

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12
SUPERINTENDENT

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014



State of the District 2014-15

Beginning my 4th year at the helm of the Bellflower Unified School District is an appropriate time to reflect back, and more importantly to look ahead. When I

arrived in July of 2011, BUSD was in the midst of one of the most horrific fiscal times for the District and our State. Yet by being good stewards of our given resources and strategically planning with the Governing Board, BUSD is coming out of the "Great Recession" in fine fashion. There is no doubt that there have been very powerful and sustained changes since my arrival nearly four years ago. In fact, as I think about these past years, everyone can collectively take pride in our ability to have maintained and even strengthen our student achievement, while significantly expanding instructional practices in our classrooms.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 12

STEM Focus at Somerset



By Mark Kailiponi, Principal Somerset High School

Somerset High School strives to give students Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities beyond the classroom through extended learning experiences. On Thursday, October 11th, 50 students interacted with Crystal Cove State Park rangers to learn about the ecology and history of Crystal Cove. Students learned about native plants, animals, tidepools, intertidal organisms and endangered species while walking along the coastal bluffs and the wooden

boardwalk along the beach. Students will return to Crystal Cove State Park in March to go on a science cruise with scientists from the University of California Irvine. This three hour cruise will educate students about the health of California's Kelp forest and students will assist scientists by collecting water quality samples that will be used by UCI scientists studying these local marine protected areas. These field trips give Somerset students the real world experience necessary to prepare them for their careers after graduation.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Debbie Cuadros
President

Fall, a time of year when we have progressed nearly a third of the way through our school year. Thank you for a very effective start to this new year, and thank you for your continued efforts to provide that "Standard of Excellence!" Your energies and efforts are appreciated and the rewards I hope you are receiving from your students are just as gratifying.

As 2014-15 continues, I along with my Board colleagues want to extend our recognition for the work you are doing in transforming BUSD into the highest of qualities for academic excellence. We are truly fortunate to have a Superintendent and a Governing Board working in harmony to provide nothing but the best for the students of BUSD. As a Governance Team we continue to ready ourselves to hit the challenges of this year with high energy and renewed commitment to the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less." I want to encourage all of us to turn our focus to the positive and wonderful attributes we possess as an educational community making this year full of outstanding recognitions.

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 12

Caring Connections



Caring Connections is a nonprofit organization consisting of more than 50 community agencies dedicated to helping children and families gain access to an array of services and activities to improve student learning and support families. (please see page 5 Educational Services.)

PTA Council

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



Arlesia Preyer
President

Welcome Back to a New School Year

Hi, my name is Arlesia Preyer, and I am the Bellflower Council PTA president for 2014–2015. I would like to take this time to welcome you back to the new school year!

It is hard to believe that our students have already been back at school for over a month. As president of the Bellflower Council, it is important for me to share some wonderful attributes of our PTA. Did you know that the Bellflower Council PTA and each school sites' PTA is part of the nation's largest and most powerful children's advocacy associations in the country? I find that to be amazing, and very positive for the students of the BUSD.

The PTA has many purposes. It promotes the welfare of our children and youth at home, in school, around the community, and at places of worship. It raises the standard of home life and secures adequate laws for the care and protection of our youth.

The PTA also seeks to bring into closer relation the home and the school, so that parents and teachers can cooperate intelligently in the education of our children. It also seeks to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education. These purposes define why we come together as one voice.

The Bellflower Council's theme is "Working in harmony ... for every child." We all play such a vital role in our children's future. Teamwork and cooperation are the building blocks of educational leadership today, and so together we can achieve our goal of helping each child prosper and succeed.

We look forward to having a wonderful year with all of the great PTA programs and activities we have to offer. We are currently kicking things off by preparing for our Red Ribbon Week. For specific school information, please contact the school's PTA.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for continuing to support the efforts of the Bellflower Council's PTA. Let's harmonize together for our children!



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Google Apps, e-mail, interacting with technology...the world is changing at a rapid rate and students are fortunate that the District is continually focused on a "Standard of Excellence." Personally, when I need help with my smart phone or home computer my grandchildren have the answer without giving it much thought. Technology is second nature to youth. This issue brings you up to date on the classroom activities.

Our next issue is January 14, 2015. Until then have a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!

School News

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Covering the
BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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1401 Quail St.



Adding Value to the Neighborhood

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Tamara Zylla
Program
Administrator

Learning About Questions

The school year is well underway, and the students in the core program of the Home Education Independent Study Academy have been diligently tackling strategies to improve their ability to answer text-dependent comprehension questions. In the very first week of school, students learned about Question-Answer Relationships (QAR), a strategy that teaches students how to use key academic vocabulary in a question to determine the type of cognition required for the response. Words such as “alike” or “differ” signal that comparison is necessary to respond, whereas the words “support the main idea” or “mostly” relay that the answer focuses on the main idea.

On any given day at the Las Flores Educational Center, one can find students singing and chanting the QAR songs or collaborating with peers to deconstruct and classify questions using their BFF, a reference sheet that categorizes academic vocabulary into the different types of questions and cognition types. Once students are able to effectively identify types of questions



Charlotte Islai leads the class in the Author and Me QAR chant.

based on their level of comprehension, the teachers will spend the remainder of the year instructing students on how to answer them. Lessons will connect students with the academic language that signals the types of questions and the processes by which to answer them. Students will then participate in close-reads that require them to delve deeper into a text for the purpose of answering these types of questions.

To ensure that QAR is part of the culture at the Home Education Independent Study Academy, workshops were conducted that not only taught parents the strategy but also provided time and support for them to plan their home-study lessons incorporating QAR. This will provide students with additional opportunities to practice the strategy and promote a connection and consistency between home and school instruction.

With QAR in their academic toolboxes, the Home Education Independent Students are more than prepared for the rigors of California Common Core State Standards and 21st-century learning.

