

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**

**VOLUME 7, ISSUE 59**

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)

**MARCH 2013**

## SUPERINTENDENT



### Making Powerful Waves

The Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) has spent the last several years managing state and federal cuts, and this year was no different. Sadly, this means that classrooms, and students directly, are impacted. To combat this, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) has continued to make financial contributions across the district.

RBEF has staffed classrooms, funded teacher grants, supported music programs, provided student technology, and added summer enrichment options across our school district. This group, made up of parents, families, educators, and community members, has also

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 18

## Extending Our Reach with RBEF



**Washington Elementary School fourth graders are College Bound at CSULB!**

*By Jacqueline O'Sullivan, Principal Washington Elementary School*

Our motto in RBUSD is Reading for Greatness, and there is not a student or staff member at Washington School whose school experience has not been made better and who hasn't been able to reach even further without the support from the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF). Our kindergarten students have benefited from Smart Boards and mini-iPads. Our first-grade students receive an artist-in-residence program from a local entertainment center. This month, you'll find our first-graders happily dancing with their artist-in-residence teacher and the second-graders singing along to Mary Poppins songs.

Because of the generosity of RBEF, second- and third-grade students are treated to a field trip to LACMA to encourage and inspire

See **WASHINGTON ELE.** • Page 8

## BOARD OF EDUCATION—Thanks for the Memories



**Jane Diehl**

*Presiding Officer*

After 10 years on the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) School Board and 25 years of involvement in the school district, I find this is a great opportunity to say thanks to many people who have helped to make Redondo Beach schools some of the best in the nation. It does take a village to come together for the benefit of children. The teachers in this school district work very hard and care a great deal about their students. They go out of their way and spend many extra hours to help their students. A great way to show your support for your children's teachers is to send a letter or e-mail to let them know you appreciate all

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**Drew Gamet**

*Member*

This is truly the article that I could not have imagined writing nine years ago. I had not imagined that I would have run for public office, actually been elected twice, or had the opportunity to work with people of such quality in the service of the students of our community. It is truly humbling, and I shall make what I hope is not an ill-fated attempt at conveying my gratitude.

To the teachers of the school district, who are working harder than ever, providing students with greater learning opportunities during a period of shrinking resources, thank you.

To the myriad of classified employees, who do everything

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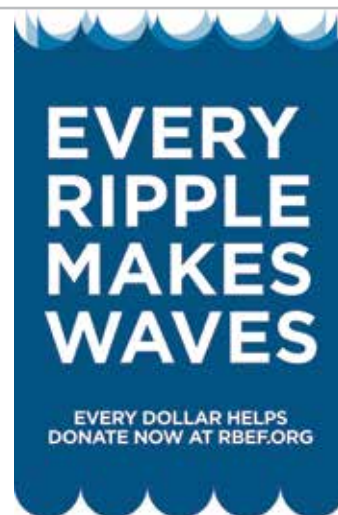
**Todd Loewenstein**

*Member*

Of all the articles I've written for *School News Roll Call*, this might be the toughest since it will be my last. I've truly enjoyed serving on the RBUSD School Board. Over the past eight years, together, we have accomplished a lot, from modernizing our facilities to increasing test scores, addressing the needs of the whole child, and hiring and developing great staff. All of this would not have been possible without the excellent support we have received from a community that truly believes in the good of public education. Thank you to our constituents, the voters of Redondo Beach.

There are so many individuals I would like to thank personally for all

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 18



### Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

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



## 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

# Improving Our Overall Well-Being



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

**Lauren Nakano**  
Director  
Blue Zones Project

In a community with strong physical health, sometimes it's a challenge to explain why we still need to focus on improving our overall well-being. The fact is, people living in the Beach Cities are over-achievers. We want the best for ourselves and our families, but success is often accompanied by stress and worry, which can result in severe health repercussions. Through Blue Zones Project™, we can demonstrate big results by making small changes in our everyday lives.

In January, Gallup and Healthways released the most recent data from the annual Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index®. The combined Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach Well-Being Index findings revealed:

- Nearly a 10 percent increase in residents reporting healthier eating habits
- A 14 percent reduction in obesity
- A 30 percent drop in smoking

If our residents worked together to maintain these statistics, the Beach Cities could be looking at an annual savings of more than \$9 million to our community healthcare costs.

Between January and September 2013, Blue Zones Project is going to devote each month to a different Power 9® principle. They include nine lifestyle habits that the original Blue Zones® areas have in common, and serve as basic reminders to spend more time with family and friends, to move naturally, and to take time each day to focus on our well-being. The theme in March is Down Shift. Visit bluezonesproject.com for more information and follow us on Facebook to stay informed on Blue Zones Project community happenings.

A solid educational foundation is an important part of maintaining good health. From MindUp to our Walking School Bus programs, we look forward to continuing on this path of well-being improvement together through the Blue Zones Project.

### 2013 Calendar

Power 9® are the nine themes that each original Blue Zones® have in common. These nine habits are impactful because they resonate with everyone.

January - Know your Purpose  
February - Wine @ 5  
March - Downshift  
April - 80% Rule  
May - Move Naturally  
June - Plant Slant  
July - Right Tribe  
August - Belong  
September - Family First



**Kay Coop**  
Founder / Publisher



The theme of this issue is making powerful waves and it is so true one person can do so much and a community effort can make the difference between good and great.

On the subject of making a difference, the seven years I have been publishing *School News* covering the RBUSD the commitment of the Board of Education has been amazing. My thanks to the three outgoing members for their contributions to *School News*.

I love your enthusiasm for contests! There are two in this issue.

