

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District**

**VOLUME 6 ISSUE 49**

**FEBRUARY 2012**

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Measure C Improvements

Measure C, the \$145-million school bond passed in 2008, will be completed by March 2013. The construction process

has been a fast-paced, productive process with only a few sequential projects left for completion. Construction will begin at South Bay Adult School (SBAS), ideally, in the summer. The main gym at Redondo Union High School (RUHS) will be finished in March 2012, and we will begin work on the RUHS Student Union/Cafeteria this January, as well as the RUHS library. The industrial arts and science buildings at the high school will also be transformed starting in the spring.

On a separate note, since our facilities district-wide are truly outstanding and virtually unmatched, we will update the façade of the two-story 800 building (built in 2000) at RUHS to blend better with the new construction and modernization occurring on that site. This building, which closely resembles structures on our nemesis neighbor's campus to the north, will no longer share that identity. Even my wife who worked at Mira Costa would be jealous!

We truly believe that the makeover has transformed this community. We would like to sincerely thank the Board and the community for their support, enjoyment, and pride in the Measure C campaign and creation. The learning environment is extraordinarily ripe for success.

**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
1401 Inglewood Avenue,  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
(310) 379-5449 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

## Residents Put Their Money Where Their Hearts Are



**Redondo Union High School's first building was built using bond funds, circa 1906. The building consisted of nine rooms including science labs, a principal's office, and an assembly area.**

*By Dr. Nicole Wesley, Principal  
Redondo Union High School*

Way back when, in August of 1905, Redondo's first bond was passed for a whopping \$25,000. It was spent on constructing a building for what was then Redondo Union's student body of 23—but soon to be 35!—students.

Flash-forward to 1947, when property taxes were increased \$1 for every \$100 of assessed valuation in order to build 24 new classrooms and a library and make various improvements to the athletic fields. Time-travel even further to 2000, when Measure E was passed by Redondo Beach voters. Measure E provided necessary infrastructure that enhanced the

*SEE REDONDO UNION H. S. • PAGE 9*

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### On Time and On Dime



**Todd Loewenstein**  
*Presiding Officer*

After nearly four years, modernization and construction from the \$145-million Measure C Bond is approaching the finish line in the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD). Let's take a quick step back and think about all that's been accomplished and what remains to be completed.

Modernization at the elementary and middle schools was completed at the beginning of the school year. (Modernization of all classrooms was completed several years ago through Measure E.) Highlights include roofing, windows replacement, multipurpose room refurbishment, and fencing at the elementary schools, a new, modern Child Development Center at Lincoln Elementary School, and a new field turf soccer field at Washington Elementary School.

At the middle schools, two new, state-of-the-art gyms were constructed, as well as a field turf soccer field at Parras Middle School. In addition, the library at Parras was modernized this past summer, and natural solar lighting tubes were placed in both middle school libraries.

At our high school, Redondo Union High School (RUHS), which has seen the lion's share of modernization efforts for Measure C, our students and faculty can now enjoy a modernized performing arts auditorium, a new student services

*SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 15*

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# Every Drop Raises the Tide



**Brad Serkin**  
President

When you donate to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), your generosity raises the tide in incredible ways. Your donations fund programs that wouldn't exist otherwise, provide teacher grants for ambitious ideas that are going unsupported, and empower us to advocate on behalf of your community, your schools, your teachers, and your children.

Over the past six months, RBEF has helped to bridge the gap and fund new programs at all of our campuses! Our Online Student Career and Course Program will help our seventh- through 12th-grade students ensure that they have met all requirements to attend four-year universities. A college readiness liaison ensures our students are meeting their A-G requirements, interacting with all of our counselors and students at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Eighty laptop computers provided to middle and high school campuses allow us to close the technology divide. Interactive Family Science Nights are provided at all of our elementary campuses for kindergarten through sixth-grade students. Our early elementary children receive instruction in the areas of music, dance, theatre through our Music Center program. We are further pleased to have been able to return over \$62 thousand directly to our teachers in their classrooms to benefit your children directly. This is just a sampling. We have done much more!

