

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 58

FEBRUARY 2013

## SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

Welcome to 2013! Here are the top thirteen reasons why I'm proud to be the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) Superintendent of Schools:

13. Measure Q's \$63 million bond will continue to transform RBUSD and the RB community.

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

11. Can you say, "Redondo Union High School (RUHS), the finest high school in the South Bay"?

10. President Bill Clinton did just that (see #11) at RUHS's 2012 graduation ceremony.

9. RBUSD has an excellent partnership with the Beach Cities Health District. We love BCHD.

8. In RBUSD, we care about the whole child in words *and* action, and we collect data to prove it.

7. RBUSD's Academic Performance Index (API) scores continue to soar to new heights.

6. RBUSD has incredible support, caring, and helpful residents, even if they don't have students in our great schools.

5. RBUSD has a great Board of Education.

4. RBUSD will have three new Board members in March; they will be great too!

3. We have great parents.

2. We have great staff members.

1. We have great students.

1401 Inglewood Avenue  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
(310) 379-5449

## GATE Explorations



After school enrichment class after presenting their debates.

By Christina Giguere, Principal  
Tulita Elementary School

At Tulita, we are working hard to meet the individual needs of those students who are enrolled in the Gifted and Talented Education program (GATE). Currently we offer fall and spring after-school enrichment classes, along with a special field trip, and are thrilled that our students are able to extend their learning inside and outside of school.

In the GATE after-school enrichment class, our students are challenged to think critically and develop important public speaking skills. For example, they recently reviewed the Presidential debate

See GATE EXPLORATIONS • Page 8

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Moving Forward



Todd Loewenstein  
Member

Our school district is well-positioned for the future. With sparkling new facilities, modernized older facilities, and now with your support on Measure Q, Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) has the ability to keep up with our technology and energy needs for the 21st century. Together with the passage of Proposition 30, our school district has adequate funding moving forward to support programs in preparing our students for the future.

The past year has been very productive for our school district. Modernization is complete at the elementary, middle, and adult schools. Not only has nearly every classroom been modernized, but we continue to improve our energy efficiency, which saves the district money in its operating expenses and benefits the general fund. Solar energy projects promise to save the district upwards of \$500,000 or more per year and demonstrate our commitment to being good environmental stewards.

Our beautiful high school has all but two projects completed. The new student union will not only be a cafeteria, but a gathering spot for Redondo Union High School (RUHS) students and their clubs and study groups. It will be our new focal point for the campus, something our high school has been lacking. This building will be completed in March. In addition, renovation will continue through the spring on the Science and Industrial Arts Buildings, two of our campus' largest learning facilities.

Measure Q will also bring technology infrastructure improvements, so that when the time comes to transition from paper and pencil to tablets and computers, we will be prepared.

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### Create a College-Going Culture



Getting students excited about  
local college teams!  
(Please see Instructional Services page 15)

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South Bay Adult School, RBSD Student Svcs./Special Ed. page 14 • RBUSD Alternative Ed., RBUSD Instructional Svcs. page 15

## Blue Zones Project

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.bluezonesproject.com](http://www.bluezonesproject.com)

## Project Results



**Jens Brandt**  
RUHS Assistant  
Principal/  
Blue Zones  
Project Liaison



**Lauren Nakano**  
Director  
Blue Zones Project

Recent Gallup reports show that it is both likely and plausible that Blue Zones Project™ has had a positive effect on the well-being of residents in the Beach Cities (Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach).

Blue Zones Project is a collaborative effort between Beach Cities Health District and Healthways, Inc. Using evidence-based research, the Blue Zones Project works with schools, restaurants, worksites, and city leaders to make positive, healthy changes to the environment. Therefore, when residents go out in to their community to live, work and play, it is easier for them to make a healthy choice.

Gallup started an intense survey effort when Blue Zones Project first came to the beach cities in 2010. The poll results from that first year showed that the three beach cities already had significantly higher well-being than many other cities across the nation, causing many to wonder if we would see any improvement during the course of the Blue Zones Project. However, scores showed that we were as angry as post-recession Detroit, MI and as stressed as people from post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans.

Two years have passed since that first survey. The initial results from the second year are in and it appears that the improvement in well-being, especially in key areas where Blue Zones Project would be expected to have an impact, is continuing at a rate that outpaces other cities. The full results will be released in early 2013. If you are interested in improving your well-being and supporting the continued growth of your community, please visit [bluezonesproject.com](http://bluezonesproject.com) to learn more or call 310-683-6801.



