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School News

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Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 40

FEBRUARY 2011

SUPERINTENDENT



Welcome to 2011

Here are the top eleven reasons why I'm proud to be the Redondo Beach Unified School District Superintendent of Schools:

11. Measure C's \$145 million has transformed RBUSD, school sites, and the RB community.

Dr. Steven Keller

the RB community.

10. Can you say, "Aquatics Center?"

9. RBUSD is the leader in the South Bay when it comes to "green" construction and modernization.

8. RBUSD has an excellent partnership with the Beach Cities Health District.

7. We care about all students and we continue to prove it.

6. RUHS athletic teams and performing and visual arts programs continue to impress.

5. RBUSD test scores continue to rise.

4. We have a great Board of Education.

3. We have great parents.

2. We have great staff members.

1. We have great students.

Igniting Sense of School Community



Adams Middle School Student Council performing a skit during their first spirit rally.

By Dr. Nicole Wesley, Principal Adams Middle School

Research suggests that students who are connected to school perform better academically.

What connected you to middle school? While we all know middle school students love school for the academics, at Adams Middle School, we encourage all students to discover something extracurricular that will ignite their sense of school community.

Social and emotional development is a critical component of the middle school curriculum. Research suggests that students who are connected to school perform better academically. Students at Adams are encouraged to be involved in a variety of activities for social and emotional growth.

SEE IGNITING SENSE • PAGE 5

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Memoirs of a School Board Member

It is hard to believe that it has been nearly eight years since I was elected to the Redondo Beach School Board in 2003.

Arlene Staich
Member

I was extremely excited to win the election. There were many significant events during these eight years:

- As my term began, I was elected Board President which I did for two years.
- The superintendent resigned after new Board majority elected in 2003.
- A process for finding a new superintendent was started.
- Hired an interim superintendent—Dr. Bev Rohrer. Found our new superintendent Dr. Carol Leighty in 2004; however, in 2005 the new majority on the Board of Education removed her.

- In 2004, nearly \$2 million were cut from the General Fund. As a result, people in the District office and classified lost their jobs, advances in technology became almost nonexistent, new textbook adoption ceased, policies were not updated and site maintenance was at a minimum. At this point in time, the cuts stayed away from the classroom resulting in unchanged class size. However, the District services delivered to school sites was minimal.
- Modernization of teachers' rooms from bond measure E passage in 2000 was in full swing. However, construction costs were sky rocketing due to scarcity of materials. For this reason, Bond E monies did not accomplish all the modernization needs to the classrooms in the District.
- In 2008, the District went out to the public for another bond, measure C, for \$145 million, most of which was to be spent at the high school. The community of Redondo Beach supported our bond measure with a 67% pass rate.

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 11

Electives Inside:

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Congratulations

December Contest Winner:
Annette Taylor

February Contest10

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Going the Distance



Megan Cassette
Director

In this competitive employment market our job seekers need every advantage they can to both find and keep a job.

Those who cannot read or write well in English, and are not U.S. citizens or who lack a high school diploma, are at a distinct disadvantage. The South Bay Adult School can help solve these problems through its various distance learning, citizenship preparation and independent study programs, all of which are taught by credentialed teachers.

Adults who want the flexibility of learning English at home can check out special curriculum packets at our Edison Distance

Learning office. These contain a DVD or CD, a textbook, practice exercise with answer keys and a test. They are designed to help students improve their pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

Students can also meet with teacher Jackie Memberto-Kelly for a minimum of once a week to help review their progress.



Distance Learning teacher Jackie Memberto-Kelly reviews lessons with student Adriana Rubio.

Citizenship Opportunities

Citizenship classes for those who are learning English, as well as regular English speakers, are being offered in the evening at both Edison and Redondo Union High School campuses. Here students can learn about U.S. history and government, as well as what they need to pass the citizenship exam. They are also given an opportunity to practice their oral interviews.

Adults studying for a high school diploma can attend class one hour per week while completing the rest of their course work at home. They may also enroll concurrently in vocational classes at SoCal ROC to help enhance their job skills. Diplomas will be awarded in June at a special graduation ceremony, with the graduates' friends, family, teachers and administrators all celebrating their success.

