

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Bellflower Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 20

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2016

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Welcome to the 2016-17 School Term

Beginning each new school year brings with it excitement and anticipation of improving from what was accomplished last year and continuing the tradition of the

“Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.” As we said good-bye to the senior classes of 2015-16 which displayed such a unique and brilliant group of students, it was especially rewarding to also celebrate many other BUSD’s accomplishments with such an exceptionally strong year! As those seniors moved into the next exciting chapter of their lives, I am grateful and blessed that I was able to share in many of those accolades and their accomplishments which could not have been achieved without being surrounded by a powerful group of teachers, support staff and administration. Due to their collective efforts BUSD students from PreK-12 all were able to meet their individual academic learning goals.

The 2015-16 school year was one of many incredible achievements for Bellflower Unified School District. I continue to be amazed at the dedicated work of our students and each and every staff member from our school sites, Early Childhood Education, the Maintenance Department, and all of those individuals in a quiet yet strong supporting role at the District Office. For all of the endeavors from our employees from all avenues of employment across the District, please know I am extremely grateful and proud of what you have done to make BUSD a much better place to work and learn.

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## California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS)

Bellflower and Lynwood Unified School Districts are pleased to announce the launch of their new after-school career technology education (CTE) program- California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS). CalAPS was developed as a Joint Powers Agreement to provide services to students following a Regional Occupation Program (ROP) delivery model. CalAPS allows students the opportunity to take additional career technical courses that may not be currently offered within each district or within each school site. CalAPS expands career courses in a unique project-based hands-on learning environment.

The following fall course offerings for students are available: Fire Firefighting Course 1 and Course 2- Fire Behavior/Combustion, LA Metro Fire Academy/Cadet, Law Enforcement Course 1 and Course 2- CSI Forensics, Law Enforcement/ Explorer/Cadet, Business Entrepreneurship and Innovation,



Health Occupations, Film and Video Production, Digital Photography, and Culinary Arts.

CalAPS courses are open to students age sixteen and older. A majority of the classes run two days a week from 3:30 pm to 6:15 pm. Saturday classes run 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The fall semester starts Monday, September 12, 2016. Transportation to travel between sites and the participating districts is provided. For more information about the program, or to register your student please visit the website: [CalAPS.org](http://CalAPS.org).

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Paul Helzer, D.C., Ph.D.**  
President

As President of the Board of Education, I along with my Board colleagues are proud and excited to welcome you to a new year of learning! On behalf of the Governing Board members I also would like to acknowledge and say thank you to our students, teachers, support staff, parents and administration for making 2015-16 a Gold Ribbon Year. Not only did seven of our elementary school site receives this distinction, but as a school district we were also recognized as a Gold Ribbon School District. That standing does not come from an individual, but a group of individuals working together for the success of our students. Thank you!

As the District continues its efforts to provide the “Standard of Excellence” for every student and family we serve, I am excited at what lies ahead. The energies and efforts of BUSD employees are truly appreciated and the rewards received by your students are outstanding and very gratifying.

A 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 provide a unique opportunity to re-invent practices at schools and across the District. Rather than embracing only those values which we identify as uniquely “BUSD,” we 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!

Leadership expectations continue to be rigorous for the administrative team of BUSD. Those expectations are contained within some of the following principles.

1. Lead with **CHARACTER**
2. Lead & Operate as a **Team**
3. Lead with **Accountability**
4. **Model – Connect - Involve**
5. **212-Degree Leadership**

Leading by example with these guiding principles, schools in BUSD have achieved and now will work to sustain academic excellence.

As you may recall, in 2012-13 BUSD was successful in passing its first ever General Obligation Bond. The passage

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## Board of Education



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. New beginnings are always exciting and particularly for students. It is a time of anticipation of seeing old friends, making new friends, meeting teachers, learning where the classrooms are and getting used to a schedule after summer break. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices for five years.

Dr. Jacobs' message on page one is inspiring. He appreciates and acknowledges the many accomplishments of the past and leads with the goal of improving. This will be a great year for BUSD.

Our next issue is November 2nd.

## School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the  
**BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## Academic Accountability

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**Bonnie Carter**  
Director

### BUSD Celebrates Continued Success

BUSD students continue to perform well on the State test: CAASPP (California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress) for English language arts and math. Similar to last year, the percent of BUSD students that met or exceeded English language arts (ELA) standards was higher than the percent of students meeting or exceeding ELA standards County-wide. High needs groups including English learners and economically disadvantaged students were strong performers in comparison to overall Los Angeles County scores. BUSD students scored at least four percentage points higher than the overall Los Angeles County score. In math, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding math standards increased in comparison to last year.

BUSD views these assessments as an academic checkup. They are one indicator of student progress; however, the data supports that we are growing in the right direction as we continue to refine instructional practices, integrate technology within classroom lessons as well as provide increased opportunities for our students to access technology to not only practice computer skills, but also to learn how to utilize technology for research, critical thinking and problem solving projects.

Individual Score Reports were recently sent home for all students who took a CAASPP assessment last year (students who were in grades 3-8, 10 & 11). Information regarding how to read these reports was sent home and more information regarding how to read the report can be found on the BUSD website or at the following link: <https://youtu.be/PoxPjtFbBKE>.

