

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 19

MARCH / APRIL 2016

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Brian Jacobs

A Community of Learners

At BUSD, we believe that students learn best when they are engaged. To foster true understanding and mastery of new concepts and subjects, our talented faculty

assists students to connect with lessons in inspiring, imaginative, and differentiated ways. BUSD is not always recognized within the media in our region, but when you see the teaching and learning taking place each and every day, we are a strong school district, with great things happening. This can be seen by the recognitions of our students, teachers and school sites. BUSD is one of the best known secrets of Los Angeles County. One of the up and coming elements that BUSD is committed to accelerate in even greater methods is that of creating digitally blended learning environments that will take the weight off traditional learning patterns of teaching and learning.

In classrooms today there are two covers to a book, four walls to a classroom, and 180 days of teaching and learning. With that we have prepared each student to be ready for the next grade level and any academic assessment administered. Where BUSD has progressed in 2015-16, is that learning is becoming blended, and instruction has a Direct Interactive Instructional focus. BUSD continues to prepare students for the 21st Century and beyond as we have developed additional teaching and learning techniques that will prepare all of our students to be Career and College ready upon graduation.

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 7

BUSD Prepares for ELA/ELD Curriculum and Instructional Materials

By Curriculum & Instruction Division

The California Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy, adopted in August 2010, highlight critical skills and expectations in English Language Arts necessary to develop students' literacy in the twenty-first century.

In 2012, the State Board of Education approved the CA English Language Development (ELD) Standards, which are intentionally aligned with the California standards for ELA/Literacy. California is leading the way as the first state to also combine ELA and ELD standards into a single curriculum. In November of 2015, the State Board of Education approved a list of K-8 materials aligned to both sets of standards. Although high school programs are not reviewed by the state, new programs for grades 9-12 are also available. In Bellflower Unified, we believe that this newly aligned curriculum is important and beneficial for all students.

Approximately 20% of the students in Bellflower Unified School District are identified as English learners; that is, students that are acquiring English as a second language. The ELD standards are designed to help English learners become proficient in English and address ELD instruction across the following three areas:

- Use English purposefully (describing, persuading, explaining, informing, etc.)
- Interact with others in meaningful ways (through collaboration)
- Understand how the English language works (structure, expanding, condensing etc.)



In order to provide all students in Bellflower Unified with appropriate standards-aligned instructional materials, teachers from each of our schools will participate in an adoption process to select materials that best meet our needs. The state of California approved 25 instructional materials programs from 10 publishers that were submitted for consideration for kindergarten through eighth grade. These materials also include programs to provide intensive intervention to students who are two or more grade levels below standard. At the state level, over 200 educators reviewed materials alongside the Instructional Quality Commission. BUSD teachers representing grades kindergarten through twelve will now begin the process of reviewing the materials to make a local decision.

The adoption process will begin in January. The offices of Elementary Education, Secondary Education, and Educational Services will work together with representative teachers to closely evaluate materials. We expect that some materials will be piloted in the 2016-2017 school year with a final decision being made in Spring of 2017.

Board of Education



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Head Start

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Cristina Blevins
Director Child Development

Child Development Program

Our Child Development Program staff participated in the organization of the Early Childhood STEM Conference along with CalTech Children's Center in Pasadena.

The conference was held on February 4-6 and included a model classroom. The classroom included items found in typical preschool classrooms and gave ideas as to what early learning educators could do to develop a more STEM friendly environment and bring science, math, engineering, and technology into their classrooms. Teachers attended a variety of workshops to learn new and engaging strategies and activities for their classes. Rebecca Sanchez, our Head Start teacher at Ernie Pyle attended the conference and felt like she learned so many amazing things that she can easily implement in her classroom.

As STEM becomes a top priority in the state, our hope is to expose earliest learners as well.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The end of this school year is in sight and students are focused on their academic goals.

In this issue you will read about Naviance, STEM Family Code Night, Testing, Art in Education, Technology in the Classroom, and so much more...

We continue to have record number of entries in our contests. Remember all ages may enter. I enjoy the comments you include with your emailed answers and thank you for being involved with your children.

Our next issue is May 4.