For more information about these and other classes, please visit our Web site at www.southbayadult.org, or call (310) 937-3340.



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This is our fifth anniversary publishing *School News* covering the RBUSD. Dr. Keller continues to lead with enthusiasm always toward his goal of *from good to great*. The principals continue his message into their schools and classrooms and the results are such a pleasure to publish.

I am optimistic this is going to be a great year. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. We received a record number of contest entries for December. Be sure to enter this month's contest on page 10. Next issue I'll include another Word Search Contest.

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Public School System No Longer "Free"



Brad Serkin
President

With another \$25 billion in state budget cuts hitting California public schools, it is time for every RBUSD family to help make sure all our students get the education they deserve.

Our annual donor drive will start February 1st this year. RBEF is asking families to donate \$360 to help us provide our schools with the staffing and programming they will need to make up the difference from the state budget cuts. We know many families are still hurting from the economic downturn. And, a lump sum of \$360 is just impossible. That is why the RBEF has set-up a monthly payment plan of \$30 a month to help those who want to give. And, if you are a fortunate family that can afford to give more and help a family that just cannot—we thank you for your generosity.

The new budget cuts go deeper than those brought upon the district over the past two years. What impact does that have on your student? More teacher's losing their jobs than last year, larger classroom sizes, a reduction of book and learning material purchases, and the loss of vital programming that gives our students an edge over the majority of public schools in California.

How can we all make a difference? A minimum donation of \$360 by each family to help us bridge this deficit gap for our schools. Last year we raised over \$200k during the donor campaign, which meant a participation of 13% of our parents contributing. With that money we saved two teachers, which impacted class size, funded the majority of the Safe School Ambassador program to help

erase a bullying culture on our campuses, and provided over \$30k in teacher grants for equipment and supplies that included computers and document cameras, to name a few.

If the majority of our families did participate in the donor drive, we could make this crisis year better for all our students and their teachers. Even when finances are tight for most of us, we need to learn to find a way to give to our child's education. Why? Because a great public school system is not "free" anymore. And, our taxes are not going to cut it. We must pull out our wallets, once a year, and keep the academics in Redondo schools at the excellence level. All our students deserve it! Visit us at rbef.org for more information.

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Special Education: 1107 Vincent St, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8683 ext. 1301
www.rbusd.org/specialeducation/

Aiming Higher



Frank DeSena
Asst.
Superintendent
Student Services

Dr. Aaron Benton
Director Special
Education

In the 2009–2010 school year, Redondo Union High School underwent a transformation in its Special Education department. Thorough review of the high school's Special Education program the previous year revealed that some issues which needed to be addressed: students were placed in classes inappropriate for their ability levels, and, as an institution, we were expecting less of some of our neediest students. We created a collaboration model, which involved reassessing our students, analyzing student achievement data, clustering students with disabilities within general education classes with necessary supports, dismantling numerous resource classes, and incorporating collaboration time in case manager teaching schedules.

Addressing the reading issue in all Special Education offerings has also become a priority. Thanks in part to federal stimulus dollars, the Office of Special Education purchased much-needed intervention curriculum and training to address reading head on. Modified textbooks are now used in all content areas. Two sections of reading intervention are now offered for struggling readers in 10th through 12th grades. This course primarily uses the SRA REACH System, Project Read, Phonics for Reading, Read Naturally, Six Minute Solution, and REWARDS. This year we have added two double-blocks of READ 180 and Intensive English 9, which provides reading intervention and freshman English in a highly motivational format. This course recently received University of California approval from the Board of Regents.

The Learning Strategies Management program (LSM) has been redesigned as well. Additional curriculum and technology were purchased to support students needing individualized attention for learning and organization. Teachers have begun to implement Step Up To Writing, a comprehensive writing curriculum.

Finally, every high school Special Education classroom now has banks of three new computers and a printer with appropriate software programs, such as Co-Writer, Write Out Loud, Type to Learn, Discrete Trial Trainer, Activity Trainer, and EdMark.