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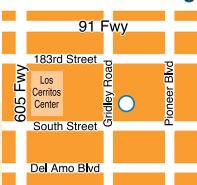
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# Las Flores *Home Education/Independent Study Academy*

10039 E. Palm St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6565 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/homeeducation.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/homeeducation.html)



**Tamara Zylla**  
Program  
Administrator

## New Year Brings New Program Expansion

While it is hard to believe that we are beginning yet another school year, the Home Education Independent Study Academy Leopards are more than ready to hit the floor running! Master agreements have been signed, text books have been allocated, and core classes have commenced. Students, staff, and parents are well on their way to another successful academic season.

As we enter into our 5th year, we have some sensational changes to our learning environment. The 2016-17 school year brings with it the addition of high school classes to the Las Flores Educational Center. To ensure top-notch instruction for this expansion, the school has hired two highly-qualified supervising teachers. Ms. Chin comes to us from College Park Elementary School in San Mateo, where she was a 3rd grade Mandarin/English bilingual teacher. She has both a multiple-subject credential and a single-subject credential in English. She will teach ninth and tenth grade English as well as Mandarin language classes on Fridays to the elementary students. Mr. Mendoza comes to the Home Education Academy from A.B. Miller High School in Fontana Unified School District where he taught mathematics to students in grades 9-12. He has a single subject credential in Mathematics and a wide variety of experience. He will teach Integrated Math 1 and 2 as well as offer intervention support to the elementary students on Fridays.



**The Home Education Independent Study Academy  
welcomes high school teachers, Ms. Chin and Mr. Mendoza**

We are thrilled for the students to have the opportunity to learn from these outstanding educators and anticipate another amazing year filled with academic adventures in a learning community that embraces the concept that "it takes a village" to educate a child.

## Bellflower Unified School District

*Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less*



### Home Education Independent Study Academy Grades K-10

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.

#### Classic Model

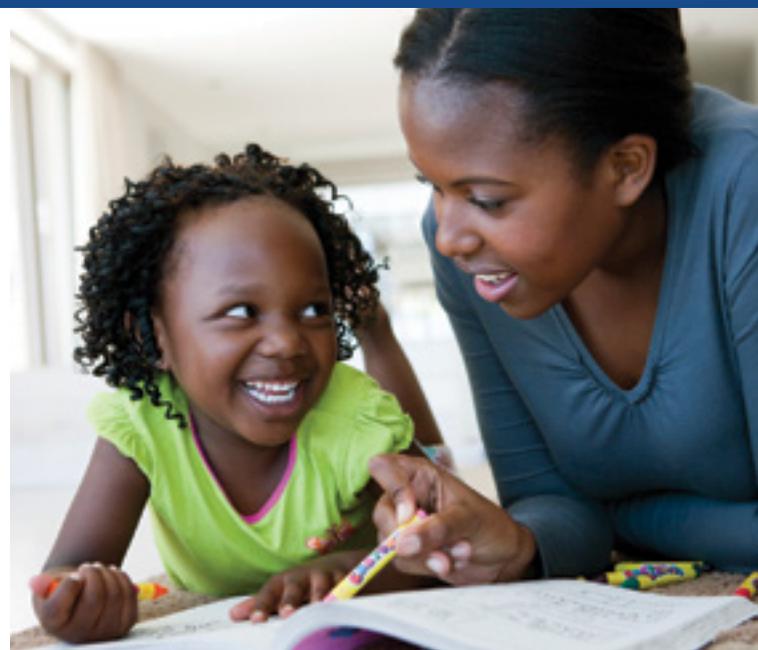
Grades K-10: Parents are the primary teacher five days a week. Students and parents meet at least once a month with a credentialed teacher to review work and set goals. Students may also participate in enrichment learning experiences on Fridays.

#### Core Model

Grades K-10: 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

Friday of each week students in grades TK-4 have the opportunity to come to Las Flores Educational Center for half a day to participate in engaging, standards-based lessons and activities. Activities include such things as visual and performing arts, technology, and cross-curricular hands-on activities. In addition to this, students participate in a music class, a Mandarin-world language and culture experience, and technology lessons. Students in grades 5-8 participate in a modified Enrichment Friday schedule that targets their needs as middle school students. Weekly these students engage in both a STEAM project and an elective activity each of which integrates aspects of oral communication, technology, and visual literacy.



For More Information go to:

[www.BUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.BUSD.k12.ca.us)

Call: (562) 804-6565 Ext. 6600

or visit us at:

Las Flores Educational Center

10039 E. Palm Street, Bellflower, CA, 90706

# Elementary Education

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**Dina Hernandez**  
Director

## Analyzing New Instructional Materials

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! As the new Director, Elementary Education, I am excited for the great and wonderful things taking place. We are in the process of adopting English Language Arts, English Language Development, and intervention programs that are aligned to the new standards for English Language Arts and Literacy as well as the new California English Language Development Standards.

The adoption process began last year with a material fair offered by the Los Angeles County Office of Education that showcased the K-8 state adopted programs. Our adoption committee comprised of teachers and administrators attended the materials fair which provided the team with the opportunity to see the different options available for adoption. To better understand and compare the different programs, we had representatives from different publishers come and present to our committee. To make an informed decision on what program best meets the needs of our Bellflower Unified School District students, we have several teachers piloting different programs. These dedicated teachers received professional development during the summer to prepare for the pilots.

