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School News

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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 20

MAY 2016

SUPERINTENDENT



It's Springtime - Watch Us Grow

While spring is the season of renewal and new beginnings, in BUSD spring is also the beginning of conclusions and celebrations. In the

beginning of an academic year it is frequently perceived as a daunting long term endeavor, yet in reflection we usually wonder where the time has gone. Our seniors who are so excited to begin their next phase in life will soon reflect on how extraordinarily fast their high school experience passed. No matter how challenged our teachers and support staff becomes by the end of an overwhelming semester, there is still that prevailing question of how did the year pass by so quickly.

Some three and a half decades ago, I was called into the field of education. Now, along with this

See SUPERINTENDENT • Page 14

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)



Students are participating in five after school courses:

Careers in Education, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Firefighting Occupations, Health Occupations and Law Enforcement. (please see page 5)

BUSD A Safe and Great Place to Learn



Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D
President
Board of Education

I continue to be honored being able to serve all three of our communities as a Board Member, and especially now as the Board President for 2016. I would like to share some thoughts as a Governing Board that we are very proud of as a school district.

As you may or may not know, the Bellflower Unified School District currently serves a student population of just under 13,000 TK-12 grade students, within an eight square mile area in southeast Los Angeles County. It includes most of Bellflower, a large portion of Lakewood and a small portion of Cerritos. Several of our schools have been recognized as California Gold Ribbon Schools, Civics Learning Model Schools, and two acknowledged as Title I Achievement Schools. Somerset Continuation High

School has recently received its fifth commendation as a California Model Continuation High School. The district also includes an alternative education program, and a Home Education/Independent Study Program looking to expand to offer high school into the next school year, while also serving pre-school students in Head Start.

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

Many of the school facilities have been in need of upgrades and improvements to keep pace with the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less." With the passage

of Measure BB in November of 2012, I along with the Governing Board have been pleased to see so many wonderful projects completed with many more improvements scheduled for the upcoming school term. Because of the new roofing, improved air conditioning at Thomas Jefferson, and other exciting upgrades across the district, such as improved Wi-Fi connectivity, our students are learning in much more comfortable and conducive learning environments. It is exciting that we can provide an even higher quality of school learning environment for all of our children. Thank you for your support in passing such a valuable bond measure.

The clean and attractive appearance of our campuses and the safety of our students continue to be a top priority. This is seen with each of our schools having a comprehensive Safe School Plan that is updated annually, Anti-Bullying Themes, and Character Education Programs K-12. Each of these creates and sustains a positive and safe learning environment conducive to excellence.

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

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

Academic Accountability

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



Dina Hernandez
Director

Digital Learning

Digital Learning is learning that is facilitated by technology. It allows for students to learn at their own time, pace, place, and style. Students are no longer restricted to learn in the traditional school day, school structure, or confined within the classroom walls.

Technology facilitates the delivery of digital content. Internet access and electronic devices such as desktop computers, learn pads, laptops, chromebooks, and smart phones give students the flexibility to learn anywhere anytime. Virtual classrooms and digital content combined with interactive and adaptive software make learning personal and engaging. It also provides quick and real-time data for teachers to adjust instruction to meet individual needs of the students.

As technology becomes more and more prevalent in the classrooms, the role of the teacher is transforming from the sage on the stage to the guide on the side. Schools settings are changing from the traditional setups and moving towards a blended learning environment or flipped classroom.



However, even though digital learning and technology are transforming the way our students learn and the way teachers provide the content, be it digital or traditional paper pencil delivery, the need for a great teacher to provide and prepare the lessons continues to be essential. To that end, Bellflower Unified School District continues to provide professional development that supports the learning of our amazing and dedicated teachers so that they can continue to grow as professionals to enhance and build their 21st century skills.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



It is hard to believe we are at the end of another successful school year. Congratulations to the class of 2016 and welcome to public education for the class of 2028!

It has been a pleasure publishing the excellence directly from the classroom and we look forward to next year. Thank you as always for including *School News* among your reading choices. Don't forget to include the public library among your activities throughout the summer.

Our next issue is September 14. Until then have a fun summer!

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Las Flores *Home Education/Independent Study Academy*

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



Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

2016-17: Destination High School

High school students in the Bellflower Unified School District and surrounding counties will soon have a new, innovative educational option. The 2016-17 school year will see Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy expanding to include ninth and tenth grade. Similar to the existing TK-8 program, the high school will offer two distinct options. The traditional model will allow students to learn at home utilizing the learning management system, Odysseyware, in addition to enrolling in a language class outside of the school district. In contrast, those opting for the blended model will take a language course on campus three days per week, a blended English course that combines face-to-face and online learning, as well as online classes through Odysseyware.

