

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



Volume 15, Issue 125

November 2021–January 2022

## Unified Sports Raises Disability Awareness



**And the fans ROARED at Adams Middle School!**

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## Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

### Middle School

I'm a middle school fan. Please, don't laugh. The best days of my K-12 schooling go back to my years at Newton Middle School (now called Richardson) in Torrance USD. As I'm sure you remember, adolescence is such a pivotal time in one's life. When Team RBUSD talks about the "whole child" as we often do, there is an extra dose of focus placed on the social, emotional, physical, and academic aspects during these years. As I have said for decades, if middle school kids disengage and mentally drop out in grades 6-8, they often physically drop out in high school.

One of the greatest reform documents ever produced by the California Department of Education was *Caught in the Middle* (1987). *Caught in the Middle* was relentless in reminding educators and parents that during these years middle school students are neither elementary nor high school students—they are truly *caught in the middle*. Therefore, their educational program must be unique. We have that in RBUSD.

I'm a former middle school teacher, assistant principal, and principal. I don't consider myself an expert on anything; what I can share with you, however, is that our two middle schools—Adams and Perras—are full of teachers, support staff, and administrators who understand, engage, and advocate for their kids. I can assure our parents and residents that the adults in these two schools are true miracle workers. They care deeply in each and every student. When I walk away from an Adams or Perras visit, I'm always happier and prouder than I was before I arrived. There is such a focus on high academic achievement and inclusion at our two middle schools that it's truly inspiring.

So, here's to the best middle schools around. Thank you to our thriving Adams and Perras staff members. Thank you to our caring parents. Thank you, most importantly, to our college and career-focused kids who are looking forward to attending the finest high school in the South Bay, Redondo Union High School.

## Board of Education

### Our Students Will Continue to Thrive

By Rachel Silverman Nemeth, Presiding Officer

My mom started her career as a public school elementary librarian in the 1970's. I remember spending school breaks helping her inventory books according to the Dewey Decimal system. Around this same time, my aunt started a free tutoring service to help underprivileged children with literacy. English Language Arts has always been a part of my life. I have learned that reading is different for everyone. I personally love historical fiction and crime novels, while others may be excited by articles on physics or astronomy. Regardless of what you may enjoy, literacy is what opens up the door to college and career success.

Being a part of the Elementary English Language Arts ("ELA") Curriculum Exploration and Adoption Committee has given me a renewed purpose in why I wanted to become a school board member. Working alongside teachers, administrators, and parents has offered the opportunity to tangibly support teaching and enhance student achievement. ELA affects every other aspect of a child's education, from math to science.

Research in literacy instruction has evolved. In exploring a California standards-aligned curriculum, we are looking at the most current research as we explore a shared vision for excellence. The teachers, administrators, parents and school board members who make up this group are incredibly dedicated to doing what is right for our children in the best way possible to make Redondo students successful. The committee's self-described top values say it all: student-centered, open-minded, respect, innovative, teamwork. After each meeting, the materials, posters and agenda are posted to the Educational Services page of the RBUSD website. You are invited to follow along in the process with us and experience how a new curriculum is adopted and put into place.

As we move forward, I know that our students will continue to thrive. We are Redondo!

### Board of Education Meeting Dates

**2021**

**December 14\***

**2022**

**January 11**  
**January 25**  
**February 8**  
**February 22**

**March 8,**  
**March 22,**  
**April 26\***  
**May 10**

**May 24**  
**June 14**  
**June 28**

**\*\* Due to Summer recess, only one Board meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in July.**

**4:00 p.m. Open Session through August 24, 2021**

**Remaining Dates To Be Determined (\*4/26/22 – Organizational Meeting)**

**\* Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in**

**September, November, December, and April.**

**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278**  
**(310) 379-5449 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)**



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

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[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
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## Happy Thanksgiving!

This is my favorite holiday. We have so much to be thankful for everyday, but this is a good time to count our many blessings. At the top of my list are family, friends, dedicated educators and you — involved parents.

I can identify with Dr. Keller's message on page 3. Having had the experience of changing schools in middle school I am thankful I had caring teachers to help with the adjustment at such a critical time. Our next issue is February 2, 2022. Happy Holidays!



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# Beach Cities Health District

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



**Ali Steward, MPH**  
Director  
Youth Services

## Check In on Your Mental Health

With the rush of a new school year behind us and the holidays swiftly approaching, now is a great time to pause and check in on our mental health. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have felt overwhelmed, overworked, isolated and disconnected.

From the lack of physical connection and countless days stuck at home, you may have experienced not as many “good” days as you would if it were a normal year. And you may

have high expectations for the relief you “should” feel as you resume your usual activities.

As we continue to transition to what life was like pre-COVID-19, you may be surprised to find that it’s not as easy to be back out in the world as you had expected it to be. Now is time to pause and *really* ask yourself “How am I?”

