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School News



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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

Volume 6, Issue 22

November 2020–February 2021

And...We're Back



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And...We're Back



Dr. Brad Mason
Superintendent

As I write this article on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 we are in day two of in-person hybrid instruction in the Brea Olinda Unified School District. Our first day went smoothly as all of our months of planning and preparation turned into execution on days one and two of our return to campus in smaller cohorts. It was so good being out at our nine schools to see the return of students to school. I spent time during my morning visits wandering classrooms with site principals just to see live teaching and learning.

Though campuses and classrooms looked a little different with heightened safety protocols in place; it still felt like “the good ol’ days” seeing students and teachers interacting in classrooms. The addition of students Zooming from home for their instruction led to the terms “Roomers” and “Zoomers” referring to the location of students; in class or at home, respectively.

To accommodate the variety of academic needs of our families, Brea Olinda created an Online Academy this year as well to become BOUSD’s tenth school. The roughly 220 TK-6th grade students enrolled attend school fully online. We don’t know what the future holds in education; however BOUSD will continue to adapt and provide for the unique needs of our students and families in Brea. It is good to be back!

Unprecedented Times Call for Unprecedented Measures

We are all likely familiar with the phrase, “desperate times call for desperate measures.” It is this sentiment that resonates with me as I reflect back on the sacrificial acts of individuals and groups over the last seven months as we collectively cared for the City of Brea and the educational needs of our students. The Brea Olinda Unified School District is made up of over 6,000 students and roughly 800 employees who are committed to the wellbeing of our students. What I will remember most about this time is the sacrificial acts that were done for the good of students and families who needed help and support during difficult circumstances.

The BOUSD family rallied to provide ongoing distance learning instruction during the final three months of the 2019-2020 school year. The School Board, District staff, and families brainstormed solutions to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of the Class of 2020, as well as the matriculation of our 8th graders as the time at their respective campuses drew to a close. Brea Olinda High School and Brea Canyon High School both held drive-up Graduations at their campuses. Brea Junior High School held a drive-through Promotion where students drove through the campus parking lot to the sound of music being

played by DJ George (BJHS Lead Custodian) and the sight of dancing and cheering Board Members, administrators, teachers & staff as students were recognized one last time while picking up their respective awards and promotion certificates. The summer continued the theme of ‘meeting the needs of our students and families’ as we were led by our Food Service Staff and Child Development Services in feeding students daily (breakfast and lunch) and providing child care for families that needed that service.

Distance learning continued in the fall as we returned to school; however as I write this article we are on the cusp of our students returning to in-person hybrid instruction on October 19th. Teachers have spent time perfecting their distance learning instructional skills, while the rest of our District Administrative and Support Staff have dedicated themselves to the effective return of students to our nine campuses. It is amazing what I realized I took for granted during my 31-year career in education until it was gone. Schools aren’t schools until they are populated with students and the accompanying buzz of learning and activity. I will never take for granted the joy of in-person learning, complete with teachers and students, all of your friends, and oh yeah, recess! Welcome back everyone!

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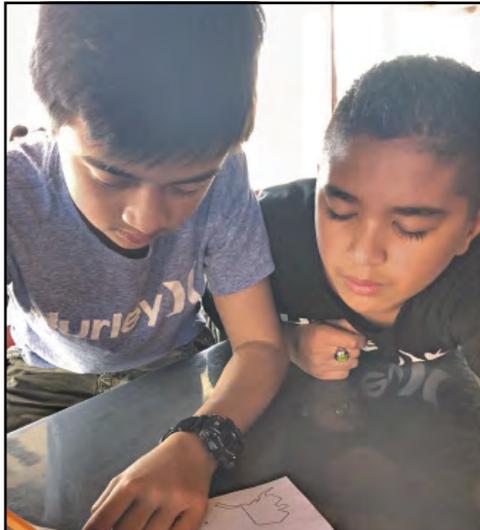
Welcome back to another school year. There have been many changes throughout the years; however, I think we all agree this is the most challenging. Americans are innovative and educators are at the top of the list. Zoom has taken on a whole new meaning to this generation of students. Fortunately, students and educators were proficient with technology to help with the seamless

transition to distance learning. Families stepped up to the challenge.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 9.

