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School News

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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 18

MAY 2019

Best of the Best!



Mrs. Jenny Lee, third grade teacher at Fanning Elementary School is the BOUSD 2019 Teacher of the Year

By Nichole Pichardo, Communications Specialist

Jenny Lee, third-grade teacher at Fanning Elementary School, has been selected as the 2019 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Lee will represent the district in the 2018–19 Orange County Teachers of the Year program. Mrs. Lee has been described by her colleagues as a “gentle leader among her peers.” She has been a teacher for 18 years and lives and breathes for education.

“Always putting her students first, Mrs. Lee continues to work on her craft as an educator and will always be a lifelong learner,” Principal Theresa Stevens said. “She is one of the best reasons to be part of the Fanning Family.”

Additionally, Mrs. Lee was named Fanning Elementary School Teacher of the Year.



Jeanne Steffanni has been named BOUSD 2019 Classified Employee of the Year!

Jeanne Steffanni, media-center technician at Mariposa Elementary School, has been selected at the 2019 Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Steffanni has been working at Mariposa Elementary for five years. As one of her colleagues stated, “From Chromebooks to Google Classroom assignments to book tastings, our amazing Jeanne gladly helps through it all. She is a gem!”

Mrs. Steffanni will represent the district in the 2019–20 Orange County Classified Employees of the Year program. She was also named Mariposa Elementary School Classified Employee of the Year.

See **BEST OF THE BEST** • Page 7

Thank you!



Dr. Brad Mason
Superintendent

We recently took part in an online conversation through Thoughtexchange. More than 1,600 people (parents, community members, staff, and students) participated and provided us with valuable feedback. Thoughtexchange has allowed our family members, community members, students and staff to actively participate in a conversation and exchange ideas so that we can truly see what is important to our community for our students and our schools. We wanted to move away from the traditional survey model to allow for active participation and the exchange of ideas. The Thoughtexchange process has allowed us to have meaningful engagement with our community and families, especially those we may not have heard from before.

Top priorities from you included the following: curriculum and electives for college and career readiness; communication and engagement; class size; safety and security; and school environment. These priorities are an affirmation of what we have been working on throughout our district and

what we will use to continue to guide our Local Control Accountability Plan.

As a district, our plan is to take what was an exchange of ideas and transform those ideas into actionable services and programs. Ideas shared in this exchange will be evaluated and turned into a plan that we can use to help drive the Brea Olinda Unified School District forward.

Thank you for contributing to this important conversation. Your participation in this process was invaluable.

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: Leslie Rawlings
714/856-9884 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder

Netragrednik by Neta Madison

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are at the end at the end of another school year. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is September 18 when we'll begin bringing you the excellence in the classrooms. Have a wonderful summer and remember to include the library among your activities.



**Congratulations
Class of 2019!**

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Helping Children Manage End-of-School-Year Stress



Ioana Pal, PsyD,
clinical psychologist,
Stramski Children's
Developmental
Center,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

It's the beginning of spring, the air feels warmer and the excitement of summer is present. However, as the school year winds down, anxiety can ramp up.

The end of the school year is a time of transition. Children and parents internalize stress in different ways and finding ways to alleviate anxiety will help families have a more enjoyable summer. Many stressors can impact their well-being, such as:

- Changes to sleep and diet along with other routine activities
- Changing schools or needing to attend summer school
- Leaving a friend or beloved teacher behind
- Moving to a larger campus
- Studying for and taking exams

Although it's difficult to predict how a child will respond to change, it's important to communicate. Parents can help with their child's transition by creating closure, so that their child doesn't assume the worst about the upcoming year. It is important to have a meaningful conversation, so parents can be aware of how a child is handling the situation. Some tips to deal with stress and anxiety include:

- Encouraging involvement in non-verbal activities, like sports, reading, writing and art
- Establishing coping skills for when they're feeling overwhelmed, such as walking the dog, playing a game or talking to someone
- Celebrating the completion of milestones
- Highlighting the independence they'll gain because of the new transition
- Visiting the new school or meeting with their next teacher
- Writing a card to a beloved teacher they're leaving



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Arovista *Elementary (K-6)*

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Karen VanDine
Principal

Big and Little Friends

If you ask Arovista Elementary School alumni about stand-out memories of their days as Allstars, it is highly likely they will remember their Big Friend/Little Friend experience. It has long been an Arovista tradition to pair a kindergarten class with a sixth-grade class to create special memories.