Thanks in part to federal stimulus dollars, the Office of Special Education purchased much-needed intervention curriculum and training to address reading head on.

RBUSD Alternative Education

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Meeting "Alternative Learner" Needs



Stephen Edmunds
Principal

We are often asked "how do you teach in Alternative Education given that kids are in different courses and at different levels of abilities in the classroom at the same time?" The more important question really is, "How do you make sure that students are learning in any classroom given the wide range of abilities?"

In Alternative Education we employ a wide range of teaching strategies, from stand up front of the class direct instruction (traditional teaching model) to online courses designed to permit students to learn at their own pace on their own body clock. Most of our classes are taught using a course outline and syllabus. Since many of the Alt. Ed students are in credit recovery (repeating a failed class) the material is often not totally new. Students work through material they understand and are able to get one on one help when they run into problems. Teachers are responding to individual student needs/gaps as opposed to trying to address the most common issues and hope it meets the whole classes needs.



Students work in small homogenous groups with Mrs. Vadakan in mathematics.

Alt Ed is also committed to alternative performance assessments which is a fancy way of saying there is often more than one way to skin a cat. If the state standard says demonstrates an understanding then that understanding can be demonstrated through art, video, oral presentations or writing. Our job as instructors is to know our students so that we can structure the program to allow students to thrive and learn. The typical Alt. Ed student is just like a typical traditional high school student outside the school day, it is just how they learn best that is the biggest difference.

Remember it is not about the teaching, it is about the learning!



Josh Travaligio works with Mr. Lederer one on one to perfect a writing assignment.

Special education programs are authorized by federal and state laws.

These laws require that a free and appropriate public education shall be offered in the least restrictive environment to all students identified as disabled.

Through the District's Student Study Team process and other procedures, a continuous effort is made to locate and identify individuals who might qualify for special education services.



The law also provides that parents may initiate a request to have their child assessed to determine eligibility for special education and/or related services.

This request should be in writing and submitted to:

The Office of Special Education
1401 Inglewood Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

815 Knob Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8650 • <http://altavista.rbusd.org>



Anthony Taranto
Principal

Giving Students a LIFT

The Learning Is Fun Together (LIFT) program is not only one of the most impressive programs you will find at Alta Vista Elementary School, but in the South Bay as well. The LIFT Preschool Program Assessment Team is a comprehensive team consisting of a school psychologist, LIFT teachers, speech and language pathologists, instructional aides, intensive behavior intervention aides, adapted physical education staff, and occupational and physical therapists. The team works together to provide a wide range of service options to children with special needs in the least restrictive environment.

The LIFT Program focuses on growth in the areas of learning, play, and communication. Teachers use the Preschool Houghton Mifflin curriculum to meet the academic needs of the children, as well as, their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals and objectives. The instructional program is researched-based, age-appropriate curriculum that focuses on early literacy skills with work in phonics and phonemic awareness.

Through play, students are provided opportunities for social interaction, language development, skill acquisition and concrete experiences. Adapted physical education, physical therapy, and occupational therapy are a few examples of play that reinforce these skills.

The communication process of exchanging ideas, information, needs and feelings is emphasized in all aspects of the preschool program. The program is organized to provide Speech And Language Intensive (SAIL) students with speech and language services for articulation and expressive language from a credentialed speech and language pathologist.

Blended Experiences for All Children (BEACH) students receive specialized instruction from a credentialed teacher with support from instructional aides

familiar with child development and behavior modification. One of best parts of this program is that each class "blends" with typical peer models to develop friendships, learn, and communicate with same-age peers.

BEACH Buddies children receive instruction from a child development center general education teacher and students with IEPs are supported with collaboration and consultation from a Special Education teacher.

The collaborative nature of the LIFT team and their commitment to providing specialized instruction, intervention, and services to ensure student growth truly makes the program a highlight of Alta Vista.



Students receiving small group Speech and Language from Mr. Brian.



BEACH BUDDIES students incorporating movement during circle time.