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



What a wonderful way to start a publication with the Superintendent message of 13 reasons why he is proud to be the Superintendent of RBUSD. I shall do the same with 13 reasons why I am proud to publish *School News* covering the RBUSD:

- 1) Dr. Keller and his staff.
- 2 - 11) Principals at each school and their staff including classified.
- 12) The students, parents and community as a whole, which includes our loyal readers.
- 13) The advertisers who make it possible to publish.

Happy Valentines Day!

## School News

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**Covering the  
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

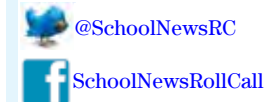
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# THE ZONE



**at Adams and Parras Middle Schools**

## Fun Activities



**Open After School until 6:00pm**  
**Classrooms on the Middle School Campus**  
**School Days Only • Credentialed Teachers**  
**Limited Space~Call Now!**

## Hang with Friends



## Homework Help

**Call 798-8683 Ext. 1312 or 1322**

**For Enrollment Information and to Reserve Your Space**

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



**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**Kindergarten Enrollment**  
**STARTS: MARCH 1, 2013**

Enrollment for children who plan to enter kindergarten for the 2013/2014 school year will be held at all district elementary schools starting Friday, March 1, 2013.

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

## 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**



# Show Us Some Love



**Brad Serkin**  
President

Many individuals, corporations, and charitable organizations share our love for education and the students of Redondo Beach. Thanks to the generous support of RBEF donors, all of the following programs are well under way:

- College-going culture programs including teacher grants, college visits, college preparation exams, and parent education
- Laptops on loan for middle and high school students
- Family science nights to promote science, inquiry, and family involvement
- Credentialed science teachers to provide weekly lab experiences for all 4th and 5th graders
- Music Center Artists in Residency Program to provide every 1st and 2nd grader with enriching performing arts experiences led by professional artists
- Credentialed vocal music teachers to provide high quality, vocal music education for every 3rd and 4th grader
- Arts Education Field Trips to LACMA for every 2nd and 3rd grader
- Supplemented other grants and district funds for Elementary Counselors who provide instruction and counseling to promote academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being
- Supplemented other grants to sustain the Safe School Ambassadors Program, an anti-bullying program at every school
- Supplemented other grants to fund Intramural sports at Parras and Adams

As this year's programs continue to enrich the education of Redondo Beach students, it comes time to raise funds to ensure these and other critical educational programs and opportunities continue. Please help us Raise the Tide in this year's Donor Drive. Drop off a check at any school office or donate online at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org). Thanks for showing RBEF and the students of Redondo Beach some love!

See **RB EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION** • Page 14

**UCLA** Extension

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expand.

# Pathway

## For Students with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

**Our Post-Secondary 2-Year Program Offers:**

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Learn more. Visit [uclaextension.edu/pathwaySN](http://uclaextension.edu/pathwaySN) or call (310) 794-1235.

13790-12

# Giving Back 101

Lead a school donation drive and earn \$250 toward school supplies or equipment!

**Learn how to**

- help create jobs
- give back to your community
- preserve your environment

To learn more, call Richard Guiss or Dalena Cortez at 562.435.3411 or email: [rguiss@goodwillsolac.org](mailto:rguiss@goodwillsolac.org) [dcortez@goodwillsolac.org](mailto:dcortez@goodwillsolac.org)

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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

## Thinking About College in Middle School?

*By Linsey Gotanda, Assistant Principal*

While it may seem too early to think about college when your students are just in middle school, early preparation and knowledge is essential to their long-term success. Research indicates that students make their first decisions to go to college in the seventh grade. This makes Adams the perfect place for them to explore their many opportunities.

It is our desire in the Redondo Beach Unified School District that every student has the option to choose their own post-secondary goals. Many decisions that are made in middle school can propel your child forward in their college journey. For instance, students should work hard to make themselves eligible for college preparatory courses in the middle school. Courses like geometry, algebra, Spanish 1 and French 1 will allow them to move ahead with their high school placement.

Be sure to save money for college now, too. As tuition costs rise it is imperative that most parents plan early. Consider a 529 plan or a Roth IRA account, or talk to your bank for more options.