Warning signs like these can signal that something is just not right:

- Sleep or appetite changes
- Mood swings
- Excessive worry, fear, anxiety
- Withdrawal, apathy, loss of interest in hobbies or people
- Prolonged depression, sadness, irritability
- Problems thinking, concentrating, functioning
- Substance abuse
- Suicidal thoughts

If you are experiencing a serious or life-threatening concern, please call 9-1-1. If your concern is not life-threatening, support is also available by contacting the 24/7 providers listed below:

- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-8255
- Crisis Text Line: Text the word “HOME” to 741-741
- LA County Mental Health Services: (800) 854-7771

If you or someone you know in the Beach Cities needs assistance with mental health and social-emotional resources and referrals, call Beach Cities Health District’s School Well-Being Line for Families at 310-374-3426 and press option 2, Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Help is just a phone call away.



## COVID-19 VACCINE CLINICS FOR CHILDREN AGES 5-11

After full CDC approval, registration will be available at [www.bchd.org/schoolvaccines](http://www.bchd.org/schoolvaccines).

For questions, call BCHD’s School Well-Being Line, 310-374-3426 and press option 2, Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. – noon.



## Identifying Prediabetes in Children Prevents Lifelong Issues



**Rebecca A. Hicks, M.D.,**  
medical director,  
Endocrine and  
Diabetes Center,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Diabetes is a chronic medical condition in which sugar or glucose levels build up in the bloodstream. The hormone insulin helps move glucose from blood into cells, where it's used for energy.

With Type 2 diabetes, cells don't respond well to insulin, and in later stages of the disease, the body may not produce enough insulin. According to the American Diabetes Association, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated risk factors for diabetes in children due to limited physical activity and sedentary behaviors.

Most children diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes have prediabetes first. Prediabetes means that blood sugar is higher than it should be, but not high enough to be diabetes. Most of the time, the child will not have any symptoms. Prediabetes is a warning sign that a child is at risk for Type 2 diabetes.

Warning signs of prediabetes may include:

- Increased thirst
- Increased hunger
- Low energy levels
- Frequent urination
- Rapid weight loss
- Blurry vision

If a child has these warning signs, they should be evaluated by a doctor right away. If a child is diagnosed with prediabetes, it's important that the whole family makes healthy lifestyle changes to help support and prevent their child from getting Type 2 diabetes.

The Endocrine & Diabetes Center at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach offers programs designed to diagnose, treat and manage childhood conditions, such as diabetes. The team works with families to get a child's blood sugar levels back to a safe range and help them stay at a healthy weight. Learn more at [millerchildrens.org/Diabetes](http://millerchildrens.org/Diabetes).



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# Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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**Doris Donlou-Richmond**  
President

## Deepest Gratitude

Did you know gratitude leads to greater happiness? Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. During this season of Thanksgiving, we here at the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation are especially thankful for our parents and our community for continuously coming together over the past 30 years to invest in the education of our RBUSD students.

Your participation in our annual Investor Drive, the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk, the RBEF Community Classic Golf Tournament and our Spring Gala makes a DIFFERENCE. When we all come together, it enables us to fund much needed programs across the district that otherwise would not exist. Elementary 5th Grade Band and PE, Middle School Literacy Coaches and Intramural Sports, High School Intervention Counselors and new E-Sports Team and Teacher Grants across all levels. All of this is made possible because of YOU and for that RBEF extends its deepest gratitude.



**RBEF Board of Trustees presents \$1,028,000 grant to RBUSD for the 2021/22 School Year.**

## Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

### Reflecting on the Artistic Side of PTA 50+ Years

By Kimberly Quihuis, President

The Reflections Art Program is just one of the many ways PTA focuses on promoting access to quality arts education for all students in California.

The program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme, while increasing community awareness of the importance of the arts in education.

Reflections encourages students of all ages to:

- Unleash creative talents and be inspired
- Express themselves imaginatively in their artwork
- Experience the fun and joy of making art
- Tap into critical thinking skills to create art inspired by the annual theme
- Receive positive recognition for their original works of art.



The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson. Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched.

The theme for the 2020-2021 school year is "I Will Change the World By..." and all students are encouraged to submit original artwork in any or all of the following six areas: Dance Choreography, Literature, Photography, Film Production, Music Composition, and Visual Arts. Students may submit as many times as they like.

Please reach out to your school's PTA to inquire about local due dates, and to see how your child can get involved in this fun and educational program!

# South Bay Adult School

3401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-3340 • [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org)



**Drew Gamet**  
Director

## Shared Services

As the pandemic has continued to impact the needs of our students at the South Bay Adult School, we have found that more than ever, it is critical that our students have access to the shared services that are offered by us, but by our myriad of partners in the community.

Our partners help to make sure that when “life” happens, our students can access resources and have support in penetrating the bureaucracies that can sometimes stand between them and services.

