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School News

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Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2013

Doing Whatever It Takes



Dr. Brian Jacobs
Superintendent

It is with high expectations and tremendous excitement that I acknowledge the opening of the 2013–2014 school year. As we begin this new year, the belief of achieving the

“Standard of Excellence – Nothing Less” resonates all across Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD).

As Superintendent, please know that I have worked diligently to implement structures that have led to positive outcomes for improved student achievement. My motto of “Doing Whatever It Takes” has provided direction to clearly meet and exceed prescribed student learning marks and incorporate instructional practices that improve teaching performance and student learning.

Being the Instructional Leader for BUSD, I operate from an educational



philosophy that centers on the belief that it is up to me to “provide an excellent student learning experience for everyone.” This philosophy is the cornerstone of my leadership and is demonstrated on a daily basis.

This philosophy allows for and creates a progressive vision for student, school, and district achievement. This vision and philosophical belief then becomes the capsule of energy to pursue and incorporate those ideals for student success.

All children can learn when their environment is safe, welcoming, and conducive to acquiring knowledge. Creating this positive learning environment requires educators to utilize effective communication, strong classroom management, parental involvement, academic rigor, high expectations for all, collaboration and collegiality, acceptance of change, and accountability.

Structure and assertive discipline are a foundation for a positive learning environment. School discipline must be fair, consistent, and firm. Students must understand their roles in school and the academic and behavioral expectations placed upon them. I believe that when students and parents clearly understand expectations and accountability, they become more actively engaged in their own learning. Meaningful active engagement in learning must lead educators and students to frequently celebrate achievement.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
President

Supporting Our Students

It is a tremendous honor and privilege to welcome you to the new school year. As Governing Board President, I am very proud to have the opportunity serve all three of our communities. As we begin this new school year, let me share some important facts and thoughts that will produce another exciting year for the students of Bellflower Unified School District (BUSD).

Our district currently serves a student population of just less than 13,000 K–12 students, within an eight-square-mile area in southeast Los Angeles County. It includes most of Bellflower, a large portion of Lakewood, and a small portion of Cerritos.

Several of our schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools, three have been honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools, and two were acknowledged as Title I Achievement Schools. Somerset Continuation High School has recently received its fifth commendation as a California Model Continuation High School. The district also includes an alternative education program and Las Flores Home Education/Independent Study Program, while also serving preschool students in Head Start.

This year, BUSD will be offering two new programs for kindergarten students. The first is a Dual Language Immersion Program being offered at the ILC, and the second is a Mandarin enrichment class for students attending the

Las Flores Home Education/Independent Study Program. Both are exciting new language learning pathways for our students. BUSD 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.” With the passage of Measure BB last year, I, along with the Governing Board, look forward to making improvements that provide even higher levels of school learning environments for our children. Thank you for your support in passing such a valuable bond measure.

Some of the current offerings at each of our schools include computer labs, libraries, guidance programs, career academies, vocational training, health offices, tutoring programs, and cafeterias serving hot meals. The clean and attractive appearance of our campuses and the safety of our students continue to be a top priority.

Each of our K–12 schools has a Comprehensive Safe School Plan that is updated annually, anti-bullying themes, and a character education program. Each of these creates and sustains a positive and safe learning environment conducive to excellence.

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 11

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our second school year publishing the excellence from the Bellflower Unified School District. We hope you had a fun summer. This is one of our most popular issues when the principals share with you their bio's. It is interesting to read about where they graduated, their families, pets, hobbies and years in education. They all share the same focus and dedication to educating our youth.

Chalk boards have faded into our memories soon to be joined by smart boards and iPads as technology continues to evolve. Until then... Common Core is here!

School News

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**Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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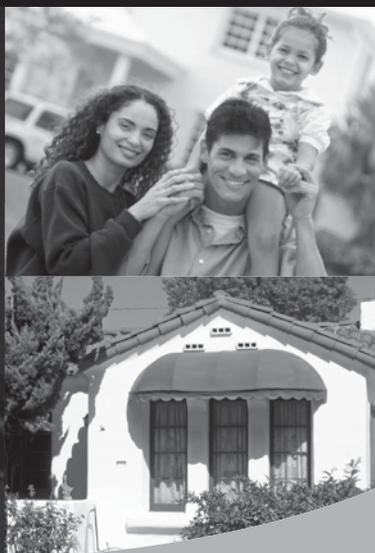


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Instructional Personnel & Programs

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/886-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

The Instructional Personnel and Programs (IPP) Division is responsible for the educational programs offered within the Bellflower Unified School District. The division's goal is to prepare students to be competitive in the 21st century global economy by providing a high quality, well rounded educational experience to all students that is rigorous, culturally relevant, healthful and engaging. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in all content areas.

