

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District



Volume 8, Issue 29

September 2022



**BOUSD Schools
Filled with Excitement
for New School Year**



**S.T.E.A.M.
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RACE TO SPACE **READING CHALLENGE**

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Wellness is a Key Component to Academic Success



Brinda C. Leon
Superintendent

We are so excited to have our wonderful students back in the classroom! As we begin the new school year, Brea Olinda Unified School District is increasing its emphasis on the social-emotional and mental health of our students and staff. In support of a safe and healthy learning environment, we added psychologists, marriage family therapists and intervention specialists to compliment our counseling staff. We are also partnered with

Project Kinship and Care Solace to provide an extra layer of care for our community and staff.

Superintendent Brinda Leon, psychologist Rachel Miller and elementary counselor Erika Rodriguez discussed the shift in students' behavioral and emotional patterns in the classroom since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

An online wellness center for students has also been created to provide 24-hour access to additional support and resources not available on campus. BOUSD feels the district's focus on student and staff wellness will help foster student engagement and build connections over the course of the school year and maintain the energetic atmosphere we felt throughout on campus the first week of school!



Wellness will continue to be an integral part of the educational experience for our students this year because student engagement and connectedness are key components of their academic success. This was highlighted last month on FOX 11 Good Day LA's Destination Education segment where BOUSD

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Covering the

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Welcome to a new school year! It is always exciting to get see old friends and make new ones. We can all remember finding our way around the school and meeting our new teachers. By this time students are settled into their routines and experiencing more of a traditional school experience.

Superintendent Brinda C. Leon begins this issue on page 3 with her message about the district's focus on wellness.

As you read the articles in this issue you can feel the excitement of both the principals and students. Connected and engaged are the goals for student success.

Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. The upcoming issues for this school year are November 2, March 15 and May 10.

Until our next issue Happy Halloween!



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Brea Olinda Unified School District



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Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

Back to school season has begun, and while the last few years have taught us valuable lessons about making predictions, it is noteworthy that this is the first new school year since 2019 to start without strict requirements for face coverings or contact tracing, bringing us closer to a more traditional school experience.

Moving forward, we must continue to be mindful of the less visible impacts of the pandemic, and our schools are well-equipped to do this. As students return, we know that many will be in need of accelerated learning, social-emotional interventions, counseling and access to wrap-around mental health services.

School employees who have been on the front lines also need support, stability and grace. And of course our families need expanded learning opportunities, robust communication from their schools and districts, and access to resources.

Certainly the last school year posed extraordinary challenges, and no two experiences were quite the same. Many of our students, families and school employees endured illness, disruption and personal loss on a scale that is unimaginable. Yet we also heard incredible stories of resilience, innovation and achievement in 2022.

At Westminster High School, for example, four students who were concerned about declining bee colonies were honored for their proposal to create a probiotic that can strengthen bees against insecticides. Earlier in the year, our own OCDE educators set up schools for about 60 newly arrived Afghan children whose families were forced to flee their home country after assisting U.S. troops or holding other positions that compromised their safety.

In districts and charter schools across the county, our students earned county, state and national recognition for devising solutions to real-world problems. They produced mental health videos, built highly innovative smartphone apps, designed electric vehicles, partnered with industry leaders for work-based learning opportunities, and expressed themselves through the visual and performing arts.

The success stories are too numerous to list here, but I would be remiss in not mentioning that two of California's five Teachers of the Year for 2022 were from Orange County, as were four of the state's top nine Classified School Employees of the Year.

Although this past school year tested us in so many ways, I am beyond proud of our schools for continuing to provide exceptional experiences for students and opportunities for them to shine. As we head into another fall, the sky's the limit on what we can accomplish together. Let's take care of one another and make it a great year.

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Eric Barrientos
Principal

To MTSS and Beyond!

We welcomed our newest and returning Allstars with balloon columns and picture opportunities around every turn on Monday, Aug. 15, as our Arovista community returned to campus from summer break. The launch of the 2022–23 school year, however, did not begin on Aug. 15—it began a month before as our dedicated Arovista faculty and staff christened our Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports (MTSS) voyage at the 2022 California MTSS Professional Learning Institute. Our mission: to be bold and establish a culture where every student, every day, in every classroom is connected and engaged like no Allstar has been before.

