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School News

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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

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NOVEMBER 2015–FEBRUARY 2016

SUPERINTENDENT

Not in the Job Description



Dr. Brad Mason

I have the privilege of working every day with heroes. They are all around me, giving of themselves to educate the children of Brea. The job descriptions and classifications are irrelevant when trying to pick out who will be a hero. The common theme among all heroic acts is the focus on serving others as the primary motivation. In my short time in Brea, I have been introduced to some special people through both hearing stories and seeing the caring acts of our employees in their work with students.

One such employee, Tanya Huynh, a noon-duty aide at Mariposa Elementary School, performed the Heimlich maneuver on a student on September 14 during lunch and was able to assist the student in dislodging a piece of pizza crust he was choking on. Life is filled with divine appointments that occur when the right person is in the right place at the right time. I would like to thank Ms. Huynh for being the right person for one of our students that day.

Another set of every day heroes are collaborators: Andrea Ramos, Jeff Weber and Kristin Ettinger. Mrs. Ramos teaches Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Mr. Weber and Mrs. Ettinger teach Life Skills Special Education classes at Brea Olinda High School. These three teachers collaborate throughout the year by blending their classes during lessons and fieldtrips to extend everyone's learning beyond the classroom walls of the high school. I accompanied them recently on an outing to Randolph Creek here in Brea to watch the classes interact as they examined the native flora and fauna

Off to a Great Start, But So Much More to Do

By Dr. Brad Mason, Superintendent

During my attendance at nine Back-to-School Nights, the themes I heard from parents in response to my request for feedback regarding their hopes for the Brea Olinda Unified School District fell into three primary categories: excellent program offerings for students; additional technology in the classroom; and facility improvements at all of our schools. During the month of October, I will be back out to each school site; and this time I will be speaking with all of our certificated and classified employees. During my visits, I will be asking the same question regarding what hopes and desires they have for the District as we move forward. Additionally, I will be meeting with service clubs and business leaders to solicit their feedback on what is important to them regarding the schools in Brea.

I am passionate about feedback, because I feel it is the best way to get accurate details related to the community's goals for its schools. I told the story at some of the Back-to-School Nights about a misdiagnosis I received 10 years ago related to my health. I was diagnosed as a Type 2 diabetic because I met the general profile of that diagnosis. I began a treatment regimen with my doctor that was unsuccessful, which resulted in a referral to an endocrinologist. One additional test revealed what had escaped my doctor in my previous



Student recipients who participated this past summer in the Counselors In Training program whereby 13 Brea Olinda students volunteered over 1,200 hours assisting with the summer Child Care program put on by Brea Olinda Unified School District. These students donated their time and learned vital child care, leadership and counseling skills.

diagnosis; I was in fact a Type 1 diabetic, and my pancreas was not producing insulin. Apparently, 38 year-olds can contract juvenile diabetes (but only if they are a kid at heart). Following the correct diagnosis, the appropriate treatment plan was easy to determine and successful in meeting my needs.

I wonder how often we as educators go directly to the creation of a treatment plan because we have seen these signs before. The reasoning goes that, since education is our industry, we must know best. With the trust the Board of Education and the community placed in me to provide guidance and leadership to the Brea Olinda Unified School District, I want to be sure I have spent the appropriate time diagnosing the district's needs prior to jumping in with the educational treatment plan. I will be interested to see the results that come back from our certificated and classified employees as well as the business community. What appears to be certain is that the community of Brea cares deeply about its schools and its children. I invite you to join in the community conversation and share the priorities you have for the students of Brea. Please take the survey on our District website at www.bousd.us. Thank you for your help and partnership in the investment we are making in all of our children.

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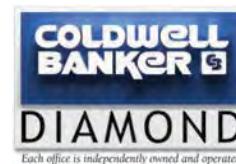


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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Fall is here and winter is right around the corner. Regardless of the month students are focused and striving for excellence. Dr. Mason's message on the front page explains why his leadership is so successful. Caring about details and feedback is the sign of a good leader and the only way to determine results to continue to be successful.

We had a record number of contest entries in September. Be sure to enter this issue on page 6.