Instructional Personnel and Programs expect that our students receive the highest quality of instruction within the classroom. Planning for staff development and support is of utmost importance. With the upcoming implementation of Common Core State Standards, IPP has developed a three year implementation timeline to ensure student success. Curriculum development, lesson design and delivery as well as technology are all part of the implementation timeline.

The major departments that are organized within this division are Curriculum and Instruction, and Assessment and Instructional Support Services. Certificated staffing for all regular classroom assignments as well as administration are recruited, selected and assigned through this department. The evaluation process for non administrative certificated staff is overseen through IPP.

Instructional Personnel and Programs coordinate the district's health services and high school guidance services. The secondary Western Association of School and Colleges (WASC) accreditation process, student placement, Citizen's Task Force, elementary and secondary parent concerns and teacher credentialing are monitored through this department.

The Instructional Personnel and Programs office consists of the Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Personnel and Programs, Lisa Azevedo, Administrative Assistant, Janet McBeth, Executive Secretary, Mireya Holguin and Health Services Coordinator, Thuy Phan.

Assessment and Instructional Support Services:

The Assessment and Instructional Support Services department supports teachers and students of BUSD through its three offices: assessment, educational technology, and Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA).

State and local testing for BUSD including Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR), California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE), Physical Fitness Testing (PFT), and district benchmarks are coordinated through the assessment office. To prepare our students for the upcoming shift to the Smarter Balanced assessment in 2014-2015, we have assisted schools in piloting this new, online assessment.

Student test scores and other records are entered into our student information system at the school sites and maintained through our educational technology office. Other duties include reporting district data to the state, updating and implementing the district technology plan, and supporting schools as they update the school sites' technology. Data is disaggregated and sent to sites to assist them in developing their Single Plan for Student Achievement. Report cards are developed and updated to align to Common Core State Standards.

BTSA is a state-wide program which provides mentoring and support for teachers during their first two years in the classroom. Experienced educators work with the beginning teachers to improve their practice and increase student achievement.

The Assessment and Instructional Support Services consists of Director Charlene Bowden, Secretary, Yoko Nervik, Data Technician, Chris Keeler, and BTSA Teacher on Special Assignment Cathy Fong.

Curriculum and Instruction:

The Curriculum and Instruction department plans, organizes and manages instructional programs in BUSD by ensuring its alignment with state curriculum frameworks, Education Code, policies for the Board of Education, and direction of the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Personnel and Programs. In addition, the department is responsible for elementary vocal and instrumental programs, Transitional Kindergarten, Jump Start Kindergarten, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE), and summer school.

California adopted the Common Core State Standards in 2010 and BUSD has been working towards full implementation in the 2014-2015 school year. The Curriculum and Instruction department is responsible for this transition. Implementation of the standards requires professional development for teachers and staff, alignment and pacing of curriculum, and alignment of existing and new instructional materials. Curriculum and Instruction works closely with teachers and site administrators and gives support for district-wide initiatives and instructional programs.

The Curriculum and Instruction Department consists of Director, Colleen McKinley, Secretary, Flor Aguirre, and Library and Textbook Coordinator Paul Fung.

District Nurse/Health Services:

The district nurses oversee the school health policies and programs for the Bellflower Unified School District. They provide expertise and oversight for the promotion of health education. Additionally, nurses provide basic health services to students, perform health screenings, and coordinate communication between school sites and medical care personnel. District nurses dialogue with school staff members, parents, and community members with the goal of providing students with a safe and healthy environment that will serve as a foundation for learning.

Through guidance and training, school nurses assess student health, develop and execute plans for care management and engage in public health functions such as: disease surveillance, immunization compliance, and health promotion. The district nurses are responsible for health services that include the review and practice of first aid by other personnel. District nurses assist in the development and monitoring of the individualized healthcare plans for specific students. These plans may include direct nursing care and the development and implementation of strategies to guide the response of unlicensed personnel in a health-related emergency.

The Health Services Department consists of two district nurses, Thuy Phan and Vivian Venezia.

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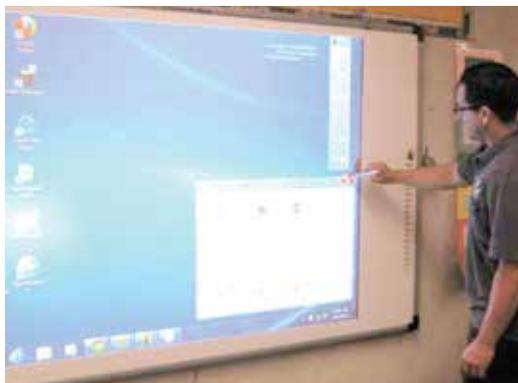


Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Ready to Roar

I am Mrs. Tamara Zylla, the program administrator for Las Flores Home Education/Independent Study Academy. Prior to this position, I served as the school district's English/language arts instructional coach.