El Camino Community College offers career pathways certificates that are supported by South Bay Adult School Teacher. But if your interests lay beyond our five programs (Child Development, EMT, Construction Tech, Manufacturing Tech and

CISCO Certification), our transition specialists can help you find funding for other programs at El Camino. We also provide support for students that participate in SNAP, TANF, CalWORKs. We can also help if you are a veteran, or formerly incarcerated. No barrier is too difficult for the staff at the South Bay Adult School!



**SBAS Pathways Team 2021-2022.**



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**Jens Brandt**  
*Principal*

## Our Friends at El Camino College

Our Patricia Dreizler High School (PDHS) students, staff, and families are grateful for our ongoing and outstanding relationship with El Camino College (EiCo). In addition to enrolling at EiCo after graduating from RBUSD, our PDHS students have the opportunity to be

dual enrolled at EiCo throughout the school year. Furthermore, our students have access to EiCo's Career Education Programs. This fall and throughout the spring, we will visit a variety of career pathways at El Camino: Construction, Auto Tech, Welding, Cosmetology, and EMT, just to name a few. Students will speak with current EiCo students, professors, trainers, and administrators about the exciting future and job prospects for Career Technical Education

(CTE)-trained professionals. Finally, we will continue to work with EiCo admissions and counselors to lay the groundwork, for our PDHS students, to make a successful transition to college and career. For more information about El Camino College, please visit [elcamino.edu](http://elcamino.edu)



**Our friends at El Camino College**

## RBUSD Educational Services

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-1221 • [www.rbused.org](http://www.rbused.org)



**Dr. Susan Wildes**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

## Measuring Unfinished Learning

One key strategy in RBUSD's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing, student achievement and growth monitoring through high-quality assessments. To measure unfinished learning and recovery, RBUSD administers the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessments in Reading and Mathematics to students in grades 1 through 11.

Students in grade K will test at the winter administration. Any assessment or survey is a snapshot of students at one moment in time, and cannot capture all of what a child knows and is able to do. On any given day, factors such as sleep, hunger, familiarity with the program, motivation, and comfort with technology influence assessment results. For these reasons, multiple data sources such as grades, attendance, and teacher observations, are taken into consideration in monitoring how a student is progressing.

MAP Growth data is shared with students' families as well. Families receive a report that includes:

- RIT Score – The RIT score represents the level of difficulty of skills your child is ready to learn.

- Percentile Level – This is the student's "achievement" percentile ranking compared to same grade students who took MAP Growth across the nation. Important to note: percentile is not the same as percentage.
- Lexile Level – Lexile measures a reader's ability. As a child's Lexile level grows, they are ready to tackle text that is more complex.
- Quantile Level – This measure represents the math skills and concepts a child is ready to learn.
- Conditional Growth Percentile (CGP) - This is a student's "growth" percentile ranking compared to same grade students who took MAP across the nation, and will start to populate with additional administrations.

For more information about the MAP Growth assessment and understanding student data, visit the RBUSD website and check out our "[Understanding Your Child's MAP Growth Report](#)" video to learn more.

Using this research-based assessment, RBUSD is able to frequently monitor the academic health of our students to provide just-in-time supports, appropriate support or challenge, and intensive interventions.

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## RBUSD Child Development

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[www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

### Impactful Statements

*By Andrew Riggle, Site Supervisor*

A “good job” now and then is fine, but does it help children understand why their behavior was good or what parts of their achievement made it praiseworthy? It is no secret that every student craves a sense of personal importance, and effective praise can be a tool to be sure that validation comes from a positive source.

However, simple praise can lose effectiveness quickly. It is too easy to reward children with a simple “good job” or “wonderful” when have done something that is praiseworthy or when they are telling you about an accomplishment, so that is what we give them. Children also love to feel connected and need positivity more than ever, so I am encouraging teachers and parents to be reflective about what these types of statements are telling children and adjust those statements to have more impact.

To help a “good job” become more effective, we need to pair it to the specific action we are praising or to behavior we would like to reinforce. Below are a few examples of ways that one can use to heighten the effectiveness of praise.

1. Use sentence starters, such as “I saw you..”, “I heard you..”, or “I noticed you..”

Example: “I noticed you were focused and engaged, so you finished your homework in record time. Great work!”

2. Identify a goal to praise. Do you want to reinforce positive behavior or an act of kindness?

Example: “You were so kind to your sister when you tied her shoes even though you wanted to go outside and play”

3. Encourage next steps. After a positive experience, let children know that the behavior or accomplishment has room for expansion:

Example: “I saw that you drew an amazing picture of a car! What materials could you use to build it?”