Have a wonderful Spring Break! Our next issue is April 10th.

## School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the  
**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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## Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

409 N. P.C.H., #310, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/954-2004 • www.rbef.org



# Your Ripple Will Make Waves



**Ted Craddock**  
President

Let's face it, public funding simply is not enough to provide the high quality education our children deserve. That is why RBEF was founded and why we need your help.

In the past few years RBEF has helped fill the financial gap to provide an exceptional educational experience at ALL RBUSD schools. RBEF makes waves across the district by helping to fund programs that promote college preparation, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, music, art, school safety, elementary counseling, and innovative teaching....and we've accomplished this with less than 20% participation amongst our families district-wide. We can do better - can you help us?

We need you to give today to ensure these and other critical educational programs continue. Our annual donor drive will be held March 4th through March 18th. Please help us Raise the Tide by dropping off a check at any school office or donating online at www.rbef.org. It is so easy to make an impact with whatever donation you can make. Every dollar makes a ripple. Together, all our ripples will make powerful waves.

**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)

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# Creating a College-Going Culture



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



**Phyllis Hart**  
College Going  
Culture  
Consultant

We are hoping that many of you reading this article have, by now, attended or participated in one or more of the many events that have become part of RBUSD's college-going culture. They may include an informational session focused on improving your financial literacy and how to be in a position to send your child to college; a fourth-grade field trip to a local university; meeting with Shannon Rodriguez at the RUHS "Nest"; or taking a college-readiness exam, such as the PSAT or ReadStep, during the course of your school day. But we also recognize that as a parent, a guardian, a student or a community member, you may only have a small window into what your particular

school site is doing to promote a college-going culture. Our goal is to let you know that we are taking specific steps at every school and every grade level to ensure that our students are prepared for their education beyond RBUSD.

To that end, every year, each school must have a written plan approved by an elected school site council and the RBUSD Board of Education that lays out their precise goals, objectives and priorities for the upcoming school year. In December 2012, our Board of Education approved the school plans for all eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one comprehensive high school and alternative education.

Every RBUSD school has adopted specific college and career-readiness goals, actions and measures of progress to address this important component of an RBUSD education. You can see the details of each school's plan on our website. Click on the "Departments" link for "Instructional Services" and scroll down to the bottom of the page to find out what is happening at your school and across the RBUSD community.

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# Kohl's Cares Partners with Miller Children's for Safety

Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach Kohl's Keeping Kids Safe Program wants to remind parents that a child's brain is constantly learning, changing and growing. So make sure your child always wears a properly fitting helmet on every ride.

A bicycle helmet only works if you wear it correctly!

- 1** ➔ **Size:** Make sure it fits snugly. It shouldn't rock back and forth.
- 2** ➔ **Position:** It should sit level on your head and low on the forehead.
- 3** ➔ **Chin Strap:** Tighten until it is snug – no more than two fingers should fit under the strap.

For fun tips on how to be bike safe, visit us at [MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares)



[MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/kohls-cares)





Anthony Taranto  
Principal

**AVID**

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a research-based program with proven results of student achievement. The program targets students in the academic middle who have the desire to attend college and who are motivated to work hard. Furthermore, AVID focuses on teaching students the academic and social skills needed to succeed in a rigorous academic curriculum.

At Adams Middle School, AVID is offered as part of the elective wheel in the sixth grade and as a full-year elective class to seventh- and eighth-grade students. Incoming sixth-grade students are given an AVID-like experience. The AVID curriculum they are exposed to emphasizes the importance of organization, goal setting, team building, and college awareness. In addition, students are taught how to use Cornell Notes, a formal note-taking strategy, as tool to aid them in all of their courses.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students are selected to enroll in an AVID class after an application process. During the AVID class period, students learn organizational and study skills through the use of Cornell Notes, learn collaboration and problem-solving skills during tutorials, and participate in motivational and team-building activities. The AVID curriculum is driven by the Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, and Reading (WICOR) method. Additionally, students visit local colleges and universities and have regular guest speakers to share their college journeys and professional careers.

Please visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org) for more information on this amazing program, which is designed to increase student achievement and college readiness.

P.S. Did you know the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation supports a College Going Culture? The Annual Donor Drive is March 4-8, 2013.



Susan Wildes  
Principal

**Starting the Day Off Right**

As adults, many of us make morning exercise a part of our daily routine. For most busy parents, one of the main reasons often given for choosing the morning to exercise is schedule. Exercising first thing in the morning gets your exercise out of the way so you can focus on other things. The benefits we also reap are a more regulated sleep/wake cycle, a higher energy level, obesity prevention, and more focus during the work day.

The same holds true for our students. At Alta Vista Elementary School, one of our most exciting new programs is our bi-weekly running club for kindergarten through fifth grade. Why hold a running club in the morning? We know that children need daily physical activity, but an early morning running club offers so much more. Regular sleep habits are even more pivotal for children, as their brains are still developing. In addition to weight management and strengthening of bones and muscles, exercise before school allows the lungs to be pumped with clean air and oxygen, which stimulates various brain chemicals to improve mental alertness and elevate the mood. For students whose engines tend to “rev high” normally, the exercise allows them to burn some of their natural energy so they can better concentrate on learning.



Starting the day off right.

In addition to the physical benefits for our students, schedules benefit as well. Our children are growing up in a time of fast-paced schedules, with not only school, but multiple after-school activities and homework taking up the day. A morning run allows children to start a lifetime habit of carving time out of the day with an activity that benefits mind, body, and soul.