The independent study program has a variety of benefits for students. For example, students will be assigned a district-issued laptop to complete their coursework. All classes offered will meet a-g requirements for CSU/UC admission and provide students with weekly in person access to highly qualified teachers to offer support. The school will also have regularly scheduled on-site labs for additional assistance. Thus, students will have the ability to devise an academic schedule that accommodates their individualized needs which may include courses at the local community colleges if they so choose. Furthermore, those that reside within Bellflower Unified boundaries remain eligible for athletics at their home school, and all students have the capability of participating in clubs and activities at the Las Flores Educational Center.

Ultimately, the school's design is intended to offer ninth and tenth grade students an educational alternative to the traditional high school experience, one that will prepare them for college and careers while offering the opportunity of flexibility in scheduling. Bellflower Unified School District recognizes that 21st century pupils learn in a multitude of ways, and Las Flores Home Education Independent Study Academy seeks to meet their needs through this unique academic opportunity.

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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

Elementary Education

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



Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

An Early Start To Academic Success

The Bellflower Unified School District is proud to offer Transitional Kindergarten in 7 of our elementary schools to serve students across our district. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) admits children whose fifth birthday falls between September 2 and December 2 of the school year. Senate Bill 1381, known as the Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010 changed the cutoff date for students to enter kindergarten so that children would begin kindergarten at an older age. To accommodate younger students, TK was created to provide public schooling for students whose birthdates would have allowed them to enter kindergarten prior to SB 1381. The rationale behind SB 1381 was that older entry into kindergarten would promote later school success (CDE, 2013).



We are proud that our program offers students a place to learn, grow, and thrive. TK teachers have the unique opportunity to plan and implement curriculum that is reflective of a developmental continuum, reinforcing preschool learning expectations. In addition, our teachers prepare students to meet or exceed the rigorous California Standards by the completion of kindergarten. Just as English Learners in kindergarten, BUSD teachers have a dual obligation to English Learners in TK: first, to provide a program that is designed to overcome language barriers, and second to provide meaningful access to the curriculum (Castaneda v. Pickard 648 F. 2d 989, [5th Cir. 1981]).

Enrollment for all students for the 2016-17 school year started on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. If you haven't yet enrolled your child for the upcoming school year, you should do so before Wednesday, June 16, 2016. Enrollment includes TK, kindergarten, Home Education/Independent Study and Dual Immersion. All schools will accept registration from the hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily. Our first day of school for the 2016-17 school year will be Monday, August 29, 2016.

Head Start

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



Cristina Blevins
Director Child Development

Get Ready to Learn!

Do you have a child who will turn 3 before December 1st? If so, you may have access to no cost preschool through BUSD's Head Start preschool program.

Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness for children from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Head Start programs provide a learning environment that supports children's growth in many areas such as language, literacy, and social and emotional development. Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher.

Head Start preschool can:

- Promote social, emotional and academic growth
- Help prepare children for kindergarten
- Assist children in developing independence and individual choice
- Encourage growth in the areas of language development and cognitive skills
- Strengthen motor skills such as running and jumping

For more information about enrollment in BUSD's Head Start preschool program, please contact the Head Start Office at (562) 461-2227.



Instructional Personnel

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



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

CalAPS

California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS) is “up and running!” Students are participating in five after school courses: Careers in Education, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Firefighting Occupations, Health Occupations and Law Enforcement.

The program’s Mission and Vision Statements read:

Mission Statement- CalAPS is dedicated to developing and providing quality career technical education for students to ensure they become successful, contributing college and career ready members within the global community.

Vision Statement- CalAPS commits to ensuring courses are aligned to the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards, Standards for Career Ready Practice, 21st Century Skills or Competencies, Knowledge and Performance Anchor Standards and Pathway Standards.

CalAPS commits to providing students classroom instructors with up to date industry expertise and meaningful career explorations and work experience.

CalAPS commits to partnering with local business, civic, and higher education institutions to deliver a Career Technical Education program which provides students experience for post-secondary education and/or employment.

CalAPS commits to developing students’ technical, personal, professional, and career planning skills.

CalAPS commits to providing learning opportunities based on labor trends, the local labor market, student interests and when appropriate, aligned to districts’ CTE pathway sequences.

Bellflower and Lynwood Unified School districts will join together in the fall to expand additional after-school course offerings for high school juniors and seniors. Courses offered will be based on both district’s Career Technical Education Pathways and areas of student interest. Students will be able to view course offerings and sign up for classes via a CalAPS website currently being built. Stay tuned for more CalAPS information!



Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Harvest of the Month Provides Seeds of Change

Bellflower Unified School District participates in the Harvest of the Month program offered through the California Department of Public Health as part of the District Wellness Policy. Harvest of the Month promotes and supports healthy eating and lifestyle habits to help combat the serious problem of child obesity and to help reduce other health issues facing all of our children in California. "Research shows eating a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables and getting at least 60 minutes of physical activity daily can help children maintain good health, a healthy weight, and lower risk for other serious health problems" (California Department of Public Health, 2014).