Donating to RBEF and listing your child's school could benefit your school even more. Beginning in February, we will be raising funds with our \$360 per family direct donation initiative. The school with the highest percentage of parent participation will win a iPad each week. When the \$360 initiative ends, the four schools with the highest percentage of participation will each receive a cash grant.

Remember, every dollar is a drop, and every drop raises the tide. Please donate now at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org).



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



It must be true that time flies when you are having fun. This is our sixth anniversary publishing the RBUSD *School News* and it has been a pleasure working with Dr. Keller and everyone in the school district. The positive energy is apparent and we hope that energy is contagious on the printed page.

We have moved into the Social Media or attempting to do so with Facebook and Twitter. I decided it was best to get with the program. (My VCR continues to blink 12:00... did I hear you say what is a VCR?)

Our next issue is March 7.

**Covering the**  
**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**Kindergarten Enrollment**  
**STARTS: MARCH 1, 2012**

Enrollment for children who plan to enter kindergarten for the 2012/2013 school year will be held at all district elementary schools starting Thursday, March 1, 2012.

For more information, please visit [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

**Kindergarten Information Night**  
Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm  
at Washington School  
1100 Lilienthal Lane, Redondo Beach



# Building school projects in the Redondo Beach Unified School District for over Ten Years

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REDONDO UNION HS

Work completed to date at the Redondo Union High School includes renovations to Track and Field, Field House, Small Gym and Aquatics Center, Student Services Building, and Auditorium / Band Building.



SHAREFEST 2011

Volunteers helped spruce up and repair schools in the RBUSD last May as part of LA County's Sharefest Workday.

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFICES:

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- Riverside / San Bernardino 951.781.9058
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# South Bay Adult School Big Changes



**Vivian Ibarra**  
*Director*

The South Bay Adult School would like to thank the Redondo Beach community for its passage of Measure C, and for their continued support in making education a top priority. With Measure C bond funds, several of our RBUSD schools have undergone some recent renovations, and they look fantastic! Now it's our turn, and the South Bay Adult School is about to get a facelift.

Throughout the year we will be meeting with our architects to finalize plans and prepare for construction. This summer the Measure C funds will be used to renovate and upgrade our main office and classrooms located on 3401 Inglewood Avenue.



The plans include new windows for the front office, wrought iron fences along the front of the school, painting, roofing, plumbing, electrical repairs, foliage, plants and many other small improvements.

The South Bay Adult School staff and community are also excited about upgrading the Edison Center facility for our students. We anticipate a very smooth transition as we move into the renovation and construction process.



**We are ready for our face lift.**

This summer, as you drive down Inglewood Avenue, please take note as the SBAS-Edison Center transforms itself into an updated, lifelong learning facility, one that looks as good on the outside as we already are on the inside!



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**OPEN HOUSE February 6-10 9:00-11:30am all sites (adults only, please)**

# The Mural Project



**Dr. Erin Simon**  
*Principal*

Alternative education continues to strive to create an environment that highlights not only academics but also the emotional and social well-being of our students. As an example of this endeavor, during Red Ribbon Week, Alternative Education students from Redondo Shores High School and the Redondo Beach Learning Academy (RBLA) celebrated Red Ribbon Week by sketching paintings that demonstrated their support for a drug-free life. All the paintings touched upon the nature and consequences of drugs in an age-appropriate manner. Students' paintings were posted in the main office at Shores and later judged and selected by their peers.

Subsequently, following the judging of the paintings, several students met with two officers from the Redondo Beach Police Department—Officer Shimkus and Officer Jackson, the art teacher at Redondo Shores, Mrs. Flin Kirts, mural artist Clinton Bopp and me to discuss a mural concept which would advocate for a drug-free life. During discussions, Mr. Bopp crafted a design based on students' sketches.



**Mural artist, Clinton Bopp and Officers Shimkus and Jackson judging students' sketches.**

The final mural project is a multi-faceted painting that celebrates Alternative Education students' pledge to live a drug-free life. It seeks to inspire, to invite collaboration and to reveal to people of all ages the importance of community and sacrifice. It is intended as a tribute and a challenge.



**The almost finished mural project...  
The red ribbon symbolizes a drug-free community.**

Are you  
looking for me  
for the contest  
on page 12?