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# Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

## How Do We Reach for Greatness?

We are very fortunate to have such a supportive PTA at Beryl Heights Elementary School. Not only do we have fund-raisers and lots of activities, but we have over 1,000 hours of volunteerism at our school.

We enjoyed our fun and exciting town meeting for Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 1, and we will have our second annual coffee with the principal and PTA president at 8:30 a.m. on March 8. On March 9, we have our second annual Father/Daughter Dance, and, on March 21, we will have our monthly PTA meeting.

March 27 is Family Reading Night, where several readers from around the community come and read to our students. Please join us at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria for a relaxing, enjoyable evening.

Our Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has had such a positive impact on all of our Redondo students but, in particular, our Beryl students have been impacted in many ways, including: our college-going culture programs for fourth-graders, who will visit a college this year; funding Family Halloween Science Night in October; supporting a credentialed science teacher to provide weekly lab experiences for fourth and fifth grades; providing a credentialed vocal music teacher to instruct third- and fourth-grade students; supporting a field trip for second- and third-graders to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); providing a counselor, who follows the Mind Up curriculum, which promotes academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being; and offering supplemental grants to sustain the Safe School Ambassadors Program (SSA).



**Credentialed Science teacher working with Beryl 5th graders.**

Please donate to the foundation during our annual donor drive, which continues until March 18. There will be incentives and a possible sliming of the principal if we meet our school goal!

As always, thank you very much for your support.

# Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
*Principal*

## Living Fit and Healthy Lives

Birney Elementary School recognizes the benefits of healthy living and making wise lifestyle choices. Our partnerships with the Beach Cities Health District and the PTA provide us with many opportunities to educate our students about healthy living and encourage them to lead healthy, active lives.

The Birney PTA hosts an annual Jog-a-thon. This event allows our students in the kindergarten through fifth grades a chance to participate in a day-long activity that promotes health and fitness. It also helps to raise funds for such vital programs as Hands-on-Art, Hands-on-Science and enrichment field-trip opportunities.

The students' fund-raising efforts culminate in a day of fun and exercise. Birney's students recently ran 6,809 laps, for a total of 851 miles in one day! The Jog-a-thon demonstrates our commitment to health and fitness.

## Garden Angels

The Beach Cities Health District's LiveWell Kids program ensures that our students keep moving! Spectators will see the entire campus beginning their school day with an 8-minute exercise that invigorates the body and mind with fresh air and exercise.

LiveWell Kids is also doing its part to help us in the fight against childhood obesity. Garden angels assist with the planting and maintenance of our school gardens. The students are encouraged to play an active role in the cultivation and enjoy the many fruits of their labor. Through parent-led garden and nutrition programs our Birney students learn the lifelong habit of healthy eating.



**Staff and students giving their all in Birney's Jog-a-thon.**

On a rotational basis, the BCHD also provides teachers and students with engaging PE lessons from Mike Morlock, one of our physical education specialists. This program, called "Moving Children," is designed to instruct our teachers on how to engage students and increase physical activity.

Our valued partnerships help to make sure that our students are committed to leading active and healthy lives!



**Students cross the highly-decorated finish line.**



# Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kara Heinrich**  
*Principal*

## Create a Ripple Effect toward Greatness!

Have you ever thrown a pebble into the water when the water was completely calm? Although the pebble is small, the effect is large. From that tiny drop, ripples begin to spread in all directions.

A tiny pebble can affect an area thousands of times its size. The same holds true for the effect of our work and support of our schools. The Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) is a perfect example of such a positive ripple effect moving our schools beyond greatness. We need your help expanding this ripple effect of greatness during the Donor Drive that's being held until March 18. The goal is for each family to donate \$360; however, no donation is too large or small. Every dollar makes a ripple. Together, all our ripples will make powerful waves. By donating to RBEF, you are helping to fund programs that wouldn't otherwise exist. The money raised is given directly to schools to preserve key programs and assist in maintaining personnel from budgets cuts.



**Family Science Night funded through RBEF**

The ripple effect RBEF has created is great, and with each family's support, it will be greater. Did you know the support RBEF provides in creating a college-for-all culture is important to the foundation of the upcoming Common Core Standard implementation? Additionally, RBEF supports a STEM focus. Examples of such support at Jefferson include an upper-grade science teacher, funding that will go toward a robotics league, and family science nights. They also support our visual and performing-arts programs, technology, teacher mini-grants and funding for the Safe School Ambassador program.

RBEF's work connects the greater community. Their ripple effect supports RBUSD in enriching and growing programs. Help us make a significant ripple this year—donate to RBEF, and together we will continue the wave to greatness!



**Jefferson supports RBEF and RBUSD at the Sketcher's Pier-to-Pier walk**

# Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

## Moving With Coach Mike

Lincoln School is proud to have a number of physical education programs and functions that support our commitment to whole-child education. In addition to ongoing, teacher-led activities for all grades, we annually hold events focused on physical health, such as our Jump Rope for Heart Day or our Wellness Fair. We are fortunate to have several partners to help us promote physical health, including the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) and the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD).

One of the most popular and effective physical education programs we have is the BCHD's Moving Children program. Moving Children provides a physical education specialist to instruct teachers in how to engage students, increase physical activity, and deliver effective lessons. At Lincoln,

our specialist is the very talented and capable Coach Mike Morlock. Coach Mike is highly regarded by students and staff. He regularly meets with classes to model and deliver high-caliber physical instruction.

We are grateful for Coach Mike's efforts to keep our students on the move and focused on health.