I began my career teaching the fourth grade at St. Bernard Parish School in Bellflower, after completing my student teaching at Washington Elementary School in Bellflower Unified. In 1996, I was fortunate to return to BUSD as a sixth-grade teacher at Woodruff Elementary, where I later became a reading intervention teacher.



Steve Loquellano, district technology specialist, sets up the new smartboard in Mrs. Ewing's classroom.

I am looking forward to the new school year, one that will be filled with many technological advances to help prepare our students for the 21st century. I feel truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to lead our Home Education Independent Study Academy. I see a great value in actively involving parents in all aspects of their children's learning.

In 2013–2014, all of the classrooms here at Las Flores will have both interactive and mobile whiteboards and computer-based student response systems. Our families will also have online access to several new computer programs, including Type to Learn, Show What You Know, and Defined STEM. Exciting times are ahead for our Las Flores Leopards!

I am also fortunate to have been honored as the Bellflower Unified School District's Teacher of the Year in 2008–2009. That same year I also earned the distinguished title of Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year.

Prior to this, I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree in social ecology from the University of California at Irvine. In 2003, I went on to earn my master's degree in education from Walden University.

Intensive Learning Center

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



Isel Taylor
Principal

Welcome to 2013–2014!

I am excited to begin my second year as the principal at the Intensive Learning Center (ILC). Previously, I have served as the principal of Washington and Las Flores Elementary Schools, while also filling the role of coordinator of the English Learner Department.

I began my career in education as a bilingual kindergarten teacher in northern California and have had the opportunity to teach kindergarten through sixth grade. I have served as an outreach counselor, parent educator, and assistant principal for a variety of school districts, including Oakland Unified School District, Montebello Unified School District, and Anaheim City Schools. I earned my bachelor's degree in liberal studies from California State University, San Francisco and my master's degree in school counseling and administration from California State University, Los Angeles. I have continued my education by working on my doctoral degree in education.

I am a passionate educational leader, determined to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential. As a young child, I emigrated from Cuba with my family and started my education as an English learner. I credit a lot of my success to my parents' work ethic and high expectations. They also were there to encourage and support me, along with very caring and committed teachers. As the principal of the ILC, I am continually focused on implementing strategies to increase student achievement and provide students with multiple opportunities to prepare for the 21st century.

With this in mind, the ILC is very excited about the implementation of a new Spanish Dual Immersion Program, starting this year in kindergarten. Two teachers have been selected who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the program. Not only do they have the special certification, training, and experience to work in such a program, they have personally experienced it! The ILC will be starting with two Spanish Dual Immersion kindergarten classes this year and will be expanding to first grade the following year.

I look forward to seeing you at different events during the course of the year and supporting the education of all our children.

Alana's Book Review

A Five Star Series



Alana F.

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket contains 13 books about three orphaned siblings named Violet, Klaus, and Sunny Baudelaire. They are being followed by an evil villain called Count Olaf who has tried various

times to steal the enormous fortune that their parents left behind for them.

I like *A Series of Unfortunate Events* because, honestly, I'm getting tired of happy endings. I also like the series because there is a lot of action and unexpected scenarios. What also makes these books interesting is that Snicket has a quirky sense of humor that keeps readers laughing.

For these reasons, I would rate this as a five star series.



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

Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put Bellflower in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2013
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Diego Arteaga and Liliana Martinez**



Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Ready for a Year of Excellence

I am excited to be starting my second year at Albert Baxter Elementary. Before becoming a Baxter Bear, I was a U.C. Berkeley Bear, and received my bachelor's degree in mass communications. I completed my teaching credential at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and received a master's degree in administration from Azusa Pacific University.

I am fortunate to have spent all of my 20 years in education in the Bellflower Unified School District. I started out as a brand-new substitute teacher, and worked for almost every school in the district. I then served as a third-, fifth and sixth grade teacher at Ramona Elementary before becoming assistant principal.



**Albert Baxter staff members are ready to greet students on the first day of school!
Clerk Stephen Burks, Custodian Mel Crow, Secretary Mirna Echeverria,
Principal Sue Curtiss, and Custodian Steve Harp.**

I later spent eight years as principal of Stephen Foster Elementary and Frank E. Woodruff Elementary. With teachers and administrators in my family, education has been a lifelong passion. In fact, you could say that I am following in my mother's footsteps, since she was the principal at Albert Baxter years ago!

I have lived in Southern California for most of my life, and enjoy the many activities that are available here. On the weekends you can find me hiking at the El Dorado Nature Center, strolling at the Seal Beach Pier, or buying shoes at the nearest outlet mall.

I am looking forward to another year as part of the Baxter family. I know that everyone will be working together to help our students achieve academic excellence in a safe and rigorous learning environment.