**Adams 7th graders completing their 6 year plan.**

## A Place to Study

Always encourage good study habits, and provide a comfortable place to study. The skills which our students can learn here will carry over into their entire lives. So help your student with a quiet place and a structured time for studying, and make sure it has limited distractions.

Help your student maintain a high level of achievement by setting high expectations. You can do this by establishing the kind of rules and expectations that stay consistent. Talk to your child about school, and check the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to stay abreast of their progress. Also, stay in communication with their teachers, and visit regularly the Adams Middle School Web site at [www.adamsmiddle.org](http://www.adamsmiddle.org).

Don't forget either to expose your child to college itself. Consider taking them to a college campus. Most schools give free tours, and love to have visitors on campus or even in the classrooms. Ask the tour guide questions that show your child just what they are working towards!



# Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
Principal

## Honing Those Study Skills

"I have a social studies test and my teacher told me to study." Those words are often spoken and accompanied by confusion about where to start. Study skills are key ingredients to any student's success, but refining study skills takes practice and the reading strategies that are required to synthesize information from a textbook are never easy.

Here are some strategies to help your child begin honing their study skills;

**Plan:** Have your child mark all important project and test dates on a highly visible calendar. Counting down the days to the test, break studying down into manageable pieces so that the burden doesn't fall on the night before.

**Examine text features:** Have your child scan the headings, pictures, charts, graphs, captions, sidebars, vocabulary, and timelines in the text and restate what they can learn from those features. Scanning text features will help your child see the big picture of the chapter. Scanning also allows children to brainstorm questions that be answered in the text.

**Read with a purpose:** As adults, we often read tough material multiple times to retain the information. The same is true for kids. Have your child start with a quick overall read, and then follow up with reading for a specific goal. Have your child decide what the chapter is trying to teach, and then as they read, determine which is a key idea and which is simply a detail. Multiple readings of the text will lead to greater recall of the information, especially if the reading is done with the main idea in mind.

**Note taking:** There are several note-taking strategies that your child can use; webbing, venn diagrams, outlines, but it is important that they find the strategy that makes them comfortable. To practice while reading, have your child record and bubble words and phrases (only) that they believe to be important. When finished, they can return to the notes and organize them by grouping key ideas together with lines, arrows and circles.

**Study Guides:** Although your child may not always receive a study guide, they are a useful tool to teach them to utilize since study guides already highlight the key information students need to know. After your child has completed the study guide, they can make flash cards for themselves with the questions on one side and answers on the other. Flash cards allow your child to study independently to accumulate the amount of repetitions that some material needs in order to be retained. If no study guide has been given, your child can "play teacher." From a study of their notes, have your child predict what types of multiple choice or short answer questions could be asked if they were the teacher.

Like anything that is difficult, study skills take practice, patience and determination to find the method and strategies that work best. Luckily, the practice they do over the next few years will be the best gift they receive as they move onto their college years.



# Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen  
Mohr**  
*Principal*

## Keeping Your Mind and Body Healthy

Can you believe that we are half way through the school year? We are diligently preparing our minds and bodies through daily exercise, standards-based education, physical-fitness testing and nutrition lessons. In preparation for the California Physical Fitness Testing, Coach D, a parent volunteer, has dedicated numerous hours to our school and comes out every Wednesday to work with our fifth-grade students on the six standards that they will be assessed on for the California Physical Fitness Testing in March. We are always looking to better our results so that over 70 percent of our students will pass all six areas. Through hard



### Beryl students plant, harvest, and reap the benefits.

work and determination, we received the Bronze award from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, and it is evident that the staff and students are learning about physical fitness, eating healthier, health education, and school policies and procedures. Through LiveWell lessons taught by parent docents, students are learning the value of good nutrition and how it affects their minds and bodies in order for them to be successful.



**Beryl students get their exercise gardening.**

## STAR Testing Tips for Success

This May, second-through-fifth-grade students will be taking the standardized testing. To help your child do well on the testing, please make sure that he or she gets a good night's sleep before each day starts. Also, make sure that you provide a light, healthy breakfast, and have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time. Most importantly, send your child off to school with confidence, using words of praise and support like "You'll do great!" Believe in yourself!" "I love you!" A positive interaction before testing always helps motivate students to do their best and gives them a feeling of self-worth and confidence.