School News

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Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Elementary Education

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Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

2016 GATE Enrichment Program

The Bellflower Unified School District launched the Gifted and Talented

Students (GATE) Enrichment Program for the 2015-16 School Year. A variety of classes are available within the GATE Enrichment program for the second and third trimester and classes are taught by reputable after school providers. Depending on the site, students may select science, world languages, or art classes offered at every elementary school for the duration of six weeks for one hour. During the enrollment period, students were permitted to select between their first, second and third choices. We were pleased most children were given their first choice selection.



Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses offerings include Bricks4Kidz, Discovery Science Center, and Newton's Laboratory. Spanish and Chess Masters are also among the offerings. Those students interested in performance and visual arts had opportunity to choose Creative Kids Studio, Spotlight Kids Theater, or Comic Creators. One such class is Young Rembrandts, featured at Craig Williams Elementary School. Students were delighted with their artwork (pictured).

Our GATE program is for third through sixth grade students, offering acceleration and enrichment opportunities for both high achieving and intellectually gifted students. Second grade students participate in a nonverbal universal screening to determine admission into the program for third grade. Additional entry indicators include standardized test scores, grades, and teacher recommendation.

It is with great pride that the GATE Enrichment Program is offered to our students. For more information, please visit www.busd.k12.ca.us/parents.html.



Las Flores *Home Education/Independent Study Academy*

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



Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

When I Grow Up

Throughout the journey from childhood to adulthood individuals will vacillate among a variety of career paths; thus, it is critical to begin introducing these possibilities early. Doing so helps children make knowledgeable decisions about their learning in order to follow the path of their dreams. To meet this need, the parents of the Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy organized a job fair where students could learn about several different occupations in a small group setting. During the Enrichment Friday event, students experienced such professions as fishing guide, agricultural pest control advisor, and assistant superintendent of technology. BUSD board President, Dr. Paul Helzer and Member, Debbie Cuadros also contributed to the event by sharing about the duties of a chiropractor and a military drill sergeant.

A buzz of excitement filled the auditorium as students moved from station to station. It was evident that they found each career an exciting choice. Though what they will ultimately choose remains to be seen, it is exciting to ponder the possibilities for these children. No matter what profession they choose, the Home Education Academy will help them get on their way.



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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

Educational Services

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



Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant Superintendent

Overcoming the Idea “I am Just Not Good at Math”

It is a common dynamic. Often students who struggle with math just feel like giving up. Have you, someone you know of, even your child, said something like “I just can’t do this. I am not good at math”?

Somehow, for many of us and our children, it has gotten into our heads that there are “math people” and “not math people”. According to Leah Shafer from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, this idea “stems from the belief that math intelligence is a fixed trait, rather than something that grows and develops with hard work and opportunities to learn”. Often, students who think “they just don’t get math”, feel that math is not useful or relevant for them; it’s just something they have to memorize for tests or have to take in school.

Is it possible to change this negative feeling toward math? The good news is yes! Here are a few of the ideas shared by Harvard’s Leah Shafer that could help your child feel more successful with math:

- Reinforce that hard work and determination can and do impact outcomes.
- Create opportunities outside of school to talk about and solve math problems.
- Promote flexibility of thinking and problem solving by investigating multiple ways to arrive at a solution or demonstrate an answer. For example, we can represent one hundred in multiple ways, by writing the number 100 or by drawing 10 groups of 10 or 20 groups of 5.
- When a child gets a math problem wrong, don’t stop there. Help them think through how they got their answer and explore other ways to solve the problem or arrive at an answer.
- Talk about the vocabulary of math. If a student does not understand a math term, they may not understand the underlying concept. Have your child explain math terms to you in their own words. Also have them tell you how they got their answer and why they think their answer is correct.
- Model an attitude towards math and problem solving that includes energy, excitement, confidence and determination.

Instructional Personnel

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



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant Superintendent

California Advancing Pathways for Students

With the start of a new semester, Bellflower Unified has started a new adventure with Lynwood Unified School District. BUSD and LUSD formed a partnership to expand access to career technical education (CTE) for students in both districts. California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) is now providing additional services within Bellflower Unified.