Bellflower Unified School District

Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less



Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-8

The Home Education Independent Study Academy offers homeschooling parents the best of both worlds: the opportunity to learn at home or at the Las Flores Educational Center. In addition, parents have the assistance of a credentialed teacher and access to standards-based textbooks while retaining the autonomy to design their own student's learning based on California standards. Our goal is to assist parents with the implementation of a creative, well-rounded, standards-based curriculum that is tailored to the abilities and interests of their own children.

Bellflower Unified School District Exciting Opportunities for Homeschool Parents

Classic Model

Grades K-8: Parents are the primary teacher five days a week. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Core Model

Grades k-8: Students attend school three full days per week and are taught at home two days. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review the work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

Enrichment Fridays

Each week students have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in an engaging, standards-based lesson and activity as well as both a music and technology class.



For More Information go to:

www.BUSD.k12.ca.us

Call: (562) 804-6565 Ext. 6600

or visit us at:

Las Flores Educational Center

10039 E. Palm Street, Bellflower, CA, 90706

Academic Accountability & Curriculum

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



Lisa Azevedo
Assistant
Superintendent

Instructional Technology

The Bellflower Unified School District has begun a multimillion dollar instructional technology integration project for all Transitional Kindergarten through 12th-grade classrooms. The project consists of four phases, all of which are projected to be completed by January 1, 2015. The goal of the instructional technology project is to provide teachers with the opportunity to augment their instruction by incorporating the new technology. This new technology combined with teaching strategies and management will allow staff to expose our students to 21st-century learning and support the integration of the California Common Core State Standards.



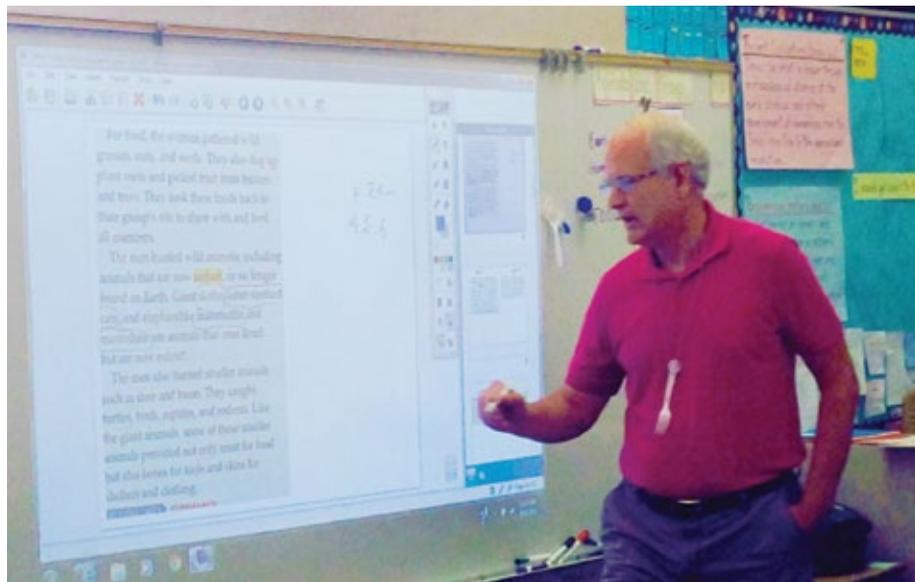
Each elementary classroom will be provided with a new laptop for the teacher, an ultra-short throw interactive projector, a new document camera, a sound system with speakers, a teacher control device and software. All the hardware items are integrated in one location, the teacher workstation, within the classroom. The new hardware devices and software allow our teachers to turn their traditional whiteboards into interactive “smartboards.” The teacher control devices enable teachers to

provide digital instruction while moving about the room, increasing student engagement and gathering immediate feedback. The digital cameras turn any resource into digital content, which can then be manipulated using software. The cameras also have scanning capabilities for use with our district’s assessment system.

At the secondary level, many of the hardware pieces are similar. The major difference is that images will be projected on a large screen instead of a whiteboard. This design allows for a larger viewing area for older students in larger classrooms. Students then interact with the technology in small groups, using student devices. The devices integrate through a wireless connection to the projector and display on the screen.

Teachers had the opportunity to attend seven hours of technology professional development, which provided them with support to integrate the new technology into their instructional practices. Additional professional development opportunities will be offered throughout the school year to continue to support teachers in developing effective and purposeful use of the technology within their classrooms.

This is an exciting time for the Bellflower Unified School District as we continue to provide our students with engaging instructional practices. I invite you to speak with your students about the new instructional technology.



Academic Assessment & Research

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



James Fleming
Director

Google Apps and Email in 2014–15

Bellflower Unified School District is pleased to announce the launch of Google Apps and email in the 2014 school year. Digital collaboration is an important skill in the 21st century. Students who are college and career ready know how to create, collaborate and present their work in a dynamic digital environment. Communicating in a clear, professional manner via email is an essential skill in college and in the workplace. BUSD plans to take a collaborative, deliberate approach to teaching our students 21st-century communication skills.

Implementation will look different at different grade levels. Younger students will use Google Apps to develop keyboarding skills and to practice accessing digital media. As students develop their digital skills, we expect to see them digitally collaborating on their work with fellow students and teachers. Students will be able to work simultaneously on a group presentation or to provide peer revisions to a classmate’s writing. Students must also learn to evaluate the quality of the digital information, as not all information on the Internet is created equal. As students approach college and career readiness, they will be able to access a wide variety of digital resources, evaluate their validity, and use the information to demonstrate what they have learned in a rich digital document that may include pictures, graphs, and audio and visual components.

Student safety is always the first priority within BUSD. For that reason, we are using a closed-system email. It will only allow for communication between students and BUSD teachers. BUSD will have access to review student content to ensure that students are following all administrative regulations. If necessary, student access to Google Apps and email can be limited or terminated.