Our next issue is March 10, 2021. In the meantime, have a wonderful holiday season.



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Arovista Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Mike Trimmell
Principal

What a Welcome!

We are excited to bring students back on campus in the hybrid model! Teachers and students worked together to make distance learning fun and successful. When we had our “second first day of school,” we were excited to welcome students back on campus for in-person learning in small cohorts. Teachers and staff were well prepared to have students back on campus.

I especially want to thank everyone for the warm welcome to the Arovista family. Within the first week, I felt like part of the family! A huge part of this warm welcome is because of our amazing PTA board! I want to thank them for all of the work they are doing to make this the best year ever! Thank you for the amazing staff luncheon—socially distanced, of course—to welcome teachers and staff back for hybrid learning.

I also want to say thank you for all of the hard work of our dedicated teachers and staff. On another note, I wanted to share a quote from one of my favorite authors, Carol Dweck, which is both encouraging and informative: “If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is to teach their children to love

challenges, be intrigued by mistakes, enjoy effort, and keep on learning. That way, they will have a lifelong way to build and repair their own confidence.”

As we transition into hybrid learning, let’s give all of our children the gift of a quality education by working together to help them achieve their goals and dreams.



PTA President, Michelle Moore, with her daughter passing out lunches to teachers and staff at the back to school luncheon.

Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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



Kelly Kennedy
Principal

Bobcat P.R.I.D.E.

Brea Junior High Bobcats are a compassionate and courageous community of learners who commit to excellence in academics, citizenship, and personal P.R.I.D.E. We were honored this year by the California PBIS Coalition with a

“Community Cares” recognition, which is the highest recognition that can be awarded to a school. This year, we continue to strengthen the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support Program (PBIS), which sets clear school-wide expectations for students and staff creating a positive and safe school culture for everyone. Our Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. stands for P - Positive Attitudes, R - Respect, I - Integrity, D - Determination and E - Excellence. Whether our students are in distance learning or hybrid learning, our students and staff participate in fun activities, watch inspiring videos, and have meaningful



conversations about what P.R.I.D.E. means to us as a community of learners. Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. is going strong here at BJH!

Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

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



Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

A Place for Students

We have had the unique opportunity to be designated as a location for small-group instruction for at-risk populations for the Brea Olinda Unified School District. While the majority of schools have been closed, BCHS has remained a safe educational environment for students to be on campus and pursue their distance learning.

With all of the proper safety precautions and personal protective equipment, our school has kept its doors open from the beginning of the school year, offering Wi-Fi, lunch, and academic and social-emotional support for our students. While students are distance learning, many teachers and paraprofessionals have volunteered to be on campus to support our BCHS Coyotes and ensure they meet their individual academic goals.

Furthermore, the community has offered its support by providing donations to keep our students hydrated and fed while on campus. These are all other reasons why BCHS Coyotes are HOWL-ing to success!



Brea Country Hills Elementary (K-6)

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



Lana Merha
Principal

Student Council Students ROAR from a Distance!

For almost ten years, Mrs. Lindbo and Ms. Hirota have supervised the Student Council program at Country Hills. Last month, they hosted virtual elections along with Zoom voting sessions in order to elect Student Council officers. "Giving students the opportunity to exercise their leadership skills is an important part of being a Cougar," explains Mrs. Lindbo. "We wanted to give students the chance to participate even if we had to work from a distance," shares Ms. Hirota.

Student Council promotes school and community spirit, and its members develop important life skills including teamwork and organization. 6th grade President, Anthony Kim explains, "It's a totally different environment having a meeting on Zoom, but I try to include everyone and listen to their ideas. I want to be a good leader and inspire people to make Country Hills a better place." With his leadership, Country Hills will continue to ROAR through 2020!



Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

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



Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

Well-Prepped Transition!