Students at Bellflower, Mayfair and Somerset High Schools have been provided the opportunity to take new courses afterschool. The new courses are being offered at Somerset High School. Students who attend both Bellflower and Mayfair are able to attend classes at Somerset with the assistance of transportation services.

Careers in Education provides students an introduction to the knowledge and skills necessary for a career in the area of education. Entrepreneurship and Innovation develops students’ skills for starting, operating and maintain a small

business. Firefighting Occupations ensures that students are aware of the eligibility and training standards required for careers in the fire service. Finally, Law Enforcement details the roles and responsibilities of those in police service. These new courses align to the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards, California State Standards, and the Standards for Career Ready Practice.



Health Occupations continues to be offered at both Bellflower and Mayfair’s campus. As CalAPS continues to grow and expand, additional afterschool courses will be added to all three sites as well as locations within Lynwood Unified School District. It’s an exciting time for both districts!

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Isel Taylor
Principal

New and Expanding Programs Offered

The Jump Start Kindergarten class started in February at the Intensive Learning Center. The Jump Start program provides incoming fall kindergartners with an early start on school. Students in Jump Start have turned five between December and February, and attend school from February to June. This is an excellent opportunity for students to build social and academic skills to prepare them for a successful year in Kindergarten in 2016-2017.

We are also excited about expanding our Spanish Dual Immersion program to 3rd grade next year. We will be taking applications for School of Choice Wednesday, March 9, 2016 and will be accepted through Wednesday, March 23, 2016. Students who will begin kindergarten in the 2016-2017 school year are eligible for this program. They must turn 5 no later than September 1, 2016. Applications are available at all BUSD elementary sites. Completed applications are to be turned in to the Intensive Learning Center. This unique program offers English and Spanish speaking students



the opportunity to learn and excel in two languages, English and Spanish. Students in the Dual Language Immersion Program are taught in the 90/10 model. Students in kindergarten and first grade receive 90% of their instruction in Spanish and 10% in English. Each subsequent year, English is gradually increased into the program. By the 5th and 6th grade, instructional time will be 50% in English and 50% in Spanish. The goals of the program include; developing academic success and bilingual/biliteracy in Spanish and English as well as developing an appreciation of both cultures.

Secondary Education

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



Colleen McKinley
Director

Career Technical Education – Bellflower Unified Advances

Bellflower Unified has a long history of having a strong Career Technical Education (CTE) program, and it continues to get stronger. February was CTE Awareness month and we had a lot to celebrate: a new advisory committee, an incentive grant application, and a successful visit from the California Department of Education.

In December, the Board of Education recommended 20 community members to a CTE Advisory Committee. Membership consist of parents, teachers, administrators, industry experts and post-secondary partners. The committee will help the district advance existing pathways, develop new programs, and ensure that our courses meet our students' 21st century learning needs. The advisory met on February 24th, and the notes from this meeting are available on our district website, along with other important CTE information.

Additionally, Bellflower recently applied to the state for an incentive grant that will help expand CTE programs. Pending approval, this money will update instructional materials, add an engineering program to our comprehensive high schools, expand technology, and add a health science pathway.

Finally, the California Department of Education visited Bellflower Unified in January and reviewed our CTE programs. The new career pathways were the focus of the visit, and teachers and administrators benefitted from dialoguing with the department of education about the opportunities for students, as well as future plans for expansion of these pathways.

The 2016 theme for CTE Awareness Month is "Opportunities for Career Success." In Bellflower Unified, we are expanding opportunities for students to explore career pathways, as well as prepare for them for these careers even before high school graduation. Through partnerships, new pathway opportunities, and new opportunities for funding, our secondary students have bright futures to look forward to.

Special Education & Student Services

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



Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

Enrollment has Started!

Enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year has begun! Students who have district residency may submit applications for School of Choice, or new registrations for students in TK-Grade 12. Parents should visit their residence school to obtain and submit an enrollment packet; additionally, packets are available to print from the Bellflower Unified School District website at www.busd.k12.ca.us. The website has a school locator to assist parents in identifying which school their child should attend. Current students do not need to re-register to continue enrollment at their current school or to move from sixth to seventh grade. Students wishing

to change schools in grade 1-6, can complete a school of choice application at their school site between March 9 and March 23, 2016. Students not living within our district boundaries may submit an Interdistrict permit to the Child Welfare and Attendance Office located at 16703 S. Clark Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706.

