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School News



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Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

Volume 7, Issue 25

September / October 2021

Excitement for BOUSD as Students Return to School!



With the help of the Link Crew, Brea Olinda High School welcomed its freshmen on campus for orientation to give students an opportunity to tour the campus, receive their class schedules and meet the Link Leaders.

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Excitement for BOUSD as Students Return to School



Dr. Brad Mason
Superintendent

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The feeling of energy and excitement is in the air as schools are once again filled with smiling students eager to learn and teachers enthusiastic to welcome a sense of normalcy back to the classroom.

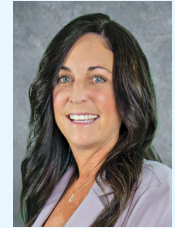
It's been a month since Brea Olinda Unified School District opened its doors for the 2021-22 school year and the 10 schools are already bustling with back-to-school night, arts & crafts, athletics, band, choir, STEAM events and other club and extracurricular activities. Elementary students are receiving hands-on learning experiences, reading buddies, site-specific program opportunities and bonding time with friends. For both the junior high and high school students, rallies, sporting events, homecoming and other team-building activities are back to being a focal point of their student life experience.

If the first month is an indication of what's to come...it's going to be a great year for BOUSD!

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

The first days of school are always exciting, but students this year are probably more excited than ever. As you will read in the articles in this issue lots of preparation went into a successful opening with a sense of normalcy.

Be sure to enter the word search contest on page 11 (all ages may enter).

Thank you for continuing to include School News among your reading choices. We are excited to share the news from the classrooms as always.

Our next issue is November 3, 2021.



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Arovista *Elementary School (K-6)*

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Dr. Deborah Martinez
Principal

Allstars Set Path For Excellence

Arovista Allstars kicked off 2021-22 with back-to-school night on the second instructional day of the school year. Parents & guardians convened at the Arovista Quad in the evening for a welcome message by the new principal, Dr. Deborah Martinez, and Superintendent Dr. Brad Mason before visiting classrooms and meeting the teachers. As a celebratory gesture and affirming Arovista's focus on inclusion and diversity, as exemplified in the Dual Immersion Program, Dr. Martinez welcomed the community in both English and Spanish, introduced the teachers and described the intent of the evening.

Students and teachers were excited to begin the year! We started our second week in school with the Positive

Behavioral Intervention & Supports (PBIS) goals assembly to celebrate being back to school and pledged to conduct themselves as Allstars by following the guidelines, "Show Self Respect, Take Ownership, Act Responsible, Respect Others & Yourself and Strive for Excellence!" Teachers then proceeded to prioritize behavioral expectation lessons throughout the week to introduce and/or reteach the way Allstars are to conduct themselves in all common areas of the school (i.e., cafeteria, hallways, soccer field, etc.).

It has been a joy to observe our Allstars acclimate to an all-day instructional setting with a new sense of 'normalcy.' Our students are thriving and making daily progress on both academic performance and social interactions. We continue to support the well being of the whole child while ensuring we strive for excellence in our efforts to accelerate learning.