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# Adams Middle School (6-8)

2600 Ripley Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8636 • [www.adamsmiddle.org](http://www.adamsmiddle.org)



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna**  
Principal

## Unified Sports Raises Disability Awareness!!!

On October 27, with the amazing leadership of our Academic Advisor Jennell Tanaka and our Special Day Class teachers Lindsey Glick and Kimberly Penn, an inclusive Adams World Series baseball

physical education tutorials and they cheered them on and did the play-by-play calls while Mr. Crump along with our AMS News and Yearbook students served as photographers. Following the game, a team picture was taken and each of the champions received a medal and a bag of baseball inspired goodies to enjoy.

game was created and held during tutorial. Our Special Day Class students were placed on either Team Penn with Dr. Trang Nguyen or Team Glick with Dr. Kelly while being paired with Friendship Club buddies and other students. Our students had the opportunity to take the field, bat and run the bases. The stands were packed with students from our



**And the fans ROARED!!! Unified Sports at Adams Middle School!!!!**

## South Bay Hands On Art

### “Views of Cacti and a Moonlit Fox”

By Co-Chairs Caasi Copp and Buffy Soule



The first Hands on Art project of the year, “Night Walk” brought many smiles. Volunteers were excited to be back in the classroom, and students were happy to have this tradition back! The next projects will be “Cacti” and “Moonlit Fox”. Students will enjoy creative time while



**“Night Walk” project**

they also learn some key art skills including balance, drawing what you see, texture, and value. Classes can hang the art together to form their own marvelous cactus gardens, or pack

of friendly foxes. After your child’s class, you can engage them even more by ask them about it, like what they made and what was their favorite part. Maybe you’ll see them doodle more cacti and foxes on their own too!

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

## 38th Annual Holiday Festival November 30 - December 5

Public Exhibit — Boutique Shopping

Tuesday, November 30 .....	1:30 - 3:30 pm
Wednesday, December 1 .....	10 a.m. - 9 pm
Thursday, December 2 .....	10 a.m. - 9 pm
Friday, December 3 .....	Closed to Public
Saturday, December 4 .....	10 a.m. - 9 pm
Sunday, December 5 .....	10 a.m. - 4 pm

**\$5 General Admission. Children 5 and under are free.**

### COVID-19 Requirements

Proof of full vaccination is required to enter the tent for ages 12 and older. All persons must wear a face mask while in attendance.



# Alta Vista Elementary School (K-5)

815 Knob Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8650 • [altavista.rbusd.org](http://altavista.rbusd.org)



**Karin Sato**  
Principal

## Inclusion Day at Alta Vista

On Friday, October 15, we celebrated Inclusion Day at Alta Vista. In the past in our country, students with disabilities have taken separate classes or even attended separate schools from their peers. Inclusion Day was created to celebrate the fact that in Redondo Beach, every child in our community is welcomed into our schools and is able to learn alongside peers who are both alike and different from themselves. We celebrated the wonderful learning diversity that our students offer by reading *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor and writing a reflection. Student reflections were a springboard for authentic conversations, where many students shared their own experiences with disabilities and learning challenges. Students also learned a song in sign language, and wrote pledges to include a student who is different



**Everyone fits in here.**

from themselves that day. Inclusion Day was a joyful and reflective experience for students and staff as we celebrated the diversity of our students and community.

# Beryl Heights Elementary School (K-5)

920 Beryl St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8611 • [beryl.rbusd.org](http://beryl.rbusd.org)



**Karen Mohr**  
Principal

## R U A-OK?

Our theme for the year revolves around “random unplanned acts of kindness” (R U A-OK?). How can we show kindness every day? Our district Unity Day provided discussions around treating everyone with kindness and sharing ways to include others in our daily activities. Our Beryl staff gives out Buddy Bucks to students who show good character—who are caring, respectful, responsible, trustworthy, fair, and good citizens and role models. Thanks to our PTA and our school community at Beryl, we have remained steady, kind and connected. Our Buddy the Bulldog makes special appearances at our town meetings to award our Students of the Month, and he visits classrooms to keep school spirit alive.

At this time of year, we want to salute our teachers, students, parents and guardians in every way as we all continue to support one another and encourage our



**R U A OK**

students to do their best every day. We don't have a team without everyone being involved! Thank you, parents, for your support—we are so grateful for our partnership with you!

# Birney Elementary School (K-5)

1600 Green Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8626 • [birney.rbusd.org](http://birney.rbusd.org)



**Mira Baskaron**  
Principal

## Red Ribbon Week

Celebrating national Red Ribbon Week at Birney was full of excitement as well as opportunities for conversation around making good choices. Red Ribbon Week celebrated the week of

October 25th. The most important message in our week long celebration was not how we celebrated each day, but rather the conversations occurring in and outside of the classroom that dealt with diversity, showing respect, being a problem solver, goal setting and being a healthy person.

Although this week-long event celebrates making good choices and becoming a healthier you, we will continue this message all year long. We hope you will also continue discussions around this at home.



Staff showing their spirit by wearing red representing loving yourself.

# We're Open!



## Weekend AdventureCamp

Every Sunday  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Camps

Thursday, November 11  
November 22-26  
December 20-24  
December 27-31  
Monday, January 17  
February 21- 25



## Birthday Parties

PRIVATE parties available  
on Saturdays.



A Beach Cities Health District Program

Reserve your spot today at [AdventurePlex.org](http://AdventurePlex.org).