Suggest that your child breathe deeply to relax before and during the test, and remind him or her to read directions carefully and look at all the answers before choosing one. Tell your child to check his or her answers before turning in the test, and remind him or her to take time—it is not a timed test. Please do not schedule trips, dental or medical appointments, or early pickups for testing days. Most of all, remember that it is just one indicator of how a child is doing, and communication throughout the year with your child's teacher is always the best way to determine your child's success.

As always at Beryl, we strive to be the best we can be, and with your help and support, our students will be successful in all that they do.

# Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
*Principal*

## Good Habits Equal Academic Success

The key to academic success is the development of good study habits at an early age. Parents play a major role in providing the encouragement, environment, and materials necessary for the formation of healthy and sound study habits.

Establishing routines for meals, bedtimes, and studying provides structure and give children a clear sense of what to expect. If possible, plan your week ahead of time and include appointments and other activities that don't interfere with your daily routines. When there are routines in place, it not only benefits the children but the family as well, for there is less stress and everyone is prepared.

Another good habit to develop is establishing a dedicated space for children to study. All children need their own personal place at home to do homework, an area that is free of noise and interruption.

Developing good organizational skills is another key ingredient for success in school and life. Strategies parents can use to help their children gain and keep order include: using checklists; having a dedicated time each day to complete homework; teaching them to maintain neat and orderly notebooks and backpacks; and preparing each evening for the day ahead.

Lastly, talk to your children on a daily basis. Ask them how their day was and take the time to listen. Conversations regarding school and learning should be a routine part of home life.

With these effective systems and strong work habits in place, your child can be successful in school and life!



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**9:00-11:30 am**



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[www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org)

**More info? Call for details 310.376.6211 x11 or x12**

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kara Heinrich**  
*Principal*

## Students Leading the Way to Greener Ways!

The Student Green Ambassadors program at Jefferson Elementary School began a year ago to support the health and wellness of our students and the “greenness” and cleanliness of our school. Green Ambassadors is an education and service program that empowers students to be role models and agents of change within the school and community by working to be “green” and efficient and to have a strong well-being. The ambassadors support our school and student population by: leading the way in highlighting recycling, composting, and wellness information; educating others; supporting best green

practices on campus; and ensuring that school policy and practices are consistently in use on campus. Through service learning and community partnerships, the program fosters personal growth and leadership skills to help our students tackle and the most critical environmental issues facing our planet and their future.



**Students attend to the lunch sorting stations.**

On April 16, Jefferson won the 2011–2012 Trash Free Lunch Challenge. This honor was accomplished through the leadership of Green Committee Chair Danielle Spangler, the Green Committee, and the tremendous support of our student ambassadors and parent volunteers. Jefferson is proud to have diverted over 2,000 trash bags from the landfill since October 2011. This has been accomplished through our lunchtime sorting and recycling system, composting, and encouraging packing trash-free lunches.



**Jefferson receives recognition from ReproCycle during Grades of Green contest.**

The stories are endless about how this program has changed our school. All of our projects look at a full-circle change for both our environment and our health, ranging from packing trash-free, recycling, walking to school to promote good fitness and lower emissions, and composting for our school gardens. Many lessons are learned along the way, from the difference between want and need to learning that each of us can be an agent of change for our own future and well-being.

# Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

## Art's Alive Here!

Having a well-articulated arts program for all students is a significant part of Lincoln's commitment to whole-child development. From fine art to visual art to performing art, Lincoln students have a variety of opportunities to increase their knowledge and develop skills in all areas of arts education. These opportunities are made possible through the combined efforts of several supportive groups and organizations.

Starting in kindergarten, students receive ongoing art instruction in the classroom setting throughout the school year.

In-class instruction continues in all classrooms through fifth grade. In addition to classroom-based lessons, our PTA provides the Hands On Art program to all students by taking them through six fine-arts lessons throughout the year. Thanks to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation, our two primary-grade levels receive arts education from the Music Center. The Music Center provides a 10-week dance program to students in first grade, while second-graders participate in a 10-week theater program. Additionally, all third- and fourth-grade students participate in the districtwide Vocal Music Program, while fifth-graders have the option to be in Beginning Band.

There is no question that art education is valued at Lincoln. The strength of the programs we provide to students is a credit to the combined commitment that our teachers, parent volunteers, PTA, Educational Foundation and Board of Education have made to enrich the lives of our students.



