

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 17

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

Off to A Strong Beginning

By Dr. Brian Jacobs, Superintendent

The 2015-16 school term is well underway and our teachers are to be commended for such a strong opening. Each school site continues towards the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less” as they incorporate the effective teaching principals of Direct Interactive Instruction, Thinking Maps, Response to Intervention models, and highly effective Positive Behavior Interventions Systems (PBIS). A huge thank you to our teachers and all administrative team members for making this start of the school year begin with such positive energy!

I also need to note that every member of the classified staff have been an integral part of supporting all of the district initiatives and ensuring that students are being assisted in and out of the classroom. Without the efforts of these key classified team members, the high quality start of the instructional year may have fallen short of the expected “Standard of Excellence.”

As Superintendent for the Bellflower Unified School District, I am truly blessed and really excited about this new school year. I am excited not just because of the academic excellence we displayed last year, but knowing that we have communities and parents that support the Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less is modeled daily by students and staff members. As we are now underway with this new school year, I am looking forward to surpassing the achievements of the past and meeting the innovative challenges that lie ahead.

Speaking of the future, one major contribution for students of our district has been the passage



An Example of Excellence as Mayfair Middle School Receives Statewide Recognition for Civics Learning in the Middle School. (L to R) Dr. Avila, LACOE, Jeff Caron, MMS Teacher, Debbie Cuadros, Board Member, Tiffany Harville, Asst. Principal MMS, Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent, Dennis Guerra, MMS Teacher, Dan Fong, MMS Teacher, Matt Eeles, Principal, MMS/MHS, Dr. Brian Jacob, Superintendent

of the \$79 million dollar General Obligation Bond. The passage of Measure BB has now brought and will guarantee improvements to the structures and instructional operations of the District. Since Measure BB was passed in the fall of 2012 we have already completed the following:

- Expanding District vocational education programs/facilities including automotive technology, medical and health technology, and construction trades.
- Upgrading classrooms with up-to-date computers and technology. Wi-Fi across all schools and the District Office.
- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. Thomas Jefferson

100% Air Conditioned with Ramona and Frank E Woodruff Cafeterias slated for later this year.

- Upgrading and improving physical education facilities and programs.
- Repairing and replacing leaky roofs.
- A state of the art Science-Technology-Engineering-Arts-Math Building at Mayfair Middle/High School
- Air Conditioning both high school gymnasiums
- New sports fields at both high schools

See OFF TO A STRONG BEGINNING • Page 9

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Pressing On to Greater Accomplishments



Jerry Cleveland
President

I have had the pleasure and honor to serve the cities of Bellflower, Cerritos, and Lakewood for over 20 years as a Governing Board member. During this period of time I have had the opportunity to expand programs in BUSD, while also working collaboratively with my fellow Board members in some very challenging times of the “Great Recession.” But through it all, as a Governance Team we have pushed forward and to this date have created a wonderful school district for our students and families.

Bellflower Unified School District continues its efforts to provide the “Standard of Excellence” for every student and family we serve. The energies and efforts of BUSD employees are truly appreciated and the rewards and recognitions received by our outstanding students are extremely gratifying.

A critical link to the success of our students and schools is that of our administrative team. It is important that each school site and district level administrator provide a unique opportunity to re-invent practices at schools and across the District. Rather than embracing only those values which we identify as uniquely “BUSD,” we have an obligation to consider new possibilities in procedures, instruction, and relationships. Our superintendent provides those expected qualities to all schools in BUSD while ensuring they are pursuing and sustaining academic excellence.

As Board President, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments achieved as the District continues to focus on student achievement, instructional improvement and a Local Control Accountability Plan that ensures the most

See BOARD OF EDUCATION • Page 9

Board of Education



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Alana's Book Review

Book Two *Spirit Animals – Hunted*



Alana F.

Continue the bold adventure of Greencloak allies Rollan, Meilin, Abeke, and Conor as they travel across Edras once again to find another talisman — the Iron Boar. However, yet more enemies stand in the way — an old acquaintance from Conor's homeland, along with three other children claiming to have summoned legends. Meanwhile, Abeke struggles to fit in with the others while constantly being portrayed as a traitor. Will she be able to win over her new teammates? Or will Abeke be forever accused as a follower of the Devourer?

I would give this book five stars because it really starts to outline some of the emotional struggles the characters are going through and while reading this book you really get the feeling that the inspiration for this amazing piece of literature came from the heart.