## Jefferson Elementary School (K-5)

600 Harkness Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • [jefferson.rbusd.org](http://jefferson.rbusd.org)



**Jeff Winckler**  
Principal

### Having Some Fun Along the Way

With the conclusion of the first trimester, and with the holiday season now upon us, we remarkably find ourselves at the completion of the first one-third of the school year.

With that, it is now time to pause, reflect, and do some perspective-taking in regards to the road we have all traveled thus far this school year.

As we proceed through the times ahead, we as a school community continue to be challenged with many of the obstacles, both past and present, from our collective experience with the COVID pandemic. In navigating this, we at Jefferson remain absolutely committed to supporting our students and school community as we work to develop in our students a particular emphasis on social-emotional health and individual wellness, while also developing tools for them to be successful in small- and large-group settings.



**Keeping it fun and funky on Halloween!**

The fall season has been very revealing for our school staff in terms of identifying a variety of student needs, and how to best go about supporting the students so that we can reach them in meaningful ways. In many ways, this need and this task has re-energized and reinvigorated our overall commitment to supporting student growth. The fall has been a successful one in this regard. Along the way we

have had some fun as classes, grade levels, and the school as a whole have worked together, done projects, and held events that remind us of what a wonderful place Jefferson and school can be.

We look forward to the time we have ahead as we enter the second trimester and the 2022 calendar year.

## Lincoln Elementary School (K-5)

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8646 • [lincoln.rbusd.org](http://lincoln.rbusd.org)



**Brianne Nakayama**  
Principal

### Walking for a Positive Impact

The arrival of fall signals that the school year has officially kicked into full gear. The fall season is marked with a number of full five day weeks that allow for students and families to settle into a consistent pace at school. During this time, we

always look forward to one significant community event on the calendar every October. This event involves physical activity to make a difference in lives of our students and community. This annual event is the Skechers Pier to Pier Walk which took place on Sunday, October 24th. The registration dollars from those who joined Team

Lincoln for the Skechers Pier to Pier Walk go directly to Lincoln through RBEF and to Special Needs Students. Whether you walked in-person or virtually supporting this great cause is important for Lincoln as it provide resources for our school and opportunities for our students.



**Lincoln at Skechers Walk!**

## Madison Elementary School (K–5)

2200 MacKay Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8623 • [madison.rbusd.org](http://madison.rbusd.org)



**Dr. Heather Cash**  
Principal

### Strength in Partnership

The single best predictor of student success in school is the level of parental involvement in a child's education. This statement can't be attributed to any one researcher, as it has been proven over and over again through learning research.

Two very long years ago, a culture of school/caregiver collaboration began at Madison School with the "Do Good. Be Kind." campaign, under Wendy Vinzant's leadership as PTA president. The timing was perfect, as it provided us the resilience and foundations of partnership to survive the challenges of the pandemic together.

Madison is extraordinarily special, and our staff has felt nothing but support from our amazing parent community. We've learned a lot from the shutdown—we had glimpses into homes, and parents watched our teaching firsthand.

The home-school barrier has been shattered, and now we have an open communication flow and frequent Zoom conferences.

We're also continuing our morning meetings schoolwide to address the socio-emotional needs of our students. Together with our families, we are building a culture of kindness, inclusion and belonging. It is visible and tangible. We have found a powerful resource in our own community of experts and professionals who can continue to build this support through parent-education opportunities and Zoom chats, such as our recent breakfast hosted by Madison School with our special guest, Jaimee Yellin-Hecker, a licensed clinical social worker, who shared strategies for managing anxiety and conflict.

We are thankful for the wisdom and courage of our RBUSD Board of Trustees for running interference for us so that we may focus on the work of the district: helping our students and families feel connected and focused on student success.

## Parras Middle School (6–8)

200 N. Lucia Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8616 • [www.parrasmiddle.org](http://www.parrasmiddle.org)



**Dr. Jonathan Erickson**  
Principal

### Día de los Muertos!

Students in Ms. Salgado's Spanish classes did a lot to celebrate Día de los Muertos at Parras Middle School this year! The ofrenda project gave students a chance to experience, in a very personal way, a special Mexican custom for remembering friends or family members who are no longer with us.

The custom of making ofrendas is a creative process that incorporates many different traditional art forms. In this project, each student in Spanish 1 at Parras Middle created a mini-ofrenda, a cultural product of Mexico, honoring the life and history of a person or pet who is no longer with us.

Calacas are a form of art done in the shape of a skeleton. In Mexico, this popular art form is used year round, but especially for Day of the Dead. A calaca can be made to honor a friend or to poke fun at a person in power.

This art form demonstrates the lighter side of Día de los Muertos, and reminds us that no matter how rich or how famous a person might be, underneath, she/he is just a collection of bones, no different than any of us.