The older students serve as role models for our littlest learners and help their buddies create crafts, play games, and read. Our kindergarten students learn a lot and have a special bond with their “big friends,”

and our older students learn from their “little friends” as well. The experience has been so popular that other grade-level partnerships have sprung up.

One of the favorite Big Friend/Little Friend activities is Clifford, the Big Red Dog Day. Ask any Allstar, and they will recall making Clifford ears and getting their puppy noses! Good times!



Brea Canyon *High School (9-12)*

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • bchs-bousd-ca.schoolloop.com



Eric Barrientos
Principal

Re-Modeling

Brea Canyon High School (BCHS) was first recognized as a Model Continuation High School by the California Department of Education (CDE) in 2016. At that time, BCHS prided itself on the community and relationship-building between staff, student, and families. Flash forward to 2019, and Brea Canyon High School has once again been recognized as a Model Continuation High School—only this time there is more than relationship-building for our Den to boast...much more.

Since our initial designation by the CDE, Brea Canyon High School brought several layers of academic, social-emotional, and behavioral interventions to support students on our campus. BCHS brought Apex Learning to Brea Olinda Unified School District and created Coyote Den to provide students at BCHS with opportunities for credit remediation and alternatives for learning using digital curriculum. BCHS implemented Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) for students to build school connectivity and positive behavior in a tiered system of supports. Futures Academy was added to the BCHS campus to create a value-added lens for alternative education. The program targeted our BOUSD students who left our schools for nonpublic programs, and many have now been reintegrated into our BCHS and Brea Olinda High School campuses. Most recently, BCHS partnered with the Brea Education Foundation to bring a community-based organization called Project Kinship (PK) to our campus. PK emphasizes healing through restorative practices to manage student behavior, encourage conflict resolution, and provide social-emotional support.

Our journey from 2016 to 2019 has layered each of these components and woven threads of support for our Brea Canyon Coyotes that has truly earned us the designation of Model Continuation High School for another three years. Keep howling to success, Coyotes!

Brea *Junior High School (7-8)*

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • bjhs.bousd.us



Kelly Kennedy
Principal

Career Technical Education

In partnership with North Orange County Regional Occupational Program (ROP, Brea Junior High School provides Career Technical Education (CTE) courses in a variety of areas, including medical careers, computer science, and residential and commercial construction.

The Exploring Medical Careers course teaches students about health topics, safety, nutrition, medical terminology, and an introduction to the diversity of career choices in the medical, dental, and health fields. The Exploring Computer Science course introduces students to an inquiry-based, hands-on approach to solving real-world computing problems through human-computer interaction, Web design, and programming. The Foundation of Residential and Commercial Construction (BITA 1) course is designed to teach foundational skills for the construction trades through basic construction math, measurement and scale, blueprint reading, and procedural use of hand and power tools.

All three of these ROP courses are beginning pathways to courses at Brea Olinda High School, and they will ultimately prepare our students for amazing careers in their future!



Brea Country Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • countryhills.bousd.us



Trish Walsh
Principal

Special Days

Country Hills continues to foster a positive learning environment for all its students. Through activities in classrooms, PAL Club events, Student Council leadership, the PTA, and the School Site Council, our entire school community works together toward that end.

We focus on kindness and growth mindset in and out of the classroom daily, demonstrating our ROAR behaviors of Respect, Ownership, Achievement, and Responsibility. A good attitude and honorable behavior goes a long way toward helping students be successful in school and in life.

As this school year comes to a close, our Cougars are able to reflect upon so many wonderful opportunities and events. From the Bubble Ru to the book fairs, to the many assemblies, and to the many ways we demonstrate learning and have fun, we can easily say that it's been a terrific year. Thank you to our teachers, staff, students, families, and community. They make Country Hills a special place to be.



Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • boh.sousd.us



Ixchel Sanchez
Principal

STEM Partnership

A national aerospace and defense technology company once again offered our Brea Olinda High School (BOHS) students the unique opportunity to participate in an unpaid summer internship. As one of a handful of schools in the partnership, we were granted six spots. The technology company was eager to partner with local high schools who have specific math, science, and technology academic programs.

Due to successful partnerships like this one, BOHS students gain educational experiences that increase their exposure to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) "in action." In the past, students have benefited from opportunities to gain a rich educational experience from the enthusiastic mentors.

After an extremely competitive application process, I am very pleased to announce that Christopher Furumizom Aakash Kadakia, Jordan Ostby, Amy Wang, Christine Wang, and Emma Wood have been chosen to participate in this year's summer internship. Go, Wildcats!



William E. Fanning *Elementary (K-6)*

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • fanning.bousd.us



Theresa Stevens
Principal

New Innovation Lab

It has been a year of exciting changes for students at Fanning Academy of Science and Technology. The need for a computer lab is no longer necessary, as we use devices that can be utilized in any room.

Our new Innovation Lab is a space where students can collaboratively work in groups to discover, learn, and create.

The flexible furniture and open space allows each teacher to use our lab for a variety of activities and lessons. We are fortunate to have donations from a local service organization to add on to our makerspace program, with a new 3D printer, robots and building kits. This space also allows our teachers and their students to work on their Code to the Future robotics projects.

There is no limit to what we can *make* together in our new Fanning Innovation Lab!



Laurel Elementary *Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration*

200 S. Flower Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2520 • laurel.bousd.us



Dr. Mike Trimmell
Principal

An Amazing Place!

The staff members at Laurel Magnet School work diligently to support all of our students. Each and every one of our employees is deserving of recognition for their dedication. However, each year our staff members select two of their own to recognize as our school's Employees of the Year.

This year the staff selected two amazing women. Our

Classified Employee of the Year is school administrative assistant Lori Nicassio. Her peers note that, "Lori is always willing to lend a helpful hand to teachers, students, and families... Without her dedicated work ethic, Laurel would not run as smoothly as it does."



Laurel Magnet School 2019
Classified Employee of the Year, Lori Nicassio



Laurel Magnet School 2019
Certificated Employee of the Year, Brooke Aulick

Our Certificated Employee of the Year is second-grade teacher Brooke Aulick. Her colleagues write, "Brooke is one of the most hard-working teachers with whom I have ever worked!"

Our Laurel staff and community would like to congratulate these two exceptional employees for their amazing work. Our school is such an amazing place to be!

Mariposa *Elementary (K-6)*

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • <http://mariposa.bousd.us>



Daryn Coburn
Principal

Honoring Famous Americans

Over a decade ago, Mariposa's second-grade teachers developed a unique project to recognize some of our most famous Americans in U.S. history. Students visit the library to conduct research to find their chosen person. A biography is selected and read over the next few weeks. Meanwhile, each second-grader is responsible for creating a presentation for their class and parents as well as dressing in costume as their renowned figure.

This year, the teachers were so excited to end the days of the "trifold boards" and mark 2019 as the first year that the projects were done digitally, all in Google slides. Terii Ault, our district teacher on special assignment (TOSA), assisted the students and teachers by designing new templates for the front cover and a timeline. The cleverly created first page was a copy of *Time* magazine's Person of the Year.



As the children prepared their slides, they had to include general information about the person, including where he or she was born; include a map and an interesting fact; and find a prop to enhance their costume. Parents and special guests were invited to the historical and traditional event. Everyone enjoyed listening to all the speeches in their children's classrooms and viewing the slides. Our Monarchs showed extra creativity with their detailed backgrounds and pictures they included. What a way to showcase such important people in American history!

Olinda *Elementary (K-6)*

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • olinda.bousd.us



Robert Rendon
Principal

Olinda Opens its Doors to Family and Friends!

On Wednesday, April 10 we celebrated Open House with families, staff, friends and community members. Here are a few highlights:

TK / Kindergarten: Students and teachers hatched baby chicks and ducks as an exciting unit in life cycles.

First Grade: First grade classrooms had pretty rainbows and Kid Art on display along with pea plants growing towards the sun. Animal habitats were on display and guests could visit to take a look at the students' habitat brochures and green screen presentations! Families were invited to see the Rockin Robot writing project.