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.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School is well underway and students have already accomplished so much. In this issue you'll learn about how students are doing their part to stomp out bullying and demonstrating positive behavior, the importance of home and school connections and so much more. Thank you for being concerned and involved parents to help your children succeed.

Our next issue is January 13, 2016. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

School News

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Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Improving with Improvisation

Students at the Home Education Independent Study Academy are getting a lesson in thinking on their feet. As part of the Enrichment Friday program throughout the month of October, students are learning the art of improvisation. Linda Isai, the parent of a kindergarten and a second grade student at the school, organized a team of parents to plan and implement the weekly workshops. Mrs. Isai's talents originate from the prestigious Cerritos College G.I.P.S. (Generic Improvisational Peep Show) that is proudly celebrating its 30-year anniversary this year. She believes that learning how to do improvisation will

help the students not only build self-esteem but also learn the important life skill of being able to think and respond quickly in any given situation.

Amidst giggles and guffaws, the students began learning improvisational techniques through games such as Zip, Zap, Zup and Freeze Tag where they had to stay focused and rapidly react to prompts and various unique circumstances. The most popular activity was Props where in the style of "Whose Line is it Anyway?" students had to creatively use unusual items to tell a story.

Early in the first session many students were hesitant to participate in the silly activities, but after watching and laughing as parents modeled for them, they began to enjoy themselves and each other. We look forward to seeing them grow and mature over the course of the month as they learn and engage in more of the improv activities. Who knows? Perhaps the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy will proudly claim comedy stars in the future. Only time will tell, but for now we will sit back and enjoy the show!



Katin Taylor participates in "Props" during an Improvisation Workshop at the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy.

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 Accountability

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



Dina Hernandez
Director

Success Breeds Success

Teacher quality has been consistently identified as the most important school-based factor in student achievement. Knowing that, Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD) provides multiple staff developments throughout the year to help teachers strengthen their craft and improve their lesson design and delivery to increase student achievement and success.

In addition to teacher quality, consistency and focus on programs, practices, policies, and procedures are essential factors to student learning. To this end BUSD has clearly identified some district initiatives that are intended to ensure effective instruction. Among those initiatives is Direct Interactive Instruction (DII). DII is an instructional approach to teaching that is systematic, consistent and predictable. It has research base common core solutions and strategies. It is data driven and it addresses: Standards and Measurable Objectives, Lesson Structure and Sequence, Student Engagement and Proactive Classroom Management. It focuses on learner variables such as transfer, motivation, and retention of knowledge with high expectations and expanded opportunities to maximize academic learning time.

We are in the fourth year of DII implementation. All teachers have been trained in DII. Most currently, our new BUSD teachers just completed their initial two day training in September and October. In addition to the initial DII training teachers are also provided with opportunities to participate in co plan co teach. Focus on coaching and long-term professional development is critical to the implementation of quality instruction. DII professional developments models how to maximize the allocation of time for instruction and how to increase the engagement rate, so that students can experience more meaningful academic tasks that results in a high level of success.

Effective teachers increased student achievement. What happens in the classroom matters more for student learning than any other factor. By providing our teachers with professional development we build our collective capacity and develop shared practices because we can do more together to improve teaching and learning than we can do individually. DII advocates teaching as an intentional act. In their words "Success breeds success".

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Isel Taylor
Principal

Making Good Choices is the Name of the Game

Through-out the day, the staff at the Intensive Learning Center (ILC) encourages students to make positive choices via the implementation of a new Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) model where ILC Eagles will SOAR- Show kindness, Own your behavior, Act responsibly, and are Ready to learn. At the ILC encouraging good choices doesn't end there!!

Teachers are also encouraging students to make healthy eating choices through the implementation of the Harvest of the Month program a program that features nutrition education tools and resources to support healthy lifestyle habits like eating fruits and vegetables every day. In addition, this school year, a team of teachers at the ILC have started a garden club. Students have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of sustainable gardening; planning, planting, harvesting and eating! Students are learning about good food choices as they build a love of nature and an awareness of local ecology and the environment.



Academic Assessment & Research

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



James Fleming
Director

BUSD Celebrates CAASPP Successes

Bellflower Unified School District received the 2015 California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) scores, and results look good. BUSD has a lot to celebrate and the results will be used to improve instruction district-wide.

- BUSD met or exceeded district expectations in ELA and math. The data supports that we growing in the right direction during our 2nd year of implementation of the new standards.
- BUSD showed relative strength in the areas of writing, listening, research, and communicating reasoning.
- BUSD's English Learners were strong performers in grades 3-6, when compared with the county and the state.
- BUSD's economically disadvantaged students outperformed the county in almost every grade level.