**Día de los Muertos at Parras.**

# Redondo Union High School

One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • [www.redoundunion.org](http://www.redoundunion.org)



**Anthony Bridi**  
Principal

## We R Back

Sea Hawk Community, We R Back! Quarter 1 is in the books and all Sea Hawks are experiencing what it truly means to be a student on the Redondo Union High School campus. The large range of activities and experiences for our Sea Hawks continue to drive and focus our collective energy and school spirit. As principal, it is challenging to pinpoint what experience has been the best or most memorable. There are many highlights from each of our perspectives that differ with interests, friendships, and individual purpose. With 3100 Sea Hawks, I welcome understanding each highlight that exists and will continue to guide and influence our students toward academic and personal success. Perhaps you or your student have been a part of what I believe are my quarter 1, top 10.

Principal's Top 10 (not in any order)

1. Homecoming Rally = ASB Student Leadership = Phenomenal = Entire Campus Together
2. Homecoming Dance (On Campus) = 1500 + Students In Attendance = RUHS School Record!
3. Senior Night (All Varsity Sports) = Sea Hawk Pride = Sea Hawk Emotion
4. Sea Hawk Athletics = True Competitors = On and Off the Field
5. RUHS Staff = Dedicated = High Expectations = Resilient, Well Prepared, Successful Students
6. RUHS Theatre / Drama = Anatomy of Gray = Received all SUPERIORS from the CA Educational Theatre Association (4 Performances and 65 Members of Cast and Crew) = Stellar
7. RUHS Band and Dance Guard = Whittier Union High School District Field Tournament = 1st place Top Scores in Visual Effect and Auxiliary, Division 4A = Dance Guard = Sweepstakes Award
8. 82 RUHS Active Clubs = Extracurricular Activities = High Interest
9. Community Support = PTSA = RBEF = Skechers Pier to Pier Walk = RU Participation Record = Sea Hawk Belly Flop Contest
10. RUHS Facilities = The Best = Take Pride In Our Campus



**RUHS Senior Night!**

WE R BACK! Time to reflect, set goals, and learn together! Quarter 1 has its many highlights, however there are areas that need attention and intentional focus. Sea Hawk learning community, this is a great time to reflect on our past practices. For our students, there are (3) key questions that can assist in driving their individual academic success.

1. What are my current grades?
2. Do I know what the expectations are in each class, for each teacher, every day?
3. What are my supports for receiving the grade I want to achieve?

Sea Hawks, these questions can/should provide realistic answers for any calculated change, and will lead to promoting self-advocacy. Addressing individual challenges will also assist in developing short and long-term academic goals. We look forward to a great 2nd quarter, together!

Go Sea Hawks!



## Tulita Elementary School (K-5)

1520 Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8628 • [tulita.rbusd.org](http://tulita.rbusd.org)



**Andrew Estrada**  
Principal

### Celebrating Inclusion

In an effort to celebrate the unique qualities of all members of the RBUSD community, all schools participated in a district-wide spirit day to celebrate inclusion in October. With the support of Tulita's PTA, Student Council, and the Inclusive Educational Practices committee, Inclusion Day at Tulita was a success!

Students and staff participated in a wide

range of activities, from a warm welcome from our Student Council as students arrived to the incredible Lawn Flag Pledge activity. The Pledge activity asked students to write on different colored flags and finish the sentence, "I pledge to be inclusive by...". This created a powerful visual at the front of our school with over 450 individual statements and commitments from our students!

Inclusion Day was a reminder that we must be intentional about how we ensure all students, in particular our students with disabilities, are accepted, respected, and included.



**Students are proud of their Inclusion Pledge statements!**

## Washington Elementary School (K-5)

1100 Lilienthal Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8641 • [washington.rbusd.org](http://washington.rbusd.org)



**Andrea Bittick**  
Principal

### The Power of "Yet"

*By Sara McMaster, Assistant Principal*

Our classrooms are full of eager students and who are not only spending time focusing on grade level standards and curriculum, but also learning about themselves. Many of our teachers are teaming up in this effort and collaboratively planning intentional SEL lessons. Recently, all of our second graders were introduced

to the book, *The Magical Yet*, by Angela DiTerlizzi. This book provides its reader with the reminder that there are things we can do right now, and there are things we can't do yet. If we work hard and stay focused, we can achieve what we set out to do. Our second grade students have created their own personal "Yets," to remind them to keep trying even if things are challenging in the moment.

At Washington, we recognize that every student has a unique path to success, and we believe in the power of "yet."

## Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

### Carry Us Away

Book Title: *Stargirl*  
Author: Jerry Spinelli  
Change is a big word and is something a lot of people do so that others will like them. Stargirl is a character that differs from everybody else. Leo

the narrator always tells himself that Stargirl is weird but, do you think that? Your opinion may change throughout the book because of Stargirl's choices. Stargirl is new to the school and catches attention quickly for being unique such as singing with her ukulele in the cafeteria. She becomes the good luck charm at the football game because she starts singing which motivates the players to try harder. She becomes the Queen of the school, but does she maintain her popularity with her quirkiness? Read to find out!