We look forward to sharing our progress over the next year. Check back for updates.

Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



Patrick Dixon
Principal

Attendance Matters

The Bellflower Alternative Education Center (BAE) is a community day school that provides an alternative educational option for students in grades seven to twelve. Many of our students have been expelled from the school district, or transferred for problems with absenteeism, excessive behavior, and/or academic failure, as reviewed by the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), the school administration, or probation officials.

Our program is also designed for those students who possess factors exhibited by high-risk youths. Its main purpose is to teach students how to make appropriate decisions on behavior, strengthen academics, maintain regular attendance, and return to their regular school to be successful.

The month of September was designated “School Attendance Month” by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The purpose was to bring awareness to the important issue of school attendance. The “I’m In” attendance awareness campaign was also designed to stress the importance of good school attendance.

National research shows that student attendance is a strong predictor of academic performance in grades K–12. It is also a strong predictor of on-time graduation, as well as an indication of the individual student’s physical and mental health. Good attendance is a reflection of school culture, expectations, and a safe and welcoming environment. It also greatly impacts school and district budgets, with losses in ADA revenue dollars for all schools whenever students miss class unexcused.

Because one of the major areas of focus at the BAE Center is attendance, our staff was very happy to join in with this county-wide attendance campaign. In fact, we recently recognized the three students who had the highest attendance rate during the month of September. We awarded them an “I’m In” certificate and gift card for their accomplishment!



Intensive Learning Center

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

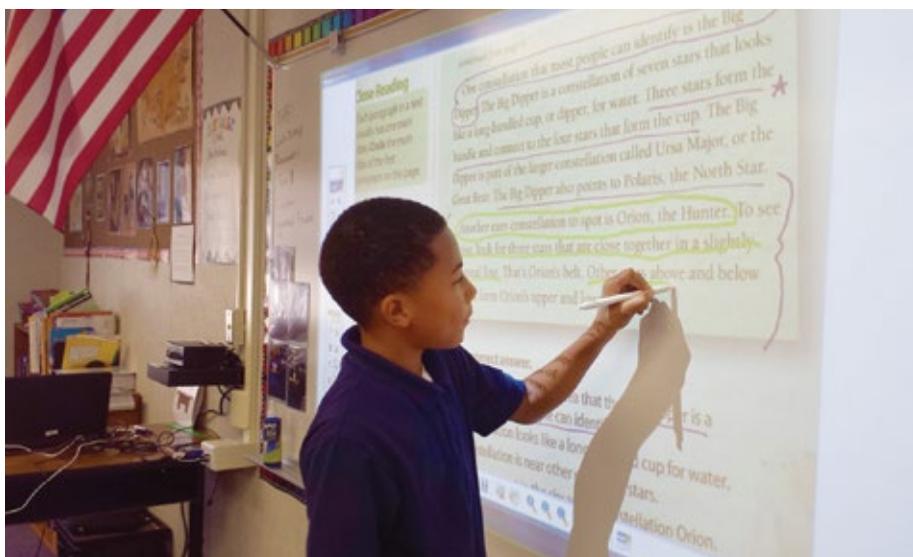


Isel Taylor
Principal

Interacting with Technology

The 2014–2015 school year has brought many exciting new ventures to the Intensive Learning Center!

All of our students are now participating in the new BUSD physical education program. Our new PE specialist, Shannon Brizendine, designs lessons that support the educational standards adopted by the State of California. This program is designed to give students a positive and balanced educational experience through physical education. The students at ILC participate in the new physical education program on Tuesdays, Fridays and alternate Wednesdays.



This wonderful program also allows our classroom teachers to collaborate regularly in grade-level meetings and weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLC) in order to review student achievement data and student work and then strategically target instruction. This year all grade levels, from kindergarten through the sixth grade, began the school year with the full implementation of the Californian Common Core Standards. This is in addition to the 24:1 class-size reduction in the kindergarten through third-grade classrooms.

With the passing of Measure BB funds, we are currently having our campus roofs repaired. In addition, each classroom will also be receiving updated technology. All classroom teachers will now have the ability to integrate technology into their instructional practice through the use of interactive whiteboards, document cameras, laptops, and mimio technology. Our students will also have the opportunity to interact with this new technology by working with Chromebooks and Learnpads.



Team Physical Education—Our newest 2014-2015 program.
Mr. Nunez, Mrs. Brizendine (P.E. Specialist), Mr. Ross and Mr. Coto.

Educational Services

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Joe Perry
Assistant
Superintendent

Caring Connections

Caring Connections is a nonprofit organization consisting of more than 50 community agencies dedicated to helping children and families gain access to an array of services and activities to improve student learning and support families. These support services may include academic education—tutoring, mentoring, dropout prevention and adult education programs; basic needs—supplemental food, nutrition education services, clothing, shelter/housing and transportation assistance; medical health care—vision, hearing, dental, acute care, preventive health care, immunizations and health-insurance enrollment; mental-health care and counseling—therapy, support groups, substance-abuse prevention and counseling; and family support—parenting education, literacy and citizenship classes, child care, case management, child abuse prevention and family advocacy.

The case manager at each of the schools is the connection between the families and the services that are available to them. The managers coordinate support and services to children and families that may have health issues, critical life needs, parenting skills, tutoring and other assistance needs with local service providers. The case manager conducts a follow-up to ensure that the services and activities provided are meeting the unique needs and desired results for children and families.

