

FREE

# School News

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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 12

NOVEMBER 2017–FEBRUARY 2018

## SUPERINTENDENT

### BOUSD Students Continue to Grow and Excel



Dr. Brad Mason

Results of the 2017 Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests showed that student scores throughout

Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) showed improvement in both English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. The Smarter Balanced assessments for BOUSD in standardized tests for English language arts showed that 66.6 percent of BOUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 57 percent in Orange County and 48 percent in California. In standardized tests for math, 62 percent of BOUSD students met or exceeded standards, compared to 48 percent in Orange County and 37 percent in California. Our subgroups—English learners, socioeconomically disadvantaged and Hispanic/Latino—also remain above the state and Orange County averages.

While we are proud that BOUSD scores remain above state and Orange County averages in both ELA and mathematics standards, statewide assessments provide valuable information about overall student progress and areas for improvement, but they do not provide a holistic view of student achievement. As a district, we evaluate students throughout the school year to provide support to students who require additional development or enrichment. I am pleased to see positive growth in grade levels throughout the district. This is a good indication that the collaborative efforts of teachers and staff and the dedication of our students are allowing us to move in the right direction. There is still a lot of work to be done, and we will not shy away from that challenge. We are committed to the continued growth of our students to prepare them for successful futures in a 21st-century world.

## State of the Schools



Laurel Elementary Magnet School "Leopards Choir" singing at the 2nd Annual State of the Schools Breakfast

By Nichole Pichardo, Communications Specialist

More than 120 people gathered in late September for the Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) Second Annual State of the Schools breakfast, hosted by the Brea Education Foundation. District employees, parents, community members, and dignitaries gathered together at the Brea Community Center to hear how BOUSD is "Paving the Path for the Next 100 Years."

Brea Junior High School's Associated Student Body (ASB) students led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and the

national anthem. Guests were also treated to performances by the Brea Olinda High School Drum Line as well as a special rendition of "Man in the Mirror" by the Laurel Elementary School Leopards Choir.

As attendees dined on breakfast, Superintendent Dr. Brad Mason shared videos and a presentation that highlighted the district's recent accomplishments and new program additions. He noted new and continuing efforts and partnerships that the district is implementing to continue to prepare students for college, careers and beyond. Initiatives include new electives and the seven-period day at Brea

Junior High as well as the continuing partnership with Fullerton College, which allows high school students to be dually enrolled in college classes at no cost. He also highlighted recent recognitions from the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support program, which seeks to establish a positive school climate.

During his keynote address, Dr. Mason also touted the district's recent accolades from the state of California for recognition as Gold Ribbon Schools and applauded award-winning teachers and staff.

Video highlights from the event can be viewed on the district's Web site at [www.bousd.us](http://www.bousd.us).



Brea Olinda USD executive cabinet members and principals gather for a photo at the 2nd Annual State of the Schools Breakfast.

# THANKS FOR VISITING THE PATCH!



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of Brea, Placentia, Yorba Linda

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This issue begins with Dr. Mason's article on the front page about student's positive academic growth. Students are engaged and motivated to succeed with committed leadership focused on college and career readiness.

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is March 14, 2018.



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At the growing Eastvale STEM Academy, high school students build knowledge in medical science and engineering within an innovative learning community guided by Kim Lu Lawe's leadership and vision.



Eastvale STEM Academy, Medical Biology Class, Director: Kim Lu Lawe, Ed.D. '16

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# 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.



## Registration/Information

For more information, please contact the  
Child Development Services Administrative Office at  
**(714) 990-7527.**

## Arovista *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Karen VanDine**  
Principal

### AVID Elementary

Arovista Elementary School's fifth- and sixth-graders are already thinking about where they will attend college. Arovista launched Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Elementary for fifth and sixth grades this year and has plans to include third and fourth grades next year, eventually incorporating the strategies school-wide in the near future.

The goal of the AVID system is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID components include communication skills, note-taking strategies, study skills, critical thinking, organizational skills, and the incorporation of high-level curricular emphasis on writing and inquiry. The intent is to embed the AVID structure into the daily instruction of each classroom to positively impact students.

AVID: Proven Achievement—Lifelong Advantage!



## Brea Country Hills *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Trish Walsh**  
Principal

### Growing Through the Year

The Brea Country Hills Elementary School Cougars' minds are growing in many ways every day. Thanks to our supportive PTA, we have many programs and events that enrich our learning throughout the year.

To kick off the 2017–2018 school year, we achieved a tremendous feat: 100-percent PTA membership! We celebrated with a school-wide ice pop party. Our annual bubble run at the end of October was a fantastic fund-raiser, demonstrating the giving nature of our community as we work together to enhance the school experience for all students. We appreciate the generosity of our families and friends, who went out of their way to give to the bubble run with so many other things going on around us. The students enjoyed the morning of running as much as they loved some great prizes!