Adams *Middle School (6-8)*

2600 Ripley Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8636 • <http://www.adamsmiddle.org>



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

IGNITING SENSE OF SCHOOL COMMUNITY • FROM PAGE 1

The elective course offerings allow students to pursue curricula of personal interest. Students have the opportunity to explore the arts, music, health and wellness, technology and world languages through their elective choices.

Student council is the governing body over many extracurricular activities. This body provides quarterly spirit and recognition assemblies and oversees school dances and other student activities. Lunch clubs are student-driven and meet on Thursdays during advisement

period. This year's clubs range from interest clubs, such as chess and improvisation, to service-oriented clubs, such as Young Elpis Students (YES) which raises money for orphanages overseas.

Students who are interested in sports can participate in the intermural athletics programs. Students compete as a team against Southbay schools in basketball, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball.

Please encourage your child to participate in school activities and events. There truly is something for everyone. For additional activities, please check the Adams Web site at www.adamsmiddle.org.



Chess Club and Cooking club Adams students recruit during club rush.



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Zoning In



Theresa Van Dusen
 Director

At the Child Development Centers, we began the school year with the opening of the Zone at Parras Middle School. We successfully opened the original Zone at Adams Middle School in 2008, and with the help of a parent survey, we decided to expand the program to Parras.

The Zone is located on campus and is open after school until 6 p.m. every day the school is open. It is designed to be not only a safe place for students to go after school but also a program that offers fun activities to keep students engaged. Some of these activities include cooking, bumper pool, flag football and arts and crafts projects.

We strongly believe that middle school youth need to be given opportunities to make decisions, take on leadership roles, co-construct program offerings and policies, set personal goals, and develop their potential as role models. Our Zone teachers and students work together to plan and create an environment that works for everyone. Most of all, we want everyone to have a great time.

Current students have this to say about the program:

I like coming to the Zone because all my friends are here. I can get my homework finished, and I love all the activities, especially football. Sometimes, Mr. Bridi comes over to play with us. —Brianna, sixth-grader

I go to The Zone because I get my homework done, and I can be with my friends. Ms. Wynne lets us do cool stuff. —Brendan, sixth-grader

I think that The Zone is soooo fun. I look forward to the days that I come. When I come, I feel so happy to play and be with my friends, and at the same time, I get my homework done! The Zone is awesome! —Yasamin, sixth-grader

We are very excited about our new program and look forward to a fun year and many more to come.