**Lincoln students with Hands On Art projects.**



**Lincoln 5th Graders participate in the instrumental music program.**

# Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Lars  
Nygren**  
*Principal*

## Reaching for Greatness

Parras Middle School has crafted a mission statement that will help guide us towards further levels of greatness. The fundamental mission of Parras is “To ensure continual growth in our students’ learning and academic achievement while promoting responsible citizenship.”

To help realize this mission, our school has organized itself into different teacher teams. Teacher teams consist of a language arts, science and social studies teacher. The teams share the same students so that they can work together to achieve at the highest levels.

Having students placed on teams can also help our parents obtain assistance from the teachers whenever their child is having a problem. When there are common conference periods the parents can meet with all three teachers to discuss any concerns.

In addition to teaching teams, Parras has also instituted additional tutorial periods to help support the students. These tutorial periods occur twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 30 minutes. During this time the students can go to any of their teachers’ classrooms and seek additional help on a subject of difficulty. Our teachers can also hold a closed tutorial to select those students who they feel might need some additional instruction.

## Extra Help

If a student does not need any support then they can also use the extra time to complete assigned their homework. According to our reports, this tutorial period has resulted in higher grades and more homework completion for our students. Parras has also made more electronic resources available at [www.parrasmiddle.org](http://www.parrasmiddle.org). The students can go to our “Resource Center” page to discover a number of links which will help them with their reports and projects.



**Panther Pride!!!**

One exciting resource is the Khan Academy. It allows our students to get tutorial help on virtually any subject. I recommend that all of our parents check out the Resource Center and the Khan Academy.

The Parras library also has hundreds of books that are available online, and which our students can check out digitally and download to their eReaders. After two weeks these

downloaded books are automatically returned to the library for others to view. You can go to our school’s Web page and click on “eLibrary” to view the books that we have available.

We are looking forward to the new year, and to reaching even higher levels of achievement!



**Students studying during open tutorial period.**

# Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Joseph  
Ledoux**  
*Principal*

## A Positive Environment

At Madison Elementary School, we seek to address the needs of the whole child. Students are able to reach their full potential when they feel they are in a safe and nurturing environment. Madison’s school culture establishes a clear expectation that everyone is treated fairly and with respect.

Mrs. Pappas, our school counselor, reaches out with emotional and social skills lessons by visiting classrooms bi-monthly. The lessons she teaches deal with making positive choices, dealing with bullies and peer pressure, and resolving conflicts in a peaceful manner. Students also have the opportunity to attend either small-group or individualized counseling sessions with Mrs. Pappas.

Madison also embraces the pillars of Character Counts. Each month students focus a particular character pillar through classroom lessons. Students are also given weekly quotes by our student council members during our Monday morning town hall meeting. These quotes direct students to reflect on their individual behavior in order to grow and mature.

Another way we reinforce positive behavior is by rewarding students daily for demonstrating positive character qualities and making positive choices. Members of Madison’s staff hand out Caught with Character slips, highlighting individual character traits the students were demonstrating. We select six students to publicly recognize each week at our town hall meeting.

We take our students’ welfare very seriously, and we go the extra mile to provide a positive learning environment.



**Keith and Max showing off their Character Counts awards.**



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Dr. Nicole Wesley  
Principal

Preparing Students to be Physically Fit  
*By Jens Brandt*

Here at RUHS, the healthiest high school in the South Bay, one of our school’s improvement plan goals is to increase the pass rate on our Physical Fitness Test (PFT). Each freshman takes the PFT in February, whether they are enrolled in a PE class or a sport. It is comprised of six performance tasks: aerobic capacity, body composition, abdominal strength, trunk extension, upper body strength, and flexibility.

A student must pass five of the six tasks to pass the PFT.

Failure to pass will result in a student being enrolled in a PE class until he or she passes, which means that a student may take PE all four years of high school.

At RUHS it is our goal to improve our PFT pass rate from 78 percent in 2011 2012 to at least 83 percent in 2012 2013. Our PE courses and team sports enhance student fitness and health. Students who are actively involved in their PE courses in either a sport or outside of school demonstrate little or no difficulty in passing this state-mandated test.