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Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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Michael Lundgren
Principal

Preparing Students for the Future

Welcome to the start of the 2013–2014 school year! My name is Michael Lundgren, and it is a pleasure and honor to be the principal at Bellflower Middle/High School (BHS), a school with rich tradition and legacies of excellence. I began my career in the Bellflower Unified School District in 1996 as a middle school Special Education teacher and later becoming a high school social science teacher at Mayfair Middle/High School. During my time at Mayfair, I served as the boys' athletic director from 2000 to 2003 and then the assistant principal of discipline, high school counseling, and athletics for five years.



In July of 2007, I was transferred to Bellflower Middle/High School to take the position of assistant principal in charge of discipline and attendance. In July of 2010, I took on a new challenge and became the assistant principal of activities, athletics, and testing, a position I held for two years. Finally, I became principal of Bellflower Middle/High School, where I am beginning my second year. I earned my bachelor's degree in history from California State University, Dominguez Hills and my master's degree from Azusa Pacific University.

I live in Cerritos with my wife and enjoy spending time with our family. I am committed to serving the needs of all of our students, and, with the continued support of our dedicated parents, students, teachers, and staff, I am certain we will continue to achieve a "Standard of Excellence – Nothing Less" at Bellflower Middle/High School.

Our mission at Bellflower Middle/High School is to provide a quality education, including academic, vocational, and technology courses which enable students to become lifelong learners who work collaboratively, communicate effectively, think critically, behave responsibly, and are able to meet the demands of our changing society in order to achieve lifelong goals.

Our vision of Bellflower Middle/High School is to create a place where all students can learn in a safe, clean, and supportive environment. All students will participate in an academic foundation of courses while having access to a variety of quality curricular and co-curricular programs. The learning community will reflect a high degree of ethics, integrity, and responsibility and will take full advantage of the diversity and talents of the staff and student population. Students who have barriers to learning will receive support services through school and community resources. All students will develop personal learning plans connected to goals beyond high school. All students will be prepared, upon graduation, to pursue post-secondary education and/or careers in the work force.

I look forward to having a fantastic year and working with our community to make them proud of the BHS Bucs!

Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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



Deirdre Reyes
Principal

A Strong Start to the New School Year

My name is Deirdre Reyes, and I have served as the principal of Stephen Foster Elementary School for six years. Prior to this appointment, I worked as an elementary teacher in the Bellflower Unified School District and taught at Thomas Jefferson, Las Flores and Washington elementary schools. I also had the privilege of working as a reading specialist in the district for four years. I began my teaching career in Ireland, and I have taught every elementary grade level at some point in my career. I have also worked as an adjunct faculty member at Long Beach City

College and National University.

I earned my Bachelor of Education from St. Patrick's College in Dublin, Ireland and two Masters of Education in reading and administration, respectively, from the University of La Verne. I am currently working on a doctorate in Education at Walden University.

As principal of Stephen Foster Elementary, I feel privileged to work daily with a committed staff, supportive families, and motivated and engaging students. I am dedicated to meeting the needs of all students and supporting everyone in the Foster community to achieve a "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less." As we prepare for another exciting year at Stephen Foster, one goal is continuous improvement for all students. Teachers and I are fully committed to the district mantra "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less." To that end, we will be continuing with the research-based instructional programs started last year. All of our teachers have been trained in Direct Interactive Instruction and will continue to use these strategies to engage students in learning. Thinking Maps and reading and writing strategies from expert presenter Nancy Fetzer will be used to enhance instruction and help students to not only meet but exceed grade-level standards. Teachers will meet to collaborate, review student work, and plan targeted instruction weekly in professional learning communities. Research shows that when teachers collaborate and plan lessons together, everybody benefits, especially our students.

Syncing Up for Success

Last year, we began our transition from the California State Standards to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics. This move will be strengthened this year by the adoption of the Synced Solutions program. This innovative program is web-based and

will provide our teachers with strategies for Common Core State Standards implementation, curriculum and assessments. Many of our teachers attended trainings this summer and have returned to school fully prepared to teach the Common Core Standards. We will also update technology in preparation for the upcoming computerized state tests. Stephen Foster students in third through sixth grade participated in pilot tests last year in English Language Arts and math and learned a lot from the experience. It is a busy and exciting time in education, and the 2013-14 school year is packed with learning opportunities and programs that will keep Stephen Foster students working at a Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less!

Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



Dina Hernandez
Principal

Happy New Year

Welcome back! Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Dina Hernandez, and I am the principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School.

This is my fifth year at Jefferson. Prior to this, I was the assistant principal for three years at Lindstrom and Ramona Elementary Schools. I was originally in the classroom for nine years before I entered school leadership. Prior to teaching, I even filled the role of instructional assistant! Altogether, I have 20 wonderful years of experience in working with students.

I look forward to another exciting year at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Our staff and students will start the year by incorporating technology in the classrooms. All of our rooms now have new document cameras that allow the teachers to project any image onto a white surface. In addition, our fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms have Mimio and Mobi Tech interactive and mobile whiteboards.