Ms. Natalie Price, Nutrition Specialist, discussing meal portions



Student slicing cabbage for the Chinese cabbage salad

Harvest of the Month provides nutritional education for our students. Teachers participate in a training program to be used in classrooms to expose students to a variety of fruits and vegetables through hands-on opportunities to explore, taste, and learn about the importance of eating fruits and vegetables, and being physically active every day. The program exposes students to 36 California grown fruits and vegetables by featuring several different ones each month through classroom demonstrations and tastings. Students at Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center recently participated in Harvest of the Month and helped prepare a delicious Chinese cabbage salad and vegetarian chili.

Ms. Mary Ball, the school's case manager, learned of the Harvest of the Month program at a Caring Connections collaborative meeting and arranged for the nutrition specialist from Harvest of the Month to conduct the demonstration lesson at the school.

Intensive Learning Center

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



Dr. Isel Taylor
Principal

Creative Options for Students

As part of our full implementation of our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports program, S.O.A.R, two new programs, the Relaxation Station and Career Café, were developed to provide students with options during their morning and lunch recesses. The goal of the Relaxation Station is to provide students with an area to relax while working on independent or small group activities and is available to first through sixth graders during their morning recesses. The Relaxation Station encourages student collaboration and helps to foster positive social skills through activities that allow students to draw, color, read, write, and play board games. The Station is designed to host 20 students at a time, and a sign in and out system was established and monitored by our school counselor and guidance intern.

Our Career Café is an opportunity for our students to meet individuals from the community and learn about their careers. Career Café is an interactive setting in where students have the opportunity to hear and ask guest speakers about their careers. Third through sixth grade students who are interested in the scheduled speaker attend the Career Café during their lunch recess on the scheduled Friday. Two very popular guests included the Lakewood City Mayor, and a UCLA Senior Program Manager. Students especially liked the fact that during the sessions they often leave with related items like pens, hats, flash-drives, bags, and pamphlets.



UCLA Senior Program Manager



Lakewood Mayor Jeff Wood

Secondary Education

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



Colleen McKinley
Director

Conceptual Understanding in Math

The Bellflower Unified School District is completing its second year of a partnership with the University of California, Irvine Math Project. Sixth grade, middle school and integrated math teachers have received extensive professional development that has trained them on how to bring in lessons on math concepts that are hands on and allow students to explore concepts that would have traditionally been presented to them as a procedure. For example, think about how you learned about volume. Likely, the teacher showed pictures of figures and provided formulas

that allowed you to calculate the volume by plugging numbers into the formula. In contrast, this year students in 8th grade will use clay to build three dimensional figures to explore the concept of volume and how the formulas were determined. Allowing time for this will not only mean that our students will be able to calculate volume as they always have, but in addition they will also understand why the formulas are what they are and be able to apply this understanding to real world problems. Math teachers have been working hard to adjust their instruction to align with the rigor of the new California standards and the Irvine Math Project has allowed them time to learn and collaborate on new activities in the classroom. What is most important is that we are preparing our students for jobs in the 21st century that demand application of math concepts. Students should now be able to answer for themselves the age old question of “when are we ever going to use this?”

Special Education & Student Services

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Tracy McSparren
Assistant
Superintendent

The Year is Not Over, Yet!

As we approach the end of the year, and students begin looking forward to summer, it is a time when students tend to struggle and ease up on the effort they have put in the rest of the year. It may seem like the year is almost over, but we still have 16% of the school year left! Take a moment to remind your student that the year is not over. Remind them to:

- Every day Counts: get to school every day- on time
- Grades aren't final: complete all work and study for tests
- Be a responsible citizen: obey school policies and take pride in their campus.

Educational Services

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



Stacey Larson-Everson
Assistant
Superintendent

Sparking Students' Curiosity!

What inspires our students to want to learn? Research suggests that often it is the thrill of exploration or curiosity that leads students to learning, critical thinking and reasoning. We recognize curiosity in students when we see them excited, seeking information, asking questions and initiating their own exploration. Studies have found that when students are curious about a topic they spend more time reading and acquiring knowledge on that subject matter and retain what they learn for longer periods of time. It is interesting to note that research has also linked curiosity with a variety of significant adaptive behaviors including out-of-the-box thinking, humor, playfulness,

optimistic emotions, noncritical attitudes, tolerance for anxiety and other characteristics linked with positive behavioral outcomes. The bottom line: instilling curiosity in students encourages their desire to learn and fosters academic as well as social-emotional well-being. Here are a few ways to inspire curiosity:

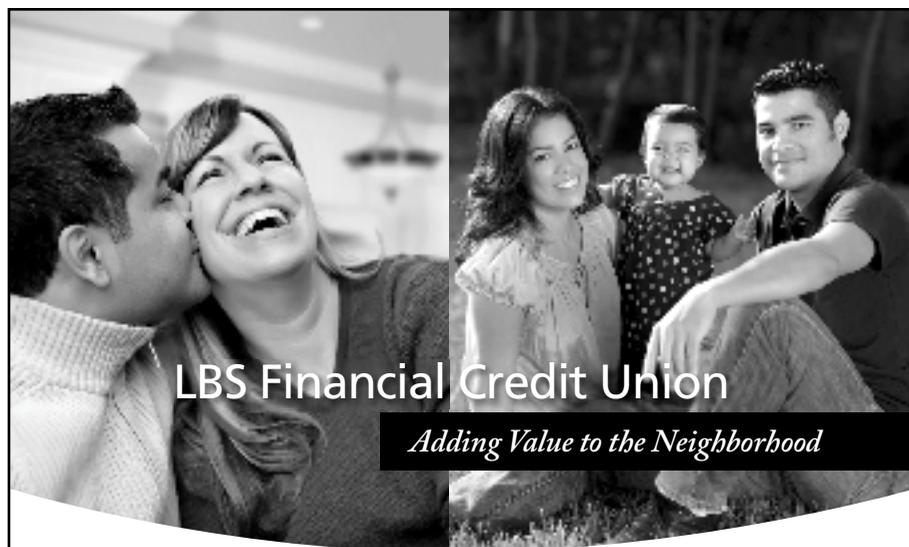
- Notice and reinforce curiosity when you see it in action.
- Model curiosity by asking questions and help students develop quality questions that they want to find the answer to.
- Curiosity is contagious and students like to work collaboratively. Look for opportunities for your student to work with family and friends to explore a topic or search for information.
- Help your student start a “Wonder Diary” where they can jot down ideas and questions about things that interest them or that they want to know more about.
- Provide opportunities for choice. When students get to choose a book, topic or activity, they will most often pick something they are more interested in or are already naturally curious about.

By promoting curiosity, you can inspire student learning and help students develop valuable academic, social and emotion skills. What are you curious about?



Whitewood Preschool Celebrates Reading!

In honor of Read Across America day and Dr. Seuss, Whitewood staff dressed up for the occasion and parents and students had a picnic and read books.



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Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Baxter Artists Create Mosaic Masterpieces!

Bursting with excitement, Baxter students in the after-school APPLE program proudly unveiled two original artworks completed for the school. The two bear-themed mosaics, a culmination of 12 weeks of art lessons, were greeted with thunderous applause from students and visitors. This service project was made possible by the efforts, hard work and partnership of our APPLE program and the Accessible Arts Workshop staff. The workshops provided an outlet for creative expression for students with a wide range of abilities. Students worked in an inclusive and collaborative environment and were taught by a skilled artist who designed lesson plans using the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

Every Friday after school the students came together to design, plan, and create the two murals. Through artistic interpretation, students had an opportunity to express their pride in their school. Students selected the Baxter 5 and the Baxter Bear, which represent our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support expectations, to design their mosaic murals. “My experience with mosaic art was fun, but it was hard work,” shares Vincent Miranda. “Now that it is done, I am proud of myself and my team!”



Melanie Serrano, Anthony Murillo, Melina Barrios and Vincent Miranda reveal their artwork.



The mosaics represent the school mascot and positive behavior expectations.

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

Civic Learning Award of Excellence

Bellflower Middle/High School is proud to announce that we have been named one of three schools in California to win the Civic Learning Award of Excellence, California's highest honor for civic-learning programs. The Civic Learning Award for public schools is co-sponsored by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye. The award is designed to both celebrate successful efforts to engage students in civic learning and to identify successful models that can be replicated in other schools. Bellflower High School's civic-learning program, launched three years ago, engages students in real-world issues. Students frame inquiries into a community issue, investigate the issue, engage in dialogue and capture different points of view before drawing a conclusion they share with teachers and classmates.

On Tuesday, April 5, 2016, Bellflower Middle/High was visited by Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, where she presented our school with the Civic Learning Award. The event was also attended by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, D-Bell Gardens, United States Representative Linda Sanchez, Bellflower Mayor Dan Koops and representatives of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and Los Angeles County Office of Education.



Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Confidence Johnson
Principal

Bolts are Charged for Science!!!

All of the students in grade 4 had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on educational exhibit featuring rescued marine creatures. This Traveling Tide pool is sponsored by the Los Angeles Conservation Corp as part of the Central Basin Municipal Water District. Our students enjoyed visiting: The Touch Tank Station, California Water Jeopardy Game and Decomposer Game. Each activity took about 45 minutes which kept students highly engaged as they learned about water conservation, marine organisms, and the food chain. Students gained a better understanding of living things and how it affects our physical regions.



Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Tiffany Dominguez
Principal

The Value and Importance of Reading

This past month we took the opportunity to encourage and support reading during National Read Across America Day. On this day we had members of the community visiting classrooms, each reading to and donating a book to the classes they visited. Students dressed in pajamas, brought stuffed animals and pillows, and spent the day reading and being read to. That evening, PTA and staff worked together to host our first annual Bingo for Books event. This night included music, a food truck, photo opportunities, and different types of bingo being played in classrooms – with books given away as prizes. Over three hundred people attended and we gave away hundreds of books! It was a true pleasure to see staff, students, and the community come together to enjoy the evening and to celebrate reading, and we here at Jefferson are excited to make next year's event even better!



Ms. Mendez, Mrs. Ferber, and Mrs. Rivera excited to celebrate Read Across America Day

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Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Building Community

At Esther Lindstrom Elementary, students, staff, and parents come together as a community to support student success and educational growth. Most recently, during Read Across America, Lindstrom K-Kids read to younger students to share their love of reading. Kiwanis K-Kids is a club for 4th – 6th grade students that organizes opportunities for club members to perform service, build character, and develop leadership skills. A community of readers is blossoming on campus.

In March, Lindstrom's running club joined the Lakewood community and participated in the Lakewood Community Run. Students practiced weekly to prepare



Sukhrajpreet Kaur reading to kindergarten students during Read Across America.

for the 5k run and learned skills for running safely including proper stretching, pacing, and hydrating. Not only was this an opportunity for students to learn healthy habits, it also was an opportunity for Lindstrom students to support Soroptimist International of Lakewood/Long Beach and the Lakewood Sheriff's Station.

“Lindstrom Lions are always ready to ROAR” is the motto that our students recite every morning. It means that Lindstrom students are respectful, only do their best, are always safe, and responsible. Lindstrom Lion's show their pride in taking responsibility for building a community of learners on campus and supporting the local community.

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

SOONS Celebrate Success!

The 2015-2016 school year has been a productive one and SOONS have a lot to celebrate. Seniors and eighth graders are preparing for finals, activities and of course, graduation and promotion. Once again Mayfair's involvement in the community was evident by the success of project shepherd, holiday baskets, coat drive, toy drive, and our holiday giving tree. Our 7th annual College and Career Fairs were a huge success with our students and parents/guardians obtaining information that is important for the future. Senior scholarships also remained a priority. The community support from more than 15 groups like the Rotary Club and the Veterans of Foreign Wars were key in providing financial assistance to our students going to college and of course the 9th annual Hiram “Chick” Peterson faculty vs. student's basketball game raised thousands.

Mayfair is also proud to have a new school website, mayfairmonsoons.org. Please go on and check it out and while you're there make sure that you sign up for Parent Portal if you are not already. Having a Parent Portal account is now necessary to receive all of the summer information that you will need for preview days because we will no longer be mailing packets home. Being online will also help remind you to talk to your student(s) about Internet Safety. There are so many inappropriate apps, such as Ogle, that are being abused on a constant basis. Please take an active role in educating your student(s) to prevent these issues from becoming uncontrollable.

The Mayfair family would like to thank the parents and community for their support and involvement in our school this year. Have a great summer and please plan vacations accordingly because the first day of school is August 29th. Go Soons!



Students and staff take a moment to celebrate the evening at the Hiram “Chick” Peterson faculty vs. students basketball game.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

A Busy Time

This last trimester is a busy one at Ernie Pyle with students showing what they know and continuing to set new goals. Third-sixth grade students are participating in state testing and we are excited to see the evidence of the hard work teachers and students have put forth this year. Our Pyle Panthers have been working on re-

committing themselves to good on-time attendance habits and good cafeteria behavior. Students and teachers are enjoying a little inter-class competition for attendance and “Café Pyle” behavior. Winning classes for “Café Pyle” win a Golden Spork or Golden Tray trophy to keep for the month and lunch on the grass, including exclusive access to P.E. equipment and games during the lunch recess period. Classes winning the attendance awards earn an extra recess with the Principal and Assistant Principal. These events may be visited by a special guest: Mr. Panther! He is always up for celebrating with our wonderful students and supporting them as they reach their goals. We are the Pyle Panthers! Watch Us Climb!



Ramona *Elementary*

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



Dr. Deirdre Reyes
Principal

A Year Filled with Positive Learning Experiences

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the principal of Ramona Elementary school this year. I am grateful for the warm welcome I received from parents, staff, and scholars. It is a pleasure coming to work here every day! Reflecting back on the 2015/2016 year, I can safely say that it was an exceptional year at Ramona. Ramona teachers participated in a variety of staff development opportunities this year to ensure that they would continue to deliver quality and engaging instruction to their students every day. Our classrooms are all fitted out with

the latest interactive technology meaning that our students are fully engaged in their learning as 21st Century learners. Teachers worked with technology trainers throughout the year to co teach interactive technology lessons and this has allowed our teachers to excel in this important area. Our teachers also enlisted our parents as partners in education by presenting a series of parent workshops packed with strategies for helping at home with reading, writing, and math. This year we received validation for all of our hard work.