Child Development Centers
 Redondo Beach Unified School District
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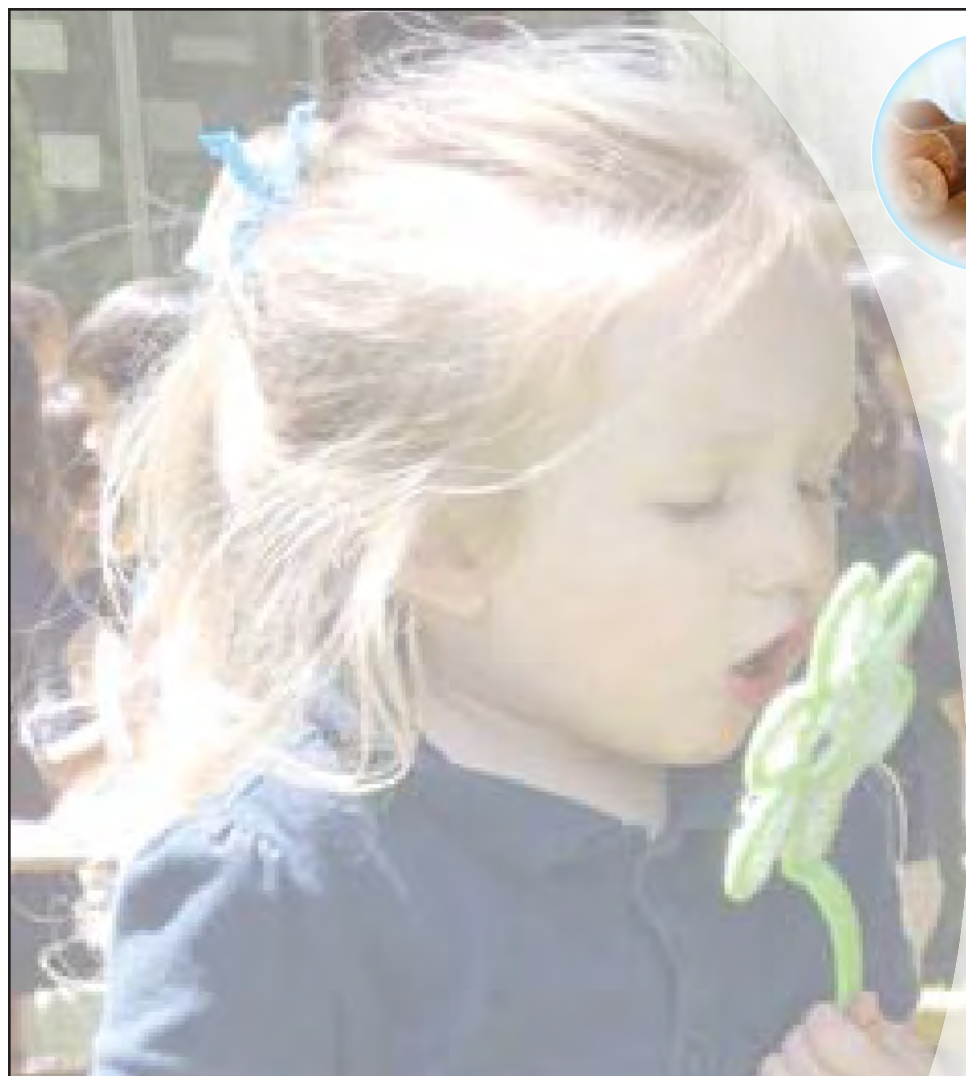
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Get the Necessary Signed Form From Your Home School and Register at the Main CDC Office Located at 1107 Vincent St (Between Prospect and PCH) Call 310-798-8683 ext 1312 For Additional Information

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Rolling Hills Montessori is thrilled to be adding a Toddler classroom to their program in the Fall of 2011.

The Toddler program offers both full and half days Monday through Friday, and accommodates children from 18 months – 2 ½ years old. Toilet training is provided.

Spaces are limited. For more information please call: (310) 377-5722

Rolling Hills Montessori

26825 Rolling Hills Road
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 www.rollinghillsmontessori.com

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

1600 Green Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8626 • <http://birney.rbusd.org>



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Invisible Mentoring

At Birney School we have made huge strides in the last few years academically, including our recent designation as a California Distinguished School. Our next challenge, however, might be described as the “real” No Child Left Behind. Studies show that a child’s success in school is highly correlated to the relationships they have with caring adults. Quiet, unnoticed children are at risk of falling through the cracks and missing out on a superb education. Because of our small size, we can give every student the attention they need, but on the off chance someone is missed, we must have a safety net.

Recently at Birney we implemented a program called “invisible mentoring.” First, we listed all the students at Birney and the staff put red dots next to the names of students they already had a relationship with, beyond just hello or knowing their name. Each adult then made a commitment to reach out to one or more of these students with few or no dots and make a connection based on common interests, ease of accessibility, or other natural connections. In January the adults will learn and use the child’s name, talk with the student frequently, and perhaps ask them to help them with a project. Because the project is “invisible” mentoring the adult does not alert the child that they are part of this outreach. The key to success is to interact with the child at least once a week and be focused, patient, consistent, and, above all, committed. By reaching out to the quieter, less conspicuous children, Birney Elementary is truly committing to leaving no child behind.



A relationship with a caring adult can make all of the difference for a child at school.



Happy 1st Birthday Olivia!!!

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Karen Mohr
Principal

Who Could Ask for Anything More?

Can you believe 2011 is upon us? We have quite the calendar for the rest of the year. This year, we have added principal and PTA president coffees every first Friday of the month, and we have collaborated and worked on improving many things here. Our Family Math Night is Jan. 26, at which time we will have multiple tables of math activities for students to participate in. As we rotate around the room, children will learn games and strategies to become better mathematicians.