Although we often use rewards to motivate our children to do something, intrinsic motivation has long term benefits. It is the good feeling we get, the sense of accomplishment we get from completing a task or reaching a goal. Help your child develop intrinsic motivation by:

Having them make age appropriate choices: Should I finish my homework now or after I eat dinner?

Support curiosity: Don't solve problems for your child or give him the answers, let him struggle with the problem to test a variety of solutions to see what works. He will feel a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Encourage reflection: Ask what do you think of your finished project? Encourage him to find pride in his opinion, not just from others. Instead of telling him how to make it look better, encourage him to think about what he wants to improve or change for next time.

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Bellflower Alternative Education Center Academic Accountability

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Patrick Dixon
Principal

Art in Education

The Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center is a community day school for Bellflower Unified School District that provides an alternative educational option specifically designed for students in grades 7-12. The purpose of the BAE Center 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. In order for students to be successful, they must have a well-rounded education and opportunities to bring personal meaning to that education. One area that has been shown to improve student achievement and personal growth is the arts.

In extensive research on the importance of the arts in education, James S. Catterall showed empirical evidence that students who are involved in the arts perform higher academically, have improved test scores, and lower dropout rates. He goes on to state that the arts improve students' ability to think critically, problem-solve, collaborate, and innovate. Another study showed positive relationships between instruction in the arts and students' behavior through improved self-confidence, self-efficacy, self-awareness, and overall emotional development, which leads to a decrease in overall disciplinary issues in schools (Larson & Brown, 2007).

In an effort to improve the whole child, art education is incorporated into the educational program at the Bellflower Alternative Education Center, which is in line with the educational goals for the 21st-century.



Dina Hernandez
Director

Testing

Staff and students are gearing up to participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress, or CAASPP the state academic testing program. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress on an annual basis and ensure that all students leave high school ready for college and career. CAASPP assessments include computer adaptive tests in English–language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics for students in grades 3 – 8 and 11 and paper-based tests in science for students in grades 5, 8 and 10.

This year, our CAASPP testing windows begins March 17, 2016 and ends on June 16, 2016. To learn about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at the California Department of Education (CDE) Smarter Balanced Practice Test Web page at https://login3.cloud1.tds.airast.org/student/V135/Pages/LoginShell.aspx?c=California_PT

With CAASPP, the purpose of statewide annual assessments shifted from producing annual accountability reports to assisting teachers, administrators, and pupils and their parents to improve teaching and learning throughout the school year. Results from the CAASPP assessments will be used, along with other available data, to determine the impact of selected curriculum/programs, and to make other instructional plans.

If you would like more information on CAASPP, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the California Department of Education (CDE) Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Students Go to College!

Baxter Elementary families participated in a family field trip to UCLA. Over 200 students and their families rode school busses to UCLA where they took a campus tour led by members of the soccer team. Students were thrilled to see Royce Hall, Powell Library, and “The Bruin” Statue. They were not as thrilled to climb up all 87 of the famous Janss Steps on campus! Students enjoyed a carnival complete with face painting, college applications, and student athlete meet-and-greets.

The highlight of the trip was attending the gymnastics meet at the legendary Pauley Pavilion. Our Baxter Bears cheered on the Bruins to a close win over Utah by .025 of a point!

The family field trip provided an opportunity for Baxter students to appreciate a “day at college.” We are building a college and career ready culture starting in elementary school. Our goal at Baxter is to inspire students to follow a path toward higher education and lifelong learning.



The Gonzalez family enjoyed a campus tour on the UCLA Family Field Trip.



Baxter Bears greet the UCLA Bruin!

Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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



Michael Lundgren
Principal

Naviance

Bellflower Middle/High School is proud to announce a new tool to help align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals. Naviance is a college and career readiness software provider that partners with middle and high schools to provide students with college planning and career assessment tools. Naviance provides students with a variety of features, including college research and matching tools, career assessment and personality tests, and surveys to help students connect what they are doing in school to what they would like to do once they complete their education. Naviance will also help our counselors and our career and college technician monitor progress of their individual students, and communicate with students and families. All students have had an opportunity to log into their Naviance accounts.

In the high school, our 11th and 12th graders have taken a career interest profiler, analyzed the results and added 2-3 colleges to their interest list! Our 9th and 10th graders have completed their Game Plan Survey and the Gallup Strength Explorer.

The middle school implemented Naviance to all 7th and 8th graders as well. In October, we held our initial visit which required all students to create a Naviance account followed by the completion of a Scavenger Hunt that was created by the middle school counselors. The second visit consisted of students completing a self-assessment through use of the Career Key Survey matching their personality traits to future potential career fields. Our middle students have enjoyed exploring college and career readiness.

Ms. Gonzalez, our career tech has also started to let us know about college visits through Naviance. Students can sign up for various college visits through Naviance. Students have also learned how to access Naviance Test Prep to help them prepare for upcoming SAT exams! Talk to your student about their assessment results to see how Naviance works!

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

Examples of BUSD reimagining the traditional instructional mindset to the more customized Information Age mindset in our schools are as follows:

- All of our K-6 children are exposed to digital learning in school through an innovative take at exploring the different instructional content.
- This year we have new technology supporting our elementary school sites with LearnPads and multiple Google Chromecarts across each campus. This support of digital learning platforms throughout the school day is an asset to mastering core content.
- Our comprehensive high schools have also increased access to technology through multiple Chromecarts and some classrooms using personal devices during the instructional lesson.
- STEM courses are becoming more dynamic and allowing more students an academic pathway to Science-Technology-Engineering-Math. Students work on Project Based Learning activities and are the preferred method of instruction. The STEM pathway program is beginning to make relationships with STEM corporations, who will hopefully provide some internship opportunities for our students.

Bellflower Unified School District is proud of the fact that 94% of all students graduate high school and a high percentage go right into the career field, with many others pursuing an advanced degree in college. Bellflower Unified School District continues to show that the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less" is known around this region and others due to our excellent schools, hard-working students, dedicated teachers, involved and caring parents, and supportive communities. However, rather than me telling you about our schools, the best way to get to know us is to visit. I encourage you to meet our sincere, supportive school community for yourself by becoming involved at one of the schools nearby your residence.

On behalf of the Board of Education and everyone at BUSD, thank you for being such a positive attribute to our educational advancements and sustained learning. I look forward to continuing these efforts as I serve the communities of Bellflower-Cerritos-Lakewood.

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

Charged up for Reading and Giving!!!

Student Council hosted their first annual Book Drive back in December. Each day before school, many students donated Picture Books and Chapter Books to increase our circulation of materials. Genres included fiction, nonfiction, informational text, biographies, and children's novel series. Many of the titles are found on Accelerated Reader from this wonderful donation. Accelerated Reader (AR) allows students chose a genre of their choice and assess their level of comprehension and vocabulary development while fostering them to become critical thinkers and independent learners. We were able to collect over 2,200 books and now they're ready for check-out.



Here at Foster we encourage our students to be active readers in order to prepare them to college and their future career. Beginning in February 2016, it is our goal to have all students in grades 1-6 participate in our Accelerated Reader (AR) Program.

To learn more about Accelerated Reader please visit: <http://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R003985016GG79F2.pdf>



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Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

Technology Enhances the Learning Process

Here at Thomas Jefferson, we are excited about the ways in which technology is being used to engage students and enhance the learning process. Currently, every grade level has a cart of devices to use daily, and our technology teacher provides staff with the training and resources needed to effectively use this technology. In kindergarten, students are using LearnPads to write about what they are learning, record themselves reading their work, and create illustrations. Teachers then share this work throughout the day through an app that parents can view on their cell phones. First through sixth grade students are

busy using Google Classroom - technology that allows students and staff to provide feedback to each other about videos or articles that have been posted. At Jefferson, these exciting innovations are just a few of the ways that we are working to provide students with a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!



