to the 2015–2016 school year. I am honored to be returning for my fourth year as principal of Mayfair Middle/High School. Before becoming the principal, I served at Mayfair as a health teacher, a coach, a middle school counselor, an assistant principal overseeing discipline and guidance, and an assistant principal overseeing special education, athletics and activities. I received my Bachelor of Science in health education from the University of Utah and my Master of Education in school administration from Azusa Pacific University.

I am proud of our mission at Mayfair: to provide our students with a rigorous, challenging academic program and classroom instruction of the highest quality. This year will be no different as we work hard to continue the Standard of Excellence. This is made possible by all of our dedicated teachers and staff members, supportive parents and enthusiastic students. As S.O.O.N.S. you Show respect, Own your actions, Overcome challenges, Never stop learning, and Serve others. By personifying this motto on a daily basis we will ensure success.

Outside of our comprehensive, standards-aligned instructional program, we believe that students connect with their campus and have a well-rounded middle and high school experience by getting involved with extracurricular programs. Students have the opportunity to get involved with clubs and athletic programs as well as our visual and performing arts programs.

I look forward to working with all of you in this upcoming school year.



Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Off to A Great Start!

The 2015-2016 school year is off to a great start! During the first week of school we had our official kick-off for School-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. Students, staff and parents are excited about the changes and direction we are taking to support social-emotional development and provide a safe learning environment.

Lisa Paioni
Principal

We also welcomed several new support staff members to the Ernie Pyle Learning Community. Jessica Cummings joins us as our new Assistant Principal. Mrs. Cummings previously served as teacher on special assignment with Project Apple and as a teacher at Craig Williams. Jennifer White joins us as Elementary Counselor after having served the district as a Guidance Intern. We share Ms. White with one of the other elementary schools, and are very grateful to the BUSD Governing Board for funding this vital addition to elementary education. Joining us as our new attendance clerk is Anabel Ibarra. Anabel has a background in Business Administration and customer service.



Our new Pyle Panthers are eager to demonstrate BUSD's Standard of Excellence and look forward to being of service to our families.

Washington Elementary

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



Many New Opportunities

Summer has come and gone and we are ready for another great academic school year. 2014-15 brought so many new opportunities for our students with the support of new staff and programs. Our 15-16 school year will bring even more. Dr. Montelongo, who has administrative experience as a Dean of Students, will be our new Assistant Principal. She comes to us with knowledge of working with EL students, families and enrichment. We will also have an Elementary Counselor, Marybel Hernandez who will help to ensure that students are on the right track both socially and academically.

Finally, our wonderful PLAYWORKS program will continue and we are happy to have a new coach join us. Her name is Mae Van Iderstine (Coach Mae) and previously was doing non-profit work in another school district. Some new teaching staff has joined us as well and some of our teachers have moved grade levels to help us continue in the right academic direction.



I want to continue to thank you for all your support and encourage all of you to become even more involved this year. We will be enhancing our communication system this year by using Class DoJo as part of our reward and communication system for PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems). We had great feedback from parents and teachers using it last year and want to take it to another level. We know not all of you are able to be on campus and the best involvement is ongoing communication with your child's teacher in whatever way you can.

2015-16 will continue to be a year for Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!

Ramona Elementary

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

An Exciting New School Year

My name is Dr. Deirdre Reyes and I am delighted to join the staff of Ramona Elementary to serve as the principal. Prior to this appointment, I worked at several other schools in BUSD as an elementary teacher, Reading Specialist, and principal. I began my teaching career in Ireland and I have taught every elementary grade level at some point in my career. I have also worked as an adjunct faculty member at Long Beach City College and National University.

I earned my Bachelor of Education from

St. Patrick's College in Dublin, Ireland, two Masters of Education in Reading and Administration respectively from the University of La Verne, and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education and Adult Learning.

At Ramona, we are looking forward to an exceptional year. It is an exciting and innovative time in education and the staff and students at Ramona are fully prepared for the rigorous learning opportunities that lie ahead. On our campus, we believe our students to be scholars and we treat them as such from the first day of school. The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to remind our students of our school wide behavioral expectations. From the welcome sign at the entrance of the school, to the cafeteria, to the walkways of campus, and in each and every classroom, our expectations are proudly displayed for all to see. Our Ramona scholars are expected to not only know and say the expectations but to show them in their

daily actions. Our teachers returned to school early to review our school wide PBIS plan and work in grade level teams to create lesson plans to teach each expectation during the first two weeks of school. We believe that this important preparation for the beginning of the school year sets our students up for success both academically and behaviorally. Our students are challenged to be scholars every day in every way! It is a busy and challenging time in education and the 2015-16 school year is packed with learning opportunities and programs that will keep Ramona students working at a standard of excellence, nothing less!