Caring Equals Giving

Caring Connections works with numerous agencies throughout the school year to provide children and families with programs and assistance. So far this school year, Caring Connections has worked with the City of Bellflower's Volunteer Center to provide over 400 families in BUSD with backpacks and school supplies, the Bellflower Rotary Club to send 60 kids on a shopping spree for school clothing, and the City of Bellflower's Parks and Recreation to enroll 50 children into karate, Zumba and tennis classes, and other park activities through the Healthy Lifestyles Program. Caring Connections is working with the cities of Bellflower and Lakewood, Kingdom Causes and the Bellflower Noon Lions Club to provide holiday assistance, and partnering with the Lord's Church Clothing Closet for the annual Kid's Coat Drive. Donations of slightly used coats, jackets and sweaters in children and adult sizes can be brought to the school district's Caring Connections office or dropped off at the school office with the case manager. Distribution of coats will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m. at the Lord's Church located at 9701 Flower St. in Bellflower.

Besides charitable contributions and foundation grants, Caring Connections holds fund-raisers throughout the school year for financial need. Recently, Caring Connections received a portion of the proceeds from taking part in a shopping extravaganza at a major shopping center, Family Night at a Mexican restaurant, and the selling of holiday wreaths. Caring Connections continuously accepts old cell phones for our Phones 4 Charity fund-raiser. Please visit our website at www.caringconnectionsonline.com for further information or if you are interested in making a donation, please contact community services coordinator Renett Banagas, at (562) 866-9011, ext. 2092.

Caring Connections refers BUSD parents to parenting classes held in both English and Spanish at no cost throughout the school year. A series of seminars on the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) are held on a monthly basis through April at the Bellflower Unified School District Office. For more information on parenting classes, please contact Renett Banagas at (562) 866-9011, ext. 2092.

In 2008, Caring Connections received the California School Boards Association (CSBA) Golden Bell Award in recognition of its outstanding programs in making a positive impact and a demonstrated difference for students and families, and for the governance practices of the school board for its sustained commitment to Caring Connections. Caring Connections has also received numerous congressional recognitions and other honors.

Elementary Education

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



Dr. Alysia Odipo
Director

A Valuable Program

We are excited to provide a comprehensive, rigorous physical education program for our elementary students this school year. Biweekly, each student will receive instruction with grade level peers for 45 minutes and on alternating Wednesdays for one hour. Our dynamic PE teachers and their assistants have been trained in the standards-based SPARK Physical Education and nutrition program.

Our district expectation is that our students develop healthy lifestyles, motor skills, movement knowledge, and working together collaboratively to build social skills.

What is your child's teacher doing when your child is attending PE class? Your child's teacher uses this time to collaborate, improving instructional programs to increase student achievement with grade level colleagues. In order to provide your child with the best possible education, we believe this program valuable for our students.



Secondary Education

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



Colleen McKinley
Director

Introduction to Health Careers

Bellflower Unified is proud to boast of a new course this year at Bellflower High School and Mayfair High School called Introduction to Health Careers. This yearlong program exposes students to 17 different fields. Students complete modules in biomedical engineering, biotechnology research and development, clinical-lab practices, dentistry, emergency medical technology, environmental medical technology, forensics, health-information management, medical imaging, mental health services, nursing, ophthalmology, pharmacology, speech therapy, sports medicine, therapeutic services and veterinary medicine.

Students explore the diverse career opportunities within each module and have the opportunity to explore the field with hands-on activities. A few



examples of these are making casts, practicing drawing blood, conducting CPR and growing bacteria. Students have been excited about their real-world exposure and the opportunity to explore a future career field. Should students want to explore these fields further, they can enroll in our ROP Health Occupations class where they experience clinical rotations at the Lakewood Regional Medical Center.

Albert Baxter *Elementary*

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



Sue Curtiss
Principal

Technology Transforms Teaching and Learning

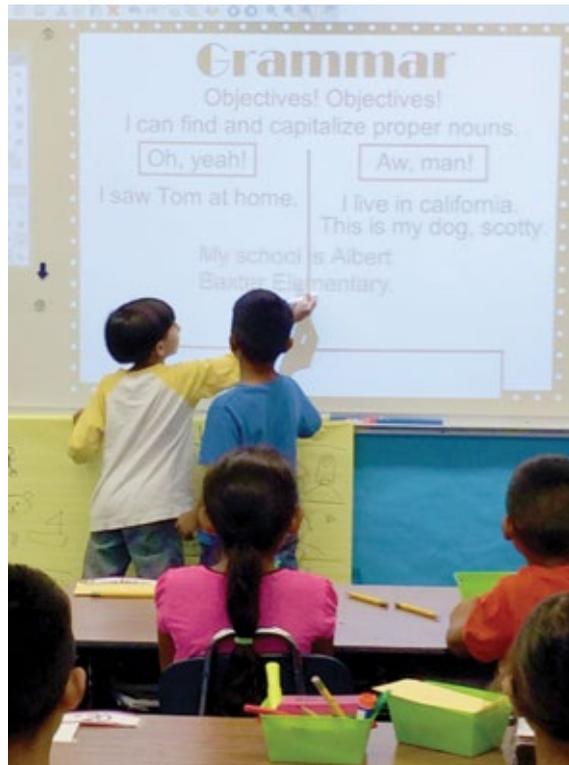
No more chalk and chalkboards! Students at Albert Baxter Elementary are engaged in learning through the use of 21st-century technology tools like SMART Boards. The Bellflower Unified School District has outfitted each classroom at Baxter with a laptop, an ultra-short-throw LCD projector, a Mimio pad, a document camera, a sound system and an interactive whiteboard. This technology

allows teachers to create innovative learning environments to support student achievement.