After evaluation, review, and input by teachers a program will be selected in spring for adoption and implementation in the 2017-2018 school year. I want to thank the wonderful group of teachers for their participation and contributions in this process. I look forward to another wonderful year.

Here is a list of the programs we are piloting:

Program type	Program Title	Grade
ELA/ELD	Benchmark Advance	K-6
ELA/ELD	Reading Wonders	K-6
ELA/ELD	My Perspectives	6-8
ELA/ELD	StudySync	6-8
Biliteracy	Benchmark Adelante	K-6
Biliteracy	Lectura Maravillas	K-6
ELA Intensive Intervention	CA Pearson iLit	4-8
ELA Intensive Intervention	California Read 180 Universal System	4-8
ELD Intervention	CA Pearson iLit ELL	4-8

# Secondary Education

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**Colleen McKinley**  
Director

## BUSD Develops Integrated Math Materials

The Secondary Education Office was very busy this summer preparing for the 2016-2017 school year, particularly in the area of high school mathematics. In 2015-16, Bellflower Unified implemented curriculum and units of study for Integrated Math 1 that were developed by UC Irvine's Math Project and also piloted a new textbook. After a thorough analysis, teachers made a bold decision to spend the summer developing their own student resources to complement the curriculum. Two teams of teachers representing Integrated Math 1 and Integrated Math 2 collaborated throughout the summer and worked with UCI to develop homework, practice, notes, and teacher resources. Materials will be rolled out three units at a time and were ready for students and teachers to use on the first day of school.



The transition to the new California standards has been a very collaborative process in Bellflower Unified. This unprecedented project confirms that what is best for our students, teachers and community is most important. Rather than making an eight year commitment to a textbook that didn't meet our needs, teachers stepped up to the plate and designed their own resources which can be modified and updated year to year. It is very exciting to see what a team of committed teachers can do when working collaboratively.

## Bellflower Alternative Education Center

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



**Patrick Dixon**  
Principal

## BAE and ATC Offer Supportive Paths To Educational & Career Success

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year from the Bellflower Alternative Education (BAE) Center, Adult Reentry Program, and the Adult Transition Center (ATC)!

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 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 at-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 Center has a low recidivism rate.

The Adult ReEntry program offers an alternative to the traditional high school setting and provides students 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 one of the district's three high schools: Bellflower, Mayfair and Somerset.

The Adult Transition Center provides individualized support for special education students 18 to 22 years of age to transition successfully from high school to adulthood within the larger community. Students learn social and interpersonal skills, workplace skills, and independent living skills in order to live meaningful and productive lives.

We are looking forward to providing a "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less," for the BAE Center students to return to their comprehensive high schools, the Adult Reentry students to receive a high school diploma, and the Adult Transition Center students to live fuller lives.

# Intensive Learning Center

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



**Dr. Michael Remland**  
Principal

## ILC is ready to SOAR!

Hello, my name is Dr. Michael Remland, and it is a pleasure to introduce myself as the principal of the Intensive Learning Center: a Gold Ribbon School! We are committed to providing the communities of Lakewood and Bellflower with a world class, cutting edge, 21st century education! Here at the ILC we offer a highly engaging educational environment with both traditional English and dual language Spanish classrooms. Traditional English classroom instruction is offered in grades K-6 with dual language Spanish instruction currently being offered in grades K-3. During the 2017-18 school year the Bellflower Unified School District will continue to expand the Dual Language program to 4th grade and beyond. If you are interested in learning more about the Dual Language Spanish program feel free to contact the school office.

Working together with our staff, parents and community we are committed to ensuring that all students achieve their full academic potential by participating in rigorous and relevant classroom instruction. Classroom instruction is supported through maintaining low classroom sizes of 24-1 in grades K-3 and 33-1 in grades 4-6 along with having no grade combination classes. All ILC classrooms are infused with the latest educational technology of short throw LCD projectors, interactive whiteboards, Mimio teaching tools, a state of the art computer lab and multiple mobile wireless computer carts that are available for use in all classrooms and grade levels.

Physical education at the ILC plays a pivotal role in the daily lives of students. Our PE specialist provides exciting activities in grades K-6 that are designed to build students skill levels, stamina, and collaborative skills on a regular basis. This PE time provides teachers with a regular collaborative meeting time that allows for an unprecedented ability to plan and develop the most advanced cutting edge classroom instruction.

Education at the ILC is further enriched through our dedication to teaching students about the arts. All students are introduced to renowned artists through our "Meet the Masters" curriculum brought to us through the sponsorship of the ILC PTA and Staff. Further, all fifth and sixth grade students participate in our highly developed band or chorus programs.

At the ILC we welcome all community members to join us in continuing to build upon the BUSD motto of the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less." We look forward to working with your families.

"We are the Eagles-Watch Us Soar!"



# Educational Services

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**Stacey Larson-Everson**  
Assistant Superintendent

## Programs Aimed at Building Language, Literacy and More!

On behalf of Bellflower Unified School District's Educational Services Office, welcome to the new school year! 2016-2017 kicks off with growth and expansion of many programs and services available to BUSD students and families.

For families with children ages 0-5, we are proud to announce the launch of the Bellflower Early Learning Link (BELL) program, which will open its doors on September 16, 2016. The program will provide families living within BUSD attendance boundaries an active and engaging environment where young children, alongside their parent or guardian, can participate in fun, hands-on, interactive, teacher-lead activities designed to build language, pre-literacy and school readiness skills. BELL will be offered at two district locations: Thomas Jefferson Elementary and Washington Elementary.