Go Rams!



Somerset High School

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

Focused On Goals

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year! Somerset strives to instill within students the knowledge that through consistent effort in academics they can achieve the goals they set for themselves in college and career. To kick off the new school year in a positive way, Somerset's Associated Student Body organized a welcome back assembly featuring the

Happiness is Now Touring group. Happiness is Now brought a message that encouraged Somerset students to find their passion and pursue that passion through gaining experience and education in that area. Happiness is Now main presenter, Danny Batimana, gave an inspiring message of chasing one's passion and shared his love of dance and how hard work as a choreographer led to success and happiness in his life. He then taught the whole school a dance routine that students and teachers performed for each other. Danny taught that chasing one's dreams at times means taking risk and those that danced definitely took a risk that helped bring our school together.



Students have fun performing their dance routine for the Back to School Assembly.

Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Woodruff Increases Student Support

I am thrilled to begin another school year at Frank E. Woodruff Elementary School. We have a strong teaching staff that is ready to meet the academic needs of our students. Our classified staff is also prepared to meet the varying needs of both students and families. I'm pleased to introduce Mrs. Wright as our new Assistant Principal. She has a strong instructional background and will be an asset to our current program. Another addition to our Woodruff family is Ms. Bond, our new Counselor.

This is a new position within BUSD and we are excited to provide another level of support for our students. Ms. Bond will work with individual and small groups of students to meet emotional and behavioral needs. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills to improve both academics and behavior. Our goal is to proactively meet students' needs before they transition to behavioral issues at school. Ms. Bond will work closely with Ms. Valdivia, Woodruff's Case Manager. I am also pleased to share that our Case Manager's hours are increasing. Ms. Valdivia will have the opportunity to service more families and meet students' needs through Caring Connections. One aspect of Ms. Valdivia's position is to assist with the Woodruff Clinic. Kaiser Permanente doctors meet the medical needs of all BUSD students through scheduled appointments. Feel free to call and schedule an appointment through Caring Connections at (562) 804-6545 ext. 7297.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



It also provides our districts with the flexibility in how to best provide resources to students through all academic endeavors. The LCFF model will be implemented over an eight-year span, and funding for school districts will be gauged according to the State's economy and revenue picture, as determined by the Governor and Legislature.

One of the fiscal accountability requirements for districts outlined within the LCFF mandate is how BUSD governs fiscal resources for specific subgroups of English Language Learners, socioeconomic disadvantaged and foster students. LCFF also speaks to class size reduction: districts must move towards a school site average of 24:1 by 2021.

BUSD is proud to have implemented class size reduction fully in the 2014-15 school year!

As superintendent, I am excited about the LCFF model in turning state education funding around, and securing more revenue for the future of our educational programs. I have enjoyed working with District employees and the community in creating a very comprehensive Local Control Accountability Plan that is reflective of the LCFF spending plan. In fact, the plan is located here on our website. Please visit that location and get a deeper insight to our goals and objectives for the year.

In closing, a final piece of critical information is that of student attendance. Student attendance is significant to academic growth. Therefore, the aspects of parents and guardians to maintain an attitude that "Every Day Counts" for students to be in school and to boost school attendance is crucial. Having your student understand this value of attending school daily and on time must be reinforced each and every day. Our schools will assist at helping parents and their families understand the importance of instructional minutes. Research shows that daily attendance is a major predictor of student success. You will hopefully see at our schools information and other related materials to help all of our children succeed in school and life through steady attendance.

2015-16 will be a fantastic year for our students and all stakeholders. With the support of our Governing Board, and special thanks, in advance, to all BUSD employees, we're ready for the challenge!

Have a terrific year!

About the Superintendent

Dr. Brian Jacobs joined BUSD as Superintendent of Schools on July 1, 2011. Brian received his Doctorate in Education Administration from University of Santa Barbara in 1999. He is also a graduate of La Verne College earning a B.S., in Social Science and an M.A., Education Administration.

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Welcome Back!

This summer has been a busy one around the Craig Williams campus! Through the generosity of our community and the passage of the BB Bond several classroom wings have been receiving entirely new roofs. Across the course of the summer the old roofs have been removed and new insulated ones have been constructed in place. This scene has been repeated at several schools across the Bellflower Unified School District as we are working to be prepared for a very wet winter.

Through the thoughtful planning of our Board of Education Craig Williams continues to boast class sizes of 24:1 in grades K-3 and 34:1 in grades 4-6 with no grade level combination classes. We have a model PE program led by our returning and highly qualified Physical Education Specialist. This year our student support staff is further supplemented by the addition of a counselor that we share with Ramona Elementary, and the return of our full-time guidance technician. Together, we look forward to providing an excellent educational experience for all Wildcats!