## Vitality City

Jens Brandt, One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • **310/798-8665**  
Lauren Nakano, 514 N. Prospect Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • **310/374-3426x115** [www.vitalitycity.com](http://www.vitalitycity.com)

# A School's Most Important Assets



**Jens Brandt**  
RUHS Assistant  
Principal /  
Vitality City Liaison

**Lauren Nakano**  
BCHD Vitality  
City Program  
Manager

Successful organizations view employees as assets. U.S. industries lose billions of dollars a year in employee absenteeism, diminished productivity, employee turnover and direct medical, legal and insurance fees related to workplace stress, according to the American Institute of Stress. Some organizations have responded to this and other business challenges by creating workplaces that do more than just improve productivity—they aim to build a strong, vibrant organizational culture.

RBUSD has a strong commitment to employee wellness for all its employees. To demonstrate this,

RBUSD registered as a Vitality City Employer so that every employee has access to a wealth of resources and tools that typically cost corporations thousands of dollars. As of November, all RBUSD schools have individually signed on as Vitality City employers so that they are able to assess and access information that allows them to specifically serve and support school staff.

Vitality City offers a suite of tools for the employer and employees to maximize well-being and improve business results. A few examples at our website include the Healthways Well-Being Assessment, which is an in-depth assessment of an employee's overall well-being and guidance on steps to improve it, and Tobacco Cessation Resources and Social Community, which offers support and resources for quitting tobacco.

Sign up for the Daily Challenge in the MeYou Health Daily Challenge. The small actions suggested from the Daily Challenge encourage lasting change across a broad range of areas of health and well-being, including physical activity, healthy eating, emotional health and life evaluation.

Supporting school staff to feel their healthiest and happiest will ideally come in many



**Redondo Beach Unified School District Employees Phil Comito, Sherie Gross, Tanaz Farzad, Amy Golden, Nicole Craig, and Catherine Horzen participate in the Manhattan Beach 10K**

forms. Alongside the school district, parents, students and especially school employees can all find easy, fun and meaningful ways to support health and well-being at the school site.

## School Challenge...Win a Prize!

First, implement a Vitality City-inspired wellness activity at any RBUSD school before the end of March 2012. Then, submit your wellness activity via e-mail with video, photo and any other media to Carrie Anne Blevins, Vitality City Business Development Lead, at [carrieanne.blevins@healthways.com](mailto:carrieanne.blevins@healthways.com) by April 13. Wait to find out which wellness activity is the most Vitality City inspired. The winner will receive a gift certificate to a local Blue Zones Restaurant. Wellness activities should be related to the Blue Zones Power 9—for example, Move Naturally and Eat Wisely, found at [www.vitalitycity.com/power9](http://www.vitalitycity.com/power9). Some examples that have already been implemented in RBUSD schools to date include staff walking and running Moai teams, healthy snacks during meetings and healthy vending machines.

## RBUSD Student Services / Special Education

Student Services: 1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • **310/937-1231**  
Special Education: 1107 Vincent St, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • **310/798-8683 ext. 1301**  
[www.rbusd.org/specialeducation/](http://www.rbusd.org/specialeducation/)

# A Grateful Staff and Students



**Frank DeSena**  
Asst.  
Superintendent  
Student Services

**Dr. Aaron Benton**  
Director Special  
Education

The passage of Measure C has brought about positive changes in the Redondo Beach Unified School District. But our special education students and staff members have reaped some additional benefits.

For this reason, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the citizens of Redondo Beach for approving Measure C, and to the Board of Education and district administrators for overseeing these positive changes.

At Redondo Union High School the former administration building has undergone a major remodel. The new facility will house two classroom spaces as well as a number of offices for staff to provide assessments, therapy and additional counseling services to our special education students.

At many remodeled school offices, space has been created to accommodate a variety of special education professionals, such as school psychologists, speech and language pathologists, and counselors. New and improved meeting spaces were also created that are now being used for Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and cooperative team conferences.

Measure C also brought a new special education classroom to Beryl Elementary School. Learning Center Teacher William Barnhart is thrilled to use the new space that was created. Prior to the construction he and his assistant had to move from room to room.

"Now we have a great, central place to keep our resources and materials," he remarked. "The Learning Center also provides a nice, bright space for students to work in, and an environment conducive to learning."