RUHS student working towards passing the PFT and achieving his own fitness goals

Facing Challenges

However, some of our students struggle to pass the aerobic capacity and body composition tasks due to a number of challenges. Two obstacles to success are a lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating habits. So at RUHS we are working with the Blue Ones Project to encourage our students to walk, skate or ride a bike to school. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation will also help improve the food items that are available during snack and lunch.

While we understand nutrition and fitness choices are ultimately a personal decision, our students and staff members are actively working to create an environment that can motivate our students to be healthy and happy. Please support us in encouraging our ninth-graders to perform at their best on the PFT in February.



Christina Giguere  
Principal

GATE EXPLORATIONS • *from page 1*

video clips and discussed the importance of posture, projection, presentation and how to communicate arguments and rebuttals based upon facts.

The students also recently brainstormed ideas about how to make Tulita a better school. Those with similar beliefs were placed on a team and matched up against opponents. The groups planned and prepared thoughtful debates on the following topics: changing the school lunch routine, adding vending machines to campus, revising the school start time, and replacing teachers with robots.



Students learning about pressure change.

Enrichment Trips

On the last day of class the teams performed debates in front of a large audience. They did a wonderful job in using their newly acquired skills to present some convincing arguments and rebuttals.

In November, the GATE students also took a field trip to a Science Academy in Torrance. They explored the relationship between pressure, temperature and volume through several hands-on experiments, such as imploding a can through a sudden temperature change, and forcing an egg through a bottle with a drastic pressure change. They also observed an exciting combustion reaction with ethanol, which resulted in a big boom!

The students also competed in a challenge that used the principles of centripetal force. They learned a lot of new information and really enjoyed the trip.

We look forward to offering another enrichment class in the spring, and developing new and innovative ways to engage our GATE students in learning.

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# Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Christina Giguere**  
Principal

## Intervention Teamwork

The Washington School community is proud of the growth in API it has made in the past few years--an increase of 72 points! One reason for this substantial growth is the fact that all students are closely monitored to check on academic progress, and if a student is struggling, help is given right away. During biannual Cooperative Team Meetings, teachers collaborate with the administrator, resource teacher, psychologist and counselor to review achievement data of all students.

Based on the Response to Intervention (RtI) model, Washington School utilizes a multitiered plan to identify, intervene in, and monitor the progress of students who are not meeting grade-level standards. In addition to biannual Cooperative Team Meetings, Student Study Team Meetings (SST) are held weekly. Our SST comprises the administrator, the student's classroom teacher and parents, an additional teacher, the resource specialist, the psychologist and the counselor. Teachers and other staff make written referrals to the SST after attempting classroom and other interventions. Regular meetings are held on Wednesday mornings before school. The SST reviews current performance data, student strengths and areas of need. Using this information, a plan is devised for future support that addresses interventions at school, at home or in the community.

## The Real Work Begins

It is during annual Cooperative Team Meetings and SST meetings that students are identified as candidates for the Learning Center and a variety of research-based, data driven interventions. Washington School has two Learning Center classrooms for students in grades one and two and three through five. Each Learning Center classroom is staffed by a full-time RSP teacher and several instructional aides. Students receive support with reading, writing and mathematics using a variety of engaging, research-based programs such as Fast ForWord, Earobics, Project Read, Reading A-Z, Saxon Math and Read Naturally. Students are reevaluated frequently and move fluidly between the Learning Center and the classroom depending on what they need academically. This attention to each child and the intensive RtI model implemented at Washington School is another way the staff and community ensure the academic success of each child.

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## RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
310/798-8683x1312, 1321 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)



## Fall Harvest Carnival



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

*By Desiree D. Lee, Site Supervisor  
Washington Child Development Center*

Social growth and development for the preschool and school-age children is fundamental and offers a solid foundation for future learning and educational experiences. At the Washington Child Development Center, we

find it important to provide students with opportunities to experience the satisfaction that comes from giving to others.

Our first annual Fall Harvest Carnival did just that! Our goal was to provide an opportunity for children to experience giving to others and gain a sense of appreciation for others within our school community. In addition, our children benefited as they interacted with families and fellow peers in activities such as face painting,



**Parent volunteers at fall carnival**



**Face painting at Fall Carnival**

pop the balloon, pumpkin ring toss, and harvest wheel of fortune. What a wonderful way to encourage, learn, and build an appreciation of community giving for young children, while reinforcing the importance of family bonding and fellowship with friends! The overall message is: "You are valued and important enough to have an impact on others!"