On Feb. 23, we will have our annual Family Reading Night, at which students come dressed in their pajamas and enjoy stories from multiple readers. The students always love a good book! Also in the month of February, our fourth-graders will re-create their social studies curriculum by hosting Rancho Day, and tug-of-war and line dancing will become the norm. When March rolls around, our fifth-graders will take a week’s adventure to the beautiful mountains in Big Bear for Science Camp. They will learn about all kinds of scientific standards and will come back enthusiastic about learning more about science.

On April 1, we will have our annual Talent Show in the RUHS’s newly remodeled auditorium. Our students are so talented and have so much to share that it will become an amazing event for our parents and community. Also during the month of April, our fourth-grade students will participate in a Manners Meal, at which the standards for grammar and etiquette are embraced by each student and conversation and proper use of utensils and napkins are evident when observing the rooms. To add another exciting day to the year, the fifth-grade classes will experience a Colonial Day on April 13 that they will never forget!

It is truly amazing to be part of the Beryl Bunch. Come by and see us when you can!

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

2223 Plant Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8646 • <http://lincoln.rbusd.org>



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Hands-On Science

This year, Lincoln School is proud to provide all of its grade levels with an opportunity to participate in “Hands-On Science.” This exciting new program is an excellent example of how a strong school and PTA partnership can provide value-added educational experiences for every student.

We began the first part of this program in October with an assembly titled, “Get Excited About Science.” It was led by former classroom teacher Mr. Richard Blagden, who is from an organization known as “Achieve Now-Achieve Science.” Mr. B. took our students through a number of different experiments that were rooted in the physical, earth, and life sciences.

The next phase of our program is currently under way. Mr. B. has already made one of three visits to help install special “experiment stations” which will allow our students to rotate through the different scientific topics. One of the great things about these experiments is that they are based upon the California instructional standards in science.

Our students will soon be embarking on the final part of this program in February, with the upcoming “Science Expo” assembly. This will be their culminating activity, and will take place on the evening of March 30.

We are very pleased to offer this fantastic, year-long series of science activities. Our experience in this program has allowed the students to obtain even more access to the core subject matter of science itself. We are definitely looking forward to the remaining scheduled events.

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

600 Harkness Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • <http://jefferson.rbusd.org>



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Train the Brain!

You have no doubt heard your own child's teacher talk about the development of high thinking skills. So what is that?

As educators, we teach our students knowledge and skills, that's for sure. But equally as important is the idea of modeling and teaching students how to think.

Academically, we call this process "Metacognition," which is strategic thinking about learning. Simply put, Metacognition is thinking about thinking. This may sound redundant, but it is in effect a purposeful process of reflecting upon what the brain is thinking about as we learn.

When students perform Metacognition they become more aware, and begin to take notice in and solve different kinds of problems. Their teachers are able to model Metacognition in the the classroom to discover what good readers think about as they read aloud.

Here is an example of how the process works. A teacher draws a triangle on the board and asks if it is equilateral. The student may not have heard the word "equilateral" before, so they perform what we call a "mind talk." This goes something like, "I know the word triangle. I see it has three sides. The sides look the same length. I think 'equi' sounds like equal, so maybe it means the sides are equal."

When the student uses their prior knowledge to figure out new learning then they are using brain strategies. It is not as simple as saying, "Use your brain!" Instead, we can say to ourselves, "What else do you notice? What do you already know that can help you figure this out?"

Yes, you can indeed train the brain!



Fifth graders practicing "thinking about thinking" on their oral reports.



Mrs. Butler modeling reading strategies.

Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

2200 MacKay Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8623 • <http://madison.rbusd.org>



Joseph Ledoux
Principal

Two Ways to Excitement!

Educating the whole child happens inside and outside the classroom. One way we get Madison students excited about coming to school is through our Noon League Sports Programs. Our fourth- and fifth-grade students have been playing in a flag football league since October. Mr. Johnson, a fourth-grade Madison teacher, helped form the teams and helps run the Noon League program. Each team consists of seven to eight players, and each team gets to play at least two practice games to get the fundamentals of football down. Mr. Johnson has scheduled the Flag Football Playoffs to start in early December and culminate with the Madison Bowl just before winter break. Parents, teachers, school staff and students are encouraged to come on out to check out our Cometville footballers.