We are truly thankful for your commitment to the education of all of our students in Redondo Beach!



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# Adams *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Anthony Taranto**  
*Principal*

## Measure C

A number of studies have indicated that *good* school facilities are a precondition for student learning. Thanks to the passing of bond Measure C in 2008, our *great* school facilities have enhanced student learning, serve as a center of the community, and provide for health, safety and security for our students and staff.

In fall 2010, the doors opened to the well-designed Adams Middle School Gymnasium. This beautiful facility is used daily for physical education classes, intramural athletics, all school assemblies and pep rallies, registration, Back to School Night and community events. Additionally, with the aid of solar tubes, fresh, natural light reduces the need for the use of electrical lighting.

In the summer of 2011, solar tubes were installed in the school cafeteria and music room. Solar tubes not only brighten up the rooms with natural light but also are cost effective and demonstrate our commitment to being ecofriendly. Wrought-iron fences replaced the chain-link fences around the front perimeter of the school campus. This distinctive look blends into the natural background while increasing campus safety for all. A new shade structure was also constructed in our cafeteria area to provide coverage from the sun and rain during lunchtime.



**Wrought-iron fence-line along Ripley Avenue.**

With the body of research linking school facilities and student achievement, the newness of having updated and remodeled facilities from Measure C to assist us in the learning and teaching process is appreciated by our school learning community. Thank you, Redondo Beach!



**Physical Education classes in the gymnasium.**

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# Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
*Principal*

## The Finishing Touches

Does the quality of our school facilities affect the academic outcomes of our students? Without question. There is a wealth of research that links the effects of school-building quality to academic achievement and student behavior. Schools and classrooms that have significant capital investments to improve and maintain their overall appearance, air quality, lighting and comfort produce better teaching and learning. Teachers and students maintain better attitudes, feel valued, exhibit better behavior and improve their relationship. The money that has been expended to modernize Alta Vista Elementary is producing tangible rewards.



**New Front Office Sign**

Over this last year, as Alta Vista Elementary has completed its modernization through Measure C, teachers, parents and students have been able to reap the benefits of Redondo's considerable investment. From the new student services building that welcomes visitors, families and students to each classroom that boasts new cabinets, carpeting and whiteboards, the school is a visual representation of how proud our community feels about our students. The new computer lab and music room allow students to explore new areas of interest and talent. Even the new windows throughout the campus have altered the feel of our classrooms and increased the energy level of students and teachers. Just as driving a brand-new car can give you a thrill and make you feel special, the modernized Alta Vista is making everyone stand a little taller and has sparked our enthusiasm to go about the business of teaching and learning.



Just as every remodel needs some finishing touches, Alta Vista has gotten its polishing. Come drive by and see our new school sign welcoming visitors and the community into our main office. Keep up to date with our school happenings with our brand-new school marquee sign. Thank you, Redondo Beach!



# Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

920 Beryl St. Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • **310/798-8611** • <http://beryl.rbusd.org>



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

## We Grow—and Grow!

Over the last five years, Beryl Heights has increased its enrollment by one hundred students. We have added an additional kindergarten class to our p.m. schedule as well as two teachers, one in kindergarten and one in third grade. With the support of our community and the passage of our bond measures, our school has been completely modernized and our students and staff have benefitted from our new computer lab and our beautiful stage in our cafeteria. With the support of our PTA and our very involved parents, the school has flourished in and outside of the classroom. Our parent docents teach art and nutrition lessons and read to our students on a weekly basis in several grade levels.

We would not be in such a beautifully modernized facility if it were not for the generosity of our Redondo Beach community. We are thankful every day that we attend school in Redondo Beach and our staff and students are happy and thriving in this wonderful environment. Don't forget to check out our Beryl website and click on the photo gallery to see all of the current pictures and read about our upcoming events and activities in the next few months. We look forward to seeing you on campus or at our events!

# Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
*Principal*

## You Should See Us Now!

As a result of Measure C, the Birney of today is a completely transformed school! Birney's student population has grown so much that the school now houses four full kindergarten classes.