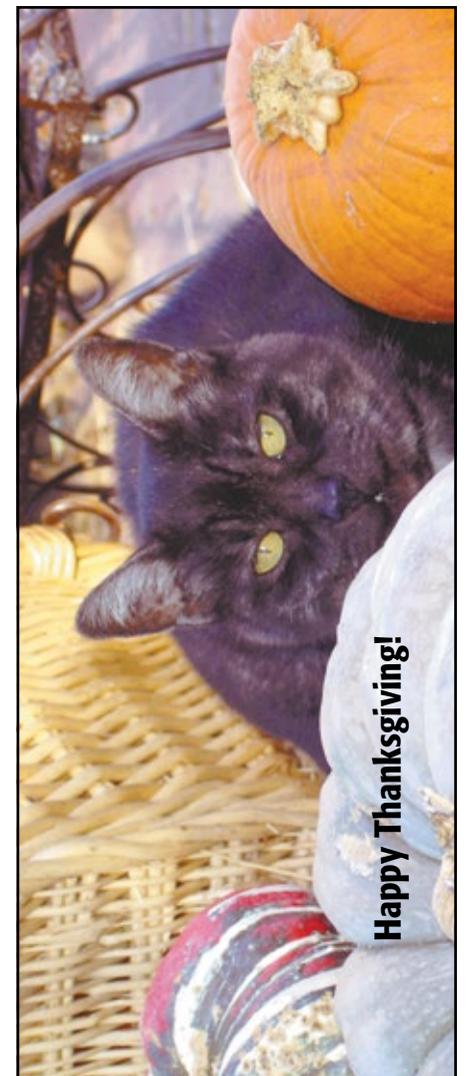
A Mimio pad, similar to a tablet, allows teachers to control their laptop from anywhere in the classroom and project any content onto the whiteboard. With a few clicks, work assignments, videos and songs are displayed for students, in full color and surround sound! Students are able to interact with the displays using stylus pens that allow them to select answers, write paragraphs, add diagrams, and complete projects.

The technology is transforming how Baxter students learn and teachers teach. Students are empowered to use technology tools that are integral to today's college and career experiences. Students are engaged in active learning and collaborating with one another to complete real-world projects. Student learning is expanded to learning sites throughout our community and the world.

First-grade teacher Nancy Hua believes that "the new interactive technology provides an opportunity for me to make learning fun, keeping all of us engaged, involved and in control of our learning."



Students in Ms. Hua's classroom, Daniyal Hussain and Aiden Rubalcava (at whiteboard), Leyleen Arrazola and Julian Penado (seated) use stylus pens to collaboratively select answers on the interactive whiteboard.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

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



PBIS

Bellflower Middle/High School's Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program is off to a fantastic start! The purpose for implementing PBIS

supports for all students is to prevent the development and /or exacerbation of behavioral challenges, increase the occurrence of pro-social skills, and enhance our school's overall culture. Our goal is for our students to continue to excel academically, behaviorally, and social-emotionally. This fall, Bellflower Middle/High School has begun to spread positive messaging



throughout our campus. While walking to class or being outside for snack and lunch, students are reminded of the positive traits that they need to be good citizens and to exhibit their BUC P.R.I.D.E. (Positivity, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, Excellence) and character everyday.



Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

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



We're a 21st-Century Learning Community!

Technology is strongly emphasized and embedded in the California Common Core Standards. To prepare and support our students in meeting these expectations the teachers are incorporating the use of technology in the classrooms. All classrooms now have new document cameras, projectors and laptops.

The infusion of this new technology will foster student collaboration and engagement. It makes learning much more student centered and interactive. It also provides teachers with a host of additional engaging features to enhance their instruction: it allows them to project any image onto a white surface, turning a once-dull whiteboard into an interactive screen.

In addition to that, we have also implemented Chromebooks and LearnPads as instructional tools that students are expected to utilize to demonstrate

their learning. We are also extremely fortunate at Thomas Jefferson Elementary to have Deana Sabala-Aborne, our technology teacher, to help support the staff and students in integrating and utilizing technology as a valuable instructional tool.



Stephen Foster *Elementary*

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

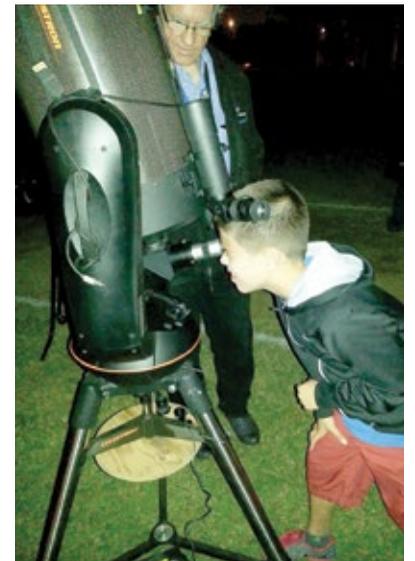
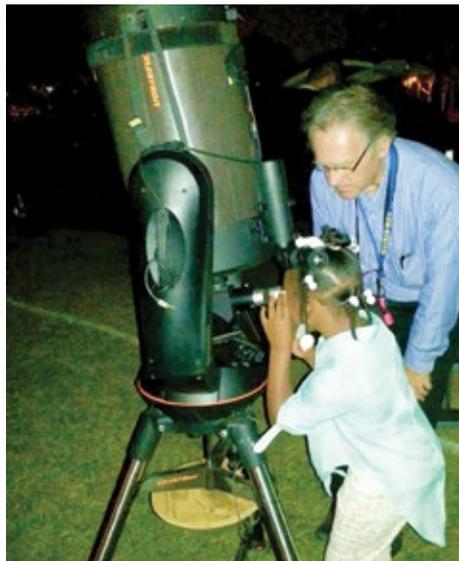


Reaching for the Stars

The home-school connection is very strong at Stephen Foster. We believe that partnering with parents in their children's education can benefit students enormously. To achieve this goal, we like to come together as a community once a month and enjoy a fun and educational evening together.

This month our students and families enjoyed our Family Star Night under a beautiful fall sky. Family Star Night was extremely well attended. Everyone joined for a picnic dinner, a movie, and a chance to view the stars and planets through one of the three giant telescopes set up on Foster field.

The evening was organized by three of our teachers: Mrs. Blackman, Mrs. Gehrig and Mrs. Boppell. Our students also had the opportunity to participate in a craft activity. They made and named their own star creations while waiting for it to get dark enough to view the real constellations.