Kindergarten students illustrating their writing using LearnPads.

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

STEM Family Code Night

21st Century learners live in a world of technology use: cellphones, iPods, iPads, Apps, etc., and therefore, can benefit from learning how these technologies work. Programing computers (coding) helps students understand the world around them as well as

encourages students to build problem solving and critical thinking skills. Recently, Esther Lindstrom PTA organized a STEM Family Night where parents and students had an opportunity to learn how to program computers using a free on-line Star Wars class at Code.org.



Rio Hondo professor and Cerritos College Board of Trustee President, Dr. Shin Liu, and five of her college students taught Lindstrom parents and students how to use drag and drop blocks to program BB-8 and R2-D2 to move on the screen and pick up scrap metal. To close the event, professionals in the field including a computer science teacher from Mayfair High School and a Lindstrom alumni and current computer science professor from Chapman University talked to the audience about classes that students can take in high school to learn more about computer science, how students can continue learning past high school into college and the workforce, and informed students of the different careers that are related to computer science. Families left the event with information about the path their child can take to enter the field of computer science and were excited to continue learning to code on their own at home.

Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

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



Matt Eeles
Principal

Connecting to Cerritos College

As seniors are preparing for their future they are trying to make decisions about the next step they will take in life. Many are headed to a Cal State school while some are headed to a University and then there are those headed to the military. For those looking to begin their secondary educational track at a community college may want to look at Cerritos College. Cerritos College has initiated a K-16 Bridge to Cerritos College Program providing a wonderful opportunity to our senior students.

Students that commit to this program will receive a personalized schedule for the fall of 2016 and spring of 2017. In addition students are able to qualify for a merit-based scholarship program that will cover tuition or books. Commitment to this program will also provide students with assistance in completing the mandatory assessments, orientation and counseling and a Summer Connection course in addition to other specialized campus programs.

More than 100 parents and students attended the first K-16 Bridge to Cerritos College parent night on February 9, 2016. Don't worry if you were not part of this group, there is still time. For more information please contact your student's counselor.



Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

Awareness and Understanding

Ernie Pyle teachers are developing awareness and understanding of the new set of science standards that will be implemented in 2018, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

The level of thinking in the NGSS is at a higher level than our current standards. Students will demonstrate their understanding of concepts by explanation and analysis rather than by a lower thinking skill such as identify or define. Students in Ms. Chisholm's 6th grade class used science and engineering practices, one of the dimensions of the new standards, in their investigation on plate tectonics. Using graham crackers, rice cakes and frosting, students modeled the different types of plate boundaries. Using the modeling materials and guiding questions about Transform Plate Boundaries, students were asked to formulate an explanation of why earthquakes typically occur in California and not in the Midwest. Future scientists and engineers, who will identify problems and find the solutions to make the world a better place are hard at work at Ernie Pyle.



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

Developing Spatial Temporal Reasoning at Ramona

The overarching math goal at Ramona Elementary is to provide high quality instruction and learning opportunities to prepare every student to increase their mathematical achievement yearly as measured by local and state assessments. At Ramona, our students are reminded daily that they are scholars and we aim to develop them as critical, mathematical problem-solvers with an understanding of math concepts and real-world applications rather than relying on memorization and rote learning. Every math lesson at Ramona is underpinned by one of the eight mathematical practice standards and designed to lead students to mastery of grade level mathematical standards in a meaningful and engaging manner.

Several initiatives have been put in place to ensure our math goals are achieved. All teachers at Ramona have been trained in Direct Interactive Instruction. This method allows teachers to effectively sequence and teach even the most difficult concepts to students ensuring that they understand concepts at a very high level of cognition and can apply them across the curriculum. Using DII strategies, teachers effectively release responsibility to students for their learning and students are highly engaged during every phase of the lesson. Effective use of DII means success for all of our students.