As part of the recent remodeling project, two beautifully constructed kindergarten classrooms with bathrooms and a play area were added. This much-needed expansion now provides the space and environment for our young students to flourish and grow during their formative years.

A new library and computer lab were also added, with the capability to accommodate an entire class. Students can now receive reading intervention and computer literacy instruction in a fully equipped and modernized laboratory.

All existing classrooms received renovations in the form of new energy efficient windows, blinds and flooring. The former library was also made into an enrichment center where students are able to participate in Hands-on Art and Hands-on Science lessons. It is also host to one of several of Birney's after-school child development classes.

But the most exciting part of the transformation has been the growth of our school's garden. Its beauty is the first sight you see when you approach the school. Once a parking lot, the old space is now a viable vegetable garden and a host to trees and greenery.

Thank you to the Redondo Beach community for your support of our modernization efforts, and for ensuring that our students receive an exceptional educational experience!



**Students enjoying Birney's garden.**

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kara Heinrich**  
*Principal*

## Jefferson: Newly Modernized

This past school year Jefferson underwent construction to become modernized. We celebrated with a dedication ceremony and reopened our new Student Service building doors this past April. With the safety fencing removed, Jefferson now shows off a new, more modern, look to our campus, all in thanks to Measure C. In the past four years Measure C has not only brought us up to date with current safety and handicap compliance standards, the measure has made many improvements to our classrooms, parking lots, roofs, and internet accessibility. Listed below are several main past updates to our Jefferson Campus:

- Newly constructed Student Services building and front entrance
- New school front landscaping with seating areas and wrought iron fencing
- New Art Room bungalow and Science Lab bungalow
- New Cafeteria, Cybrary, and Kinder building roofs
- Modernized cafeteria front entrance with a new entry way and student restrooms.
- Modernized Cybrary with new windows, carpet, additional cabinetry, book shelf's, electrical outlets, and a newly created annexed computer lab space and textbook room.
- Resurfaced and painted playground blacktop with two new ball walls
- Classrooms and bungalows updated with new windows, blinds, cabinets, sinks, and wireless internet access.
- Spreckels and Harkness Lane parking lots resurfaced and restriped.



**RBUSD Board Member, Todd Lowenstein, cuts the ribbon to the new Student Services building at the dedication ceremony.**

The final Measure C project at Jefferson was an exciting time for our school. The new buildings, upgrades, and modernization have not only put a new face on our school, this process has additionally supported us in becoming a more efficient place to better serve our community.



**Newly constructed Jefferson Student Services building**



# Madison

*Elementary (K-5)*

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

# Lincoln

*Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joseph Ledoux  
Principal

Measure C Construction is Complete in Cometville

Measure C construction has come to an end at Madison Elementary School. We are grateful to the citizens of Redondo Beach for our two freshly paved parking lots, 15 remodeled classrooms, and 800 square foot computer lab addition. The front office, workroom, staff lounge and restrooms were also given a face lift. The entire campus received new windows, new fencing, and a fresh coat of paint. Madison also received a brand new, shiny marquee which welcomes visitors as they enter the front of the school. Finally, we have also installed a state of the art surveillance system to monitor our facilities morning, noon, and night. Cometville is well equipped to meet the needs of its 21st century students!



We love our new marquee! Thank you Measure C!



Jeff Winckler  
Principal

Come “C” What is New

Over the course of the last year, Measure C funding has brought a number of improvements to Lincoln Elementary School. There have been a wide variety of projects completed across campus, ranging from new wrought iron fencing to our most significant improvement, the new Childhood Development Center (CDC) complex. The CDC project began with the complete demolition of our previous building and ended with the opening of a completely new CDC facility last spring. The CDC building has been certified by Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED), an internationally recognized green building certification system. We are very proud of the new CDC, as it provides very high-quality learning environment for our youngest students. While not as apparent as the CDC building, a number of additional Measure C improvements have helped beautify and improve the look of our campus. These include: newly coated blacktops on all playgrounds; new ball walls on both the lower and upper playgrounds; new wrought iron fencing around the kindergarten playground and the bike lock-up area; and new exterior paint around the entire school. Additionally, Measure C has improved the school's infrastructure with projects such as new, environmentally efficient windows in every classroom, re-graded concrete in a number of hallways across campus, and a partially upgraded pipe and drain system.