Madison's 4th and 5th grade Flag Football Noon League participants.

Another way we get our students excited about school is through our after-school classes. One of these classes is our Battle of the Books class. The goal of the program is to support students in their love of reading by introducing them to quality literature. The club also seeks to develop friendships among students through socialization, competition and mutual respect. Participating students have until the spring of 2011 to read as many books as possible from the 2010-11 reading list. The reading list consists of books ranging from the fourth- to the seventh-grade reading level. In the spring of 2011, several reading tournaments will take place around our school district. Students from Madison will challenge other schools' teams by quickly answering questions about the books they have read. Last year, Madison barely lost to their district rivals, but this year, they will be pushing themselves to do their best and bring home the hardware. Go Comets!

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Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

200 N. Lucia Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8616 • <http://www.parrasmiddle.org>



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Parras Middle School Opens Their Gymnasium!

Parras Middle School had their grand opening of their gymnasium on November 10, 2010. This long anticipated opening was well worth the wait for students, staff, and community. Over 600 students, parents, board members, staff and district administration attended the opening. The Parras Middle School Jazz Band led the celebration playing several pieces of music.

At the ceremony, Parras' Principal, Dr. Nygren, recognized two retired physical education teachers Maryann Davern and Johanne Mulligan for their combined 80 plus years of service to the school's P.E. department. The gymnasium was dedicated to both teachers.

Dr. Keller spoke to students about how they have benefitted from the community passing the Measure C bond which paid for the new facility. At the end of the ceremony the crowd erupted with cheers and applause when a confetti cannon shot blue and gold confetti into the student audience after distinguished guests cut a ribbon to open the new gym.



The gym is a 21st century green building. It has over thirty skylights to allow natural light into the gym. There is so much natural light that electricity doesn't need to be used to light the gym! To darken the gym there are electronic shades on all skylights and windows. The gym has a large stage which will be used for different drama productions throughout the year. LED lighting and ceiling microphones have been installed on the stage so audiences can hear the students throughout the entire gym.

Contest!!

This drawing, Netragrednik, is hidden in this publication. (Hint: it is always in every issue.)



When you find it, email the page number to:
Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put "RBUSD Contest" in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by February 27, 2011.
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Redondo Union *High School*

631 Vincent Park, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • <http://www.redondounion.org>



Mary Little
Principal

International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidate School

Redondo Union High School is pleased to announce that we have recently been granted status as an International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidate School. We have been exploring the International Baccalaureate Program for a number of years and believe that the IB Program

will provide an exceptional academic opportunity for our students. Authorization to become an IB World School is an intensive process that typically takes two or more years and includes site visits by an IB team.

The IB Diploma Program is designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The program is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

The IB Program encourages a positive attitude to learning by encouraging students to ask challenging questions, to reflect critically, to develop research skills, and to learn how to learn. Community service is encouraged because there is more to learning than academic studies alone.

In an IB Diploma Program students participate in six courses of study in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics, and the arts, thus ensuring a breadth of academic experience.

In addition, the IB Diploma program has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding. The extended essay is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying. Theory of knowledge is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical and historical). Creativity, action, service requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom. Students can combine all three components or do activities related to each one of them separately.



Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

1520 Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8628 • <http://tulita.rbusd.org>



Danielle Allphin
Principal

Tidal Wave Music and Art

We are pleased to have several programs at Tulita to cultivate our students' interests and talents in the arts.

With PTA's generous support, all Tulita students are participating in another year of Hands on Art. Students have fun creating their own masterpieces with the guidance of the parent docents. The "Growing Creativity" theme this year is coming true for all our young artists as they enjoy this creative outlet at school.

We are very grateful that even in challenging budget times our District is honoring our commitment to whole child education with arts and music education. First and second grade students are enjoying visual and performing arts lessons presented by artists in residence from the Music Center. Our second graders are learning the art of story-telling in a theater class and our first graders are enjoying a course on hip-hop dance. Tulita third and fourth grade students receive weekly music instruction from Mrs. Melrose, a talented and enthusiastic credentialed music teacher. The students are learning a lot and thoroughly enjoyed their winter performances. Fifth grade students have the opportunity to participate in instrumental music, taught by Mrs. Zoetewey who masterfully teaches beginning musicians to play an instrument.