Our next issue is March 16, 2016. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Brea Olinda Unified School District



Now Enrolling! School Age and Teen Programs

BOUSD's Before and After School programs offer a safe place for students and include homework assistance, enrichment activities, indoor play and outdoor recreation. Programs are located at every elementary school and Brea Junior High School. All program centers open at 7:00 a.m. each day and are open until the start of the school day. Sites reopen at school dismissal and remain open until 6:00 p.m. TK/Kindergarten Connection wrap-around programs compliment the traditional school day and provide a full day learning program for all of its participants and is also offered at each campus.



Full Day and Part Day Preschool

BOUSD's Early Learning Program was created to provide an enriched environment for early-aged children with benefits to their intellectual, physical, emotional and social development. State Preschool (income qualifying program) and Fee-Based programs are designed for potty-trained 3- and 4-year olds and are held at Arovista, Country Hills, Laurel, Mariposa, and Olinda. Full time and Part time options are available.

Seasonal Day Camps

Full day camp programs are offered during the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer breaks. Weekly tuition includes on site activities and off site field trips.



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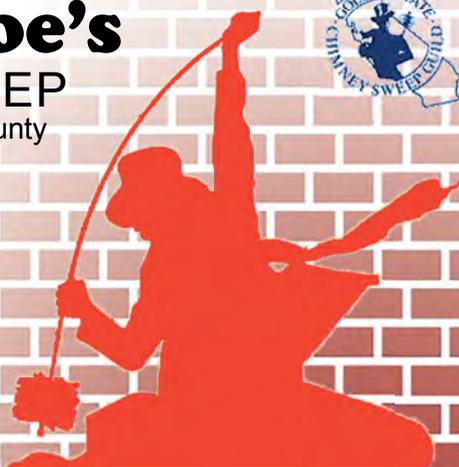
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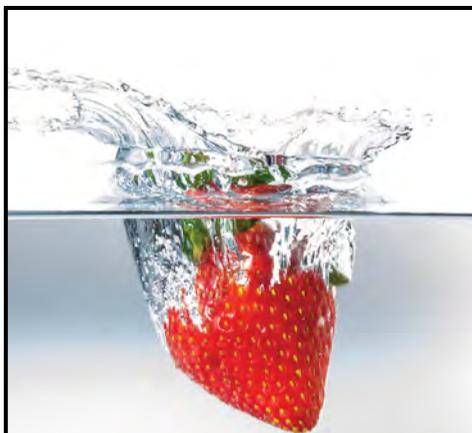
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Arovista *Elementary (K-6)*

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • <http://arovista.bousd.us>



Karen VanDine
Principal

Off to a Great Start!

This school year is going to be fantastic! We have made major upgrades to our facilities, curriculum, and technology. As student safety is a priority, we have completely redone our parking lot and upper-grade playground. Our drop-off and pick-up routines run much smoother, students are safer, and our facility looks amazing.

In an effort to close the achievement gap, we have launched two new programs, which will target those most in need of additional interventions. Discussions for Learning and Imagine Learning give our students differentiated, computer-based experiences and the opportunity to utilize listening and speaking skills to gain vocabulary, language skills, and confidence. Both programs are powerful learning opportunities.

Our technology improvements include smart televisions in every classroom as well as 40 additional Chromebooks that our students can't wait to get their hands on. I look forward to seeing Arovista Elementary School students reach for the stars this year!



Allstars crossing safely in our new crosswalk!

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

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



Susan Metcalf
Principal

Anything's Possible

As Fanning Elementary School celebrates its 45th year, having opened in the fall of 1970, our school shows no sign of slowing down. Our partnership with parents, staff, and our local community grows stronger each year and ensures that, like our theme from this year's school play, "Seussical the Musical," anything's possible at Fanning.

While we pride ourselves on providing students with rigorous instruction in language arts and math, we also recognize the importance of offering students opportunities to learn outside the classroom, apply knowledge to real-life situations, and experience a well-rounded education that includes the arts and sciences.

Thanks to the efforts of our PTA, our 31st annual Jog-a-Thon, which was held in November, was another great success. Funds raised during this event have generously supported enrichment programs, services, and technology for all of our 470 students. Field trips for all grade levels are being planned, such as our kindergarteners visiting a local farm and fifth graders going to the Griffith Observatory. All of our students have enjoyed assemblies with musician John Yeiser, in-class art instruction with a local art studio, and hands-on science lessons with Dr. Laurie Starkey, a professor of organic chemistry from California Polytechnic University, Pomona (and one of our very own parents!).