New concrete grading at Lincoln's main entrance.

Collectively the scope of the Measure C projects at Lincoln has made a significant difference on our campus and in the lives of our school community. Our children now have a more structurally sound school environment which is also more esthetically pleasing to the eye. I encourage everyone to come to Lincoln and “C” what is new.



Lincoln's new CDC building



The school's new ball wall



2nd Graders in front of new classroom windows



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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

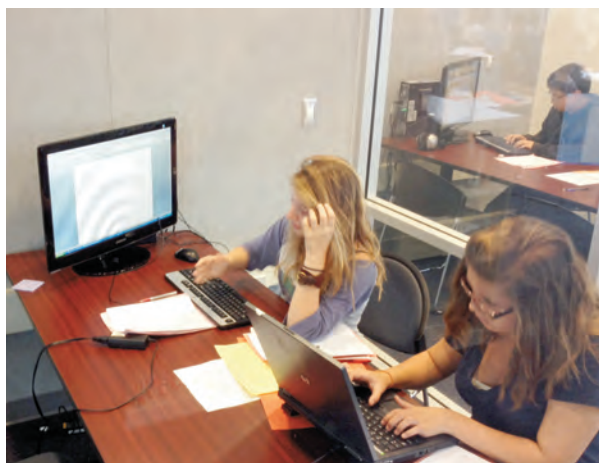
## Quiet to Our Library, Music to Our Ears

The Measure C bond funds that were approved by the city of Redondo Beach were used to update and improve our campus. These funds allowed for a complete renovation of our school's library and for a band room. The newly renovated library has quiet study rooms, natural lighting and more seating to accommodate additional students. There are three study rooms that each allow groups of up to five students to collaborate without disturbing others. Fifteen flat-screen monitors were purchased for our library computers and are wall mounted to allow students more work-space. New mobile library shelves were also added and allow us the ability to move them as needed. Finally, speakers and a large LCD television were purchased with the help from our PTSA. Students and staff can use the television and speakers for lessons and presentations. The library renovation has given Parras a

practical and innovative facility.

Along with the library renovation, we renovated our former ASB classroom in order to accommodate the growing band program. Our newly renovated band room features a practice room that allows students a place for independent or small-group practice. Acoustical tile was installed throughout the room, helping to manage sound. Much of the built-in furniture was also removed to allow for more room for our students and instruments.

Parras Middle School is thankful to our community for the passage of Measure C. The community's dollars were well spent to benefit the students of Redondo Beach. Please stop by anytime to see the exciting improvements Measure C has brought to Parras!



**Students take advantage of working in the quiet break out rooms.**



**Students have more space to work with the monitors being mounted on the wall.**



**Parras students studying in the newly renovated library.**

# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
Principal

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

use of technology on campus and throughout the district and also built new social studies and administration buildings at the high school.

Transport to 2008 when Measure C was passed—this bond being worth \$145 million—and you can see its progress throughout the high school's athletic facilities, including our new aquatic center, major overhauls to our fields, a golf putting green and a new small gym that is not small at all. By the end of 2012, Measure C will be complete at RUHS with upgrades to our science labs and industrial arts classrooms, construction of a new student union with cafeteria, renovation of our large gym and a long-overdue face lift for the library media center.

The message here is clear: Redondo residents have historically shown their support for providing a quality education for not just their children but for all children in our community. Thank you, Redondo Beach residents!



**Our Student Services building today thanks to Measure C.**

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# Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jacqueline O'Sullivan**  
Principal

## Newness Everywhere!

The Washington Explorers would like to thank our community for voting for Measure C, a bond measure that allowed our school and the entire Redondo Beach Unified School District upgrades to our schools and facilities. Thanks to Measure C, Washington School sports an impressive artificial turf field that our students and the community enjoy every day! At recess time, there are children all over the field playing soccer and kickball or just enjoying the fantastic space. After hours, teams from all over the city use the Washington field for practice and games.