As we return to school please remember to leave a little early and allow extra time for students to be dropped off in the mornings and picked up in the afternoon. It can get busy in the drive-through and parking lots, but please remember to follow the directions of staff and practice patience with others. School begins at 8:35am with our morning flag assembly. Everyone is more than welcome to join us for this morning assembly, however, please remember to move to the parent reception area (behind the red line) as soon as the music begins so we can have a safe area for students and a safe area for adults. At the conclusion of the morning flag assemblies all classes will be dismissed to their classrooms and all adults will be required to exit through the front gates or school office so the school day can begin. Thank you for being a wonderful community of parents and we look forward to what the 2015-2016 school year has in store for Craig Williams Elementary School.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1



Jerry Cleveland
President

Many of the school facilities have been in need of upgrades and improvements to keep pace with the "Standard of Excellence." With the passage of Measure BB, I along with the Governing Board have seen wonderful improvements to our schools for the students attending on a daily basis. Thomas Jefferson is now fully air conditioned, roofs have been repaired and the infrastructure for improved technology has seen a huge increase. This is a great opportunity for our students to be even more engaged with learning through technology. We are looking forward to even greater improvements that will provide an even higher quality of school learning environment for all of our children. Thank you for your support in passing such a valuable bond measure.

Safe and friendly learning environments are also a top priority for the BUSD Board of Education. This is seen with each of our schools having a comprehensive Safe School Plan that is updated annually, Anti-Bullying Themes, Positive Behavior Intervention Systems, and Character Education Programs K-12. Each of these creates and sustains a positive and safe learning environment conducive to excellence. The Board of Education consistently enforces a zero tolerance policy for drugs and weapons.

With Content Standards at every grade level, a strong curriculum, and textbooks for every student, we are teaching fundamentals that will empower students to become active lifelong learners. We provide opportunities for support services for students at risk, to further enable them to become informed, productive, independent, and contributing citizens in today's diverse society.

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining these high quality programs and beautiful facilities while continuing to keep a balanced budget. We are continually looking for ways to strengthen our services and support programs in order to improve student learning.

Our students are at the center of all of our decisions, goals, and strategic actions. We pride ourselves on being student centered, and have high expectations for them. We want every student to meet the **"Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."**

What Are They Hiding?



Spirit Animals- Wild Born

By: Brandon Mull

In the first book of a fantastic series, four young children work with legends to save their world from the Devourer, whose goal is to take over Edras. They

must travel across dangerous lands while dealing with their own feelings and emotions of being pulled away from their homes- even if it is for the better. And to top it all off, their allies are being so secretive- what are they hiding? Are they really any better than the Devourer?

I would definitely give this book five stars because no matter how many times I read it, it always surprises me with new little things I hadn't noticed before because this book is just rich with details

Alana F. is a student at Las Flores Educational Center. Alana is a columnist invited to review her favorite books for our readers. She rates the books on a scale of 1–5 with 5 being the highest.

Note-ables

'Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!'



Kate Karp

This collection arrives just in time for the beginning of the school year, when teachers are scoping out their annual plans and parents are looking for some good, entertaining stuff to enhance their children's knowledge base. *Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!* is a real find—a brass-and-woodwind-heavy hail to the Civil War era.

The image shows the front cover of the book "Sing-a-long Glory" by Lloyd H. Miller. The title is at the top left, followed by a portrait of a man. To the right is a large graphic of the American flag with the words "GLORY! GLORY! HALLELUJAH!" written across it. Below the flag, the subtitle "an introduction to the Civil War era for kids" is written. The bottom half of the cover features a group of diverse historical figures from the Civil War era, including a Black woman, a man with a guitar, and several men in period clothing. The overall theme is historical education through music.



eed narration of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address squares the corners of this enriching collection. And best of all, an online curriculum guide is included to further link this rich era to our present.

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

***Curious George Goes to the Zoo*–Word Search Contest**

Rules!

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 BUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by October 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Amazing	Giraffe	Water
Animals	Headquarters	Wild
Climbed	Hippo	Wonderful
Curious	Leaves	Zoo
Danced	Park	Zookeeper
Fun	Party	
George	Rhino	

Congratulations to Julian Antunez Winner of the May Contest!





The more she grows, the more you **SHARE.**

Her bright future is coming fast. Share more by investing with ScholarShare, California's 529 College Savings Plan. You'll take advantage of low fees, plus tax-free growth potential and withdrawals to be used at most colleges, universities and trade schools—and you can start with just \$25.

Open a ScholarShare 529 College Savings Account for your child today.



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit ScholarShare.com for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager. The ScholarShare 529 Twitter and Facebook pages are managed by the State of California. The tax information contained herein is not intended to be used, and cannot be used, by any taxpayer for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings.
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