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.



## Daniel's Review

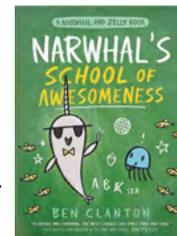


Daniel H.

### Wafflematics

Title: *Narwhal's School of Awesomeness*  
(A Narwhal and Jelly Book #6)

Author: Ben Clanton  
Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish see a school of fish and decide to join them on their way to school. When they all get to school, they find out that school is cancelled because Mr. Blowfish the teacher has a cold. Narwhal and Jelly come to the rescue and become substitute teachers for the day. Narwhal uses his favorite food of all time, waffles, to teach the fish Wafflematics, which is waffles + math! I loved this book because it is silly, cute, and doesn't have anything scary in it, just like all of the other books in this series. Read this book and you will love Narwhal and Jelly like I do!



Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

## Sean's Book Review



Sean

### Middle School Can Change Your Life

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt, is about a 7th grader, Julian Twerski, who attends McMasters Middle School. There, 9th graders are a real problem, as they are the bullies. Julian is seen

admiring a painting of a historical picture, and then is accused of messing it up! Julian's friend, Quentin, suffers from a tumor in his head, and due to this, is promised a visit from a famous baseball player. Another friend, Beverly, is constantly asking Julian to race her in running, but he always says no. This book has a lot of side stories that contribute to the main idea, making the book interesting, suspenseful, and funny. Mark Goldblatt did a great job connecting this book to his previous book, Twerp. In conclusion, *Finding the Worm* is really cool, but you should read Twerp before this, as you will have a much better time!

Sean is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball and volleyball. He loves to teach his dog, Chewie, tricks and taking him on walks. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was spending time with his family in nature.



## Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

### Do You Have An Imaginary Friend?

*Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate is about a family with very little money for rent and even less money for food and toys. When Jackson's dad lost his job, his sister, mother, and the family dog have to move

from place to place. When there was no more money for rent, the family has to live in their minivan. Jackson has an imaginary friend named Crenshaw. Crenshaw is a huge fluffy cat. Crenshaw always comes into Jackson's life whenever Jackson needs help.

The story is full of excitement and sadness. I learn more about homelessness and friendship from this story. Reading this book makes me understand why my parents always tell me to appreciate everything we have, to share when we can, and not to take anything for granted. This book also shows how important it is to have a good friend, even if they're imaginary. I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.



## Taegyong's Book Review



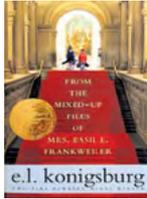
Taegyong K.

### Hideout at the Museum

Title: *The Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*

Author: E. L. Konigsburg

What do you think that the museum is for? There is a girl who thinks a museum is good for hiding. Claudia Kincaid has complaints about



her responsibilities at home and the things that make her uncomfortable. She decides to run away from home and makes a plan to go to the Metropolitan Museum of art in New York to hide so that nobody can find her. She leaves home and takes one of her brothers, Jamie, because he has some money that she needs to go there. Finally, Claudia and Jamie enter the museum and find a place to hide. Now, they start their adventure at the museum.

Can they keep hiding at the museum? Or will they get caught by the guards? What will happen to them at the museum? This book will lead you into the mysteries and adventures. Let's dive into it.

Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

## Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

### Monsters aren't real...are they?

Percy Jackson's *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan is a page turning book with tons of actions on mythological monsters and gods of Mount Olympus. It's also the start to the Percy Jackson series



and what a start it is! I've read this book before and I just had to read it again to say how much I recommend this to all tween readers. Most people have heard of the series but if you haven't, Percy Jackson is the main character who has trouble with school and is about to be kicked out. He also has dyslexia, or trouble with reading. As you go deeper into the story, things will happen that you would have never thought of, and it makes you wonder if it all is even real. Percy Jackson, *The Lightning Thief*, is a must read and Percy Jackson is waiting to start his adventure with you!

Tyson is a 7th grader who enjoys playing basketball, skateboarding, and video games. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. The best thing about quarantine was having extra time to take care and play with Chewie, his dog.

## David's Review



David H.

### One Big Puzzle

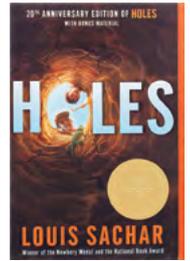
Title: *Holes*

Author: Louis Sachar

Holes is about a kid named Stanley who gets sent to a camp as punishment where he and other kids have to dig holes in the ground each

day, looking for something for the camp warden. What I liked about this book is that it's really 3 stories in 1. There are a bunch of "holes" in each story and the stories are like puzzle pieces that, when combined, make up one big fun story with bits of humor splashed throughout it. This is a "Mom, I know it's bedtime but can I please read the next chapter?" type of book. I absolutely loved this book and you will too!

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.