Also thanks to Measure C, our school got a makeover this past summer with new windows for every classroom, new wrought-iron fences along the front of the school and a fresh coat of paint for every building. The best part of our summer makeover is our new multipurpose room, which boasts a new stage, new stage curtains, new wall surfaces, new floor tiles, new lights and a brighter ceiling. Everywhere you look at Washington School, there is evidence of a caring community that puts children and their education first. Children take pride in learning at Washington Elementary School, home of the Explorers.



Washington Explorers enjoying an assembly in our new multipurpose room.

# Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Danielle Alphin**  
Principal

## C is for Charming

Our charming little campus recently received some updates and upgrades thanks to Measure C. Crews worked all summer at Tulita, making our campus a safe and attractive facility for teaching and learning. Every classroom has beautiful—not to mention safe and nicely tinted—new windows. The cafeteria has new, clean flooring and a new stage and curtains. We enjoyed welcoming families into the renovated cafeteria for all the winter performances in December.

The playground was resurfaced, and some of the fences were replaced to make sure our students are safe as they play and enjoy their breaks during the school day. One of our classrooms was improved with additional cabinets and sinks to better serve as an art and science room. Students and parents have enjoyed using the updated Room 5 for Hands on Art and fourth- and fifth-grade science. Also, when you visit this winter and spring, you will be able to walk the halls without dodging drips because we have new rain gutters!

We were also fortunate to have new classroom technology installed this summer. Our PTA purchased SMART Boards for every classroom, and in the final days of summer after all the Measure C construction was complete, an awesome team of RBUSD Maintenance and Operations workers installed all 16 SMART Boards just in time for the start of school.

Thank you to Redondo Beach voters and Tulita PTA for enhancing our campus!



Miss Polselli's DK students Jared, Owen, Belize, and Kalenna, enjoy Hands on Art in our newly remodeled art and science classroom.



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Sat. & Sun. Matinees at 2:00  
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follow us on 

**Contest!!**

This girl reading is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find her, email the **page number** to: [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

(Please put **RBUSD** in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by February 25, 2012.  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.  
Thank you for reading *School News Roll Call*!

**Congratulations Hanna Sappington the December Contest Winner!**

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—Maria Montessori

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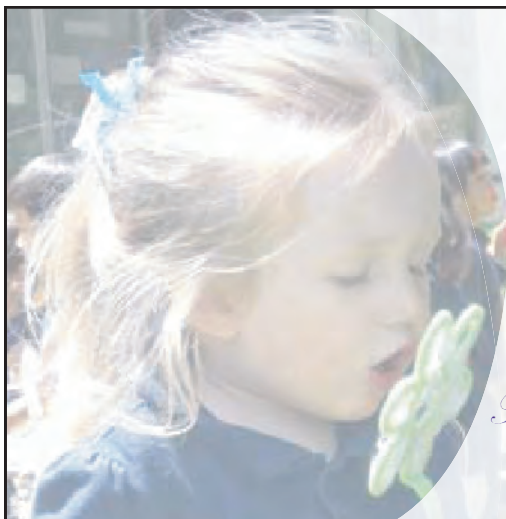
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Rolling Hills Montessori is thrilled to be adding a Toddler classroom to their program in the Fall of 2011.

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

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CDC Registration Forms are Included in The Registration Packets at your Child's Elementary School  
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Registration for the CDC Program is separate from Elementary School Registration

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## RBUSD Child Development

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## A New Look

*By Socorro Stephens, Site Supervisor*



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

The Child Development Center (CDC) is continuing to push onward! We are very excited and thrilled to be occupying one of the constructional gems of the Redondo Beach Unified School District, thanks to the passage of the Measure C Bond.

Lincoln CDC, one of the very first Child Development Centers, was in need of the well overdue modernization. We began demolition of the old building in June 2010 and moved into our newly built, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building in May 2011.

The children were so excited to be in their awesome new classrooms and be able to play on their very own play yard, equipped with a large sandpit, grass and a tricycle/bicycle path. The Measure C Bond has enabled us to

do more than just upgrade our building; it has permitted us to update a facility which better reflects our commitment to enriching the educational, physical, and social-emotional development of our children from the outside in. The new environment has been wonderful in encouraging and promoting the children's CDC experience and allowing them to have fun in a safe, inviting, child-friendly place which enables the students and staff to proudly say, "Please judge our book by its cover."