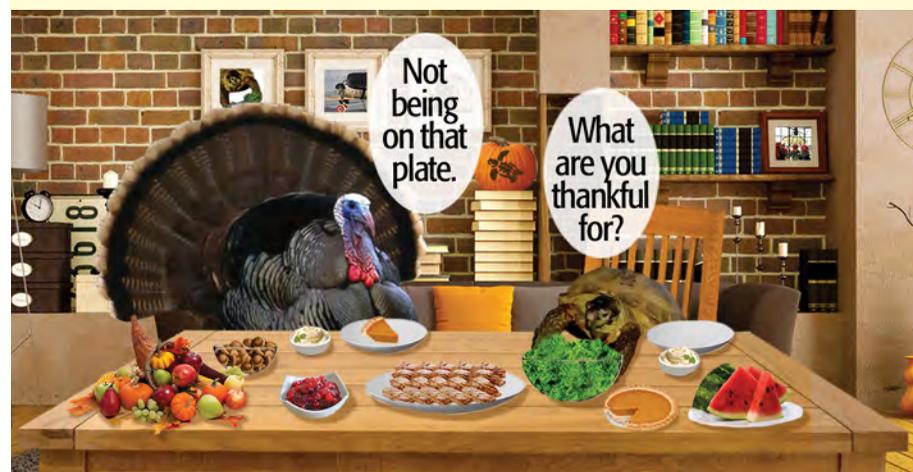
BUSD sees these assessments as an academic checkup. They are one indicator of student progress. Individual Score Reports were recently sent home for all students who took a CAASPP assessment last year; students who were in grades 3-8, 10 & 11. The new score reports will feature two improvements over 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.

For a video explanation of the score reports, visit <https://youtu.be/FQq4qlOCrmk>.

Our schools are still adjusting to the new standards, and the assessments that go with them. We know that many if not most students will need to make significant progress to reach the challenging new goals we have set. The first year of assessment has provided valuable formative information to students, parents, teachers, principals, and district leadership.

Happy Thanksgiving from the School News Staff



Our office tortoise, Cheeseball, is getting ready for Thanksgiving. (you'll need this page # for the contest on page 11)

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Something in Common

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school that provides an alternative educational option specifically designed for students in grades 7-12 who have been expelled from the school district or have been transferred by a school administrative team for problems with behavior, attendance, and/or other factors exhibited by high-risk youths. With the goal of having students successfully transfer back to their home schools, the program's purpose is to strengthen academic skills, to teach students to make appropriate decisions about behavior, and to understand the importance of attending school.



Ms. Bellomo measures a student's jumping distance.

The BAE Center focuses on the development of pro-social skills, along with core academics, for a successful transition back to their home schools. The BAE Center uses the same curriculum and instructional strategies as the other schools in the district to ensure continuity. The BAE Center has been involved in the transition to the California Standards, along with the rest of the district, with the implementation of the Irvine Math Project (IMP) from UC, Irvine. IMP trains teachers how to incorporate hands-on activities into their math lessons, which is an important aspect of instruction.

Students in Ms. Bellomo's integrated math class are off and running with an activity-based project graphing the distances of standing and running jumps, and the correlation between distance and speed.



Ms. Bellomo and student preparing the standing jump math activity.

Educational Services

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Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant
Superintendent

Fostering a Growth Mindset

Discovered by Stanford professor Carol Dweck, Ph.D., a growth mindset is the belief that we can develop or improve our abilities, including intelligence. The growth mindset is contrasted with a fixed mindset; the belief that abilities can't be changed or improved. Research shows that students' beliefs about their own intelligence play an important role in their school achievement and, that parents and teachers can influence the development of these beliefs. Students who believe their intelligence is simply a fixed trait may perform more poorly on challenging tasks than students who believe their intellectual abilities can grow. Children with a growth mindset often seek more effective learning strategies, work harder and persevere in the face of setbacks and challenges, as well as ultimately achieve higher levels of competence.

How can we promote the development of a growth mindset for students?

- Reinforce that it is okay to fail sometimes, and that this happens to everyone.
- Share that failure is a chance to learn, improve and to do better the next time.
- Encourage students to give their best effort, and help them understand that failures are not a cause of shame or an indication of their value as a person.
- Provide praise often, focusing on effort and hard work. Instead of offering praise such as "good job!" or "I like that", provide specific feedback focused on the value of students' effort and persistence.
- Offer continuous challenges and encourage students to try new things, especially if they feel that they are not good at them.
- Be a role model. Talk about your own challenges, the mistakes you make, the lessons you are learning and your progress towards goals. Students observe and imitate adults.