Arovista Elementary School was one of three schools within the Brea Olinda Unified School District to receive the Phase 3 MTSS Grant through the Orange County Department of Education in March. This grant allotted \$50,000 toward building capacity of the California MTSS framework to improve outcomes for all learners through MTSS certification of our staff. Currently, the Arovista team is composed of 23 staff members in various roles that include administration, counselors, psychologists, teachers and paraeducators all aimed at establishing a culture and mindset that will provide unlimited enhancements to the learning experiences of all learners!

We are the Arovista AVID Allstars—the constellations of students of our community guide our journey to MTSS and beyond!



Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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



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 2022 Platinum recognition, which is the highest recognition that can be awarded to a school. 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

The Grand Opening of HOWL Print Works

On August 19, 2022, Brea Canyon High School hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to mark the inception of our first CTE program and pathway. HOWL Print Works, in collaboration with Spyderlab, is a fully-functioning print shop that will operate as a school business with the ability to produce an abundant amount of printed materials: posters, banners, awards, plaques, clothing,

signage, spirit wear, and much more. This brand new elective is an opportunity for our Coyotes to experience the corporate world, to run a successful business, use softskills in a work environment, to handle conflict at work, and to learn technical skills that will give them a leg-up in finding jobs in the print industry. Brea Canyon High School is the first continuation high school to partner with Spyderlab, and our students could not be more excited. Spyderlab mentors will also be working with our students in order to help them become certified, in hopes of creating today's future entrepreneurs!



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

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



Shelley Lopez
Principal

Our PBIS Roll-Out

At Brea Country Hills Elementary, we know that keeping high expectations for student behaviors will increase student learning and self-efficacy. This is a very important part of the learning process and which we feel is a year-long routine.

For this reason, all areas of our campus have a “behavior matrix” that requires the explicit teaching and practicing of learned skills. We have found that a proactive versus reactive approach is the kindest and most effective way to inform our students of the school’s expectations.

Staff volunteers take turns teaching at each campus location with lessons and activities that will allow our students to practice appropriate behaviors with positive reinforcement. Our “Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports” go beyond the rules of the playground. We also utilize data to determine the next steps in our intervention efforts, and to help develop specific procedures as we move forward through the year.

Our upper-grade students are taking this explicit teaching of expectations to another level, as they are now making their own movies to share with the younger students. The sixth-graders are connecting with the content of the information as well as the artistic expression that is involved with filmmaking.



First graders and teachers Mrs. Raymond (and Miss Keonig) in the MPR during PBIS Rotations.

Brea Olinda *High School (9-12)*

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



Dr. Josh Porter
Principal

BOHS Students Went WILD

Brea Olinda Wildcats brought amazing energy and enthusiasm to the Wildcat Gym as they celebrated indoors for the first time since December 2019. Amidst students chanting “Let’s Get WILD!”, we recognized fall sports and our world leading robotics team, then competed in grade level competitions. Special performances by our CIF Runner-Up Cheer squad and Dance Production team excited the crowd and showcased our talented teams.

From the moment the band started playing pep tunes to welcome students all the way through the alma mater the event was all about student involvement and engagement. Students planned, set-up, decorated, hosted and cleaned up the event. Students ran the audio-visual tech components necessary for the event to succeed and participated in the games. Students performed. Students announced their teammates. Students cheered their hearts out! Brea Olinda students can and will continue to do amazing things! This first rally was only a small glimpse how great the future will be for our Wildcats!



Brea Online Academy (TK-6)

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



Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

New Partnership with Edgenuity

Brea Online Academy is excited about the new school year, and their new partnership with Edgenuity! This online curriculum provides a user-friendly, virtual platform for our elementary Independent Study students. As a part of this program, students now have daily access to a credentialed teacher, options for an accelerated academic path, a flexible learning schedule, and a combination of digital and hands-on

learning. Edgenuity Electives include: Foreign Languages, Art, Music, Coding, and much more! Also, students can access Edgenuity from the comfort of their own home, or anywhere in the world! We are proud to offer our Brea Online Academy families flexibility for travel and other life events that require remote learning. Last but not least, in addition to our new partnership with Edgenuity, Brea Online Academy students will have opportunities to participate in enrichment clubs, leadership activities, assemblies and virtual and in-person field trips. It is going to be a year to remember!