BUSD's preschool program has also expanded offerings this year. New program elements include the availability of afternoon preschool classes as well as dual immersion preschool sessions. Dual immersion classes are offered at Washington Elementary and the Intensive Learning Center. For information about BELL or preschool programs, please contact the BUSD Early Childhood Education Office at (562)-866-9011 Ext. 2500.

Also growing this year is the Las Flores Independent Study Home Education Academy, which offers unique educational pathways for students in grades TK-10. For 2016-17, the program has expanded to grades 9 and 10. Enrolled high school students will have the assistance of a credentialed teacher and access to standards-aligned textbooks and computer-based classes while retaining the autonomy to design their learning time based on their own schedule. The new program assists students with the development of a creative, well-rounded, standards-based high school experience that is tailored to their needs. This unique program enables students to learn at home as well as part-time at Las Flores Educational Center. For further information, please contact Las Flores Independent Study Home Education Academy at (562)-804-6565.

# Instructional Personnel

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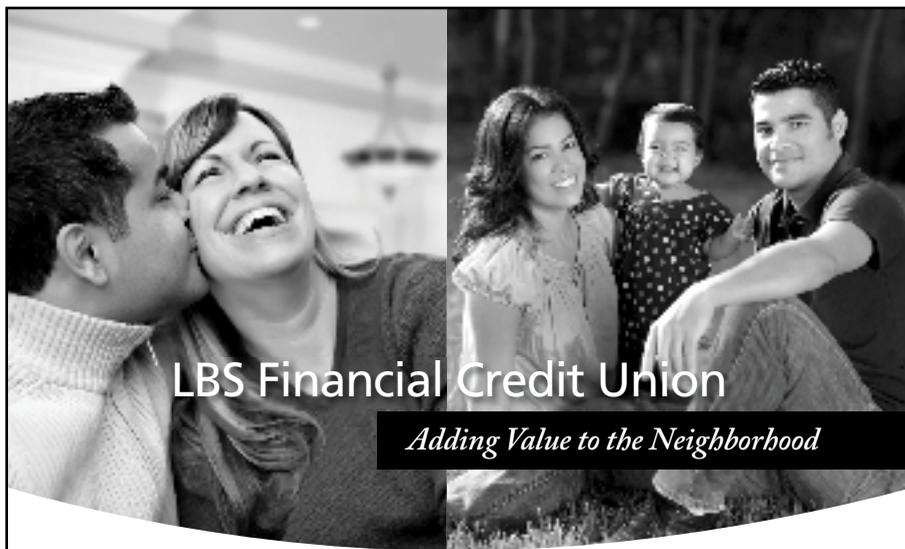
**Lisa Azevedo**  
Assistant Superintendent

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! Instructional Personnel congratulates new staff to the Bellflower Unified School District. Forty-seven new teachers have joined our elementary and secondary sites to provide an outstanding educational learning experience for our students. New administration including assistant principals, counselors and program administrators have also joined the BUSD team to support staff, students and families.

The start of a new year is an exciting time for everyone! Teachers are excited to meet their students and their families. Students are excited to meet their teachers and friends they've missed over the summer break.

The Bellflower Unified School District staff is committed to meeting the "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less" in each of our departments, classrooms, offices and facilities. Our goal is to provide extraordinary learning environments for students allowing them the opportunity to discover what life is all about and who or what they may want to do or be upon graduation.

The Instructional Personnel department congratulates the new members of our team and welcomes new and returning staff and students. We look forward to an incredible school year!



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# Head Start

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**Cristina Blevins**  
Director Child  
Development

## The New Early Childhood Education Program

The 2016-17 school year brings new options and learning pathways to BUSD's Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program. We are excited to provide the California State Preschool program for 3 and 4-year old children at Whitewood, Craig Williams, Las Flores, Frank E. Woodruff, Ernie Pyle, and Washington Elementary. This program offers morning and afternoon sessions to families as well as curriculum which aligns with district transitional kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Each classroom is equipped with new furniture and learning materials that are developmentally and academically appropriate for young

children. As part of BUSD's ECE program learning pathways, this year the district introduces its first Spanish dual immersion preschool classrooms at the Intensive Learning Center and Washington Elementary. The dual immersion classrooms offer services to families that qualify for state preschool, as well as a fee-based options. During the three (3) hour immersion preschool program, students will learn Spanish and English through research-based strategies and curriculum that prepares them for the Bellflower Unified School District elementary dual immersion program as well as overall school readiness. Students are provided the opportunity to develop biliteracy skills in both English and in Spanish.

Finally, our new ECE program will open a community-based program called the Bellflower Early Learning Link (BELL) at Thomas Jefferson and Washington Elementary. The BELL program will encourage family involvement and the growth of language and pre-literacy skills for children 0-5 years of age. The calendar of events will offer developmentally appropriate and hands-on activities designed to promote language and pre-literacy skills. Children will be able to attend learning sessions and activities with a parent or caregiver. A calendar of events for BELL will be available mid-September. For more information about BUSD ECE options available, stop by the ECE office at 9301 Flower Street, call 562-461-2227 or visit our website at <http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/childed.html>.