Perhaps next time your student encounters a difficult task, and is tempted to think or feel, "this is too hard," support an attitude that reflects, "This may take some time and effort, but you can be successful."

Elementary Education

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



Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Lives

We are privileged to offer physical education (PE) at each of our elementary school sites. With the support of our generous Board of Education, every TK-6th grade student receives 200 minutes of physical education and health instruction every 10 days. PE Specialists are assigned two school sites and work with entire grade levels of students twice a week for 45 minutes and on alternating Wednesdays for 30 minutes.

During this time, our teachers work collaboratively to review student assessments and craft lesson plans designed to support students' mastery of the California Standards. In addition, teachers receive grade level planning and time to plan on their own. Meanwhile, our students are learning how to move their bodies in safe and fun ways. PE is fun!



Mr. Centano leading a group of students during PE instruction.

Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

Students at Whitewood Get a New Playground!

September 11th was an exciting day at the Whitewood Preschool. The students and Board members attended a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the newly installed playground. The playground was expanded and new equipment was added. The students have been playing happily ever since.

October is Bully Prevention Month

The Bellflower Unified School District is committed to preventing bullying from occurring on our campuses. Students at district schools learned how to identify and respond to bullying behavior appropriately. This month's events included wearing blue shirts on October 5th as a symbol of our commitment to stomping out bullying, door decorating contests, and presentations to students and parents. For more information on bullying, the district has a brochure located on the district website: <http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/districtbullying.html>.



BUSD Board members: Paul Helzer, Vice President, Debbie Cuadros, member, Dr. Sue Elhessen, Clerk, Jerry Cleveland President.

Secondary Education

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



Colleen McKinley
Director

Career Pathways – Preparing Students for Tomorrow

Bellflower Unified has a long history of having a strong Career Technical Education (CTE) program. California revised its CTE standards to ensure students are career and college ready and to prepare them for future careers. These standards are organized into 15 high-employing industry sectors and align with California standards in core academic content areas. Our CTE teachers have been working on revamping our CTE courses and career pathways to align with these rigorous standards.

Within each of the 15 California industry sectors, there are a variety of unique pathways. Each have an occupational focus, are appropriate for high school, and lead to high-skill, high-wage, or high-demand jobs. In Bellflower Unified, we have developed nine pathways and plan to expand each year. Currently, at Bellflower High School, students have the option of Automotive, Construction, Film/Video, Graphic Production, Culinary Arts, and Electronics. At Mayfair High School, the pathways are Web Design, Business, and Accounting. In addition to the career pathway courses, we have a variety of introductory level career courses at each site, such as Introduction to Health Careers, photography, and computer literacy.

As we continue to expand the college and career opportunities for our students, Bellflower Unified is forming a CTE advisory committee made up of industry partners to help us shape and expand our programs. Through these partnerships, the community can be involved in preparing our youth for their future. It is exciting to see students in CTE courses have the opportunity to make connections to their core curriculum while also learning about and preparing for their future career while still in high school.

Head Start

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/461-2227 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Cristina Blevins
Director Child
Development

Child Development Programs

Bellflower Unified School District's Head Start and State Preschool program is gearing up for a great school year. The program has gone through many changes this summer as it welcomes new administrative staff. We welcome new Child Development Supervisor, Rochelle Santacruz who joins us with a passion for raising the quality of early childhood education in the classroom and a drive to offer coaching and mentoring to our twelve classroom teachers, focusing on high quality teacher-child interactions and intentional teaching.

We are happy to open a new classroom at Las Flores with our newest early education teacher joining us, Veronica Jimenez. Veronica is an asset to our team and comes to us with experience from the US Marine Corps and Crystal Stairs Head Start. Our team is excited to have her on board.

As our school year kicks off, we welcome a new Policy Committee, comprised of parent representatives. The Head Start Policy Committee is involved in every aspect of our program and provides guidance as well as advises the program director and staff of the direction the program might go in order to maintain the standard of excellence we strive for.

If you're interested in seeing firsthand what goes on in an early childhood classroom, feel free to contact our Head Start office at (562) 461-2227 to schedule a visit of one of our 12 classrooms at Ernie Pyle, Las Flores, Thomas Jefferson, ILC, Frank E. Woodruff, or Washington Elementary.