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Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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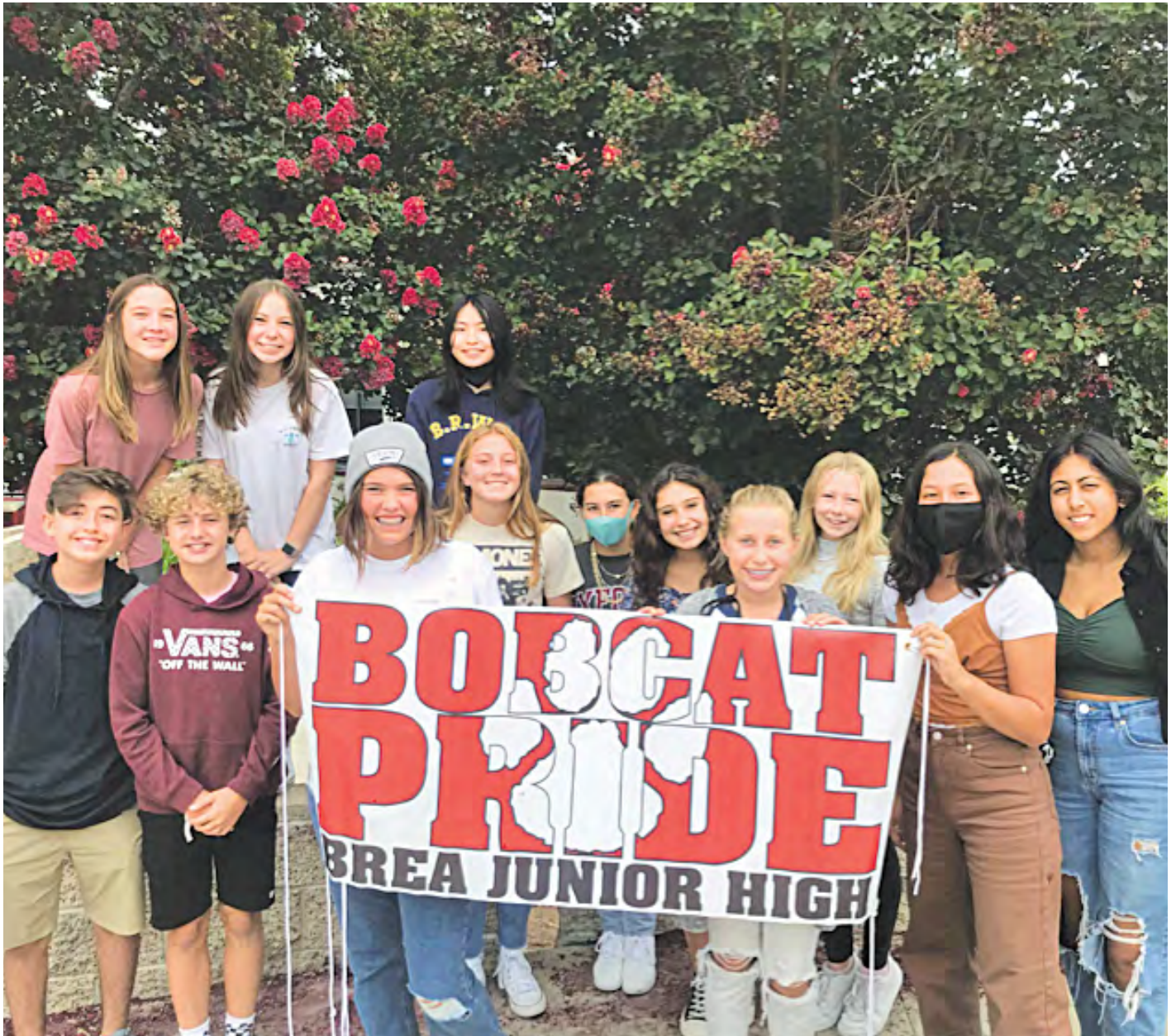
Dr. Kelly Kennedy
Principal

Bobcat P.R.I.D.E. is Going Strong at BJH!

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 Platinum 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 Attitude, R - Respect, I - Integrity, D - Determination and E - Excellence.

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. In addition, students receive incentives and participate in P.R.I.D.E. parties throughout the year to celebrate their achievements. 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 • breacanyon.bousd.us



Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

Back to School Night

Brea Canyon High School welcomed students, families, friends, and alumni to our 2021 Back to School Night on Wednesday, September 1st! It was an incredible night filled with introductions, food, games, music, and positive relationship-building. BCHS faculty and staff were able to communicate school-wide about classroom expectations and goals, while personally connecting with each student, and their family, in attendance. Student work and staff professional development projects were on display to show off how our Coyotes HOWL to success every day here at BCHS. Additionally, students and staff participated in some friendly volleyball, Connect Four, and corn hole matches. Brea Canyon's 2021 Back to School Night was the place to be. The coyote community is thriving!



History Depot

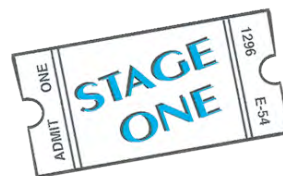


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Lana Merha
Principal

Cultivating Community and Confidence

One of the signature practices that make Country Hills an amazing place to learn and grow is our School Buddy program. Aside from building community, it helps students of all grade levels feel like they're part of something and that they are valued.

At Country Hills, we are working to create confident, collaborative and open-minded students from the minute they walk on campus. Through weekly activities such as art projects, STEAM challenges, and gardening, buddies continue to build a sense of belonging while learning new skills.

For many years, the sixth-grade students in Mr. Forslund's class have been buddies with Mrs. Chute and Mrs. England's transitional kindergarten classes. Each year, the students cultivate a garden that is tucked away on the south side of campus. This garden area provides a place for all students to visit for brain breaks or just to stop and smell the flowers. According to Mr. Forslund, "The buddies work really hard to keep the area beautiful for all Cougars to enjoy. You can feel their sense of pride when they see how much joy the area brings others."



Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dr. Joshua Porter
Principal

Filled with Student Life!

The hill is alive with the sound of students! With students we have missed for a year and a half!