The infusion of this new technology will help foster student collaboration and engagement. It makes learning much more student-centered and interactive. The new technology also provides our teachers with a host of additional and engaging features to help enhance their instruction.

The 2013-2014 school year will be an amazing one! I look forward to each and every one of you being a part of this excitement.

Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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



Deborah Apple
Principal

Off to a Great Start

Welcome back to the 2013-2014 school year! As our students went off to enjoy the fun and freedom of summer, I hope you had an opportunity to do the same.

I am excited to begin my second year at Esther Lindstrom Elementary School. Before coming to Lindstrom, I was the principal of Albert Baxter Elementary School. As we return to school with renewed energy and dedication, it is essential that we remember the important role we play in children's lives.

Teaching reinforces the ideals and beliefs that each of us has about making a difference. To help with this endeavor, Lindstrom is proud to add some new personnel and programs to embellish the learning environment and culture of our school. We welcome a new assistant principal this year. We have also added a computer lab assistant and two additional instructional aides, who will provide support in our primary grades. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) have been proven to enhance the learning environment by allowing teachers quality time to collaborate and plan together. The PLC environment has never been needed as much as it is now, since teachers are being expected to greatly increase the rigor within the classroom.

In the near future, our students will be assessed using an online assessment program. With this in mind, we foresee the difficulty students could have if they are not proficient in keyboarding skills. This year we will be implementing our new keyboarding program, Type to Learn 4, to provide the additional support our students may need.

I look forward to a bright 2013-2014 and seeing many of you at different events throughout the year.



Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

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



Matt Eeles
Principal

On the Move

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the 2013–14 school year. I am honored to be returning for my second year as principal of Mayfair Middle/High School. Before becoming the principal, I served at Mayfair as a health teacher, a coach, a middle school counselor, an assistant principal overseeing discipline and guidance, and an assistance principal overseeing special education, athletics and activities. I received my Bachelor of Science in health education from the University of Utah and my Master of Education in school administration from Azusa Pacific University.

I am proud of our mission at Mayfair: to provide our students with a rigorous, challenging academic program and classroom instruction of the highest quality. This year will be no different as we work hard to continue our “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.” This is made possible by all of our dedicated teachers and staff members, supportive parents and enthusiastic students. I anticipate that we will shine during our visitation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) that is scheduled for the first week of April.

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

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

Ramona *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Believe You Can Succeed!

“Welcome back, Ramona scholars!” is how I greeted the students on the first day of school. I am Mrs. Bonnie Carter, and I am happy to be returning to Ramona Elementary School as the principal for a fifth year. I started my teaching career as a Ramona teacher several years ago, and, although I left the school briefly to pursue an administrative career, my heart never left the staff, students, and families.

To start this school year off right, Ramona staff reminded students that our expectations for them are high because we believe they can succeed. Our mission is to build a strong foundation for students to help them develop socially, academically, and behaviorally. To support student success, we have added a part-time assistant principal and an intervention teacher to our staff.

We also believe that our students have the best chance of succeeding when a strong connection is built between the school and home all year long. To connect the school and home, this year our parents will be able to maintain contact with teachers by using the e-mail link on the Bellflower Unified School District Web site for Ramona Elementary School at www.busd.k12.ca.us/ramona.htm.

We are off to a great start. Go, Rams! Let’s achieve a “Standard of Excellence – Nothing Less.”



Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

It’s a New Year

For those of you I have not met, or are new students here, my name is Ms. Lisa Paioni, and I am looking forward to the school year! It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I would like to introduce

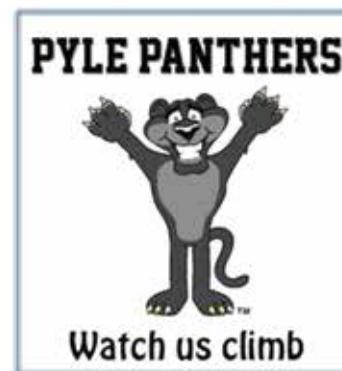
myself as the principal of Ernie Pyle Elementary School.

I was born in Santa Monica, and currently live near the city of Bellflower. Some of my interests include musical theater, cooking, performances by the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and playing with my dog Louie, a 3-year old Chihuahua-whippet mix.

I earned my teaching credential and a master’s degree in education at the University of California, Los Angeles. I began my career as an educator in Los Angeles in 1989, where I taught for five years. I then taught in the Lawndale School District for 14 years. Later, I received a master’s degree in educational administration from Pepperdine University.

My administrative career began in 2008, when I joined the BUSD as assistant principal at Washington and Woodruff Elementary Schools. In 2009, I became the principal of the Intensive Learning Center, and then came to Ernie Pyle as principal in 2012. Since then it has been a joy to work with the wonderful staff and amazing students and families at our school.