Additional events organized by our PTA included a book fair that benefits our library, and a family skating night, which brought us together for some out-of-school bonding. Further, our third annual school play, "Seussical the Musical," featured performances from about 230 students from all of the District's elementary schools.

Brea Canyon *High School (9-12)*

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • <http://bchs.bousd.us>



Carol Christman
Principal

How to Get There

Every day is a new beginning at Brea Canyon High School. The students who attend this high school often view it as a fresh start, one that makes sure they can obtain their high school diploma and are fully equipped to take on their future. Our focus is on the present.

The BCHS staff includes Ms. Teha Hooghkirk, art; Mrs. Cindy Johnson, lit/comp and RSP; Mrs. Terry Kegel, government, lit/comp, and speech and debate; Mr. Lester Maldonado, social sciences, On Your Own, and economics; Mr. Steven Orme, mathematics; and Dr. Matthew Swindle, Independent Studies.

Our recent additions include Mr. Robert Verry, science and physical education; and Mr. Andrew Babbitt, who is our at-risk counselor.



Under the direction of Mrs. Carol Christman, our school principal, BCHS provides a positive learning environment where each student can succeed. After all, it doesn't matter where you've been. It only matters where you are going, and how you're going to get there.

Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • <http://bohs.bousd.us>



Jerry Halpin
Principal

Great Beginnings

Like every school, the beginning of the year at Brea Olinda High School (BOHS) is a very exciting time, and 2015-2016 has gotten off to a fantastic start!

Just before school, our incoming freshmen were welcomed by the BOHS Link Crew. Our teachers also had two tremendous professional development days to help kick off the year. Our students have already participated in many high school rites of passage, such as registration days, two pep assemblies, a dance held after the football game, and the first choir shows of the year.

Homecoming Week included many participatory dress-up days, as well as an incredible rally that included the annual teacher skits, a half-time show with class-built floats, and a dance at Balboa Island.

Academically, our students returned to school using even more technology than last year. Chromebook use in classrooms is at an all-time high, and our teachers are using their new laptops in classroom instruction. Many teachers are also using Google Classroom with their students to help create an interactive and (often) paperless environment.

BOHS was also part of a new district-wide math textbook adoption effort that supports 21st century learning with the use of graphing calculators and other computing tools.

The school recently added eight new teachers who are doing a fantastic job in integrating with their colleagues and supporting our students' academic and co-curricular capacities. Two district-wide TOSAs (Teachers on Special Assignment) have also been assisting our teachers with many aspects of educational technology, including the adoption of Google Classroom and other communication tools.

Every day seems to fly by quickly with everything that's happening on campus. Students and families have "survived" their first progress report grading period, and they're now working to either maintain or improve their marks. They are also participating in community service with an upcoming blood drive, where over 100 students usually participate. There's also the district-wide annual holiday canned food drive!

Brea Country Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Trish Walsh
Principal

A Solid Start

The Cougars at Brea Country Hills Elementary School have had a great beginning of the school year. We have been busy growing academically and socially. Students have jumped into the curriculum with interesting activities and projects. The writing process is coming alive in all classrooms. Students are becoming stronger math scholars using critical thinking strategies. Art workshops, music assemblies, and after-school programs have inspired students in new ways. Healthy minds are supported by healthy bodies, and our physical education team helps to exercise those bodies twice each week.

The Country Hills community has been such a strong support this fall, and we are just getting started! We had a greatly successful PTA membership drive, with 87 percent participation to date. Our PTA has sponsored exciting family functions, including our annual jog-a-thon in its first year as a color run.

Our school is truly one where learning and community come together to make it an exciting place to be!



Brea *Junior High School (7-8)*

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



Kelly Kennedy
Principal

Got Game—Wanna Play?

Brea Junior High School is proud to announce a great new beginning for our campus by bringing back After-School Athletics after a seven year hiatus. Students have the opportunity to play a variety of sports this year including volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer, and track and field. We are excited to provide an opportunity for students to experience a variety of competitive sports in a safe and supportive environment.