**CDC students enjoying fall carnival**



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\*Contact us if your school is not listed.

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### **QUESTIONS?**

Contact us today to learn more about Berlitz Kids After-School Programs. Call our consultant, Tobias Omondi, at **609.964.8337** or email **tobias.omondi@berlitz.us**.

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**Contest!!**

Olivia and Ruby are in this publication.  
When you find them, email the  
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Your entry must be received by February 20, 2013.  
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# Reintegration: Our Ultimate Goal



**Frank DeSena**  
Asst. Superintendent  
Student Services

**Dr. Aaron Benton**  
Exec. Director  
Special Education

By Aaron Benton

One indicator of our success in special education is the measure of annual growth made on STAR standardized testing, which includes the California Standards Tests (CSTs), the California Modified Assessment (CMA), and the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). The principal measure the state uses is called the Academic Performance Index, which scores schools and districts on a scale from 1 to 1000, with 800 being the state's goal for proficiency. As you can see from the chart below, RBUSD continues to make steady gains in its API. But

look at the performance of students with disabilities...our students have posted double digit gains for the last four years, including a 19-point gain this year! This clearly demonstrates an increased ability for our students to access the state content standards.

Group	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
District	843	858	868	873	891	+48
Special Ed.	681	697	708	724	743	+62

One might expect there would be a corresponding increase in the number of students who successfully move to lesser restrictive environments over time. Yet, even though our mandate is to foster independence in our students, according to current state performance plan indicators for RBUSD, this is still an area that deserves our attention. As a department, we know how to identify students needing special education. However, when students are doing well, we are sometimes reluctant to let them demonstrate that they can achieve with less or different types of supports. So, this year we are focused on "reintegration," a term we are using to describe this movement toward general education. We are identifying the successes we have had with our students and bringing them to light as part of the IEP conversation. We encourage open discussions where thoughtful planning around reintegration can occur, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have along the way.

RB EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION • from page 3



**Brad Serkin**  
President

On a personal note, this will be my last month serving as RBEF's President. I have made the decision to leave RBEF but will continue to serve the Redondo Beach community as a RBUSD school board member. My term begins in early April and I look forward to new adventures on our continued journey. It is my greatest wish for RBEF to continue to thrive and to support the valuable programs and support we give our community, staff and students of RBUSD. Under the guidance of our Executive Director, Danielle Allphin, and our volunteer board, I am confident that RBEF will continue to grow! I would encourage you to get involved and volunteer and continue to give! There is no better gift to our children than a strong education and community support which will help to support their future. I personally thank you for your time and support over these past 4 years and look forward to further serving the RBUSD Community!



# Classes for Lifelong Learning



**Vivian Ibarra**  
Director

The South Bay Adult School believes in lifelong learning, but you may wonder how that applies to the families in our community. Lifelong learning classes can enrich and improve your life. They help you find different interests or hobbies, grow in your career, or learn something fascinating and new. More than 2,700 adults took classes last term, and we appreciate your support. This winter, we have some exciting new classes such as American Sign Language, Basic Makeup Application 101, Introduction to Filmmaking and many new online classes. We invite everyone to choose to learn and take a new class.



Fun times in the Toddler Class.

At SBAS, we offer classes for adults of all ages. Some are for fun, and some can help you in the job market. Students can learn English as a second language, learn from home with distance learning, or complete their high school diploma. We offer day and evening computer classes to help you update your skills, brain-fitness classes to improve your memory; and fitness classes to keep in shape. Our most popular classes are in the parent education/preschool program. Families with children from birth to age five can sign up for parent-and-child participation classes. Classes are offered during the day and at night for working parents. The adults learn parenting techniques and make lifelong friends, and the children get a great preschool experience.



ESL students work together to learn English.

South Bay Adult School has been serving the Beach community for over 90 years, offering a wide variety of classes in a safe, healthy and relaxing environment. Our main office is at 3401 Inglewood Ave. with classes at campuses in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach.

We invite you to visit us on the web to sign up for a class and become a lifelong learner.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • from page 1



**Todd Loewenstein**  
Member

At the beginning of the school year, we were facing as many as 17 furlough days for our students and staff, or nearly one month of instruction. This would have been devastating to student achievement and to staff morale. Thanks to the generosity of you and California's voters, both Measure Q and Proposition 30 passed, avoiding more cuts in the near future.