In May, our school was honored as a Gold Ribbon School by the California Department of Education. What a wonderful validation for our teachers and scholars!

We continued to refine and develop our PBIS program this year. We started something new called RAMS Points based on our behavioral expectations- Respect Others, Act



Responsibly, Make the Best Choices, and Scholars Every Day, Every Way. Our students earn points for the school as a whole when they are observed by a staff member demonstrating RAMS positive character traits. We began with a goal of 5000 points last September. The students earned a free dress day for reaching this goal. We are now up to 35,000 points and our students look set to beat our end of the year target of 65,000 RAMS points. Every Friday, our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Williams, announces progress with the points at flag salute and the excitement of the students is palpable. Our students can see that when we all work together, great things happen and our entire school benefits. We have seen a sharp decrease in office referrals since we implemented this school wide program.

When the excellent programs at Ramona are paired with the unwavering support of our parents, our teachers and Ramona scholars will continue to soar. Our scholars benefit daily from instruction based on rigorous academic standards, effective curriculum and ongoing assessments delivered by a solid, caring, and long standing faculty who are in turn supported by the surrounding community. This blend of home, school and community ensures that our students are Scholars Every Day, Every Way!

Somerset *High School*

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



A Model Continuation School

Somerset High School has earned a three year term as a Model Continuation School in the 2015-2016 school year. Somerset Continuation High School does exceptional work to keep at risk students on the path to career and college readiness. Continuation students are behind in credits and through the use of

effective guidance and support, Somerset students leave with a high-quality education and the self-confidence required to enter college or the career of their choice. The following new programs were added for students to help them gain the skills necessary for success after graduation



Somerset Students competing in SkillsUSA State Competition.

and were a major factor in earning the Model Continuation school designation. Somerset added an Associated Student Body program, Leo and Key service clubs, a SkillsUSA career technical competition and leadership program and a Model United Nations program. Somerset is the first continuation school in California to run a Key Club or a Model UN program. These programs give students the opportunity to see their potential in leadership, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and the opportunity to compete and work with other schools within the region.

Washington *Elementary*

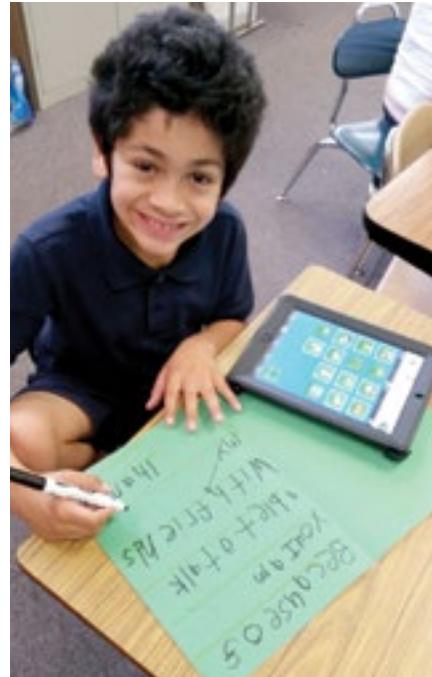
9725 Jefferson St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6535 • www.busd.k12.ca.us/washington.html



Going Above and Beyond

Two of our Special Education Teachers understand the importance of being advocates for their students and finding ways to bring additional resources and provide inclusion opportunities for their students. This year both Mr. Goldstein and Miss Casillas were recipients of grants from DonorChoose.org grants and have brought learning to another level for their students. This organization works with teachers and provides them financial support to fund projects that may not be supported with regular funding and that may be costly for teachers to fund themselves. It takes teachers writing a detailed proposal and explaining how the project will enhance their students learning.

For Mr. Goldstein who teaches the BEST class which stands for and focuses on behavioral and emotional social teaching, it has provided students the opportunity to learn in a different way. One of the grants focused on a cooking project which involved team work along with language and math integration. For Miss Casillas who works with our Moderate to Severe students she has been able to allow students to have more communication support and purchase additional devices so that they become devices to benefit the whole class. The money donated allowed her to purchase two iPads for her class. Together they both applied for a grant to beautify the garden and allow their students to have ownership of the school, have a place to plant the crops for the food project and work on some vocational skills that may later help some of them. Both teachers share that the glow on their students face when they are engaged in these projects makes it well worth it.



We know that it takes a village to raise a child and teachers like Mr. Goldstein and Miss Casillas go above and beyond to find opportunities to take learning to another level!