Instructional Personnel

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



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

Induction Program

Instructional Personnel welcomes our new teachers to actively participate in our outstanding BTSA Induction program. Our program is integrated within the California Learning to Teach System and has been servicing new teachers since 1994. Aligned to the State of California, the program embraces a pathway for teaching staff to clear their credential. The BUSD BTSA Induction program is a single district two-year program aimed at providing support and assistance to teachers early in their career to ensure success and support longevity. Participating teachers are assigned a support provider within thirty days of initial

hiring. The goal is to match a support provider with a participating teacher who share a similar credential; subject matter specialty, assignment, and are on the same campus. Teachers and mentors utilize a reflective process to foster the advancement of professional practice for both the mentor and new teacher.

The BUSD BTSA Induction program recognizes that teaching is a complex process and is ever changing. New teachers need extended support and professional development when continuing to develop their skills and abilities needed to foster learning with a diverse student population. During the early months of the school year, BUSD BTSA Induction focuses on: School, Family and Community Resources, Class Profiles, Family Communication, Lesson Planning, and Analysis of Student Work.

Throughout the program, Participating Teachers work with Support Providers during informal meetings, curriculum planning, and modeling lessons. The "Induction Insider", a monthly newsletter, is provided to all participants. The newsletter shares important program updates, professional development workshops, and important deadlines. Monthly communication often includes profession reading suggestions as well as encouraging or inspirational articles.

This year's Induction program supports twenty-one first year teachers, twenty-seven second year teachers, and nine interns. We have six local private schools that also send their new teachers to our program to assist their staff in clearing their credential. The Instructional Personnel department is committed to meeting the "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less." 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. Outstanding teachers in the classroom make extraordinary experiences possible for our students!

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Bears Stomp Out Bullying!

Albert Baxter Elementary participated in a month-long bullying prevention program. Baxter Bears joined students around the country in wearing blue shirts to “stomp out bullying” at school. Students attended classes on Tattling vs. Telling, Conflict vs. Bullying and Bystander Intervention. The goal of the program is to encourage students to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying.

Our school uses universal language to assess student behavior to consider whether it is an Everyday Conflict, Annoyance, or Bullying.



Student Council members wear their blue shirts in support of bully prevention month.

Everyday Conflict: an example of this is when children argue or don't agree over something like a playground activity. Neither person involved wants attention or power. Feelings may be hurt or they may disagree but it is at a level where they should be using problem resolution themselves (with a teacher, supervisor, or parent if needed). Moreover, it is an isolated incident.

Annoyance: a behavior is happening infrequently; such as, a boy keeps pushing another boy in line after recess multiple times a week in a joking, impulsive way. The behavior is annoying, irritating, or bothersome. It is not appropriate and may require adult intervention.

Bullying: any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct where the experience has a detrimental effect on a student's physical/mental health. The behavior is interfering with academic performance, or interfering with his or her ability to perform or benefit from school services. The behavior is frightening or harmful and the bully shows no interest in resolving the conflict. This requires adult intervention.

Our Baxter Bears are working together to solve everyday conflicts, to find solutions to annoyances, and to end bullying at school.

Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!
Our next issue is January 13, 2016!

Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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



Michael Lundgren
Principal

Time for Giving

At Bellflower Middle/High School the annual gift of giving has been growing every year. As November is upon us, and the upcoming holiday season will soon be celebrated. This time of the year reminds us of beautiful moments and happy holiday memories, celebrated with family and friends in the past and also gives us another chance to relive them and create new ones. It is also a time to be thankful for all that is positive in our lives: family, friends, health, and happiness. Every holiday season, Bellflower students, in support of the Bellflower Volunteer

Center, show their generosity and community spirit by collecting canned food or non-perishable food items; the food items help many Bellflower families during the holiday season. This year the canned food drive will be held from November 2 through December 4. The Volunteer Center works closely with Bellflower Unified School District's Caring Connections program to reach out to our local residents who are in need during this time of the year. Bellflower High/Middle School is the single largest contributor to the can food drive, having donated over 5,000 can food items last year! This year, our goal is to surpass that number and to help even more residents of the City of Bellflower. I encourage all of our families and students to do what they can because every little bit helps! Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

School to Home Connections

With the school year under way, I am excited to introduce a new series of family events that will be taking place monthly here at Thomas Jefferson. These events will encourage community involvement, give parents the knowledge and skills they need to assist their children in understanding the New California Standards, and will provide students with additional enrichment activities. As a staff, we always strive to provide our students and their families with the best service possible, and these activities are just one of the many ways we hope to accomplish that this year. Some of the family nights we have planned are: Thinking

Maps At Home, California Standards Math Night, Star Gazing Night, and Bingo for Books. I am confident that these events, which extend learning and community building beyond the regular school day, will make Thomas Jefferson Elementary an even greater place to be!