It turned out to be an interesting and informative night. Our guests for the evening were representatives from the South Bay Astronomical Society. Science truly came alive for our students and their parents as they listened to the presenters carefully explain the wonders of the night sky. They were all excited to view Saturn, Mars, and a variety of constellations. Everyone was particularly impressed with the detailed view of the moon, and the clarity of the craters and other features. One student felt that it was close enough to touch!

Our students also learned about the telescopes used by the Society and how they operate. They were able to pose questions about the solar system and hear directly from the experts.

The night was a good learning experience for our students, and they enjoyed sharing it with their parents. Everyone in attendance agreed that it was an interesting way to end another week of learning at Stephen Foster.

School News

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Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

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Deborah Apple
Principal

Teacher Collaboration

As educators, we know that collaborative efforts among students result in a higher degree of accomplishment. The same holds true for teachers. With the increased rigor of the Common Core State Standards, there has never been a time when teacher collaboration has been more important or needed.

To provide support to our teachers, this year we have a PE program in which a PE specialist comes every Mondays, Thursdays and alternating Wednesdays to ensure that our teachers have the release time necessary to collaborate effectively through their professional learning communities (PLC). PLCs allow teachers to work in collaborative teams to continually analyze student data and improve classroom practice, which will ultimately impact student learning.



While teachers are using this release time to improve the learning environment, our students are appreciating invigorating physical education. Research shows that children need approximately 60 minutes of physical activity daily. It has shown to improve mental focus, concentration levels and self-esteem, and it aids in the development of problem solving and memory function. This is definitely a win-win opportunity for both teachers and students!



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

College and Career Ready

At Mayfair Middle and High School, we are helping Monsoons become college and career ready! This year, Mayfair Middle and High School Student Services began a new tradition to help bring our parents and community together. On Thursday, October 23rd at 6pm, in our Gymnasium, a variety of Community Colleges & Universities were represented at the "Parent/Student College Fair." For the past five years, we have held the event during lunch time with the middle and high school students, but felt that Monsoons would have a greater experience if we could



Last years successful College Day.



extend this opportunity to our parents. The Mayfair Middle and High School counseling team, including our college & career technician, invited many Community Colleges and Universities that Mayfair students would likely attend after graduation. Community Colleges in attendance included: Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, Cypress College, and El Camino College. Universities in attendance included: California State University Long Beach, UCLA, Biola University, and Chapman University, to name a few. We also planned parent/student workshops (presented by the community agencies) which included: "How to Be University Ready," "The Importance of Community College," "Application Workshop for The California State Universities" for Seniors only, and "Programs for Your College Bound Students at Long Beach City College." Stay tuned for our Career Fair, coming soon, on April 1st, 2015.

Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

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



Lisa Paioni
Principal

A Safe and Great Place To Learn

Ernie Pyle is committed to providing a safe and effective learning environment, one where all of our students can be supported academically, behaviorally and emotionally in order to achieve a high level of academic success. This year we are excited about planning our Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system (SPBIS).

We have a strong team in place. It consists of teachers, a parent, a community member, and the administration. The team attended two days of SPBIS training in August, with additional training days to come during the school year. It has already completed one of its first tasks, too. It has developed positive behavioral expectations that will apply to all students in all areas of the school, such as classrooms, the cafeteria, restrooms, the office, library, computer labs, hallways, and the playground.

We have also developed the following behavioral expectations: be Proactive, Act respectfully and responsibly, make Wise choices, and be Safe. Positive Pyle Panthers practice PAWS!

Of course, we can't just tell students what the expectations are, and then expect them to know exactly what to do and what not to do. A critical piece of SPBIS is explicitly teaching students the expected behavior in every area of the school. The team's next step is to develop a matrix that specifically details how each expectation will be demonstrated by students in each area.

By the end of the year we will determine how we can introduce and teach PAWS to students at the start of the 2015–2016 school year. We have a busy year of planning ahead, and are very excited about this important work.

Ramona *Elementary*

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



Bonnie Carter
Principal

Community Connections for Student Achievement

At Ramona Elementary, our school community recently came together to raise money to fund the cost of building a school garden where our students will have an opportunity to learn about ecosystems, climates, friends and foes of the garden, and healthy eating habits in a hands-on environment. In September, over 40 volunteers including parents, students, BUSD employees, Brethren Church staff and members, staff from an HMO and EnrichLA employees helped to build the garden. A ribbon cutting at Back to School Night officially opened the garden to the school community, and thanks to a grant received by the HMO, a garden ranger teacher visits our school every Tuesday to turn our garden into an outside classroom.

The children in the picture are some of Ramona's first students to learn in the garden. These students learned how to plant a seed and what seeds need to grow. Other classrooms that visited the garden in October began to plant the seeds in the planter boxes for future care and harvesting.

Ramona students have enjoyed their lessons in the garden, and some have been inspired to be future chefs and environmentalists. Ramona's garden committee of teachers have worked hard to bring this experience to our students and are looking forward to continuing this program annually so that students are able to extend their learning from this year to future units that include environmental stewardship and healthy habits.



Somerset *High School*

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



Mark Kailiponi
Principal

STEM Focus at Somerset

(Please see the front page.)

Craig Williams *Elementary*

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



Dr. Michael Remland
Principal

21st Century and Beyond

What an exciting time to be a Wildcat! The new school year has exploded before us at Craig Williams Elementary School, and we are meeting it with excitement, innovation and lots of A+ learning. We have accepted the Promote peace and safety, Achieve your goals, Work hard, and Show respect (PAWS) challenge.

These PAWS practices can be seen on the playground with students treating each other with respect, in the classroom where work is completed and turned in on time, in increasing student academic achievement scores, and in working hard to meet the challenges of learning in the 21st century.