Brea Olinda High School was excited to greet students in October for their “second” first day of school as we transitioned from a distance-learning model to a hybrid learning model. During this model, students were given the option to remain on distance learning or attend school in person two days a week.

Our teachers and staff worked hard to prepare for hybrid learning, which includes live streaming lessons, virtual labs, cloud-based collaboration tools to maintain the connection between hybrid- and distance-learning students, and digital resources, to name just a few. As a school, we prepared for

the safe return of students. This includes clearly marked walkways, outdoor social areas designed to promote social distancing, new classroom technologies, proper cleaning supplies, handwashing and sanitizing stations, and desk shields. For our new families, we set up virtual campus tours, in-person guided tours, a biweekly newsletter from our guidance department, and virtual counselor meetings. #stayWILDmaskup!



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology

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



Karen VanDine
Principal

Elementary Band Program

The beat goes on with elementary music classes this school year! We are very proud of our Falcon Academy musicians and the over 250 students across BOUSD participating virtually in

Beginning Band and Strings, Intermediate String Ensemble and Advanced Band. Our first year student musicians are making great progress with their music fundamentals. They are quickly becoming excellent note namers, pitch identifiers and rhythm readers. Our 2nd and 3rd year students continue to develop on their instruments with the help of SmartMusic software, recording Flipgrid challenges, and playing together “Brady Bunch style” on Zoom. Our

students are so fortunate to work under Ryan Hallum, BOUSD Elementary Band Director, who has designed a unique distance music program. We are so impressed with the students’ attitudes, creativity and passion. They demonstrate that although we are apart, music is bringing us together.



Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration

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



Lauren Tovar
Principal

Virtual Maker'Place!

Prior to the opening of this school year, the Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration staff decided that creative, hands-on learning related to career exploration was an essential component of the learning experience at Laurel. In the distance-learning model, students continue to remain engaged in weekly lessons in the Maker"Place," where they can explore their own creativity, solve real-world problems, and learn about careers.

Our staff reinvented these learning experiences to accommodate learning from home by redesigning lessons, modifying projects, and collaborating with families for support. Students have used the Maker"Place" lessons to study different careers and engage in challenges that include design, implementation and reflection phases. Students have created birdhouses,



designed and tested apple boats, and created simple machines.

Maker"Place" continues to be a creative outlet for students and demonstrates that our teachers are committed to providing students with learning experiences that have a real-world connection and promote college and career readiness.

Mariposa Elementary (K-6)

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



Rick Torres
Principal

Creative Video Clips

Improvise, Adapt, and overcome. This is the mindset of the Mariposa Monarch Production Team. Students are creatively producing video clips utilizing Flip Grid to communicate a range of information to students TK through grade 6. Reporters do far more than provide upcoming events and general announcements. One way is that Monarchs are using the opportunity to meet the needs of others by providing emotional health strategies. Distance learning has taken its toll on students, so providing ways they can cope is essential. Setting goals, identifying your support system, and taking screen-time breaks to get some sun are just a few of the strategies shared. Reporters also encourage character development as they provide John Wooden Pyramid of Success trait guidance. Hearing advice on how to be a good friend, show enthusiasm or cooperate facilitates the ability of all Monarchs to achieve their personal best.



Olinda Elementary (K-6)

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



Dr. Preetom Bhattacharya
Principal

Re-Thinking How We Serve

The creativity and ingenuity of our team members is incredible and inspiring! In addition to teachers finding ways to connect with our students and provide instruction through distance learning, our classified staff has similarly developed ways to provide services to our students. Although students are not able to visit our Library, they have access to our full catalogue online and can place books on hold to be prepared and sanitized for pick up safely in the office. Students are working in small groups facilitated by instructional aides in Zoom breakout rooms. Our Physical Education paraprofessionals continue to connect with students with live PE sessions and with pre-recorded instructional videos to encourage healthy lifestyles and exercise. These relationships between our students and classified team members are a vital part of the school experience and these services are among those that go a long way in giving a sense of normalcy.