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Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

Students Reach 1000 PAWS Points!

On March 24th the Craig Williams community celebrated reaching a positive milestone by having Dr. Remland kiss a pig! Students were rewarded with this pig-kissing ceremony as part of the positive behavior rewards system that is in place across the Craig Williams school campus. As part of the Bellflower Unified School Districts initiative to support Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) the schools PBIS committee came up with PAWS slips as a reward for students who are caught doing anything that supports the school wide motto of:

Promote Peace and Safety; **A**chieve your Goals;
Work Hard; **S**how Respect

Between January and the end of March Craig Williams students have performed so politely that they were able to collect all of the 1000 slips necessary to have Dr. Remland “Kiss a Pig.” Luckily for Dr. Remland the nearest pig was Miss Ida Mae, an adorable pot-bellied pig who was the personal pet of Woodruff Elementary School Teacher, Cindy Weeks.



Dr. Remland posing with Ida Mae after the “kiss.”

The ceremony on March 24th at the flag pole was attended by all Craig Williams students, staff, a large number of parents and community members as well as television crews from Channel 4, Channel 7, Univision, and a reporter from the Long Beach Press Telegram. The event was a huge success with a red carpet for Ida Mae, and lip balm for Dr. Remland. After making her grand entrance Ida Mae was held up by Cindy Weeks, and students counted down until Dr. Remland went in for his kiss! Students, staff and the community let out a roar of approval, and Ida Mae and Dr. Remland posed for some pictures together.

Working together, the students of Craig Williams Elementary are modeling positive choices in the classroom, on the playground and across the community. Positive rewards like this pig kissing event will continue to be implemented and demonstrate to students the value of putting the positive **PAWS** pledge into action across the Craig Williams’s campus and community.



Dr. Remland wearing his “piggy” headband kisses Ida Mae to the delight of all in attendance!

Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

2016 California Gold Ribbon Award

Frank E. Woodruff is proud to announce we have been awarded the 2016 California Gold Ribbon Award from the California Department of Education. We submitted an application in November under the Model Program category. We received the award for our Response to Intervention (RtI) program. Our intervention team of three teachers and three instructional aides collaborate with our entire teaching staff to meet the literacy needs of all students. All students are given a one to one reading assessment three times per year to determine reading levels and individual growth. These assessment results are used to form RtI groups. During RtI time, students are leveled by literacy proficiency and participate in targeted, literacy building lessons. Students who need additional support are instructed in groups of 6-8 to truly target instruction to specific aspects of decoding, fluency, vocabulary, or comprehension. Accelerated students may be taught in groups of 30-32, and read a shared chapter book and then participate in literature analysis. By collaborating as a team of educators that take responsibility for ALL Woodruff students, we can work together to meet each students’ individual literacy needs.





Dr. Brian Jacobs

year's soon to be graduates, I give pause to reflect upon my time in public education and wonder how those many years passed so quickly. In the span of these decades the changes in education have been incredible. Educational expectations, procedures and assessments are all vastly different.

Thirty-seven years ago, the job market was clearly visible and defined. Today we are educating students to enter for a job market that is still appearing on the horizon. There are limitless problems to be solved, and remarkable tools to be utilized to facilitate solutions. We no longer work in a context of quizzing students to get patent answers to prescribed questions. BUSD teachers now must inspire students to use critical thought for inquiry, while guiding them to utilize reliable resources to solve problems.

Thirty-seven years ago no one could have predicted what the world would resemble today. There were no personal computers, satellite TV, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) compact discs (CD), digital video discs (DVD), cell phones, iPads, and Wi-Fi. There was no such thing as Google, Yahoo, Facebook or many of the other things we now are accustomed to on a daily basis. Currently, major surgery can be done with little or no incision, people can get college degrees online, our military can operate drones to do espionage and carry out tactical operations, and terrorists who attempt anonymity in a crowded city are being captured and convicted via review of video surveillance. In this culture and context, we cannot expect our classrooms to resemble the classrooms from which you or I graduated. It is a different climate with a whole new set of circumstances.

In BUSD I am very proud to be leading a group of fantastic teachers, support staff and administrators in making such dynamic changes in all of our classrooms. Our teachers and schools are moving from a model of sitting in straight rows completing worksheets and relying on the teacher for all new information, to a collaborative environment where students in our secondary classrooms currently analyze and discuss world/societal problems while having access to the most up to date information available via the click of a button.

I am also extremely excited about the students of BUSD having the technological tools to enhance their learning resources. Tools that five years ago were not here to the degree that our students now have access daily to achieve their individual learning goals. I believe that there are so many wonderful opportunities from which our students can choose today, that it at

times is just plain awesome! I have confidence that our students will be well prepared to compete in the global market, and be highly sought after to attend the best institutes of higher education upon their graduation.