As a deep understanding of mathematical concepts for all students is an important goal, Ramona piloted the ST Math program last year. ST stands for Spatial Temporal and this supplemental program develops mathematical reasoning in our students so they are better prepared to understand the conceptual and relational components of math. ST Math is a computerized math program and students are led through a series of games and puzzles led by JiJi the penguin. Our students help JiJi get past obstacles by solving math puzzles and they associate JiJi with challenge, learning and the thrill of success. JiJi allows our students from kindergarten to sixth grade to become more comfortable using technology to learn about and solve mathematical problems.



As the games provide scaffolding, increase in difficulty when the student is ready, and provide immediate feedback, it is very similar to the release of responsibility strategies our teachers use in DII. ST Math helps our Ramona scholars to feel and act like mathematicians and this increased confidence spills into classroom math lessons. Increased self-efficacy in math for all our students will help us easily meet out school math goals.

ST Math can also be used at home as teachers can assign homework objectives. JiJi has been introduced to our parents and when surveyed last year, they believed it was helping their children and 95% recommended continuing with the program. Our students love JiJi and are very motivated to continue learning this way. The improvement in self-efficacy and attitude about math has inspired them and teachers see the effects of this during their classroom lessons. Our scholars are proving every day that they are 21st Century mathematical thinkers with a deep understanding of conceptual, procedural, and relational knowledge.

School News

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Somerset *High School*

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

SkillsUSA Team

Somerset students in Mr. Ahumada's Multi-media CD Art and Design class competed in the SkillsUSA regional competition at Los Angeles Trade Technical College on January 23rd. Competitions included graphic design and advertising design. Students worked hard to master the skills necessary to create and transfer designs to items such as coffee mugs, mouse pads, license plates, advertising brochures, flyers, and web pages. Contestants were also rated on their professionalism and preparation for employment through the submission of resumes and mock interviews done during the competition. Somerset sent a team of 5 students of which two qualified for SkillsUSA's state competition to be held in the Town and Country Resort in San Diego from March 31st to April 3rd. Precious Ford qualified for state by placing 13th in Page Layout: Introduction to Advertising Design, and Jason Rappa qualified for state by placing 6th in Graphic Design Sublimation. Jason and Precious will continue to hone their skills in preparation for SkillsUSA's state competition.



Somerset's SkillsUSA team: Renee Pollack, Precious Ford, Brooklynn Halstead, Richard Estrada and Jason Rappa.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Sulema Holguin
Principal

Building Partnerships with Parents for Academic Success

Learning math through the new mathematical practices has been exciting and a challenge for parents as they try to help at home. Parents are excited about the way their children are learning and want to be involved so we decided to take it to another level.

Our 4th grade teachers decided that the best way to go about it was by allowing parents to come and learn alongside their child. After several requests for help, they started providing after school tutoring in which the student and their parent

were getting math instruction and support side by side. It is a win/win situation because students are building their skills and being successful in the classroom, while parents build their skills so that they may support them in class. While not all parents are able to attend with their child, those that do are able to see how different students learn.

Teacher Quote: Our work in math includes the instructional shifts, mathematical progressions, and the new expectations for fluency and deep conceptual understanding. -4th Grade Teachers (Helen Diehl, Christine Ladewig and Paulina Aceves)

Student Quote: Ashley Aguilera, "It's great because my teacher shows us step by step math. Then I go home and show my Mom how to do it."

Parent Quote: I am the Mom of Gabriel Garcia and I am very happy with the math classes because they are helping me understand the homework of my son and I am able to help him. I hope that they keep giving us the opportunity to keep attending these classes. Thank you 4th Grade Teachers! -Primitiva Garcia

The result of this work we hope will be for our students to apply this learning to real life conceptualizations and to continue to build the home/school partnership.



Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Cutting Edge

Craig Williams continues to innovate and build relationships across the school community.

Teachers and staff have recently been involved in several days of cutting edge, 21st Century training in their classrooms. All classrooms have had the opportunity to try out new educational lessons that involved the use of one-to-one LearnPad Tablets, as well as Google Chromebook Laptops. During these lessons it was demonstrated, and teachers practiced how to teach a lesson using their classroom laptop and projector systems and then sending these lessons wirelessly out to all of the students classroom devices. From there students were able to either demonstrate their understanding of the lesson, or receive immediate assistance from their classroom teacher. The Craig Williams staff has made it a priority to progressively innovate and move forward to teach and all students with the most effective and cutting edge instructional practices possible.