**Lincoln students On The Move with Coach Mike.**

# Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Joseph Ledoux**  
*Principal*

## Reaching For Greatness

The Madison Elementary School staff will continue to "reach for greatness" while simultaneously focusing on the needs of the whole child. In order to ensure we are meeting the socio-emotional needs of all our students, our school counselor, Mrs. Pappas, teaches students the value of personal character. Through the Character Counts program, students are taught about team building, good sportsmanship, and the importance of having a positive self-image. Mrs. Pappas also delivers the Mind-Up curriculum in each classroom. Through these lessons, students learn to control and regulate themselves through "mindful" breathing.

In our continued pursuit of excellence, our teachers continue to incorporate the Writers' and Readers' Workshop into their approach to literacy. Through the Growing Educators program, teachers engage in professional development opportunities that add to their bag of teaching tools. The Growing Educators literacy coach not only plans lessons with teachers, but she also co-teaches ways to help them fine tune their instructional delivery techniques.



**Mrs. Pappas, School Counselor**



# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
Principal

## ***Grease is the word at RUHS this year!***

*By Trevor Biggs, Drama Board Assistant Marketing Director*

On March 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23, the RUHS Theater Arts Department has mounted one of musical theater's most popular shows, *Grease*. Justin Baldrige, theater instructor, is known for adding a twist to his shows. For this production, he stated, "I want the stage to look like a huge yearbook collage. I want to add a level of depth to the show, and the idea of a yearbook is relatable to everyone."

Making this production even more exciting is Advanced Drama's involvement in designing the technical elements of the set, costumes and makeup. Baldrige said, "Students will create their own designs off the yearbook concept by researching, drawing sketches, and completing mini-models and drawings of their final designs." His students have not taken this responsibility lightly.

"It's really awesome how Mr. B is turning this program into one that is student run," said Jennifer Duong, a student participating in the design unit. "To be a part of the first major production that has been handed over to students is really an honor. There is a lot of creativity in Advanced Drama."

Starting in January, students began completing their set models. Baldrige said, "Once they completed their designs, I decided which fit the needs of the production best. I didn't solely use one set design—rather, I used a mixture of several designs. After deciding on a design, another group of students, under the guidance of teacher Robert Van den Eikhof and theater manager Aaron Morgan, built the set."

"This was a fantastic real-life experience for the students," Baldrige said. "In college, design students go through this same process. College readiness is important on campus, and giving my students this opportunity prepares them for the college experience."



**Helena and Demetrius (played by Lenessa Age and Ryan Colescott) have a couple's quarrel in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.**



**Oberon and Puck (played by Austin Stark and Christopher Ward) devise a plan to trick the lovers in RUHS' fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.**



**Mr. Baldrige gives a motivational speech to the cast before a big performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.**

# Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
Principal

## **Running the Numbers**

While the numbers cannot tell us everything, they can give us great insight into a school. Parras Middle School has seen an increase of over 29 points in its academic performance index (API) score over the last several years. But what does this mean? The API measures the growth of student learning in the four core subjects of language arts, math, science and social studies. All students are assessed in math and language arts, but only eighth-grade students are assessed in all four subjects. Students are rated at a performance level of Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic or Far Below Basic in each of the subject areas. The higher the number of students in the Proficient and Advanced performance bands, the higher the school's API score. The state has set a target API of 800 for all schools. Any schools above 800 have met the state's requirements. Parras is proud to have achieved an API of 916!

Another measure that Parras Middle School uses as an indicator of success is our students' grade point average (GPA). Over the last two years, Parras Middle School has seen an increase of 11 percent in students earning a 3.0 GPA. At the end of last year, our data showed that 79 percent of our students were achieving a 3.0 GPA, whereas in previous years, the percentage of students earning a 3.0 GPA was 68 percent and 69 percent. The increase in GPA can be attributed to the popular tutorial period and the focus of the staff to make sure students are succeeding.

Another number we look at is taken from the California Health Kids Survey (CHKS), a survey that analyzes students' feelings of safety and connectedness to their school. When looking at last year's seventh-grade students and comparing them to the previous year's seventh-graders, we found a drop across the board in the number of students who felt unsafe at school or experienced a negative interaction with someone else. Our Safe School Ambassadors program, which is funded by the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF), is a large contributor to our success.

With only a few months of the school year remaining, the staff at Parras is striving to live up to our mission statement: to ensure continual growth in our students' learning and academic achievement while promoting responsible citizenship.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events at Parras Middle School! Please check our school's calendar on our website for the latest information. Additionally, please support RBEF by becoming a contributing member during their membership drive!

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# Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Christina Giguere**  
Principal

## Riding the Wave to Greatness

Our teachers are reaching for greatness this year by participating in professional development work around the Common Core State Standards. These newly adopted standards will roll out in 2014, and our teachers will be ready with an aligned curriculum, instruction and assessments to help meet the needs of our students.

In addition to staff professional development, Tulita parents attended a coffee talk to learn about this new initiative. Common Core will keep us on a path to greatness as the standards are internationally benchmarked and research-based, and aligned with college and career-readiness standards including rigorous content and the application of knowledge through high-order thinking skills.

Tulita students are immersed in an educational experience that is focused on making the whole child great. We formed a Student Wellness Council for the fourth- and fifth-grade students looking to take on a leadership role and help our school be a healthy place for adults and children.

Tulita is also launching the "Walking School Bus" program to encourage more children to walk safely to school. In the area of social and emotional health, our students attended a meaningful assembly called "Waking up Courage" during Yellow Ribbon Week. The assembly themes align with the RBUSD's Safe School Ambassador program and teach the children how to take action to keep our school safe.