The funds raised by our PTA are spent directly on our students. Without these funds, we would not have our Art Masters program or the Stagelight Music program. Teachers would not be able to augment curriculum with Accelerated Reader, Front Row Math, or Mystery Science without the support of our PTA. We are so thankful for PTA's contributions to our field trips, cultural assemblies, character-building assemblies, and anti-bullying assemblies. These special times at school bring our students together to teach valuable lessons and to help them grow into capable citizens.

Our PTA and parent volunteers provide more than just funds. They provide extra love, fun and excitement, and they add color to our surroundings. They give their time and energy to make our school a special place to learn and grow.

Thank you to everyone in our community who supports Country Hills in so many ways. We could not do it without you. Country Hills Cougars ROAR loudly and say thanks!



## Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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



**Kelly Kennedy**  
Principal

### Teen Center

The Teen Center has been one of the coolest places for students on the Brea Junior High School campus for the past five years. It currently serves 30 students before and after school and another 50-plus students during lunchtime activities.

Because of its popularity, the Teen Center relocated to a double-wide portable this year in order to give more seventh- and eighth-graders an on-campus resource where they can hang-out in a safe and supportive environment. In addition to homework assistance, access to the media center/library and textbooks in the room, the Teen Center offers teenagers an array of activities every week such as Ping-Pong, foosball, Nintendo Wii, We Cook Wednesdays and an assortment of STEM and outdoor activities.

As you can see, the Brea Junior High Teen Center is an ideal environment for students to learn, express themselves, and grow into adulthood.



## Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

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



**Eric Barrientos**  
Principal

### New Options for Coyotes

Brea Canyon High School strives to search for different ways to engage students in the kind of real-world instruction that will ultimately prepare them to be college and career ready upon graduation.

But is being college and career ready all about the relevance and rigor of our academics? Qualitative data taken during the 2016–2017 school year prompted our Brea Canyon staff to ask the question, “What are we doing to ensure that our students are socially and emotionally ready to engage in the real world upon graduating from our den?”

We are finding that the answer may be as simple as providing options for our students. By listening to their concerns, and finding community partnerships to respond to last year’s data, Brea Canyon HS is making a concerted effort to establish partnerships and curriculum that will strengthen the socio-emotional readiness of our students.

For example, Human Options and Brea Canyon HS have teamed up this year to bring special forums to our parents and students about how to identify, prevent, and take measures to help break the destructive cycle of violence in relationships.

Starting with a parent forum at Back-to-School Night — and followed by the first of two forums held on October 11 called “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” — Human Options is providing the awareness and resources that will allow our students to establish healthier norms and more informed decisions outside of school.

We look forward to building a long-term partnership with Human Options as we continue to service the socio-emotional needs of our students. We want to truly ensure more well-rounded college and career readiness upon graduation.

## Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

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



**Jerry Halpin**  
Principal

### For College and Beyond

Making sure that our students are prepared for life after they graduate Brea Olinda High School (BOHS) is one of our top priorities. The BOHS Counseling Department recently hosted various events in October to see that our Brea students and their families are equipped with a wealth of information when they begin to make their decisions about college and the future.

The students and parents were able to visit our BOHS gym for an International/Out-of-State College Fair that included over 65 out-of-state colleges and universities, as well as several schools from Europe and Canada. Additionally, over 400 parents and students packed the BOHS Performing Arts Center that same week for our annual Roadmap to College night.

Breakout sessions there included Crafting the College Essay, Applying to the UC and CSU Systems, Financial Aid, the State of College Admissions, and the advantages of attending community college.

We look forward to continuing to aid our Wildcats as they make important decisions about their futures.



## Contest!!

This student is in a picture in this issue. When you find him, email the page numbers to:

[Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Please put BOUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by December 15, 2017.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

**Congratulations to Aveena Desai,  
our September Contest Winner!**





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

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



**Theresa Stevens**  
*Principal*

## Fantastic Flexible Environments

At Fanning Elementary, we are exploring different classroom environments conducive to open collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking.

Having classrooms as PODs has always differentiated Fanning from the other elementary schools that are preparing our students to be excellent collaborators and work as a community. If student motivation and higher engagement is truly the desired endgame, we must adapt right along with the students in our classrooms.

With the support of parent donations through Donors Choose, Mrs. Torres, a kindergarten teacher, piloted different ways to have flexible seating in our classrooms. She explains that, "A flexible seating classroom would allow my students to work in a way best suited for their type of learning, and provide options which promote individual needs."

Other grade levels are embracing flexible seating environments to support STEM programs as well as our new ELA curriculum. The real world outside of our classroom is a dynamic and ever-changing one, and this is a way in which we can prepare our students for what is to come.



# Laurel Elementary

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

*Magnet School of Innovation  
and Career Exploration*



**Heather Bojorquez**  
*Principal*

## Career Exploration Business Partners

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration is a proud to foster partnerships between our students and community. We emphasize building business skills, such as professionalism and

poise, which promote college and career readiness.