It is very exciting to have students back on campus and returning to a sense of normalcy! We started the year with in-person registration and were pleased that our amazing Link Crew student leaders were able to host their annual Freshman Welcome Day for the Class of 2025. School opened Aug. 16

with ASB student leaders decorating the campus, creating photo-opportunity backdrops, playing fun music, and welcoming students on the red carpet.

Fall sports prepared throughout the summer and are now starting their competition seasons. These include boys and girls cross-country, football, girls golf, girls tennis, girls volleyball and boys water polo. In addition to fall sports, we

celebrated dance production, cheer, band and masquerade at our Wildcat Olympics-themed rally, the first-ever held in Wildcat Stadium. At that rally, we also kicked off our annual Clash of Classes competition with some fun active games between the four grade levels and held our first WILD Card prize drawing. Students earn WILD Cards for working with purpose, initiating positive change, leading by example, and demonstrating personal responsibility.

We welcomed Wildcat families to our campus for Back to School Night Aug. 31. This gave families an opportunity to follow their children's class schedules and meet their teachers. The night was made extra festive with our awesome cheer squad showing their Wildcat spirit and our terrific marching band filling the quad with music prior to the start of class visits.

Next up, we look forward to students renewing and joining clubs on campus, playing in our lunchtime cornhole tournament, and preparing for homecoming.

Brea Online Academy (TK-6)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • onlineacademy.bousd.us



**Dr. Kristin
Risberg**
Principal

Online Academy has a Strong Connection

The Online Academy has made a commitment to providing our students with a strong online community, focused on student education, community, and well-being. Our teachers have had training in the

“smart cookies” in the picture shown. We are thrilled to be able to focus on the whole child at Brea Online Academy and will continue to provide students with opportunities to grow, connect, and learn.

Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) Playbook and use this knowledge daily to provide students with an opening routine, a collaborative activity and an optimistic closure. Our 5th and 6th grade classes participated in mindful morning creations and mindful drawings. Check out our



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

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



Karen VanDine
Principal

Coding: Our Second Language

Students at Falcon Academy have the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of computer coding as part of their curriculum. Through our partnership with Code To The Future, teachers will be able to engage students through block-

and text-based coding activities to enhance their educational experiences through computer science. Students will be learning programming languages and how to apply what they learn using interlocking blocks and 3D video games. Falcons will have another avenue to apply problem solving, team building and presentation skills as they collaborate and share their thinking process with peers and in our showcases.

The mission of Code to the Future is “to inspire students to become aware of their incredible potential and equip them with the skills necessary for success in school and life.” Coding will be an exciting, integrated enhancement to the excellent learning already taking place at FAST.

Students will be learning programming languages and how to apply what they learn using interlocking blocks and 3D video games. Falcons will have another avenue to apply problem solving, team building and presentation skills as they collaborate and share their thinking process with peers and in our showcases.



Laurel Elementary *Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration (K-6)*

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



Lauren Tovar
Principal

Celebrating 100 Years Of Excellence

This year, the Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration celebrates its centennial anniversary. We are so excited to be sharing the history of our school and community with our students.

Opening the school in a more traditional model has allowed us to plan activities and events to honor this special milestone. Each month we will be honoring a different decade, and have planned newsletters, announcements, a display case, and many great activities to help share information about those time periods. As part of our emphasis on innovation and career exploration, we are also exploring the various inventions and occupations of that time.

Our 2021-2022 school year kicked off with a celebration of the 1920's. The students loved exploring old pictures of our local community. They learned about the history of the school and explored important themes throughout the decade.

This month we move on to the 1930's. We are looking forward to exploring each decade and celebrating the "100th Day of the 100th Year." We will be ending the year celebrating and honoring our entire Laurel community as we too become a part of the history of our great school.



Mariposa *Elementary School (K-6)*

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



Rick Torres
Principal

Difficult Time, Positive Outcome

It's not every day you get to meet an author, and it's even rarer when that person is a student at your school. Mariposa is lucky to have Kiara Smith, author of five amazing books that teach lessons about friendship, self-love and when to say I'm sorry. Each story created and written by Kiara undergoes a

process that allows the young author to design everything from the fonts to the background of each page.

Kiara is a shining example of making challenges into learning opportunities. That's because this wonderful writer was diagnosed with a learning disability that makes it difficult to read and write. When COVID-19 made it even more difficult to learn, Kiara's family decided to empower her with support in publishing her stories. Kiara's mother created the Kiwi Cares Collections

website to spotlight the delightful books they had created. Even more amazing is that money generated from the book sales goes to support charities.

Recently, Fox News 11 covered Kiara's inspirational story, which certainly will spread the joy this amazing young lady brings to the world.



Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

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



Dr. Preetom Bhattacharya
Principal

Rebuilding Our Community

We are thrilled with the opportunity to be able to restart our in-person learning experiences! Now in their third week of school, our Olinda Eagles have been thriving with their return to the school environment.