## Strong in Academics

For academic and social enrichment, many children have been completing my monthly Expectation Projects, aligned with Tulita's Expectations for Success. The students take time at home to work on projects that demonstrate their ability to collaborate, communicate, value challenges, overcome obstacles and engage in critical thinking. We also have celebratory lunches together where they share their projects with the other students.

At our Town Hall meetings I remind the community about the importance of being a PeaceBuilder. At Tulita we do our very best, do what is right, treat others the way we want to be treated, and take personal responsibility for everything we say and do.

To support us in our quest for greatness, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been able to fund the following programs and projects at Tulita Elementary School: a field trip to Chapman University for the fourth grade; Family Science Night; a credentialed science teacher to provide weekly lab experiences for the fourth- and fifth-graders; Music Center Artists in Residency Program for the first and second grade; a credentialed vocal music teacher to provide vocal music education for every third- and fourth-grader; an Arts Education Field Trip to LACMA for every second- and third-grader; upgraded technology including Computer Lab and iPads, with the use of funds from past RBEF Donor Drive grants in conjunction with PTA funds.

Every dollar makes a ripple. Together, all our ripples will make powerful waves. So please help RBEF continue to make waves at Tulita and throughout RBUSD. Please donate during the RBEF Donor Drive from March 4-18. Thank you for helping us Raise the Tide!

# Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jacqueline O'Sullivan**  
Principal

## EXTENDING OUR REACH • From Page 1

creativity and critical thinking. Third- and fourth-graders spend 45 minutes a week in vocal music studying music theory and rhythm. Fourth- and fifth-grade students are inspired by hands-on science experiments taught by a credentialed teacher. All families are invited to a Science Family Night in the spring to enjoy a fun assembly together. Schoolwide, thanks to RBEF, our students benefit from having a school counselor who meets with students one on one, in groups and in the classroom providing Mind-Up lessons. All students are college bound, and this is supported districtwide by a college-going consultant. Families can learn early about starting their children on the path to college.

So, as we continue to Reach for Greatness, remember that reaching would not be possible without the incredible support of the RBEF. The RBEF Donor Drive will kick off on March 4 and run through March 18. There is a friendly competition among schools to see who will have the most participation, with cash prizes awarded! Please participate this year in the drive, and let's reach for the top of the winner's circle!



**Fifth grade students get their hands dirty with Science thanks to RBEF.**

## College 4 Less



## Keeping Ahead of the Game



**Susan D. Marshall**

Cards are a favorite pastime when our family goes camping or whenever we get together. If you were with us as we sit around a big round oak table, you would hear laughter and teasing. We love to tease Uncle Glynn, accusing him of making up new rules as we are learning his favorite game of Mau Mau. Good times...

As our nation is moving into a new year, the rules of the financial game are changing in a tremendous way. Uncle Sam is still not showing his cards and we are not laughing. Currently, we are wondering what the impact will be when the dust settles.

How will all of these changes affect the big ticket decisions we will be making; buying a home, sending our kids to college, paying our taxes, and funding our retirement?

Now is not the time to give up, bury your head in the sand or take the "wait and see" approach. Stay sharp and educate yourself. Information is easier and faster to obtain than it has ever been. Focus on your end game. Know how colleges determine what your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be. Consult with trusted advisors that take into account your future financial aid eligibility when they make recommendations and can help you strategize knowing your personal family situation.

When your child goes to college you are going to want to reduce the potential out of pocket expense your family might have. EFC Planning and Tax Planning are powerful tools that will save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

EFC Planning is much like tax planning as it is a formula driven process. Similar to the savings that occurs when working with a CPA to legally pay less tax; you can take advantage of certain financial aid strategies by understanding the formula that maximizes the money available to you.

When the dust settles, take note of the tax strategies and tax credits that your family can still utilize. Investigate how the new laws and your investment decisions will affect your aid eligibility or your ability to save and pay for college. Be an active participant in the game and you will come out on top.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at [Susan@College4Less.com](mailto:Susan@College4Less.com) or on her Web site at [www.college4less.com](http://www.college4less.com)



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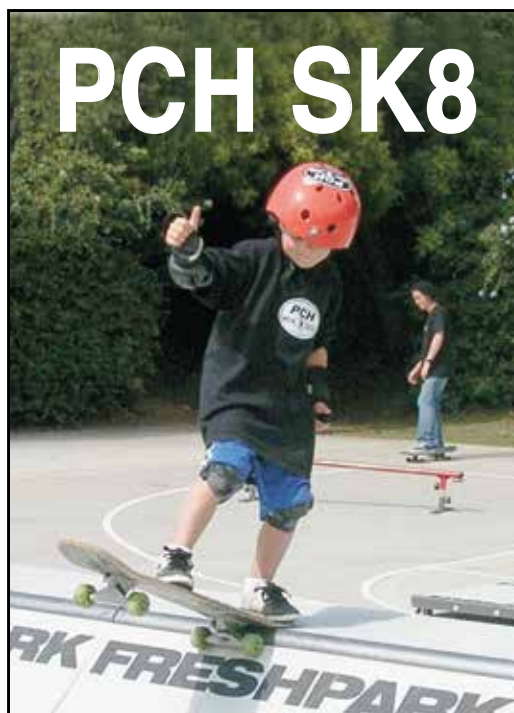
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## Kent's Korner

### Life Without Technology



Kent Kawaguchi

"What would you do if you didn't have Internet, a cell phone, text messaging, video games, or Facebook?" This was the first question author, columnist, and ESPN sports analyst, Mike Lupica asked his audience as he began his presentation to young readers, teachers and parents. He explained to his attentive loyal fans in Newport Beach, California that he didn't have all of the technology that is available today. Instead, he stated that "books can transport you into the life of another."