Toy Store Items—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 the subject line.

Entries must be received by December 15, 2020
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win
a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| BIKE | MARBLES |
| DOLL | CRAYON |
| TRIKE | PENS |
| BOOK | COMPUTER |
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| SOLDIERS | BUGGY |
| BALLS | KITCHEN |
| BUBBLES | TEA SET |
| CROQUET | BAT |
| BLOCKS | BALL GLOVE |
| KITES | |



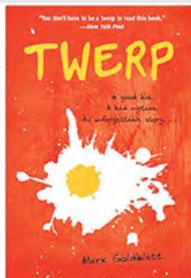
Sean's Book Review



Sean

A Bad Decision

Twerp is a humorous book by Mark Goldblatt about a 6th grader in 1969 named Julian Twerski. Julian is a good kid who makes bad decisions, which makes him seem like a "bad kid." When



his English teacher, Mr. Selkirk, tells him that if he does a journal on his crazy life and decisions, he can get out of writing a report on Shakespeare (which Julian hates). Throughout the book, interesting stories are always being told by Julian. Some of the incidents include hitting a bird with a rock, helping out his BFF by writing a love letter for his best friend's crush, and accidentally burning off his friend's eyebrows! A middle schooler could relate to Julian's point of view on life. In conclusion, *Twerp* is a very fun and suspenseful book that can be enjoyed by all types of readers.

Sean Cheng is a 6th grader and enjoys speed cubing, playing basketball, and performing tricks on his scooter. His favorite subjects at school are math and PE. He loves teaching tricks to his new puppy and taking care of his 3 guinea pigs. He looks forward to boogie boarding at the beach!

Tyson's Book Review



Tyson

Poems, Poems, Poems!

"Everything On It" by Shel Silverstein isn't really a book, but is a collection of wacky poems. He is a creative writer with a very strange sense of humor. Some of his poems are funny, most are strange, and almost all are unrealistic! Look at this poem called "Housebroken."

The puppy's housebroken at last?
Lord only knows when he was needin' it.
You've trained him to go
On the newspaper? Fine.
But please-not while I'm readin' it.



See what I mean? The puppy is finally house trained, but Shel Silverstein twists the poem by questioning why the puppy is doing his business on the newspaper while the person was reading it! Shel Silverstein thinks out of the box and brings unexpected ideas to his poems. Not all books need to have a storyline. A book of poems can be just as enjoyable! Read this one and you'll like it too!

Tyson is an athletic 7th grader who loves basketball and skateboarding. His favorite subjects are PE and math. He is a gentle pet owner and loves taking care of puppy, Chewie, and 3 guinea pigs. He enjoys going out to eat and trying different foods.

Yoona's Review



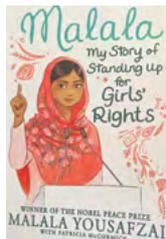
Yoona C.

A Brave Girl

Title: *Malala my story of standing up for Girls' Rights*

Author: Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick

Do you know Malala Yousafzai? Malala was born on July 12, 1997 in Mingora.



Malala is well known for standing up for girls' rights. I'm going to tell you about some important things that Malala has been through. Malala loved school, in fact her father was the principal of a school. Everything went pretty well until the Talibans attacked where Malala lived. The Talibans did not like the idea of girls going to school and learning, so they damaged a lot of schools. Things started to get worse and Malala got shot. After some days in the hospital Malala survived the shot. It was a miracle. After this miracle, what did Malala do for Women's lives? She inspired me in many ways and I want to recommend this book to anyone who wants to know more about Malala.

Yoona is a 3rd grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys singing and listening to music.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Surprise for Charlie

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a classic children story written by Roald Dahl. The story is about Charlie, a poor boy who lives in a small house with his parents and 4 grandparents.



One day, Charlie found some money buried in the snow. He used some of that money to buy Wonka bars. He found the fifth and final ticket to join 4 other lucky children who got to go on the tour of Willy Wonka factory. The factory is magical and mysterious. Inside the factory, the children were distracted by various wonderful creations. The tour of the factory had a hidden intention that was revealed at the end.