Also new this school year is student access to technology, which is at a higher level today than in any previous generation of students who have passed through Craig Williams. We are working hard to keep education at the cutting edge with the addition of document projectors, remote tablets, netbook computer carts, and electronic tablets to our classroom learning environments. Students and teachers will have the opportunity to broaden their educational horizons through the use of this cutting-edge technology in the next few weeks.

Staying on the cusp of new technology and engaging students and teachers in innovative and exciting new methods of teaching and learning, the Craig Williams educational community is poised to excel into and beyond the challenges of 21st-century learning.



The students in Mrs. Sophia Vuong's classroom have begun to benefit from the new technology that has been installed in her fourth grade classroom at Craig Williams Elementary.

Washington *Elementary*

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



Sulema Holguin
Principal

Building Future Leaders

Common Core State Standards call for ensuring that our students are college and career ready. This year, Washington Elementary School is providing these opportunities through many avenues of leadership. First of all, we have students in fifth and sixth grades who are running for the offices of student council

president, vice president, advisor, treasurer and secretary. These students will be helping to make decisions about school events and practicing civic learning on a small scale by having some of them attend our Parent Advisory Committee.

We also have junior coaches through our Playworks program. These fourth through sixth grade students applied for the position. We had over 100 applicants, but we were only able to select 15 students. These students had to fill out applications, provide recommendations from teachers and peers, and explain why they felt they would be the best candidates for the position. These students will help to promote fairness throughout the school and report to duty during recess. They must also attend after-school training sessions twice a week and make certain that they keep their grades up.

At Washington, we understand that learning goes beyond the classroom and are excited to know that we have future leaders who will be college and career ready!



Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

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



Beverly Swanson
Principal

Expectations and Enrichments

The Woodruff Elementary School Wolves celebrated the importance of reading with our annual Halloween Reading Night. Students arrived on campus to parade and proudly show off their costumes. Families then participated in grade level activities that focused on reading and working together. The night ended with a Halloween story and raffle. Lucky families were happy to receive books and handmade quilts to cuddle up and read at home.

We are emphasizing good behavior by implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). We will be focusing on providing specific behavioral expectations for students in all school settings. At our flag ceremony, our students show their Honesty, Ownership, Willingness and Leadership (HOWL) each day. Teachers focus on these attributes as they teach the behavioral expectations to students. Students who HOWL and make good choices are given Howlers and they are put into a classroom raffle to win random prizes.

Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) students at Woodruff will be able to join student council this year. This is a new organization that will promote leadership, good decision making, and collaboration. Fifth- and sixth-grade students are encouraged to apply for the offices of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and commissioner of activities. Building our student council will give students a voice in campus leadership, which can be utilized in the future.



An Action Packed Book

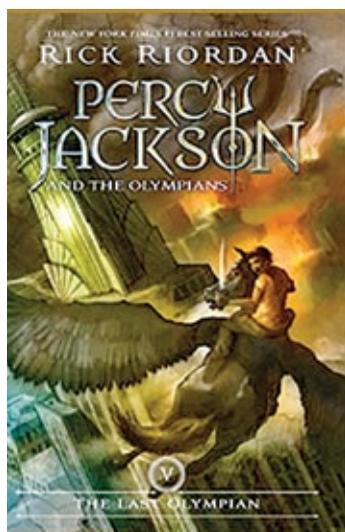


Alana F.

The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan is about a seventeen year old demigod, Perseus Jackson, who has to fight in the Titan war to save his hometown of New York from the evil titan Kronos' army that is invading. Nico di Angelo, demigod son of

Hades, pesters Percy to take a chance to become invincible—or die in the process. Meanwhile, mortal Rachel Elizabeth Dare is having strange visions and drawing things in the sand. Could she have anything to do with the Great Prophecy? See the story close to an end as Percy battles impossible monsters, faces betrayals and death of beloved friends, and tends to his injured fellow soldiers.

I would give this book six stars if I could because there is action with every turn of a page and even though Percy has many losses, he finds a way to trudge along the dark path that was chosen for him by the Fates.



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

Love Bug



Kate Karp

Are you a Beluga Grad? If Raffi was part of your childhood, you are. You dug into the meaning of “Baby Beluga” and had a great time singing “Down by the Bay.” And if you’re not one, here’s your chance to get a midlife diploma and mentor the children in your life.

Raffi Cavoukian, known by his first name, is bridging the near generation gap he created by not issuing a children’s CD in the last 12 years. *Love Bug* honors children and the world they live in; the collection is an extension of Raffi’s social-change movement, Child Honoring, as well as his desire to create environmental awareness and action as a team of humans. Worldly wise and socially and environmentally conscious, *Love Bug* pays lip service to causes only through what comes out between Raffi’s own lips.

All songs are meaningful and tuneful; they’re instructive for children and therapeutic for adults. “Mama Loves It” sings about teamwork beginning in the home. The instrumental “Pete’s Banjo” honors Pete Seeger, one of Raffi’s social inspirations. “Seeing the Heart,” like a Zen parable, is interpretable through intuition only, and “Water in the Well”—well, surely a teachable moment for our drought-parched state.

And “Turn This World Around” brings it all together. Raffi’s music is gentle and at the same time serious about the planet, both in leaving it for children and for children doing their part to preserve it. They, too, will be adults someday.

Discover Raffi’s Child Honoring philosophy at www.raffinews.com/.