Mr. Lupica is known for writing many young adult sports novels such as Travel Team, Heat, Miracle on 49th Street, Summer Ball, and his latest novel True Legend. As a TV anchor for ESPN's "The Sports Reporters," columnist for multiple newspapers and magazines, and author of national bestsellers and award winning novels, Mike Lupica inspires others to use their time to read and learn life lessons through his two passions: sports and reading.



Kent with Mike Lupica

Mike Lupica originally wrote for adults, however it was his son who inspired him to write for adolescence. His son was cut from a basketball travel team due to his short height. Because of his son and many other kids who were told they weren't good enough to make the team, Lupica decided to make a basketball team comprised of all of the kids whom were cut from other travel teams. As the season progressed, Lupica's team started upsetting teams that were beating his team earlier in the season. Mike Lupica noticed a boost in confidence and self-esteem in every single one of his players. He witnessed player's renewed perseverance and drive to overcome failure as they learned

to fight their way to the top. These are life skills and topics Mr. Lupica enjoys writing about. Mr. Lupica said that his "books do not contain vampires, wizards, or werewolves, yet kids love to read them. They are about friendship and kids trying to do something great in sports through teamwork and loyalty."

In Mr. Lupica's novels, his characters portray qualities of being a good teammate and persevering toward their ultimate goal. Through his writing and his characters, he hopes his young readers will be inspired and learn from what they read and apply it to their own life. He said, "Playing sports is more than just throwing or hitting a ball. It's about learning how you get up after getting knocked down and that is truly the measure of your talent, heart, and character."



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From The Boathouse

## Life is But a Dream

Suzy was 13 when she was introduced to rowing crew by participating in the Long Beach Recreational Rowing Program at Long Beach's Marine Stadium. She enjoyed it so much, that when she was asked to be coxswain for the novice boys team, she eagerly agreed. The coxswain is responsible for steering the boat and coaching everyone so that the whole crew stays together and puts the oars in at the same time. This leadership role provided Suzy with the opportunity to be around the water, to learn more about rowing, and, as Suzy jokingly pointed out, "I get to boss the boys around."



The next year Suzy excelled in all of her races. She was especially proud of her scull (single person boat) racing, winning all four regattas that she entered. However, the highlight was earning a position in the varsity lightweight 8-boat. With that team, she placed second at the San Diego Invitational Regatta. Last summer, Suzy had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to row with the Shanghai Rowing Team in mainland China. She made new international friends and learned about another culture, all thanks to her skills in rowing.

This year she had another exceptionally successful season. Not only has she enjoyed rowing and improved her physical condition, but Suzy has continued to win races. Suzy earned two first-place blue ribbons at the US Rowing Southwest Youth Regionals and the opportunity to compete in the prestigious US Rowing Nationals in June. With all her success, it's no wonder Suzy is already looking forward to her next season rowing with the Long Beach Junior Crew.

Suzy's hopes to attend college at the US Naval Academy, where she will spend part of this summer training. She will also spend a month training with the Long Beach Junior Crew at the Powerhouse Fitness Rowing Facility in order to improve her speed, which is already exceptionally fast. In fact, her current goal will put her at the level of the US National Lightweight Women's Rowing Team.

Rowing has been a very healthy experience for Suzy that has helped her physically, mentally and socially. I believe Suzy is a fine example of a great young lady who is "rowing her way to college."

You can row your way to success as well. Powerhouse Fitness is a great choice to get in shape while having fun. All workouts consist of High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) for all levels of fitness and all ages, burning a tremendous number of calories and achieving that lean-muscle tone in a very short period of time. These workouts are unique and effective for competitive rowers like Suzy and for the average person who has never rowed before. The results are amazing, and individuals generally burn about 800 calories per class per hour. All levels of fitness and ages 10 to 100 years are welcome.

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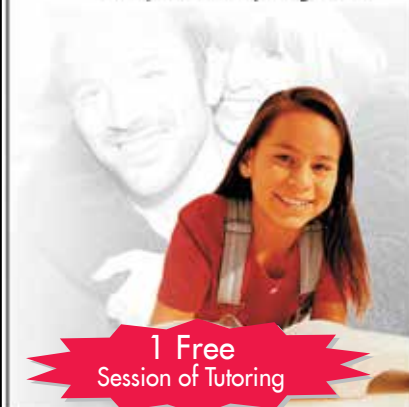
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# Word Match Contest

Match the English word to the Spanish word. When you are done, one English word will not have a matching Spanish word. Email the extra word to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com). Please put RBUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 20, 2013. From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

A special thank you to **Savoir Faire** for the words for this contest.

Hello	Domingo
Thank you	Semana
School	Pluma
Dog	Gracias
Cat	Martes
Monday	Grande
Tuesday	Jueves
Thursday	Gato
Friday	Mes
Notebook	Escuela
Week	Viernes
Sunday	Perro
Welcome	Clase
Class	Aprender
To Learn	Lunes
Teacher	Bienvenido
Pen	Profesora
Big	Hola
Month	

Note-ables

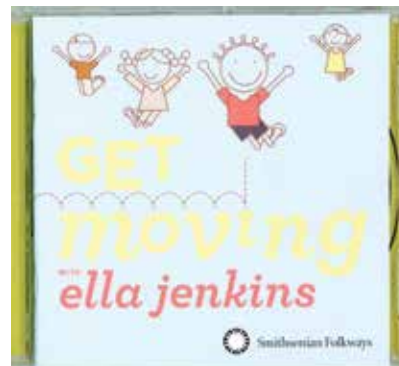
## Get Moving with Ella Jenkins



Kate Karp

If you were in preschool or early elementary school any time after 1962, listen to “London Bridge Is Falling Down” or “Skip to My Lou” from Ella Jenkins’s new collection, *Get Moving with Ella*. I can almost guarantee that you’ll have an immediate olfactory

memory of the waxy smell of crayons and that thick white paste that came in a jar. You may even remember how it tasted.