The story is funny and full of magic and mystery. I felt like I was on the tour of the factory while I was reading this book. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves chocolates or anyone who loves reading a funny and mysterious story.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

Ask Dr. Shari



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Good for the Mind & Great for the Heart

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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Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, often our kids were on their devices upwards of eight hours per day. What can parents do to keep them safe online and on their cell phones? It seems like more than ever, kids are getting spam emails, calls and texts from unknown sources. This is not acceptable, quite scary and exhausting to try to constantly monitor.

COVID-19 has isolated the majority of us and leaves us with levels of uncertainty, unusual scariness and frequent loneliness. Individuals are in a vulnerable place, especially our kids. This is the perfect time for sexual predators to approach them as it can come in many forms.

Give your kids a set of online safety rules that they will understand with explanations that they will believe and take to heart.

It's important for you to know which online games that your kids are playing. Many are multiplayer games where several online players can be together playing at once or just watching. These games have text and voice chat capabilities from around the world. This is highly dangerous because people can pretend to be someone else and of a certain age and can expose kids to unsuitable and unacceptable predatory language and content. These individuals can develop friendships with kids and eventually encourage them to meet in real life. It's important to recognize that each game has specific settings which you should check out and change for better online safety.

Remember not only to talk with your kids frequently about staying safe online, but also explain that anyone at any age can be cyberbullied. If a person or group want them to chime in about someone, tell them to ignore the request and don't return to that area and group. Explain why it's so important to think about what they are going to post at any given time or in any area before doing so, to keep their passwords safe, to always log off and not to click on links from people that they don't know. The right thing to do is to report the cyberbullying to an authoritative figure as well. They may just save a life.

You could also take their electronic devices away for a few hours each day, but for those hours that they're on them, rules and guidelines still need to be in place. Even if your kids seem to have level heads on their shoulders and you feel like you can trust them, they can still be sneaky.

It's easy to hide all kinds of online activities from parents with various apps:

Snapchat is a program where people can send images, videos, etc. to friends which will disappear within 10 to 30 seconds. It's pretty popular among teens. The hidden danger is that those "private" moments are not really deleted. They're hidden in files on most phones. Even more devastating and scary is that if someone takes a screen shot, the message, image or whatever can be posted anywhere.

Finsta is a fake Instagram account where anyone can create photos, conversations, etc., staying anonymous and keeping everything private through sharing with a few close friends and can be hidden on devices. But again, just like anything else, if a screen shot is taken, boom, it can show up anywhere online.

Be sure to read about popular apps and arm yourself with knowledge for options that you as the parent can do to help your kids be safe. Below you'll find a few but there's many others that you can find by doing an online search: Instagram, YouTube, Kik, Telegram, TikTok

There's also several phone apps offered to parents to help them monitor their kids' phone and online activities.

For unwanted calls or texts, it's simple to register landlines and cell phone numbers with the office of your state Attorney General's No-Call list for unwanted calls or texts. It's available online, free and will cut down on both. While it does take a few weeks to actually go into effect, it's best to get that done straight away. Do a little research and you'll also find several other government agencies where complaints can be made. Unfortunately, it's not going to totally eliminate them and that is even truer for robot calls. Learning some basic rules to share with your kids can also help.

For example: Don't answer any calls that are not in your contact list. If it's truly someone trying to reach you, they'll leave a message. If they don't, the number can quickly be blocked. The same goes for unwanted texts. The exception in this situation is going to be from "Unknown" or "Private" numbers, which are really hard to trace because no number shows up. However, there are phone apps to help with this. As far as spam email goes, if it's opened, don't click on any links. Look up how to set up filters and teach your kids how to recognize, delete and block it.

As you are well aware, this whole cyber safety situation is extremely exhausting. But, there's no way of getting around it if you're going to be proactive in protecting your children.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 20 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites including *School News Roll Call* for 20 years and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* www.ParentToParent.com