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

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



Karen VanDine
Principal

Welcome Back to School!

This school year marks Falcon's 53rd year of serving our Brea community. We are excited to continue our Falcon traditions and bring in some new ones for this upcoming school year.

Our Boo Hoo/Yahoo (depending on your perspective) parent social on the first day of school was a great time to meet some of our new families and reconnect with our

returning families after a long summer break.

Mrs. VanDine held our New Student Lunch during the second week of school. She met with our 54 new students in grades 1-6 during their lunch break. It is a great time to get to know each new student and they shared how much they love Falcon Academy already!

We look forward to engaging our families in many more opportunities to be involved and in helping us develop our students to be as successful as possible. It is going to be a fantastic year!





Lauren Tovar
Principal

PBIS Recognition

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration is dedicated to providing a positive school environment and culture for students, staff and community. This is a collaborative effort that includes regular planning, monitoring, and reflecting. The Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) recognition process allows us to

annually assess the programs that we have in place to establish systems for social emotional development and instruction of behavior expectations. Laurel Elementary Magnet School is pleased to announce that we have been recognized at the Platinum level of PBIS implementation for the 2022 school year. This achievement is a reflection of the dedication of our staff, and our commitment to supporting the whole child. Our processes and systems have been improved by the addition of an elementary school counselor, consistent meetings of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support team, and the re-imagining of our program returning from the distance learning and hybrid learning of the 2020-2021 school year.



Word Search Contest

Words Associated with School

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@schoolnewsroll-call.com (Please put **BOUSD** in the subject line)

Entries must be received by October 15, 2012

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

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|------------|
| Achievers | Focused | Principal |
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Mariposa Elementary School (K-6)

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



Rick Torres
Principal

What is My Superpower?

School started off with a “Bang!” at Mariposa. This year staff and students are asking themselves, “What is my superpower?” This idea stems from a multi-tiered system of support concept based on recognizing assets over deficits and leveraging them to become better teachers and learners. Everybody is good at something and finds joy in life in different ways. Asset mindset

means recognizing all students as having strengths and being capable of learning as opposed to the Deficit mindset which focuses on student limitations and relies on stereotypes about who can achieve. Teachers will spend time collaborating with colleagues discussing their students’ “superpowers” and how they can creatively capitalize on those strengths. Teachers too will look inward to let their strengths shine in their classrooms, using their interests and talents to create engaging lessons that are fun for both students and teachers alike. What’s your superpower?



Olinda *Elementary School (K-6)*

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



**Dr. Preetom
Bhattacharya**
Principal

Student Mentorship and Peer Guidance

Olinda's "Little Buddies" program has been a long-standing tradition at our school. Each month, our sixth-grade students meet up with their little buddies who are in TK or kindergarten. They engage in special activities and crafts, and -- perhaps most importantly -- get to play together.

This program brings smiles to our faces and a warmth to our hearts because our littlest Eagles are being shown care and assistance in finding comfort. Many of our TK/kindergarten students are seeking comfort at the beginning of the school year because they are in an environment that is new to them.

Our teachers do an excellent job helping them to adjust, including giving them the opportunity to develop a year-long relationship with a big kid! For our older students, this can serve as an opportunity to build their leadership and mentoring skills along with basic care giving. They remain motivated to stay on top of their work and do well academically so that they will have the opportunity to work with their buddy each month, always setting a good example of what it means to be an Olinda Eagle.

At the end of every school year, our high school graduating class of seniors returns to their respective elementary school campuses to visit the same children that they were little buddies with as sixth-graders. It is a beautiful moment to see these friends reconnect after their time apart. It is a tradition that makes our community special.



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Sunday, October 2, 2022

Orange Coast College

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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