Ella Jenkins’s songs and activities, sung in her gentle, firm voice accompanied by her guitar, have been the first introduction to integrated music and vocabulary for many young children within the past 60 years. Her 33<sup>rd</sup> release, *Get Moving with Ella Jenkins*, is a compilation of 15 of these songs, three of which are previously unreleased. The collection will have young children getting up and getting on some healthy moves and enriching their language through repetition and rhythm, a long-practiced, successful methodology. “Who Fed the Chickens?” features personal pronoun usage along with farm animal names; “Head and Shoulder” mixes exercise with learning the names of body parts; and “Play Your Instruments” involves music making while learning the names of instruments. And there’s a really neat reworking of the old jump-rope rhyme “Teddy Bear.”

First Lady Michelle Obama recommends exercise to keep children fit. *Get Moving* will provide children with a good measure of it along with smart, healthy play—just like the kind you got as a child if you danced and moved to the sounds of the First Lady of Children’s Music.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.



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## Summer Fun Word Search Contest

**Rules!!!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.  
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you  
email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put RBUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by March 20, 2013  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

A special thank you to [Kinsey Runquist](#), for suggest-  
ing this Word Search and emailing the words.

Awesome	Lessons	Sunscreen
Barbeque	Lifeguard	Surfing
Beach	Picnics	Swimming
Fireworks	Pool	Vacation
Fun	Popsicles	Volleyball
Hot	Sand	Water
Ice Cream	Summer	Wave
Lemonade	Sunny	

Congratulations to [Jake and Lily Sexton](#)  
Winner of the February Word Search Contest!

L	X	V	O	S	L	W	B	P	L	O	O	P	R	N
D	A	Z	U	K	E	I	E	L	O	H	G	R	E	D
G	R	N	Z	R	T	L	A	I	D	Z	D	E	M	S
U	N	Z	O	O	O	B	C	Q	N	M	R	T	M	J
Y	E	I	H	W	Y	E	H	I	A	C	N	A	U	Y
R	D	H	F	E	C	E	B	D	S	H	E	W	S	P
S	A	E	L	R	N	M	B	N	L	P	A	S	Q	D
M	N	L	E	I	U	O	U	F	K	A	O	G	H	H
D	O	A	K	F	F	S	C	I	N	C	I	P	I	J
V	M	B	A	R	B	E	Q	U	E	A	J	Y	P	C
P	E	M	L	T	D	W	G	N	I	M	M	I	W	S
X	L	Z	K	A	A	A	F	U	M	L	E	C	A	J
P	T	T	I	I	K	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	D
Q	F	T	K	T	H	E	A	V	P	R	D	U	A	D
D	B	C	V	G	Y	B	T	Z	A	H	D	Z	A	U



# How Do We Keep Your Children Safe?



**Frank DeSena**  
Asst.  
Superintendent  
Student Services



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

Safe from What? Safe from being bullied, safe from germs, safe from being hurt on the playground, safe from being injured while playing a sport, safe from being exposed to drugs, safe from being totally stressed out due to the amount of school work they have to complete, safe from being cyber-bullied, safe from being a victim of child abuse, safe from being hit by a car as they arrive or leave school, safe from being injured or worse due to an earthquake, safe from being injured or worse due to a student bringing a weapon to school, and safe from an armed intruder entering campus. I probably missed some safety issues.

The greatest fear that most parents have is that their child may be hurt, injured, abused, or worse.

When I read the above list of things that school districts need to address regarding student safety I felt overwhelmed. Then I thought about all the things we have in place such as: a district wide anti-bullying program (Safe School Ambassadors), health clerks at all schools as well as three district nurses R.N.'s & Public Health Nurses), monitoring of our playground equipment by Principals and M&O staff as well as campus supervisors and noon aides, a certified trainer at most high school athletic events, an RBPD School Resource Officer, a community drug and alcohol task force, a voluntary drug testing program, drug sniffing dogs, Project Alert middle school drug prevention program, MindUp Curriculum delivered to all elementary students, counselors at all schools for students to talk to when needed, parent ed night regarding cyber-safety and cyber-bullying, staff who have been trained regarding what to do when there is any suspicion of child abuse reported to them, crossing guards, walking school bus program, valet drop off system in school parking lots, regular earthquake drills, zero tolerance regarding students bringing weapons to school which includes being expelled, all gate entrances to schools locked once school has started, visitors must go through the school office to enter the campus, all schools practice lockdown drills, the district has a Violence Prevention Action Committee, maintaining an emergency communication system by phone or email to our parent community, school wide communication to all classrooms from the office, and district wide communication to all schools, fencing around the perimeter of our schools in most areas, continue to hire the best people possible who understand how to recognize potential violent situations or individuals, promote to all staff the use of positive and professional communication to students and community members at all times, continue to provide parents/community members an avenue to voice their complaints and concerns, and we have an active and concerned parent community.

I know RBUSD can still make improvements, but there are many positive things that already exist. I hope this makes you feel just a little safer.