# Special Education & Student Services

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**Tracy McSparren**  
Assistant  
Superintendent

## School Counts!

School attendance is crucial to school success. Simply put, if students are not in class, they miss out on teaching and learning opportunities.

### Did you know?

- Even in kindergarten, missing 10 percent, or about 18 days, of the school year can drastically affect a student's academic success
- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school
- By 9th grade, regular and high attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores
- Absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other potentially serious difficulty
- Students can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child graduate from college and keep a job

### What can you do as a parent:

- Help your child maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep
- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation
- Don't let your child stay home unless they are sick, students who have a fever of 101 should be kept home and fever free for 24 hours
- Have a back-up plan for getting your child to school if an emergency arises
- Schedule medical appointments and vacations when school is not in session
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not piling up
- Ask for help from school officials, if you're having trouble getting your child to school

## SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Dr. Brian Jacobs**

Last year also marked several school site and district recognitions. It began with Bellflower High School receiving a six year WASC Accreditation, being one of three schools in the State to be recognized for Civics Learning, and then a Model Civics Learning School from Los Angeles County of Education. Somerset High School was recognized as a Model Continuation school, participated with the Model United Nation events, and the Mayfair campus continued to build upon their recognition from last year as the only middle school program in the state to earn

the Civics Learning Award. We also had 7 elementary schools receive the State recognition of Gold Ribbon status, 5 as Academic Achievement Award winners, as well as being recognized as Gold Ribbon School District by the California League of Schools.

BUSD also received recognition from the Campaign for Business and Educational Excellence for showing strong academic achievement and closing the achievement gaps over the 2015-16 school year. Those schools receiving this outstanding recognition were; Albert Baxter Elementary, Esther Lindstrom Elementary, the ILC, Ernie Pyle Elementary, Stephen Foster Elementary, and Mayfair Middle/High School. This is just another strong example of how every individual within the BUSD Team has diligently worked to keep their daily efforts of achieving the "Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less."

Finally, I just want to reinforce, even though I mentioned it prior in this

"Welcome," I believe BUSD has the most supportive employees in all of LA County, if not the state. Every staff member has sought out ways to sustain the journey towards excellence. This is just another reason why our current Cohort graduation rate is 95% districtwide, all high schools receiving six year WASC Accreditations, multiple programs ensuring career pathways can be explored at our high schools and even down into the elementary schools, and one of the best fine arts programs for students in grades five through twelve!

I also believe that extraordinary success for each and every one is possible in the Bellflower Unified School District. This success is taking place because we are working together to make the best learning environments, creating positive relationships and personal connections with students and families. As the instructional leader of BUSD, I expect the best from each of our students and employees while working in harmony to make positive differences for others, and focusing on our strengths, while providing support, and ultimately make our shortcomings insignificant.

I am blessed to work with so many employees that believe in our young people and are always willing to do whatever is necessary and possible to help make their futures better. THANK YOU!!!!!! We are also blessed with great young minds and a school community that is highly supportive of our daily efforts to provide the highest level of quality instruction. Those ingredients are all part of the recipe for success! Thank you to everyone that makes BUSD "A Great Place for Children." I am looking forward with continuing our outstanding growth and achievements in this 2016-17 school year.

# Albert Baxter *Elementary*

14929 S. Cerritos Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/531-1602 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/baxter.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/baxter.html)



**Sue Curtiss**  
*Principal*

## Great Start to a Great Year

The Baxter Bears are back for a great new school year! My name is Sue Curtiss and I am thrilled to be starting my fifth year as your principal at Albert Baxter Elementary. I am fortunate to have worked all 26 of my years in education in the Bellflower Unified School District. I taught as a 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade teacher at Ramona Elementary before becoming the assistant principal there. I later spent eight years as principal at Stephen Foster and Frank E. Woodruff Elementary. These experiences prepared me for our focus at Albert Baxter Elementary: to create a challenging, positive, and supportive learning environment for students.

I am pleased to introduce you to our new counselor, Mr. Melvin Barrientos. Mr. Barrientos joins us after two years of working in a Northern California school district. He is newly married and is happy to work for a school near his home in Southern California. He is eager to work closely with school staff, parents and students to help students develop their full potential as individuals.

I look forward to another year as part of the Baxter family, working together to support our students in reaching academic excellence.



**Albert Baxter sixth graders raise our Gold Ribbon Flag on the first day of school. (left to right): Ariel Kenon, Jacob Salcido, Kirtan Gajjar, Anthony Murillo, Adam Miranda and Vincent Miranda.**

# Bellflower *Middle School / High School*

15301 McNab Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/920-1801 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/bellflower-high.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/bellflower-high.html)



**Michael Lundgren**  
*Principal*

## Exciting Year Ahead for the BUCS

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the start of the 2016-17 school year at Bellflower Middle/High School. I am extremely pleased and honored to be the principal of Bellflower Middle/High School, a school with a rich tradition and legacy of excellence. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and your student to provide an outstanding educational experience. We are committed to serve every student and parent with a Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less.

Beyond our core academic courses, Bellflower Middle/High School offers courses in technology, art, choral and instrumental music, drama, and physical education. We also encourage students to take classes from our California Advancing Pathways for Students (CalAPS), which is dedicated to developing and providing quality career technical education for students to ensure they become successful, contributing college and career ready members within the global community. For more information on CalAPS, please visit our school website or log on directly at [www.calaps.org](http://www.calaps.org).