In addition, student athletes can develop fundamental athletic skills that prepare them for competitions against local neighborhood schools and in countywide invitational events. Throughout the experience, we want to reinforce the life skills of respect, cooperation and effort in a competitive environment and, above all, for our students to have fun and promote school pride! Go Bobcats!



Laurel *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Heather Bojorquez
Principal

Turn Up the Heat!

Our theme at Laurel Elementary School this year is “Turn Up the Heat and Be 212!” What does it mean to be 212? Ask any Laurel student, and he or she will tell you. At 211 degrees Fahrenheit, water is hot; but at 212 degrees, it boils. Boiling water creates steam, and steam has the strength to power a locomotive.

At Laurel, we challenge everyone to put in that one extra degree of effort in all that we do, both academically and socially. This could be helping another student in need, asking questions in class to clarify learning, spending 10 more minutes

on homework to be sure it is done correctly, or reading every night. We believe that success is determined by effort, desire, and sometimes help from your friends (or teachers). As the school year continues, we hope our students will see that the extra degree of effort makes a positive difference in their confidence, knowledge, and friendships.



212 degree students in reading circle.

Mariposa *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Daryn Coburn
Principal

High-Tech Kindergarteners

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting time! For the Mariposa Monarchs, kindergarten is the start of their elementary career, and no time is wasted ensuring that students become college and career ready.

Technology is utilized immediately. Children are engaged, enjoy the learning, and are extremely proficient. All three kindergarten classes have center rotations on a weekly basis,

and the “Chromebook Station” is a popular one. Students practice literacy skills on Starfall.com, a free web-based program that focuses on alphabet sounds, words and sentences. They listen to instructions from the tutorial and manipulate the device to work through the activities and games. Other sites used by the young tech-savvy Monarchs include STmath.com, frontrowed.com and Dance Mat Typing.

Imagine Learning will be the next program students encounter. Teachers will receive additional training in November with this language and literacy software for early-childhood education.



Olinda *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Robert Rendon
Principal

New Beginnings

Olinda Elementary School has taken the first steps for its new beginning, and in many areas. For the 2015–2016 school year, Olinda continues to stretch and grow with new student enrollment.

This school year we are pleased to be welcoming three new teachers to our school: Mrs. Noelle Maestrejuan, preschool; Miss Danika Schuesler, first grade; and Mrs. Stephanie Cerwinski, fifth grade. Their first single steps are adding to our school's appeal.

Our three newest staff members are helping to welcome over 50 new Eagles to Olinda. Our school is also continuing to lead the way in the area of technology. Thanks to Olinda's excellent Parent Teacher Organization, all of our classrooms are now equipped with Apple TVs. This new technology allows our teachers to project images and video from anywhere in the

classroom by using Bluetooth technology.

We are also excited to reintroduce the JiJi music program. All of our students will participate in 15 sessions of piano instruction to help reinforce their math skills.

Our staff of 22 teachers and over 30 support employees are working together to provide our students with a world-class, 21st century education. We are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges of the future.



Preschool classroom.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Brad Mason

indigenous to the creek bed. As I watched, I had a hard time describing all the learning I saw taking place. There were the obvious things, as students identified and recorded various flora and fauna they reviewed in class; but there was a lot more going on as well. Part of the task was cleaning up the creek, so students filled their trash bags with garbage that had been left by others. Most importantly, I saw care, respect, inclusion, friendship, and empathy between the students as they assisted each other and made sure everyone was involved in the field study. It was a

privilege watching students interact with kindness and inclusion as they collaborated on their assignments.

Lastly, I would like to call attention to Laurel Elementary School teacher Jill Berrner, who used the National History Day competition as a platform to inspire and encourage one of her students to become a California state champion. One of the greatest gifts teachers can provide to their students is the opportunity to explore and create. Ms. Berrner was able to do this through capturing the imagination of one of her students and working with her to help hone her project at the school, district, county, regional, and state levels. Laurel Elementary had never before competed in the competition. However, through inspiration, encouragement, and hard work, the trajectory of one young student's educational career took flight.

There are too many examples to list. However, if you ever wonder whether good things are going on in education, my answer is simple: every day Brea Olinda Unified School District employees take the opportunity to inspire, encourage, and change the lives of children in Brea forever.



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 BOUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by December 15, 2015.
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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Congratulations to Kayla Kim
Winner of the September Word Search Contest!

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Note-ables

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.

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