On a side note, this will be my last article written for *School News Roll Call* as a Board member, due to term limits. It has truly been a pleasure and privilege to be your representative on the Board of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

# The Meaning of Success



**Dr. Erin Simon**  
*Principal*

At Redondo Shores High School our motto is “Your Success Begins Today.” Many people may understand this short but modest creed, while others may question its meaning. It simply means that no matter what a student’s past circumstances may have been, at RSHS they now can have a fresh start at success. More importantly, it is up to the student to choose success. Many of our students have encountered some unfortunate circumstances in their young but blossoming lives. Due to their misfortunes, they were labeled as at-risk of failing out of school or increasing their chances of recidivism. However, due to their resiliency and fortitude, they have begun to experience personal and academic success, and now desire more out of life.

The RSHS staff emphatically believes that the notion that all students cannot learn is false. This is evident in our many transformations from at-risk to of-promise, as our students have become hungry for success and have attained academic stability. In The Quality School, author Dr. William Glasser emphasized the human need to feel self-empowered. For this reason, student empowerment has become the centerpiece of the RSHS motto, mission and vision. Our motto is also expressed through symbolism. This is evident with the “Your Success Begins Today” banners that are hanging in the parking lot, or the schoolwide learning outcomes that were recently adopted by our staff members and posted in each classroom. These remind students that they have made a commitment to achieve success.

## Making the Commitment

A second form of empowerment is the commitment that students make upon enrollment. For instance, during orientation meetings the students make a pledge to succeed in writing. Their promise is spelled out in simple behavioral expectations, which are as follows:

- Maintain 95 percent daily attendance;
- Stay clean and sober on campus, and come to school drug and alcohol free;
- Resolve conflicts in a responsible manner; and,
- Be prepared for, participate, and achieve in every class.

So far, this has been the RSHS recipe for helping students attain success. Staff members commend our students, and we believe that you should, too.

# Create a College-Going Culture at Home



**Dr. Annette Alpern**  
*Asst. Superintendent Instructional Services*



**Phyllis Hart**  
*College Going Culture Consultant*

If you want your children to attend college after high school, you have to start by creating a college-going culture in your home. A college-going culture includes the practices, attitudes and actions of family that support and encourage kids to attend college.

Here are some ways you can be sure that your family is creating a college-going culture in your home:

- Attend local college sporting events. Many kids look up to college athletes and by taking them to a college event you’re opening them to a new exciting world.
- Visit college campuses. Pick a few colleges to visit. Not only will it get your child excited about college but it will save time during the junior year of high school when you’ll want to visit several campuses.
- Talk about where, not if. Discuss where your child wants to attend college. Make it a regular part of normal conversation. When you do so, use the graduating year-not the high school one—but the one from college (Class of 2020 for example).
- Talk about goals. Emphasize the importance of smart goal setting and achieving your dreams. Inform them of your goals and how you plan to reach them.
- Support specific colleges If you have family favorites, hang the banners or flag outside your home or wear college t-shirts. This will create further excitement.
- Create a “college month”. Pick a different university every month to highlight. Involve the family to find out the school mascot and colors, academic specialties, size, location and other interesting facts.
- Use outside experiences. For example: Use a trip to your pet’s veterinarian as a chance to talk about what a veterinarian does in her or his job. Expand the conversation to include other types of doctors and what they do in their jobs. This may be done for any field of study you can think of.
- Discuss your experiences. If you attended college, tell your child about your experiences and how much college changed your life. If your child is the first one in the family to attend college, create excitement by talking about all the positives of college life and the pride of being the “first” in the family.
- Find out who your child’s counselor is. You probably already know who this person is, but feel free to set up an appointment to discuss the courses, study habits and path to college if you are unsure or have questions.
- Attend all college events for parents/guardians. Learn about information on financial aid so that all choices can be explored on your child’s behalf.



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**Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education**

**Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule**  
**Mark Your Calendar – 2013**

<b>February 12</b>	<b>April 9*</b>	<b>June 11</b>
<b>February 26</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>June 25</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>May 14</b>	
<b>March 26</b>	<b>May 28</b>	

**\*April 9—Organizational Meeting**



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