As we head into the spring season, I thank our parents and community for their support of our many programs that have taken place throughout the year. But wait, there is more! Concerts, plays, musicals, and much more will be occurring between now and the end of the school year. Please consider attending these events as a way to support our students and our schools. These dates can be found on the individual school's calendars posted on our website.

Throughout the course of the school year I have had the opportunity to visit and spend time in each of our schools, witnessing the powerful instruction and learning going on in our classrooms each and every day. Our schools have a warm, caring, child-centered atmosphere that fosters deep thinking; stretching our students to acquire new information in an engaging way. We have also emphasized the importance and improvement of technology in our schools, placing new equipment in the hands of our staff and students so that they have the tools needed for a relevant 21st century education.

As a district we have also been busy releasing wonderful stories about our students. Please visit our website-www.busd.k12.ca.us. You can also find us on a new district Facebook page, so stop on by and "Like Us" as we have had many stories published in these forums. We will continue submitting articles in the future.

With the 2015-16 school year coming to an end, it is a great time to acknowledge the enormous amount of hard work that has been put in by students, staff, and parents to make this school year a success. Students across the district have made great gains in their learning which will prepare them for their upcoming future school experiences, or career pathways. All of the BUSD staff has worked together to focus on continual improvement by participating in professional development opportunities and Professional Learning Communities for the betterment of your child's learning experiences.

I am truly blessed and so proud to serve the communities of Bellflower, Cerritos, and Lakewood and remain committed to providing every single student the best opportunities and experiences to succeed in college and career. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care and we look forward to a wonderful ending for this school year and a powerful start up for the new school year in August.

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Congratulations Class of 2016!

Owl Singalong



Kate Karp

Adult Beluga Grads whose younger lives were enriched by Raffi's music will be very happy, particularly if they're parents, teachers or involved in any way with children. The beloved artist and children's advocate emerged from a 12-year hiatus in 2014 with his collection *Love Bug*, and he's following up with another planet- and child-centered theme in *Owl Singalong*.



The album was inspired by Raffi's little grandniece, Lucie, and her owl stuffed toy and also by the chorus of live hooting critters in his backyard. Those birds open the title song, a jaunty little melody inviting us to sing along. Choruses of human children and one or two adults join in on standards such as "The More We Sing Together" and other beloved songs that he's monkeyed—or verb-formed other animal species—with: "The Lion Pokey" and "The Dog on the Bus" are rendered with Raffi's brand of gentle silliness that has always endeared him to children.

Raffi presents his versatile voice in so many different ways, whether it's imitating a gruff lion, crooning like Rudy Vallee on "See the Moon," or entertaining with Pete Seeger's celebrated retelling of the South African folktale "Abiyoyo."

And as always, Raffi will leave gentle lessons for little Belugas and Grads of any age: "Green Dream" is his wish for the future for all his young listeners. And from "I'm Not Small": "I carry the world on my back. When it turns, I'll turn, too."

So simple, so wise, and so very Raffi.

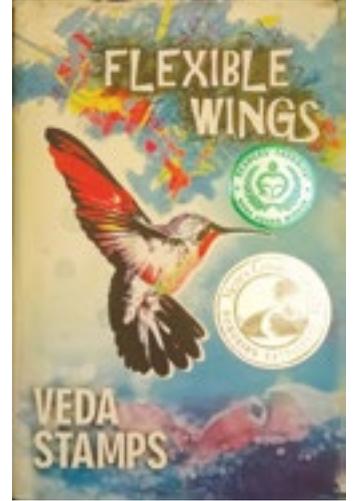
Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

A Page-Turner



Isabella A.

Flexible Wings is Veda Stamps' first full-length novel. The main character, Summer, wants to be on a swim team, but her parents are in the military and move around often. When she's finally on a team, she doubts if she wants to participate. To make matters



worse, her mom is deployed! Dad says that Grandma would come while Summer's mom is gone. Soon, Summer makes new friends, but fights with her younger sister, Emiko. To make up she throws a surprise party! But the party becomes a disaster when Emiko is unable to breathe because of a bee sting. Emiko does get better. Phew! The family survived this disaster, but will they survive what lies ahead- without their mom!

I give this book 5 stars, because every page has an extraordinary family, events, details and tragedies. This book is definitely a page-turner and will keep you reading until the end!

Isabella is a fourth grader who loves to write based on her experiences fictionalizing them into stories that relate to young readers. Isabella wants to be an author of realistic fiction when she grows up. She will rate the books 1 to 5 with 5 being the best.

Whole Health Everyday 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 June 15, 2016

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

- | | | |
|----------|----------|------------|
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| CARROTS | LEMONS | SEEDS |
| CHICKEN | MINERALS | VEGETABLES |
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Winner of the March Word Search Contest!**





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