I am eagerly anticipating my second year as principal of Ernie Pyle. I am also happy to announce that we will have a full-time intervention teacher to help support those students who are at risk academically, and offer additional support for learning key content. A new chant will also be serving as a metaphor for our continued growth and pursuit of excellence. It is, “Pyle Panthers! Watch Us Climb!”



Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

A New Year Welcomed

It is exciting to begin my 14th year with BUSD and my second as principal at Frank E. Woodruff Elementary School. After teaching in a neighboring district for nine years, I was thrilled when given an opportunity to begin my administrative career with BUSD. I have been fortunate to work with many Bellflower families as an administrator at Craig Williams, Ernie Pyle, Esther Lindstrom and now Frank E. Woodruff.

This year, we plan to increase students’ academic achievements with two new intervention teachers. They will work with a Title I teacher and instructional aides to provide small-group instruction for struggling learners. Each intervention teacher will have assigned grade levels to improve literacy and math skills; grade levels will be divided into kindergarten, grades one through three, and grades four through six. This year, teachers will collaborate in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to analyze data, evaluate work, and plan instruction. PLC models have shown academic growth for all students when implemented in the manner we have planned.

This summer, we also installed interactive whiteboards and mobile teaching tablets in all classrooms. Students tap, swipe, and move answers to make learning engaging and active. Teachers will increase student engagement with close proximity as they walk about the room while writing on their new tablets. All content will be projected onto the whiteboard for a truly high-tech learning experience. We look forward to an innovative, progressive year at Woodruff with huge strides in student achievement.

Somerset *High School*

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

What a Model Continuation School Looks Like

Somerset High School is a continuation high school serving the students of the Bellflower Unified School District. Somerset is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and has been recognized as a Model Continuation High School for the past five consecutive terms by the California Department of Education for its use of exemplary instructional strategies, flexible scheduling, and guidance and counseling services.

Somerset offers an alternative to the traditional high school setting and provides students who are 16 to 18 years of age with the opportunity to complete their high school graduation requirements in a flexible educational environment with individualized learning support. The majority of students are referred from the two comprehensive high schools, Bellflower and Mayfair. Students entering the district may be accepted directly into Somerset if they have been attending a continuation school in another district. Students may be enrolled throughout the year in accordance with an intake schedule. Once a student has been referred to Somerset, the student and parent/guardian attend an orientation meeting to review the school's educational opportunities and support services.

In addition to the academic courses, Somerset offers a wide spectrum of occupational or career programs or a work-study schedule. Students also have the opportunity to enroll in online credit-recovery classes as part of their regular school day or extend their instructional day by working online at home in the evenings and weekends. Supplemental programs may include regional occupational program (ROP) classes, work-experience elective courses and independent study. Students 18 years and older who need additional time to complete the requirements for graduation may enroll in the Reentry Program.

Our New Principal

Mark Kailiponi started as a middle school teacher in Utah and Hawaii and moved to California in the summer of 1997. He was hired as a teacher at Gilbert South Continuation High School in the Anaheim Union High School district. He taught at Gilbert South for nine years and enjoyed working with the students. In 2006, he was selected to become the assistant principal at Mayfair Middle School. After three years in the middle school, he moved to the high school as the assistant principal of curriculum and instruction. With his teaching and administrative background, he is now looking forward to returning to the continuation high school and joining the Somerset staff and meeting the students and their families. Mr. Kailiponi appreciates this opportunity and says he promises to give his very best to help the students successfully transition back to their comprehensive high schools and graduate with their class, and to continue the legacy of a model continuation high school.

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Keisha Sawyer
Principal

Ready to Grow!

I am Ms. Keisha M. Sawyer, and I am proud to begin my fifth year as the principal of Craig Williams Elementary School. I appreciate the opportunity to serve in a school community that embraces students, families, and staff in a manner that highlights each individual as important on the road to student achievement.

I am one of those California natives. I earned a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and my teaching credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills. I began my teaching career as a second-grade teacher in Compton Unified School District. While teaching, I also earned a master's degree in multicultural education as well as an administrative services credential.



I began my transition to leadership by serving as a resource teacher at Tibby Elementary School in Compton. I assisted the principal in meeting district expectations and implementation of school reform. In 2006, I joined Bellflower Unified School District as assistant principal at Ernie Pyle and Craig Williams Elementary Schools. In 2009, I became the principal of Craig Williams.

I am extremely happy to have a team of effective, dedicated, and innovative teachers, staff, and parents, who are the driving force for student achievement and growth.

I share the joys of my educational career with my family as a wonderful support group. My children keep me current and in tune to the needs, interests, and concerns of the elementary school student. I am truly looking forward to another awesome year of working towards excellence.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Sulema Holguin
Principal

What to Look for This Year

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to the 2013–2014 school year! I am honored and enthusiastic to be starting my second year as principal of Washington Elementary.

Washington is close to my heart, as my career with Bellflower actually began as a fifth-grade teacher here. Last year it was great to see so many familiar faces and work with such a wonderful community of teachers, students and parents.