This year our school will be focusing on rebuilding a sense of community, as we now have the opportunity to be together and value that togetherness after so many months apart. Each day, our students are participating in a community circle conversation to make sure that they will look at each other in the eye and feel that sense of belonging which was lacking when they just looked at each other on a screen!

The return to school also re-establishes our Little Buddies program (pictured). This is where our sixth-grade students pair up with their TK/kinder buddies to engage in crafts, play, and other relationships that can help the younger children feel connected to their school. This program also allows the older students to

develop leadership skills in addition to jubilantly creating a culture of celebration and appreciation of one another. We look forward to these types of experiences to help “rebuild” our school during the year!



Halloween 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 Brea-Olinda in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 20, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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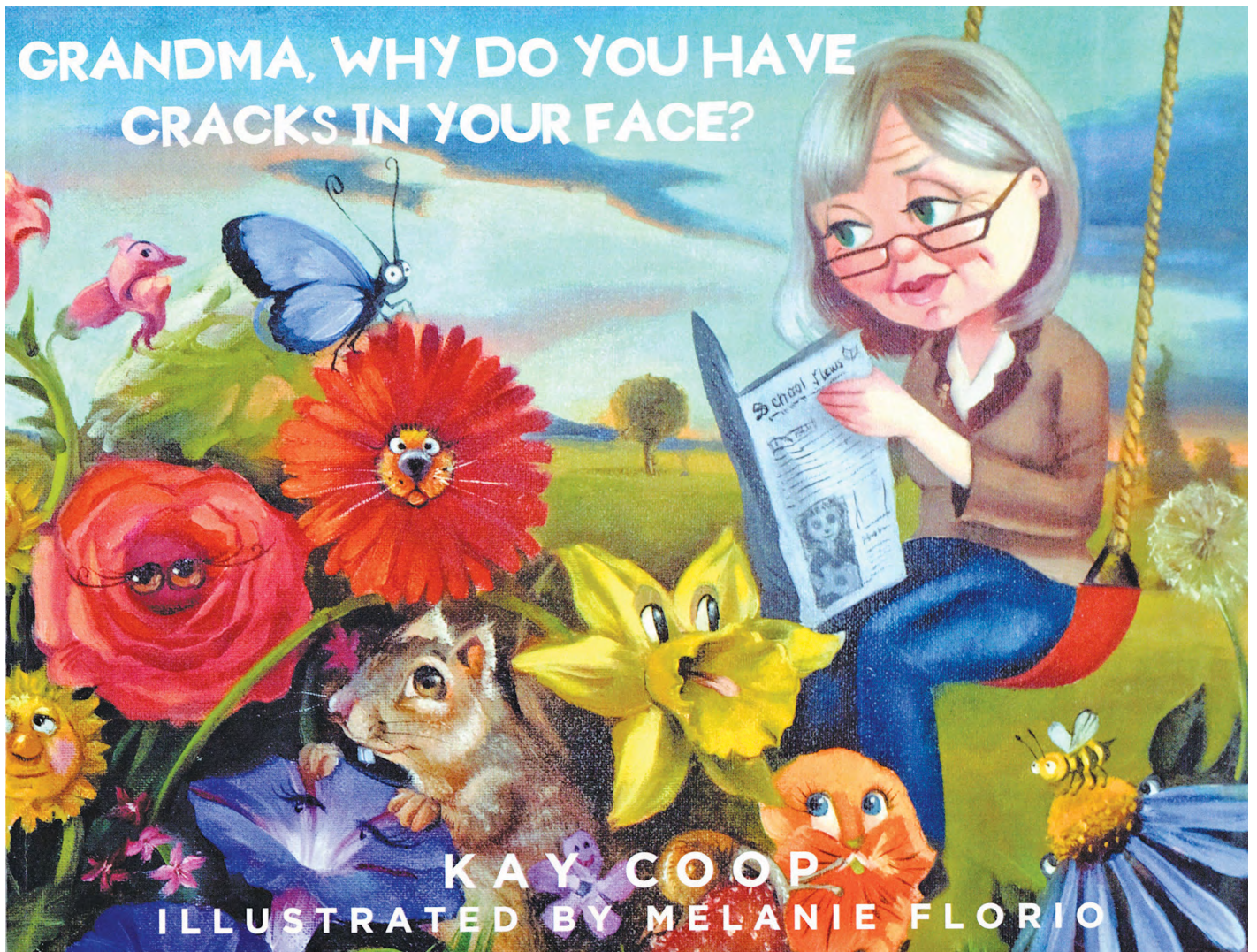
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