Parents and Students Enjoying Thomas Jefferson's First Annual Family Movie Night.

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Among the Nation's Best

At Esther Lindstrom Elementary we are committed to providing a collaborative and safe environment where students are cooperative, compassionate, and confident, use 21st Century skills and attain academic excellence preparing them to be among the Nation's best. One way that we are helping our students to be competitive in the future is by incorporating the arts within our program school wide. We know that students that participate in the arts show gains in academic subjects, critical thinking, motivation, and confidence.



Last month, our students participated in Meet the Masters learning about Vincent van Gogh and produced artwork based on van Gogh's masterpieces. Weekly our Kinder – 2nd grade students participate in sing-a-long and our 5th – 6th grade students have the opportunity to participate in Chorus or Band. Recently, Lindstrom's PTA hosted a "Creative Careers Art Night" and invited Community members to help inspire Lindstrom students to participate in the PTA Reflections contest. During the event, a local band

performed and shared their love for playing musical instruments; a local dance studio provided a showcase of a variety of dance styles; community members working in the fields of photography and television shared their experiences and encouraged students to hone their artistic photography eye and interest in television production; and professors from Cerritos College attended and inspired students to pursue careers in literature and music.

There are many more opportunities scheduled throughout the year for our students to develop their artistic talents as they continue to engage in rigorous content helping them to perform among the Nation's best.

Go Lions!

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

Stephen Foster Bolts are Charged Up Against Bullying

Stephen Foster Bolts dedicated October 2015 to Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month. In order to prevent bullying, we first need to educate our students about bullying. Through educating our students, we will provide strategies and techniques about awareness and prevention. Events of the month included: Wear Blue Against Bullying, Amazing School Assembly, "An Anti-Bullying Program," and Student Council Involvement.

On October 5, 2015, Student Council members: Mia, Taylor, Vanessa, Nikaia, Makaela and Paige performed a skit about bullying and prevention. Our Assistant Principal, Ms. Sfligoi Bott and Elementary Counselor, Jennifer White helped coordinate such a wonderful informative presentation. Students were educated about the types of bullying, recognizing bullying and how to promote bullying prevention. Some classes created Tree Maps classifying information that was presented in the assembly. Way to Go BOLTS!



Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) motto implores our students: **Be Prepared, Own our Actions, Lead with Characters, Treat Others with Respect, Strive for Excellence in everything I do!**

Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

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



Matt Eeles
Principal

Outstanding Start to the New Year!

Mayfair Middle/High School is off to a great start. This 2015-16 school year is proving to be the best yet as the first quarter of the school year has just come to an end. Students and staff are energized and school spirit is overflowing.

Back To School Night was a great success. Parents/Guardians were out in large numbers as they went around following their students schedule learning all about what was going to be happening this year in each class.

Homecoming week was a memorable one for all of our students and staff as Mayfair celebrated with dress up days, an assembly at the end of the week highlighting the homecoming court, followed by a parade in the city where hundreds lined the streets of Lakewood, then a successful football game, capped off by a dance that was the most attended in years.

As Mayfair believes in producing well rounded students the primary focus is always on academics. Students were provided the opportunity this past month to participate in the PSAT in which 300 students chose to do so. The Monsoons also hosted the 7th Annual Parent/Student College Fair on October 22nd. The event was in the evening and 30 different colleges were represented. Parents/Guardians and students were able to visit with representatives and receive valuable information about each institution.

Mayfair is always looking for ways to involve our parent base and community. Please plan on attending our next Coffee Hour on Friday, November 6th from 9:00 am – 10:30 am in our Parent Resource Center. Also, Project Shepherd is in full go and we are looking for donations to help support our local community.

Mayfair wishes all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Pyle Panthers Value Service

This school year opened with our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Kick-Off. Students were explicitly taught and practiced the behavioral expectations school-wide. Students then enjoyed viewing our video with student actors showing examples and staff members

showing non-examples of the expectations. We are excited about our formal system of supporting the social-emotional growth of students and creating the positive school climate that is foundational to academic success. In addition to PBIS, our 4th-6th grade students have the opportunity this year to extend their social-emotional development by joining the Panther Pride Club. The mission of this service club, under the direction of 5th grade teacher Ms. Castillo and 6th grade teacher Mrs. Ober, is to provide opportunities for Ernie Pyle students to promote and engage in acts of community service throughout the year. The club's first service project was to provide every Pyle student with a bookmark. Club members designed bookmarks depicting everything that is awesome about Ernie Pyle. At Ernie Pyle, "awesomeness" is everywhere.