This year we will continue our Washington and district goal of moving each student up one academic level from where they began. Our focus will be on protecting the instructional minutes by having interruption-free blocks in the morning for English language arts and mathematics. During these times, each student will be engaged in class with Direct Interactive Instruction. The teachers will also continue to be expected to use these strategies throughout the day in their classrooms.

We are also looking forward to the implementation of a new positive behavior system. In order to reward the children for their week-long efforts, and communicate with parents, all students will be receiving a Patriot Dollar at the end of the week. This is to inform them that they had a great week both academically and behaviorally. The students will be able to purchase various items with their Dollar on the first Tuesday of the month.

Because of the block schedules in the morning, our students and parents will now have an opportunity to come into the library starting at 7:45 a.m. to take the AR quizzes. We have also upgraded our program to a more parent-friendly version, where you will have the opportunity to be informed about when your child took a test.

The library will be open after school until 3:30 p.m. for the same purpose. Our goal here is to build a home literacy connection to help keep you informed of your child's progress.

We also have a new incoming PTA president, Mr. Castro. He is looking forward to generating more parent involvement and resources for our community.

Once again, I am excited about the new school year. I want to thank you in advance for both your great support and the opportunity to educate your children.

Educational Services

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/886-9011 • www.busd.k12.ca.us



Joe Perry
Assistant
Superintendent

Welcome to Our Division!

Educational Services is responsible for a variety of district services, resources and information for students, parents, staff and the community. The major responsibilities of educational services is to oversee student-support services, special education, school safety and drug-free schools, state and federal categorical programs, parent education, improvement and innovative grants, student discipline and adjudication, and much more.

The Office of State and Federal Programs coordinates and facilitates programs that are funded by the Consolidated Application (ConApp). These include Title I and supplemental services, Head Start/State Preschool Education, Regional Occupation Programs (ROP), intervention programs, ASES after-school programs, career and technical education programs, grants, and parent-education programs that supplement the general-fund portion of schooling. Coordinating all schools' various programs in Educational Services assures that students receive a coherent educational program. Each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement, including categorical budgetary oversight by site councils, are approved by the governing board each year.

The school district provides a comprehensive program of special education services for students with disabilities. Based on the educational needs of individual students, services are outlined in each student's individual education plan (IEP). Special education services and supports are provided to students and their parents by special education teachers, speech/language pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, behavior therapists, instructional aides and other staff with specialized expertise.

The Child Welfare and Attendance Office is a specialized student-support service that covers compliance with compulsory education laws, truancy hearings, student admission and enrollment procedures, foster youth, and climate and safety. Child welfare and attendance combines the knowledge and skill of counseling with knowledge of education and the law to resolve complicated situations involving school choice, chronic absenteeism and programs for high-risk youth.

The Student Support Services Department supports students and their families in the areas of intervention and enrichment, including instruction for English learners at all schools, the K–8 homeschool program at Las Flores Educational Academy, the Spanish Dual Immersion program to develop bilingual and biliterate students at the Intensive Learning Center, and the Mandarin enrichment program designed to introduce students to the Mandarin language at Las Flores and through the APPLE after school program.

The Educational Services Division takes great pride in supporting a full range of educational services to meet the diverse needs of students and their families.

Joseph A. Perry Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

The 2013–14 school year will mark the 39th year in the field of education for Joseph A. Perry for the Bellflower Unified School District. After high school Mr. Perry was accepted to and attended a few colleges, including the very prestigious University of Southern California. In the middle of pursuing his education, he was drafted to fight in the Vietnam War. Many of his family members, such as his own father, had served our country in World War II and the Korean War, so patriotic pride runs in his blood.

Upon his honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, he returned to college. If anything, fighting in the war had matured him and made him have a stronger drive to complete his education. He graduated with his teaching credential from California State University, Los Angeles, and became a teacher. After teaching for several years—approximately 20—he decided to work himself up the educational career ladder to become a principal. He once again returned to school and earned his master's degree in educational administration from California Lutheran University.

His first assignment away from teaching was as the child welfare and attendance officer. After serving in this capacity for two years, Mr. Perry returned to the elementary school when Albert Baxter Elementary School and the Intensive Learning Center reopened, to become their first principal. The next 12 years were spent at the secondary school setting as the principal of Mayfair Middle/High School and Bellflower Middle/High School.

Mr. Perry has served the school district as a classroom teacher, a child welfare and attendance officer, an elementary and secondary principal, and now as a district administrator of educational services to fulfill a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

16703 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/866-9011



Patrick Dixon
Program Director

Adult Reentry Program

Welcome to the Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center and the Adult Reentry Program!

After 11 years as the principal of Somerset High School, I am excited about becoming the site administrator for the school district's educational options programs: the Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center and the Adult Reentry program.