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

Bicycle Parts—Word Search Contest

Rules!!! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Bellflower in the subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| BASKET | FRAME | LIGHT |
| BRAKES | GLOVES | PEDALS |
| CHAIN | GOOSENECK | REFLECTOR |
| CHAIN GUARD | GRIPS | SEAT |
| CRANK | HANDLEBARS | SPOKES |
| FENDERS | HELMET | TIRES |
| FORK | KICKSTAND | WHEELS |

**Congratulations to Alfonso Mendoza
Winner of the September Contest!**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| H | A | N | D | L | E | B | A | R | S | K | M | X | S | A |
| C | M | P | S | D | N | A | T | S | K | C | I | K | P | H |
| H | K | V | E | T | Y | R | E | F | L | E | C | T | O | R |
| A | A | N | W | D | E | K | R | E | V | N | A | F | K | R |
| I | I | Y | A | H | A | M | B | N | R | E | I | L | E | T |
| N | N | T | Z | R | E | L | L | D | S | S | G | A | S | Y |
| G | F | R | B | T | C | E | S | E | V | O | L | G | H | T |
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| A | E | K | P | C | W | A | I | S | G | G | I | G | G | H |
| R | J | K | S | P | I | R | G | D | N | C | N | F | S | X |
| D | X | R | K | R | O | F | H | A | J | P | W | Z | L | V |
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SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Brian Jacobs

Here are some of the wonderful changes to BUSD during this three year window:

- Opened a new school – The Las Flores Independent Study and Home Education Academy
- Created stronger learning pathways with Gifted and Talented Programs
- Increased Honors and AP Courses at the middle and high schools
- Increased the graduation rates districtwide
- Increase the percentage of students passing the High School Exit Exam
- Increased the participation of students in the elementary music and choral programs

Those are just a few of the outstanding elements we have provided the students of BUSD. So, what is new for this year.

- 24-1 Class Size Enrollment – K-3 districtwide
- K-6 PE Specialist Program
- Improved Technology – Smart Boards – Sound Amplification – Learnpads
- Increased Professional Development For All Teachers
- Full Time Assistant Principals at K-6 schools
- Intervention Teachers at all elementary school sites
- Response to Intervention components established at all school sites
- Positive Behavior Intervention Systems at all school sites
- New District Office Support – Elementary/Secondary Curriculum Directors
- Health Career Pathways - Paxton Patterson Learning Labs at BHS and MHS

As a district we also entered into a new era of educational funding with the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Both of these programs are designed to provide greater local control of expenditures and planning for the quality learning pathways you have come to expect from BUSD.

Through these new programs we have been able to restore 57 positions across the district while also hiring 80 new K-6 teachers to implement a 24-1 classroom ratio for all K-3 classrooms. BUSD also took an aggressive stance and eliminated combination classes at all of the K-6 school sites. This is a strategic and critical move due to the increased rigor of learning with the transition into the California Common Core for English Language Arts and Math.

It also needs to be recognized that through the community support and the passage of Measure BB in 2012, the District has been able to complete the following projects:

- HVAC Thomas Jefferson
- Wi-Fi Districtwide
- Roofing Projects

This year we hope to complete some of the following projects:

- Security Surveillance and Upgraded Fire Alarm Systems
- Air Conditioning at Ramona Elementary Cafeteria
- Additional Computer Labs
- PE fields at Mayfair Middle-High School

Future projects slated for review are a new wing of classrooms at Mayfair High School that would focus on the Sciences-Technology-Engineering-Math (STEM), as well as additional energy saving components to reduce a/c and heating costs during the course of the year. The Governing Board will continue to review and prioritize the allocations for spending on future Measure BB projects to ensure that BUSD learning environments remain at the level of excellence.

As I look further ahead into the 2014-15 school year, BUSD will continue to refine what it means for all of our schools to be focused on academic rigor, meaningful relationships and character development, while embracing and leading our students to have the essential skills needed for the 21st Century. It will be a year in which we will formulate plans for the continued expansion of educational options, and initiate greater Accelerated Learning Pathways, while working with our middle/high schools to expand the articulation with our elementary teaching staffs.

In closing, I am extremely confident that our students will be served well. We are a district that has excellent teachers with wonderful support staff, working in a community that values quality education. It is this combination that above all else, assures a good year ahead. Thank you for your continued support of our schools.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • From Page 1

As President of the Governing Board, I greatly appreciate that BUSD is surrounded by extraordinary people in our schools! It takes an extraordinary person to choose to work and/or volunteer with children, shaping and molding the future of a community, and ultimately a state, and nation. It takes an extraordinary person to care about other people's children as much as they care for their own children. Those are the people in our classrooms and in other support positions throughout the district. Thank you!

Another critical link to the success of our students and schools is that of our administrative team. It is important that each school site and district level administrator provides a unique opportunity to re-invent practices at schools and across the District. As Board President I want to reinforce to our district administrators that they have an obligation to consider new possibilities in procedures, instruction, and relationships. These new ways of approaching teaching and learning should have us truly excited!

The Administrative Leadership Team under the guidance of Dr. Jacobs continues to meet the identified leadership principles identified from last year and carrying over into this new school year. The expectations are rigorous for the administrative team of BUSD, but they are an important piece to the success of every school. The expectations that are expected to be modeled every day are contained within the five following principles.

- 1) Lead with "WHY"
- 2) Lead with CHARACTER
- 3) Lead & Operate as a Team
- 4) Lead with Accountability
- 5) Enjoy Work & Have Fun

Leading by example with these guiding principles, along with establishing a 212 degree leadership work ethic at our schools, our students will achieve and sustain academic excellence. Thank you to all of the BUSD Leadership Team for the support you provide to the students, families, and employees of our district.

Those efforts assist in sustaining the "Standard of Excellence."

In closing, I wish everyone of the BUSD family a joy-filled fall season. I would encourage everyone to take time to be truly thankful for what you have been provided and the gifts you receive daily. Keep looking for ways to be involved in your child's education and at the school site. It is through that positive involvement that will have a strong impact for your child's success along with the other children that enter our classrooms daily. I thank you for the support you give our schools as an active parent and community member and look forward to more chances to see you engaged with the learning of our children and young adults. By you giving of yourself, to the children and young adults of BUSD, we will continue to meet our expectations as a district that models a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Board of Education



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