OFF TO A STRONG BEGINNING • From Page 1



Dr. Brian Jacobs
Superintendent

All of these planned or completed projects will provide nothing but the best for our children's classrooms and overall school environments. Now you can see why I am so excited about this school year. Not only are we making those types of physical improvements, but all of the efforts in the classroom are showing that same level of rigor and excitement. Upon review of the formative state test results in English Language Arts, each of the grade levels tested in grades 3-8, and grade 11, BUSD out performed Los Angeles County and the State in all grades other than grade four, missing by 1% and only grade seven of the state scores by 1%. A very good beginning to the new assessment being used and early confirmation that the instructional components of instruction and additional support to the teachers have had an impact with student achievement.

Reflecting upon many aspects of the previous years, I continue to be extremely proud of the accomplishments we achieve as the district continues to focus on every student's achievement, instructional improvement and an action plan to ensure the most effective and efficient organizational performance. This has led me to an even stronger belief that we are capable of the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

I also believe that extraordinary success for each and every one is possible in the Bellflower Unified School District. This success is taking place because we are working together to make the best learning environments, creating positive relationships and personal connections with students and families. As the instructional leader of BUSD, I expect the best from each of our students and employees while working in harmony to make positive differences for others, and focusing on our strengths, while providing support, and ultimately make our shortcomings insignificant.

As Superintendent, my promise is to continually strive to provide a high quality school District that everyone in the community can be proud of. We are blessed with great kids, supportive parents and community, along with a caring staff. Those ingredients are all part of the recipe for success! Thank you to everyone that makes BUSD "A Great Place for Children."

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1



Jerry Cleveland
President

effective and efficient organizational structures and increased academic performance. This has led me and my Board member colleagues to an even stronger belief that we are pressing on towards even greater accomplishments than previous years. Teachers and classified staff work hard every day to create and support the best learning environments for students in meeting their personal goals.

My continued commitment to BUSD is stronger than ever! The valued efforts of everyone to see our students achieve new levels of excellence are really exciting. As school board members we will continue working hard with all stakeholders in the community and keep striving to provide the best school District that everyone in our communities can be proud of and happy that their children attend daily. The Board and I will also continue to provide the necessary guidance to ensure students are safe and have positive experiences while attending school.

We will also continue to build instructional programs in the areas of Vocational and Regional Occupation Programs so that our secondary students truly have the chance to discover multiple pathways to a career or college experience. Career Technical Education (CTE) is expanding in BUSD, and the Board has been supportive of adding and supporting CTE courses. A sample of those courses would be the Medical and Health Pathways, Construction courses, Auto Mechanics, Robotics and Project Lead The Way, along with entrepreneurial offerings for a well-rounded CTE experience.

These types of secondary learning chances can assist a student with selecting the best post high school path they wish to take and have the skills with which to achieve success. Sharing all of this with you gives me even more validation that BUSD is on target to meet all student needs today and in the future.



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Ramona Teachers Respond to Students Learning Needs

The grade level teams at Ramona use a model known as Response to Intervention (RTI) when teaching language arts. Using this model means that students are grouped according to initial assessments in ELA and teachers work together to provide each student with instruction and intervention for one hour each day that directly targets their needs and moves them to the next level in reading. This is known as Tier One intervention. The model not only benefits struggling students but ensures high achieving students are challenged and offered opportunities to excel and extend their learning beyond the curriculum. RTI is most successful when teachers at a grade level collaborate and plan lessons together. At Ramona, grade level teams work closely together in Professional Learning



Communities twice a week to discuss lessons and strategies and to monitor student progress. These professional conversations ensure that students continuously succeed and grow during this important instructional time. Ramona is fortunate to have two intervention

teachers who work with each grade level during RTI time and the benefit of having additional teachers is that group sizes are smaller and all students are engaged in reading and writing activities at their instructional level. Grouping is flexible and a student can move into another group as their needs change. Teachers are focusing on word study, close reading, and structured writing when working with their students. Students and teachers have been very excited with the growth in reading skills and the increased motivation to read for all of our students as a result of this instruction.