## Katie's Review



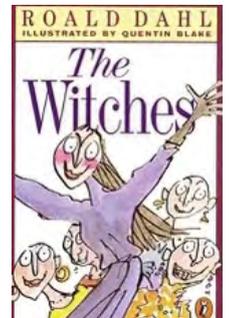
Katie C.

### Witch is Which?

Book Title: *The Witches*

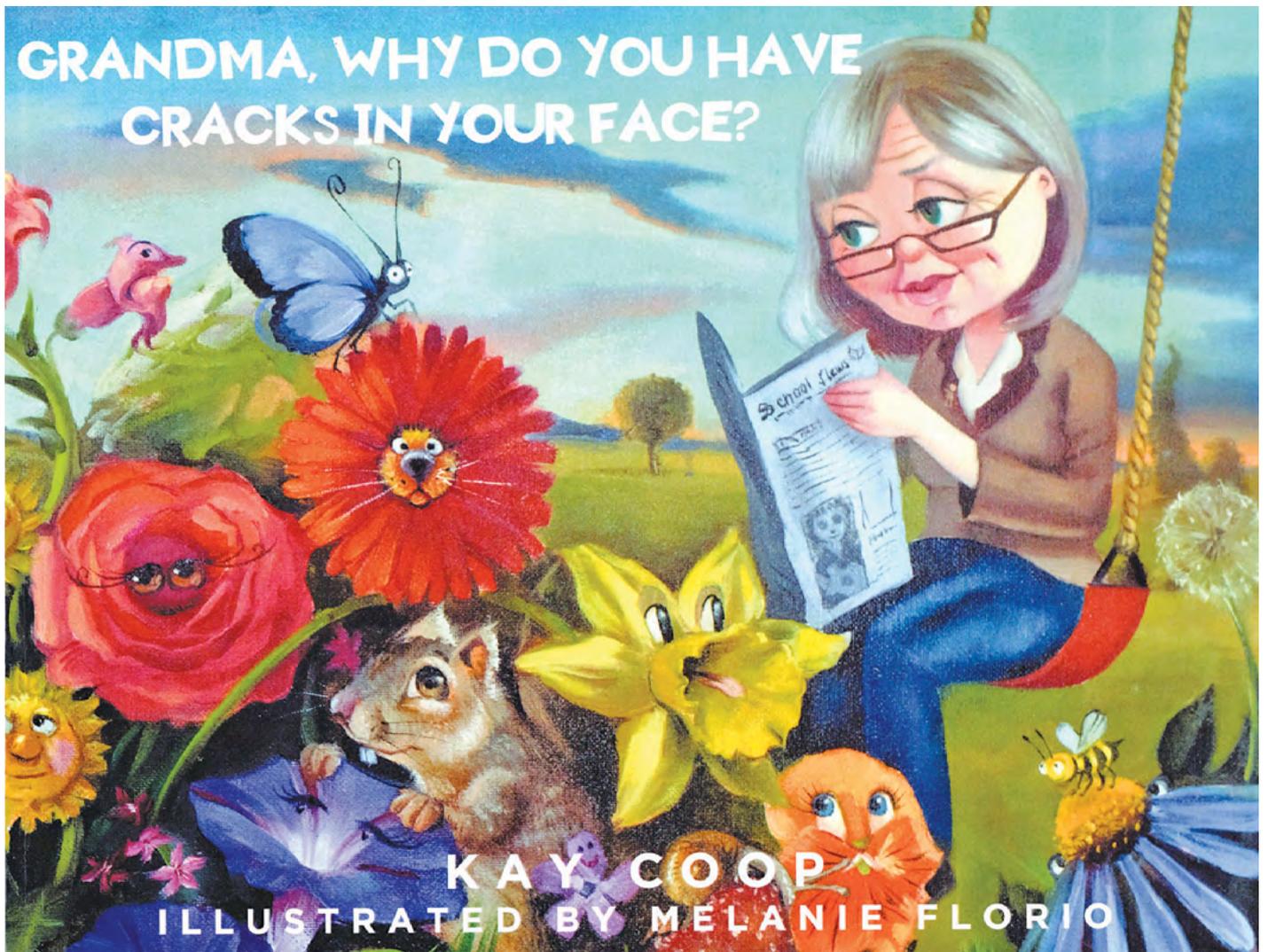
Author: Roald Dahl

Think of a group of women, gathering to speak at a convention in a hotel. Nothing out of the ordinary--except they wear wigs and gloves, don't have toes, and turn children into rats. That is the premise of "*The Witches*," by Roald Dahl. In this fantastical story about witches who hate children, there is no end to your imagination. From the drawn out, shrill voices of the vicious women to the very magical potions they concoct, there is no doubt that you will find the missing piece to all the supernatural myths of the world. A grandson is warned from a very young age about these mystical, mysterious women--but can he face the dangers that creep upon him? If you like a suspenseful story, "*The Witches*" is a perfect book for you.



Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.

# GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP  
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



Now Available on  
**AMAZON &  
BARNES AND NOBLE**

*Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?* Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.