We are proud of our Tidal Wave talent and we are pleased to see our students develop an appreciation for the arts. Thank you to everyone in the school and city community who support these programs.

Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Lilienthal Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8641 • <http://washington.rbusd.org>



Vivian Ibarra
Principal

Gardens of the World

Thank you to Miss Janel Bagby, our Garden Lady, for being a guest author this month. Miss Janel coordinated a grand garden project to benefit the students of Washington and Adams Schools.

On October 1, students at Washington Elementary and Adams Middle School were taken on a trip around the globe at the grand opening of Gardens of the World. Children and parents enjoyed the beauty and multi-sensory experience of French impressionist, English cottage, butterfly, coastal, desert, rain forest, Zen and alpine gardens while walking around the 1,740 square-foot of beautiful new landscape.

What started out as casual banter about repurposing an unused octagonal sandbox soon turned into sketches, cost estimations and grant writing. About one year later, with funding from a \$5,000 Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant and \$1,025 raised by Eagle Scout Marco Catalo, of Boy Scout Troop 191, the gardens became a reality. Attendees of Washington's grand opening received a passport, a 15-minute guided tour and delighted in christening the gardens with thousands of ladybugs.



Releasing ladybugs into our garden.

planted by Eagle Scout Jacob Spears and Troop 788, all of which promote a healthy diet and aid in the prevention of childhood obesity.

This beautiful and ambitious project will impact more than 1,500 students each day for years to come, and it wouldn't be possible without the support and hard work of our community. Heartfelt appreciation goes out to Vivian Ibarra, Dr. Nicole Wesley, Janel Alicia Bagby, David Cordone, Tim O'Kain, Bill Sun, John Fleming, Marco Catalo, Troop 191, BCHD CEO, staff and docents, Washington Garden Club, CDC, RBUSD maintenance, and more than 20 businesses, families and friends. Stop by anytime and visit our Gardens of the World.

The Gardens of the World, shared by Washington Elementary and Adams Middle School, provides a model outdoor classroom, taking the garden experience and educational opportunities to a new level. It expands upon Beach Cities Health District's LiveWell Kids school garden, comprised of 24 raised boxes growing organic fruits and vegetables and a fruit tree orchard

Redondo Beach Unified School District
Kindergarten Enrollment
STARTS: MARCH 1, 2011
Enrollment for children who plan to enter kindergarten for the 2011/2012 school year will be held at all district elementary schools starting Tuesday, March 1, 2011. Kindergarten Information Night will be on Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:30 at Washington School. For more information visit www.rbusd.org.

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BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1

- I did not realize to what extent I would become familiar with architectural plans, construction terms, building codes regulations, change orders, Green construction, requirement for ADA access for special needs students and lease-lease back.
- In 2006, hired a new Superintendent, Dr. Steven Keller, who remains in this position.
- Since 2009, State funding for education has decreased by \$ 8.8 million.
- No raises for staff but it was necessary to increase contribution to their healthcare plan.
- Class size in 9th grade English & mathematics increased from 20 to 29-30, and K-3 increased to 25. Federal monies helped keep teachers jobs.
- Addressed other problems: labor negotiations, budget reductions problems, leasing of surplus property, student expulsion, and Special Education services and costs.
- Since 2004, I have been on the SoCal Regional Occupation Center Board of Education and have been Board president since 2008. SoCal ROC offers Career and Technical Education to high school students and adults. I learned that career and technical education is for all students whether they plan on attending college or to immediately enter the work force.
- Since 2008, I have been a CSBA Regional Delegate to representing regional school districts to state elected officials.

Although it has been a process of continued learning, it has been a rewarding 8 years being a School Board Member. Due to term limits, March will be my last month on the School Board. I wish to thank the residents of Redondo Beach for giving me this opportunity to service the children of this community. I hope I have served them well.

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