Our magnet theme of career exploration allows each classroom to be adopted by a local business. This fall we welcomed our second round of partners to our Career Exploration Kickoff. Students began a year-long exploration of particular careers and will work collaboratively with their partners to deepen their learning in real-world settings.

During this first visit, partners shared their education and career experiences. Lessons included hands-on activities that brought the learning to life. Laurel students participated in lemonade tasting and menu planning, orthodontic exploration, and a game of BINGO with the senior center, and they even got to discuss the careers of police officers and fire fighters.

Thanks to all of our partners who support innovative learning at Laurel.



**Laurel is proud to host our community partners**



# Mariposa *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Daryn Coburn**  
*Principal*

## Life Science Program

The Mariposa PTA is sponsoring a new hands-on, six-week life science program for students in grades four, five, and six. Classes meet weekly in the cafeteria, and the microscopes and labs are set up and ready to go at every session.

Mrs. Airan Jansen — a Mariposa mom who is also a program administrator, lab coordinator, and lecturer at Cal Poly Pomona — will be teaching, guiding, and helping our students explore the use of scientific methods and measurements to understand the natural world. They will also learn the proper use of a compound microscope and stereoscope, the parts of a cell, and how material is transported through the body. She will be assisted by several parent volunteers.



Additional lessons include how energy is acquired in plants, how animals respond to changing environments, predator versus prey, and the importance of biodiversity.

The California Next Generation Science Standards are happening now, and they are inspiring our future scientists at Mariposa School. Thanks, PTA!

# Olinda *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Robert Rendon**  
*Principal*

## Happening Month!

Our school's theme for the 2017-18 school year is for us to have an "Excellent Adventure" on every school day! Our October adventure included many peaks, and we have also encountered a few valleys.

Our peaks included the continued implementation of our new English language arts curriculum, Benchmark Advance. Teachers and students are enjoying learning the ins and outs of our new program. Current enrollment at Olinda School is over 650 students, and we are enjoying getting to know each and every one of them. Arrival and dismissal times are a challenge, as our parking lot and drop-off routes are utilized to full capacity. Our school's PTO has recently completed our fall membership drive and is most thankful that our parents and community support our school in such a positive manner.



Our biggest valley is that our beloved media center technician, Sandy Bahlenhorst, is retiring from service to our school. She will be relocating to be with her family in Colorado. The accompanying picture was taken at the schoolwide assembly we had to wish her farewell. She will be missed greatly, but we completely understand her desire to be with her family, as Olinda School continues to be a "family first" school.

## Board of Education



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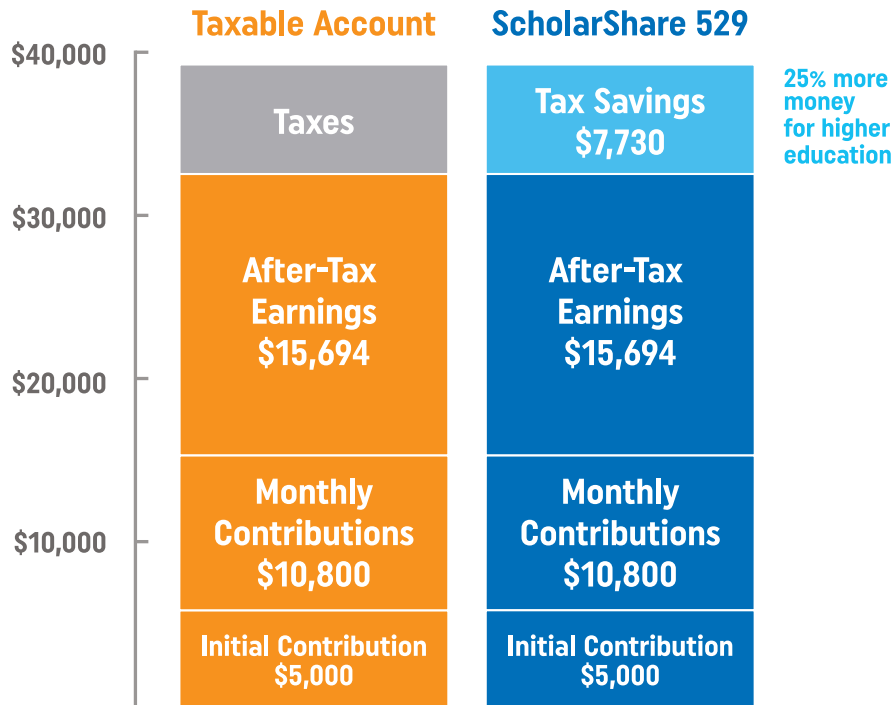


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**Steve Sewell**, *Member (At press time picture not available.)*

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