Building off the success of the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) classes that were held this fall, Craig Williams is inviting parents interested in learning English as a Second Language (ESL) to join us here at school for

these new free classes. These classes are held Monday through Thursday from 11:30am-2:30pm in Room 76. Please remember to sign in at the office, and take a visitors' sticker before heading to class. We would like to acknowledge and thank the Downey Adult School as well as the Partnership for Adult Academic and Career Education (PAACE) for supporting the development of this free ESL class!

Students in Debbie Valburgs kindergarten classroom receive a lesson on upper and lower case letter writing. Each student has been supplied with their own LearnPad Tablet device where they can immediately try out their new skills and receive immediate teacher feedback and support.



Students in Debbie Valburgs kindergarten classroom using their own LearnPad Tablet device.



Beverly Swanson
Principal

P.E. & P.L.C.s

Woodruff is proud of our physical education program and how integral it has become within our instructional days. Students have grade level P.E. on Mondays, Thursdays, and alternating Wednesdays. They are having fun as they actively participate in warm up exercises, skill building, team sports, and even dancing. Students learn to work together as they practice skills with partners, in small groups, or as a team. The importance of making healthy choices, having an active lifestyle, and taking care of bodies is emphasized with this interactive and

engaging program. As students are enjoying P.E., teachers are participating in P.L.C.s (Professional Learning Communities). They work in teams to analyze grade level, class, and individual student data. This analysis allows them to

evaluate student progress and teaching strategies as they make data-driven decisions about instructional practices. Teachers review student grouping and make certain everyone is taught at an instructional level that meets academic needs. Grade levels are able to plan together to create powerful, interactive lessons based on California Standards. Implementing P.E. and P.L.C.s have helped both our students and teachers to make good choices and improve students' physical and academic performance.



Alana's Book Review

No Yin Without a Yang



Alana F.

Spirit Animals- Blood Ties

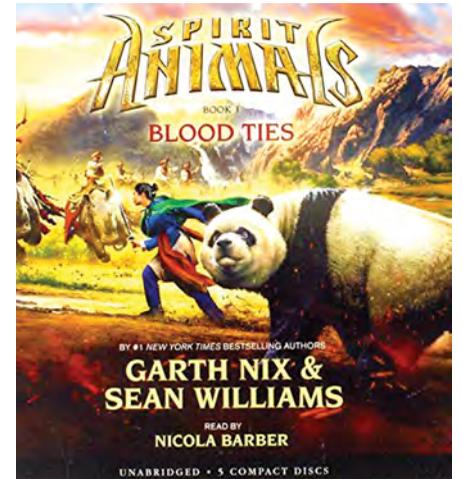
By: Garth Nix and Sean Williams

Read along with Meilin, Conor, Abeke, and Rollan's long journey to find yet another talisman- the Slate Elephant. As Meilin faces a constant battle within herself, Conor, Rollan, and Abeke must journey across Zhong while a constant mistrust between the trio brews, threatening their success. Will three teammates succeed without the fourth, or will mistrust turn them against each other?

Focusing mostly on Meilin, this release of Spirit Animals goes into depth about her past and her bond with her spirit animal, showing readers that even the strongest warriors have just as much potential to fall as they do to thrive, that every ray of light accompanies a shadow, that there can be no yin without a yang.

I would give the book five stars because it focuses primarily on Meilin, one of my favorite characters in the entire series.

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.



Ships Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Bellflower in the subject line)

Entries must be received by April 1, 2016.

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|
| BATTLESHIP | FRIGATE | SUBTENDER |
| CARGO | GUNBOAT | SUPERLINER |
| CARRIERS | ICEBREAKER | SUPERTANKER |
| CONTAINER | LANDING SHIP | TANKERS |
| CRUISER | MINE SWEEPER | TRANSPORT |
| DESTROYER | OILERS | TUGBOAT |
| FERRY | REPAIR | YACHT |
| FREIGHTER | SUBMARINES | |

**Congratulations to Riley Froehlich
Winner of the January Word Search Contest!**





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