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

Back to School

On Wednesday, September 2nd, Somerset High School held Back-to-School Night. The evening featured many of the curricular and instructional focuses that we have at Somerset. Mr. Fisher had students demonstrate their knowledge of functions. Students helped parents use a coordinate plane or mapping to record ordered pairs and then with the graph or map determine whether these coordinates were a function. Then students wrote a paragraph describing what made these points a function. Mr. Johnson did virtual dissections with a computer program earned through a grant that he wrote through PETA. Mr. Magnera demonstrated how to use Mimio pads to parents to encourage student collaboration in the classroom. Ms. Stits showed the PRO Sirs database that allows teachers to find journal and news articles on topics that help our students write essays backed by text based evidence. Teachers were able to show how they were preparing Somerset students for their studies after graduation.



With the efforts of Somerset Teachers students are well on their way to career and college ready!

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

The 2015-16 School Year Off to an Outstanding Start!

Students and teachers are back in classrooms at Craig Williams Elementary and our educational programs are in full-swing. We have some new and very exciting opportunities for parents and families to get involved with this fall. The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) has partnered with us here at Craig Williams to provide parent classes free of charge every Thursday morning at 8:30 am for Spanish speaking parents, and then again on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm for English and Spanish speaking parents. There is free childcare available during both classes, and all classes are meeting in the cafeteria.

From there classes then break out to other classrooms on campus and continue discussions on how to best support their children with their learning. Parents that choose to attend these classes and complete the activities can earn college credit as well through Cal Poly Pomona. These classes are designed to support

all parents and offers a continuum of support for our students not only here at Craig Williams but also during their time at either Mayfair and Bellflower Middle and High Schools which offer the same PIQE courses on their campuses for parents. Please join us on a Thursday morning or evening for some interactive learning on how you can partner with the school and support your child more fully as we prepare them for the challenges of Middle and High School.

When coming to Craig Williams please do your best to remember that we want to provide the safest and most positive experience for all of our students, parents and care givers. Please remember to obey school signage, and enter and exit our lots in the direction that is indicated. Remember to leave a few minutes early in the morning to avoid the rush, and to have patience in the afternoon during dismissal when it often gets crowded and very hot. Please make sure you have a pre-arranged plan to meet your students every day of the week at dismissal and that all students, parents and care givers understand this plan and how to follow it.

Together, the teachers, staff and students of Craig Williams Elementary look forward to the 2015-2016 school year and the promises and challenges that it brings us all.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Sulema Holguin
Principal

Taking Thinking Maps to the Next Level

This year, we have made a commitment to take our “Thinking Maps” instructional tool, to another level and really use it to help students become critical thinkers and take learning into their own hands. The California Standards ask that our children become critical thinkers and we understand that this needs to be supported by helping our students organize their thoughts through tools that will help them communicate their thinking. The integrated instruction model that the California Standards promotes is in line with how Thinking Maps may be used and our students and teachers are diving right into it.



We started the school year off by reintroducing the 8 maps and having the students share their story as a way of understanding what each map's purpose is. All teachers participated in a Professional Development in which we reviewed the expectation and shared skills of how they were going to be using the maps. Teachers then gathered and shared success stories as well as next steps. As the year goes on, we will continue to have Professional Development in the area of Thinking Maps to continue to support our teachers in taking the learning to another

level and are also sharing the knowledge with parents by making a home school connection through a writing journal. Our goal is that our students will be able to use this instructional tool in many different ways in order to really show the in depth understanding of content by being able to speak off the maps and be true literate individuals by expressing their thoughts in writing as well as working collaboratively.

The beauty of the school wide commitment is that as our students are learning along with our teachers. Teachers go right back into the classrooms after a professional development day and implement what they have learned. They share the new skills with students and they see that we too are lifelong learners.



Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Woodruff's Next Generation of Learners

This year classes share mobile carts with individual tech devices for each student. Carts are shared between three or four classes and students have individual devices such as LearnPads, Chromebooks, or Transformers. In September, each teacher had a professional trainer in his or her classroom to demonstrate the integration of our interactive technology, student devices, and best teaching practices. It is exciting to watch teachers “throw” instructional documents from their laptop to individual student devices. Each student can complete the academic task and all 34 screens can be viewed on the classroom whiteboard. The teacher then selects students to share their answers and explain their work. Students are also able to use devices for individual skill building in English Language Arts or Mathematics. Educational applications track student progress and build upon prior knowledge. Students can access any web-based program, such as Accelerated Reader and take comprehension quizzes on just read books. Devices can also be used for partner collaboration and working together on such tasks as creating a Thinking Map for an upcoming writing project. As I think back to my educational experience, it is exciting to watch our students move beyond paper/pencil and master technology as the next generation of learners.



Contest!

Our office tortoise, Cheeseball, is somewhere in this issue. When you find him, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
Please put BUSD in the subject line.

Congratulations
September Winner Darcy Amato

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



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