We encourage all parents to join PTSA, which provides financial support for our students and programs on campus.

Our staff and community are committed to providing a safe and positive environment that promotes respect, productivity, and active participation in school activities. To help achieve these goals, there have been some office re-locations on our campus to better meet the needs of our students. The new Behavior Intervention & Support Center (BISC), housed in the old middle school office, will support the behavior needs of all of our students, 7-12 grades. Located in the BISC will be two assistant principals, four security staff, our community service worker, a probation officer, and a guidance intern. Our middle academic office, which includes our two middle school counselors and middle school assistant principal, has moved to the main administrative building, housed next to the attendance office.

Thank you for your continued support of Bellflower Middle/High School. We are looking forward to a tremendous '16-'17 school year. Go Bucs!!!

# Stephen Foster *Elementary*

5223 E. Bigelow St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/804-6518 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/foster.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/foster.html)



**Confidence Johnson**  
*Principal*

## Stephen Foster is Ready to Flash in 2016-17

Welcome back to the 2016-2017 school year. I am truly excited to be joining the BOLTS family a second year here as principal of Stephen Foster. I joined the Bellflower Unified School District in 2013 as the Assistant Principal for Frank E. Woodruff Elementary and Ernie Pyle Elementary. I previously taught in the Hawthorne School District for fourteen years as a third grade teacher, fourth grade teacher and Literacy Coach. My first teaching opportunity was with a private school for three years prior to transitioning to public school. I earned my Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish from Xavier University of Louisiana and Master of Arts Degree in Cross Cultural Education from National University.

Stephen Foster exhibits the district's mantra: Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less. Transitional Kindergarten through third will continue with

class size reduction of 24:1. We are excited to launch a school wide recognition referred to as, "Everyday Kindness" highlighting students who exhibit our BOLTS behavior expectation through the day.

We have a new BOLT staff member from the ILC, Mrs. Rika Ishida who will be teaching grade 2.

Ms. White, our counselor will continue to support teachers and students with various concerns as it relates to social and academic development. Through the continuation of our Physical Education program, teachers will be able to collaborate regularly during their Professional Learning Communities, to discuss essential standards and academic goals. Lessons will be designed to meet the various modalities and levels of learning while monitoring student progress.

The Foster staff and I are privileged to serve the students and their families in the 2016-2017 school year. We are charged up for learning!!!

# Thomas Jefferson *Elementary*

10027 Rose St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6521 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/jefferson.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/jefferson.html)



**Tiffany Dominguez**  
*Principal*

## Welcome back Bellflower families!

After a successful school year in which Thomas Jefferson was named a California Gold Ribbon School and a Title I Academic Achievement School, our staff has been diligently preparing for what we know will be another fantastic year.

Our theme this year is “Building Relationships”, with our 6th graders partnering up with kindergarten students during lunch and throughout the year to help develop friendships and responsibility, and student council and teacher advisors planning recess and other school-wide activities that will bring students together and help build school spirit. In addition, we are excited to continue our much-requested monthly family events.

For more information on all that is taking place here at Jefferson, please take a look at our latest Jack Rabbit Newscast – a news program developed and presented by students that focuses on events and other happenings on campus. Just click on: <https://sites.google.com/a/busd.k12.ca.us/thomas-jefferson-elementary/student-showcase>



Kindergarten students in Ms. Magness' class show excitement during their first day of school.

# Esther Lindstrom *Elementary*

5900 N. Canehill Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/804-6525 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/lindstrom.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/lindstrom.html)



**Lisa Luna**  
*Principal*

## Lindstrom Pride ROARS!

It is with excitement and honor that I begin the school year as Principal of Esther Lindstrom Elementary school. Prior to coming to BUSD, I worked in Los Angeles Unified School District as a classroom teacher and Categorical Program Advisor. Through all of my experiences, I was always reminded that students are children, looking for a caring and nurturing person to let them see that with hard work, they can achieve ANYTHING.

I carried that belief with me when I began my administrative career at BUSD as an Assistant Principal at Lindstrom in 2014, and am excited to have taken the next step with you! We have made great gains as a school, and this year, we will continue our work towards our Standard of

Excellence, Nothing Less. Our staff will continue providing wonderful learning experiences for our students through the use of Thinking Maps, integrated use of technology and more. Our community will continue to thrive with our PTA and all of the wonderful events that they bring to us.

Continuing with us this year will be Ms. Bond, our school counselor. She will be providing social skills groups for students, as well as individual sessions as necessary to support our students academic and social success. Our Case Manager, Jeanine Williams will also be continuing with us to provide resources to our families, such as counseling, school clothing, etc. New to our 'pride' is Ms. Hope Nguyen, Upper SDC Teacher and Mrs. Rachel Welch, Assistant Principal. We look forward to a wonderful and productive year in the Lindy Pride!

# Mayfair *Middle School / High School*

6000 N. Woodruff Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-9981 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/mayfair-high.htm](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/mayfair-high.htm)



**Julie Stanley**  
*Principal*

## Monsoons Ready to Excel in 2016-17

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2016-2017 school year. My name is Julie Stanley and I am honored and thrilled to be taking on the role of principal at Mayfair Middle/High School, a school embedded with academic excellence and rich co-curricular programs. This is my 16th year in Bellflower Unified School District, having previously worked as a classroom teacher, coach, athletic director, and assistant principal. I am extremely excited to be back for another year school year, and I am grateful for the opportunity to help lead such an amazing school with my dedicated leadership team.