We are overwhelmingly grateful and owe a multitude of special appreciation to the community for passing the Measure C Bond.



**Mrs. Patel reads to Lincoln CDC preschoolers**



**New Lincoln CDC Building**

# THE ZONE



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Please note: Registration for The Zone is separate from School Registration



## Helping Districts Close the Achievement Gap



**Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

Closing the achievement gap has rightly become a national educational imperative. It is based on the conviction – which I’m sure we all share – that education should not be a privilege for just a fortunate few, but an entitlement for all.

Closing this intolerable gap is no longer just a moral imperative. It is also an economic one, as it threatens the future of our students and the economic health and security of our nation.

But how do we accomplish this essential goal?

At LACOE, we are pursuing it in many ways—with programs that address the learning gap in public education and that promote academic success for all students. Let me highlight just a few of these:

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, works to ensure that all students are given the chance to pursue and complete a college preparatory path, with special emphasis on those often overlooked both in expectations and opportunities. LACOE’s AVID program currently supports about 30,000 students in more than 300 county high schools and middle schools.

LACOE has also been in the forefront in efforts to address the persistent achievement gap between English Learners and native English Speakers.

The English Learner student population in L.A. County is about a half-million—nearly 30 percent of all county students. These English Learners face the daunting task of learning the academic curriculum and a new language at the same time.

LACOE’s Multilingual Academic Support unit advocates for English Learners by providing research-based staff development for teachers and administrators to help them address both academic and linguistic needs.

We also provide direct technical assistance to districts on topics such as Response to Intervention for English Learners and developing a linguistically appropriate Intensive English Program for English Learners in Special Education.

And, because the achievement gap really begins with an educational opportunity gap at the earliest ages, we are committed to early literacy and school readiness.

LACOE’s Head Start/Early Head Start-State Preschool program contracts with 27 agencies to provide preschool child development services for some 24,000 children countywide, making it the largest grantee program of its kind in the nation.

LACOE’s Family Literacy Support Network is committed to increasing the number of quality family literacy programs serving families with very young children all across L.A. County.

LACOE has also developed a Professional Learning Community to improve instruction for African American boys, using texts that are more relevant to their culture and paying attention to their lives as a way to help improve both their reading and writing achievement.

And we will continue to work closely with our country districts to develop even more initiatives to pursue equity and excellence in education for all children. Achieving the goal will require all our best efforts – from teachers and parents to administrators and policy-makers. And our students deserve no less.

## Join Your Local PTA



**Polly Kinsinger**  
*President*

Recently, California State PTA sent out a survey to local leaders. What reason were local leaders most often given by those in their communities for NOT joining PTA? The #1 reason given throughout the state was NO TIME!

Volunteering is not a requirement for PTA membership. Some members can volunteer; some can’t. They still belong in PTA and each individual membership helps support the programs for all students.

PTA has more clout and increased strength with greater membership numbers. Join PTA to make a difference in the lives of all children in our community.

Legislators will listen to the voices that represent many, many voters. Join PTA to strengthen our voice for all children in our State and Nation.

PTA members aren’t required to have children in the home. Often, when children are grown and money is no longer as tight, it is the perfect time to join PTA and help support the next generation. A strong PTA helps make a successful school which helps the whole community.

PTA has been supporting communities and connecting parents to their children’s education for 115 years. Please consider joining your local PTA.

### BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



**Todd Loewenstein**  
*Presiding Officer*

administration building, new lockers, and, of course, the stunning athletic facilities, including the new aquatics center, small gym, athletic fields, field house, and rubberized track.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, the modernization of the main gym is nearing completion, and work will take place on the library, science, and industrial arts buildings, and a new student union and cafeteria will be constructed. Many people have commented that the high school now feels similar to a college campus.

All this was made possible through your community support. You have been rewarded with new community facilities that were produced “on time and on dime,” and, in many cases, under budget.

Think about that—when was the last time you heard of public works being completed under budget and on time?

## 2012 Regular Board Meetings Schedule

**February 14**

**February 28**

**March 13**

**March 27**

**April 24**

**May 8**

**May 22**

**June 12**

**June 26**

### Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



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### 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**  
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**Redondo Beach, CA 90278**





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