Second Grade: Beautiful "Animal Reports" were on display. The projects highlighted our creative watercolor animal paintings. Some classrooms invited guests to come check out our beautiful bloom balls. One classroom celebrated with lions and tigers and bears (oh my) and creative Animal Research Projects.

Third Grade: Third graders researched California tribes and wrote reports with information on how they lived. They put it together on Google Slides and made beautiful posters to highlight their final reports. Another class asked visitors to come over and view our amazing third grader's snow globes.

Fourth Grade: Fourth grade families were invited to come check out beautiful bloom balls and to enjoy early California from the Missions through the Gold Rush.

Fifth Grade: Fifth grade students had a plethora of projects on display. History research projects were on display and guests were also invited to see the robots students 3D printed using designs they created in Tinkercad. Another classroom had Presidents Reports Pizza Boxes on display.

Sixth Grade: All sixth grade classes invited guests to come and see their life-sized sarcophagus replicas as a highlight of their study of Ancient Egypt.

BEST OF THE BEST • From Page 1

More Accolades!

We would also like to congratulate all of our site teachers and classified employees of the year!

Teachers of the Year: Holly Lee, special-day class teacher at Arovista Elementary School; Carrie Thomas, third-grade teacher at Country Hills Elementary School; Brooke Aulick, second-grade teacher at Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration; Lorie Rincon, third-grade teacher at Mariposa Elementary School; Susan Coburn, third-grade teacher at Olinda Elementary School; Gustavo Trujillo, social science teacher at Brea Junior High School; Laurel Batchelor, English teacher at Brea Olinda High School; and Robert Verry, biology teacher at Brea Canyon High School.

Classified Employees of the Year: Kristie Clark, special-education paraprofessional at Arovista Elementary; Anna Monroe, noon supervisor at Country Hills Elementary School; Caryn Cerda, paraprofessional at Fanning Elementary School; Lori Nicassio, administrative assistant at Laurel Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration; Amy Mueller, administrative assistant at Olinda Elementary School; Sebastian Correa, special education paraprofessional at Brea Junior High School; Lori Blake, paraprofessional at Brea Olinda High School; Rosa Linda Bradford, special-education paraprofessional at Brea Canyon High School; Maribel Escobar, food service worker at Arovista Elementary; Dan Pagel, planner/scheduler for BOUSD Department of Facilities, Maintenance, Operations and Transportation; and Monica Hernandez, site worker for the Department of Child Development Services.

Teachers See the Possibilities

During her first year teaching in her own classroom, Rene Engle discovered that reaching high-school learners means setting clear expectations while getting to know students' hearts and strengths. Growth happens together every day, she says—for both student and teacher.



Gladstone High School, 9th Grade English Class, Teacher: Rene Engle '16, Single Subject Teaching Credential '17

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Fun Story



Richard J.

The Popularity Papers The Awesomely Awful Melodies of Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Gram-Chang is written by Amy Ignatow



After the break the BFFs Julie and Lydia get inspired to start a band along with their friend Roland and an uninvited drama queen Jane. However, none of the friends can play well (or even anything at all, to be perfectly honest), so it is a rough journey until they are finally somewhat good to play for a birthday party. They realize too late that the birthday party they are booked for is princess-themed for a 7 year-old girl. However, "the show must go on" and the friends perform the best way they know how. But the party turns into a mad riot (guess why?) This piece of disaster news travels back to school with completely unexpected results. The rumor had it that they were so good they caused a riot! Of course, only the "riot" part was true. Interestingly, it boosts the friends' popularity at school, which they were trying to achieve for a long time.

It is a fun story with unexpected ending and I liked reading it. I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and leaning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

Journey for Victory



Christina J.

The School for Good and Evil: Quests for Glory by Soman Chainani

The 4th book in *The School for Good and Evil* series follows through the quests of recently graduated students (most of which are children of famous storybook characters) on a journey to create their own legends. These kids will

be either heroes or villains of their own stories. But as Tedros, the son of King Arthur of Camelot, struggles to rule his Kingdom, it is realized that a great menace is keeping Tedros from being able to pull Excalibur from the stone, which causes other students to fail in their quests. Now several former and current students are off on a journey to save everyone's story from getting ruined. I enjoyed this book, as it is like the Harry Potter series, you read from book one and on, and watch the characters grow, change and become the great heroes and villains they were trained to be at school. Now they have to use these lessons against a villain who threatens to disrupt their world. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.



Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).

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Swamp Romp



Kate Karp

The ingredients alone will make you lick your chops: Cajun, zydeco, R&B, Carolina beach and the great Fats Domino; luminaries like Irma Thomas and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band; a potpourri of bayou musical instruments from accordions and guitars to washboards and a cane fife; and a booklet of cultural and historical details. *Swamp Romp* is a spicy musical jambalaya!

Louisiana-roots-music duo Johnette Downing and Scott Billington conceived the collection as a dance party for children.

From the first song, title tune “Swamp Romp,” the good times will roll. You can line-dance to “Mud Bug Boogie”—mudbugs are crawfish—and no matter how you learned to spell *Mississippi*, the catchy “Mississippi River” encourages children to worm their bodies around in time to the music to shape the letters in the word. Hey—teaching idea!

And what’s a party without food? “Gather Something Sweet” is a lilting Caribbean melody about picking fruit, and “How to Dress a Po’ Boy”’s washboard accompaniment is like a grumbling tummy. “Baby in the King Cake” sings of a centuries-old tradition of baking a plastic baby—sometimes a ring—into a cake. Whoever gets the baby will have good luck but also has to host the next party!

My personal favorite is “Poor Worry Anna,” a haunting swamp-music/doo wop ballad about a woman who worries about everything. The dual voices of Irma Thomas and Johnette Downing intensify the song’s mournful beauty.

Bayou music is family music. That’s *Swamp Romp*. Bring your dancing shoes and your spoon and bowl, and *fais do-do*!

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

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Age for Kids to Have a Cell Phone



The right age to give kids their first cell phone is really up to parents. Age isn't as important as a kid's maturity level, ability to follow home (and their schools') rules, and their sense of responsibility. But when you hand your children cell phones, you're giving them powerful communication and media-production tools. They can create text, images, and videos that can be widely distributed and uploaded to websites instantly. Parents really need to consider whether their kids are ready to use their phones responsibly and respectfully.

If you think your kids' technological savvy is greater than their ability to use it wisely, pay attention to the gap. You may need to say, "No, not yet."

Here are some questions to consider:

- Do your kids show a sense of responsibility, such as letting you know when they leave the house? Do they show up when they say they will?
- Do your kids tend to lose things, such as backpacks or homework folders? If so, expect they might lose an (expensive!) phone, too.
- Do your kids need to be in touch for safety reasons?
- Would having easy access to friends benefit them for social reasons?
- Do you think they'll use cell phones responsibly -- for example, not texting during class or disturbing others with their phone conversations?
- Can they adhere to limits you set for minutes talked and apps downloaded?
- Will they use text, photo, and video functions responsibly and not to embarrass or harass others?

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

The way we choose to spend our time and the activities in which we engage help form our value system. With a wide array of possibilities and opportunities, volunteering is a positive and vastly beneficial way of helping young people develop a strong sense of self.

Volunteering offers benefits spanning from the intellectual and spiritual to the educational and professional. As young people give of themselves and their time, they can learn about being selfless. In a busy world of "pursuit of personal happiness," too often the intrinsic values of empathy and giving are the lessons that are overlooked. Helping others via a structured volunteer program is a positive and safe way to develop oneself in this regard.

Additional Benefits of Volunteerism:

- **Learning:** Acquiring a new trade or skill can help teens see the world in a bigger picture and be inspired to continue to expand intellectually.
- **Networking:** Volunteering brings people of like minds, interests and values together. This will inevitably lead to positive interaction and healthy relationships.
- **Building the Résumé:** Engaging in service to others and taking the initiative to learn new trades or skills is a brilliant way to expand your portfolio. This is especially beneficial for students and young professionals.
- **Personal Growth:** As Mahatma Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." Teens who experience growth at an early age are likely to continue cultivating positive behavior and friendships.

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: info@doctorshari.com, www.doctorshari.com, twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam

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