At Mayfair our mission is to provide the pathway for all students to attain the expertise and develop skills of academic excellence that will empower them to achieve the Monsoon Motto: Think critically, achieve maximum potential, demonstrate responsible and ethical behavior, communicate effectively, and

positively contribute to society. The dedicated staff is committed to ensuring that ALL students are provided opportunities to learn and believe that teachers who challenge and care for their students make a significant impact on their lives. When we take the time to strategically plan, forge positive relationships, and continue to build on our successful foundation, we can foster a learning environment where our entire Mayfair community thrives. All students will develop personal education plans connected to goals beyond high school. I encourage all students to get involved in one of the many extra-curricular opportunities including school clubs, activities, athletics, band, and performing arts to name a few.

Mayfair Middle/High School is a place where exceptional teaching and learning is the norm. I look forward to getting to know the school community over the upcoming months and working together to continue to uphold the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

## Ernie Pyle *Elementary*

14500 S. Woodruff Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6528 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/pyle.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/pyle.html)



**Lisa Paioni**  
*Principal*

### Off to An Awesome Start

I am delighted to begin my fifth year as the principal of Ernie Pyle Elementary School. Ernie Pyle is truly an exceptional learning community and I am honored and proud to lead it.

This year we will continue to develop our skills in the use of classroom technology in ways that enhance student learning and engagement. We have increased the number of mobile Chromebook computer devices. This year, each grade level second through sixth will have a classroom set of devices per grade level. First grade will share a set with our Intervention teacher. Our Kindergarten students will continue to work with Learnpads. We are excited about moving closer to a 1:1 ratio of computers to students.



This school year brings a new addition to our office staff. Joining us as attendance clerk is Melissa Cesena. Our front office: Melissa, Gladys Awelewa, secretary, along with Sally Grkinich, Community Services Worker look forward to being of service to the Ernie Pyle community. The 2016-2017 school year is off to an awesome start! We look forward to seeing you at school events or as a volunteer.

## Ramona *Elementary*

9351 Laurel St, Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6532 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/ramona.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/ramona.html)



**Dr. Deirdre Reyes**  
*Principal*

### A Golden Start to the New Year

My name is Deirdre Reyes and I am delighted to begin my second year as the principal of Ramona Elementary. Prior to this appointment, I worked at several other schools in BUSD as an elementary

teacher, Reading Specialist, and principal. 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, two Masters of Education in Reading and Administration respectively from the University of La Verne, and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education and Adult Learning.

Our district theme is "Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less" and at Ramona, we want to build on our positive results and successes in order to fulfill our mission of empowering each child to reach their full potential. We are proud to begin this year as a Gold Ribbon School. We received the award for our strong Response to Intervention (RTI) program at all grade levels. Our instruction is ensuring that every student is showing growth in language arts and experiencing success. Gold Ribbon status means that our program is a model for other schools to observe and replicate. We are proud of this achievement and it would not be possible without 100% effort on everyone's part.

Our RTI system is designed to increase achievement in ELA for all students. The tiered system of support benefits struggling students, keeps grade level



readers and writers on track and ensures high achieving students are offered opportunities to excel and extend their learning beyond the curriculum. Teachers meet weekly to plan instruction for each group and analyze work and test scores to monitor the effectiveness of instruction and ensure students are still properly placed to continue to improve and show growth.

The Ramona RTI model is a source of pride for all stakeholders. All stakeholders, especially parents, are involved and we have seen our students grow in reading and writing skills every year since we began.

# Somerset *High School*

9242 E. Laurel St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6548 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/somerset-high.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/somerset-high.html)



**Mark Kailiponi**  
*Principal*

## Positive Beginnings to the New Year

Welcome back to the 2016-2017 school year! The addition of the Peer Leaders Uniting Students (PLUS) program to Somerset's campus gives our students leadership and service opportunities to make Somerset's school climate even more

conducive to learning. This is done through events that create communication, connections, care and community among our student body. Student leaders in PLUS will use student and parent survey data to determine what actions will best address concerns and create interventions and activities that promote a safe and effective learning environment. Student leaders are trained to facilitate a series of PLUS activities that encourage meaningful and productive conversations between students and help build a trusting school community. These students will develop their communication, critical thinking, and collaborative skills to make Somerset a better place. Ultimately, these experiences will prepare our students when they transfer back to their home school or graduate at Somerset, as well as being more prepared for the workplace and college.



**PLUS students are working together to plan for the new school year.**

# Washington *Elementary*

9725 Jefferson St., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6535 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/washington.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/washington.html)



**Sulema Holguin**  
*Principal*

## Partnering with the Community

Washington is always looking at ways to enhance opportunities and resources for our students. We have been very fortunate to have support from partners in the community and enjoy seeing our students benefit from those services.

As last year came to an end our students were excited to be able to participate in the Bellflower's Parks and Recreation program known as B.R.I.M. (Bellflower Recreation in Motion). Our students had a BLAST as they enjoyed the various activities that were made available to them on campus and became familiar with a summer activity they could take part in. Students spent the last day of school playing games from a mobile vehicle that came onto campus and interacted with park staff. It was such a success that we are looking forward in continuing to partner up with Bellflower's Parks and Recreation in 2016-17 school year and bring more activities on campus for our students.