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

The Adult Reentry program offers an alternative to the traditional high school setting and provides students who are 18 years of age or over needing additional time to complete their high school graduation requirements or the opportunity to earn their high school equivalency (GED) in a flexible educational environment with individualized learning support. The majority of the students are referred from the comprehensive high schools: Bellflower, Mayfair and Somerset.

This summer, many maintenance workers began putting together a new home for the Bellflower Alternative Education Center and the Adult Reentry Program. Many long hours were spent on remodeling the offices, classrooms and bathrooms; cleaning and painting; decorating and gardening; and moving equipment, computers, and instructional and office furniture and supplies. We are looking forward to providing a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less," for the BAE Center students to return to their comprehensive high schools and the adult reentry students to receive a high school diploma.

About Mr. Patrick Dixon, principal

Bellflower Unified School District is home for me, having been born and raised in the city. I attended Ernie Pyle Elementary School and Washington Junior High School and graduated from Bellflower High School. After high school, I attended Cerritos College and worked in a pizza restaurant in Bellflower, not knowing that one day I would be working with district employees who were customers I had served. After 14 years in the restaurant business, I realized it was time for a sweeping change and became a full-time college student and a school custodian. I attended California State University, Fullerton, where I earned my bachelor's and master's degrees in geography as well as my teaching credential.

I began my career in education at Somerset High School teaching geography and world history. Several years later, I attended the University of La Verne and Azusa Pacific University for my administrative credential. I became a program administrator with Bellflower Adult School, then an assistant principal, and finally principal for the alternative education programs. My heart and soul are firmly embedded in alternative education. I am very active in a professional organization that stresses and supports the importance of alternative education, and I was named Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators in 2008. I look forward to bringing my passion for alternative education to the programs at our new location.



Dr. Brian Jacobs

Communication is essential to creating an environment where students can learn. Open and supportive dialogue must be established and valued by all members of the educational community. Open communication between students, teachers, administrators, parents, and the community creates an environment of shared understanding and responsibility in the development of the “Educated Person.” It assures that all voices are heard and valued toward development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of effective educational practices.

As a public school instructional leader, it is my daily objective to create strong relationships between the school, family, and community, knowing that they are all essential components to the academic success of all students. Education is a shared responsibility between schools, families, and the community, with the best results coming when all three work together. In fact, I believe the three critical dynamics of school improvement are teaching and learning, school climate, and family involvement. Research tells us that the greatest indicator of student success is the level of family involvement in education. This comes at a time when more children than ever before in United States history have working mothers and fathers. Therefore, schools must take the initiative in developing and sustaining effective partnerships. A well-planned visionary partnership is necessary for all students to succeed.

The education of our students requires educators to synthesize many components. When we unify our efforts around a strong vision, sound educational practices, professionalism, and an environment of collaboration and collegiality, we create an environment for meaningful learning. The positive learning environment embraces the concept that schools are for all students.

Throughout my administrative pathways which led me to the chair as Superintendent, I have served in the capacities of: Assistant Superintendent; Director, Curriculum and Instruction; and Principal. In each position I held, I have been responsible for implementing quality, research-based instructional programs and have established learning environments that create and cultivate sustained student achievement. Through staff development presentations, as well as yearly evaluations of the curriculum and instructional strategies, the creation of systematic and sequential assessment programs has also been established.

Continuing to meet the academic goal of sustained student achievement, I will put forth tremendous efforts to model, encourage, and assist in the creation of learning environments that reinforce and recognize the students, staff, and administration for their accomplishments. This form of leadership creates a foundation for shared responsibilities in school environments, which enhances pride in students, staff, the school district, and the community.

With over 33 years in education as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, director, assistant superintendent, adjunct professor, and now superintendent, I see BUSD poised and ready to achieve higher levels of excellence. Thank you for your support as a parent and community partner in making BUSD a school district that families want their children and young adults to attend. I look forward to a continued partnership and striving each day to meet the “Standard of Excellence – Nothing Less!”



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
President

The Board of Education consistently enforces a zero-tolerance policy for drugs and weapons. With content standards at every grade level, a strong curriculum, and textbooks for every student, we are teaching fundamentals that will empower students to become active lifelong learners. We provide opportunities for support services for students at risk, to further enable them to become informed, productive, independent, and contributing citizens in today’s diverse society.

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

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

Bellflower Unified School District Board of Education



Laura Sanchez-Ramirez
President



Donald McMackin
Vice President



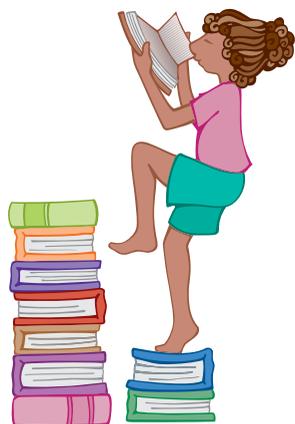
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