As we started the school year our students showed up with their brand new



backpacks and supplies that were donated by Bellflower's Volunteer Center. Students had the opportunity to go and select a backpack and fill it up with supplies.

Our Staff and Students want to say "Thanks" and look forward to the ongoing partnerships!

# Craig Williams *Elementary*

6144 Clark Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/804-6540 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/williams.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/williams.html)



**Stacey Williams**  
*Principal*

## Exciting New Year at Craig Williams

Hello everyone! My name is Stacey Williams and I am honored to be the principal at Craig Williams Elementary School. This will be my eighteenth year in the district. In previous years I have served as a 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teacher, an instructional coach for mathematics, and most recently an Assistant Principal at Ramona Elementary School. I look forward to working with the dedicated staff, students, and parents of Craig Williams Elementary and carrying on the outstanding service provided to the community. This year we will continue to focus on district initiatives to support students in becoming independent, life-long learners. Technology, Fetzner strategies, and Thinking Maps embedded into lessons to ensure high student engagement. Data is routinely analyzed to identify student needs and support them with specific learning strategies.

Teachers are continuing to collaborate regularly in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to address those needs and identify the best course of action for each student. Early intervention is a key factor in determining student success. Therefore, our intervention teacher will be working diligently with grade level teams to provide the most successful supports for students. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) are an integral part of the Craig Williams community. Students are recognized for their positive contributions to the school site and help to Promote Peace and Safety, Achieve their Goals, Work Hard, and Show Respect. When students demonstrate the PAWS expectations, a PAWS point will be recorded for their positive action. Once our first goal of 5000 PAWS points is earned, students will participate in a school-wide incentive. By combining high quality instruction with positive behavioral expectations, Craig Williams demonstrates a “Standard of Excellence, Nothing Less.”

# Frank E. Woodruff *Elementary*

15332 S. Eucalyptus Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706 • 562/804-6545 • [www.busd.k12.ca.us/woodruff.html](http://www.busd.k12.ca.us/woodruff.html)



**Beverly Swanson**  
*Principal*

## Well-Rounded Education at Woodruff

At Frank E. Woodruff Elementary School, we provide a well-rounded education that meets the instructional needs of all students. Our morning instructional time focuses on the core curriculum of English language arts and mathematics, with social studies, science, and health taught in the afternoon.

All students are taught at individual literacy levels during Response to Intervention. English learners are provided an additional thirty minutes of instruction for English language development. GATE students extend their knowledge through enrichment opportunities and after school classes. All students improve their reading skills by checking out books in the Library and participating in a goals-based reading program, Accelerated Reader. Technology enhances instruction as students visit the computer lab or use mobile carts. P.E. classes teach the importance of physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Fifth and sixth grade students are introduced to music through Band or Chorus. Upper grade students participate in leadership activities through Student Council. Woodruff Elementary provides the educational foundation for students to be ready for college or career.



**GATE students visit the Long Beach Aquarium.**

## BOARD OF EDUCATION • *From Page 1*

of the \$79-million-dollar Bond has provided improvements to the structures and instructional operations of the District. Here is a small sample:

- Expanding District vocational education programs, medical and health technology, and construction trades.
- Upgrading classrooms with up-to-date computers and technology.
- Repairing aging school classrooms /facilities throughout the District.
- Replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. Both high school gyms receiving A/C.
- Upgrading and improving physical education facilities and programs.
- Repairing and replacing leaky roofs.

As the Board President, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments attained as the District continues to focus on student achievement, instructional improvement and an action plan to ensure the most effective and efficient organizational performance. This has led me to an even stronger belief that we are capable of maintaining the “Standard of Excellence; Nothing Less.”

Our commitment as Board Members to the community is to continually strive to provide a quality school District that everyone can be proud of. It will always be our goal to give our students a safe and positive experience while they attend school. We are blessed with great kids, supportive parents and community, along with a caring staff. Those ingredients are all part of the recipe for success! Have a fantastic 2016-17 school year.

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\*\*Minimum balance required; see chart. Promotion ends 7/1/2017.

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Balance amount	Bonus	Balance amount	Bonus
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$100	\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$400
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$300		



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\*ScholarShare has received a Silver rating from Morningstar, making it one of the best-rated plans in the nation. In an annual review (10/20/2015) of the largest 529 college savings plans (64 total), Morningstar identified 29 plans that rose above their typical peers, awarding those plans Gold, Silver, and Bronze Morningstar Analyst Ratings for 2015. These forward-looking, qualitative ratings signal Morningstar's conviction in the plans' abilities to outperform their relevant benchmark and peer groups on a risk-adjusted basis over the long term. Morningstar evaluates college savings plans based on five key pillars — Process, Performance, People, Parent, and Price. For more information about Morningstar's overview of ScholarShare, go to [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com). Past performance does not predict future results. Source: [529.morningstar.com](http://529.morningstar.com)



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances. Non-qualified withdrawals may be subject to federal and state taxes and the additional federal 10% tax. Non-qualified withdrawals may also be subject to an additional 2.5% California tax on earnings. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state where you or your Beneficiary resides has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan. Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on any external website links referenced herein.