# Keeping Our Students Safe



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

The recent shooting at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School has left the nation shocked and shaken. We were at a loss to explain this deeply disturbing tragedy and the other horrific acts of gun violence on our campuses.

As Superintendent of Schools in San Bernardino for a dozen years, and now here in Los Angeles County, I have dealt with the issue of school safety.

My goal, which I'm sure all educators share, has been to look in the eyes of our students and promise them they will be safe.

We want to reassure students that their only concern at school is school work – not whether they can remain out of harm's way in the sanctuary of their classrooms.

But, unfortunately, we cannot make such a promise yet. There's still a lot to do to prevent gun violence in our schools, which continues to claim too many lives.

As President Obama recently said: "Can we say that we're truly doing enough to give all the children of this country the chance they deserve to live out their lives in happiness, and with purpose? I've been reflecting on this the last few days, and if we're honest with ourselves, the answer is no."

At the same time, the president has given us hope when he proposed a new \$150 million Comprehensive School Safety program that would help school districts hire staff and make other critical investments in school safety.

What can we do to make our schools safer? Here are a few key steps we can take:

- Make sure our Comprehensive School Safety Plans are updated and useful.
- Create a school culture of first preventers. This includes identifying the risk factors affecting students and staff and addressing them effectively.
- Train school personnel, mental health specialists, and police officers on ways to maximize personal and collective effectiveness to prevent or reduce school violence.
- Conduct parent workshops to be sure they know how to be partners in their children's education.
- Prioritize funding for school safety initiatives that protect our learning environments.

The Los Angeles County Office of Education has collaborated with community agencies in promoting school safety. We help county K-12 schools comply with all local, state and federal school safety laws. We offer workshops to train mental health professionals and other school personnel in the recovery process after traumatic school events.

We also hold the annual Safe Schools Conference to share best practices and learn innovative ways to address school safety issues.

I hope that we can all continue to work together to keep our students safe because it will take sustained commitment and resources from all of us to meet this challenge.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

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## Reaching for Greatness with TK



**Vivian Ibarra**  
Director

*By Kathy Caltaldo, Teacher*

SBAS Transitional Kindergarten has been a wonderful opportunity for my son. It is the perfect step between preschool and kindergarten. He is learning all of the building blocks that will help him be successful in kindergarten, yet at a pace that is right for him. We are working on letters, phonics, writing, numbers, patterns, etc. In addition, the teacher is working every day to lengthen the students' attention spans at centers and on the rug. My son's progress has been amazing. We are so happy he has been part of this nurturing but educational year of school!

—Cara Hagemeister, Parent

The South Bay Adult School Parent Education Program has always had at its heart the mission of supporting the families of the South Bay. This year, we were pleased to offer our families a new option for children who were not ready for kindergarten and not age eligible for the traditional TK program. We opened the program in South Redondo at the Knob Hill site. It is a large classroom with bright, open spaces for the children. The parents, staff and district



**Our new painted playground looks great!**

maintenance department have worked hard to help renovate this facility and create a wonderful environment for our students. Thank you to a local independently owned paint store for donating paint and to Courtney Bowen, a Redondo Union High School student who for her Girl Scout Gold Award project painted the entire playground and surrounding walls.

Our TK program is a parent-



**Working together to make gingerbread houses for the holidays.**

participation class in which the parent works in the classroom one day each week, attends a monthly parent-education meeting, and shares a field-trip experience with his or her child. The class utilizes many great curriculums to provide a well-rounded experience for our children. We have the Houghton Mifflin pre-K curriculum for language arts and math, Math Their Way, Handwriting Without Tears and teacher-created materials for science and social studies curriculums. Our children are confident learners who are ready for kindergarten.

Please stop by and visit our Knob Hill Transitional Kindergarten program and see our great students.



## Getting Ready



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

It may only be March but the Child Development Centers (CDC) are already busy preparing for the future. This is the time of year we register our new students who will be starting kindergarten in fall 2013 and plan for a fun summer program, starting in June, for our current families.

The summer program at the CDC is an exciting time for everyone. Our teachers work hard to plan fun and educational experiences for their students. Each teacher chooses a summer curriculum and arranges field trips and enriching activities on site to support their weekly themes. Some past trips have included Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, the Queen Mary, and the Griffith Observatory. Our students enjoy an action-packed summer, with lots of friends, fun, and learning.



**Ms. Moore helps kindergarteners with homework**



**Outdoor fun at Lincoln CDC**



**Jake Miller helps give Kinder lesson at Lincoln CDC**

March is kindergarten registration for the Redondo Beach School District elementary schools and the Child Development Center. All children who turn five on or before October 1, 2013 can register for kindergarten and enroll in their school's CDC program.

The CDC Kindergarten program is designed to meet the needs of our working families. We are open from 6:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. on all school days, some holidays, and school vacations. Our kinder students are walked to school and picked up directly from their kindergarten classes, and our teachers spend time on homework and provide enrichment activities to reinforce the kindergarten curriculum and support school readiness. The CDC works closely with each school to provide a supportive environment for our families.

We are very excited to welcome our summer families as well as the new kindergarten students starting in the fall. Come and visit our Child Development Centers and see all the great things that are happening.



## BOARD OF EDUCATION (continued from page 1)



**Jane Diehl**  
*Presiding Officer*

they do—and make sure to cc the superintendent and School Board.

I want to thank all those in the leadership team, who work tirelessly for all the students in Redondo Beach and helped me whenever I asked for some of their time. We have been able to work together in many different situations, from committee meetings and phoning for school bonds to sitting watching a sports event, and

it is easy to see how outstanding these people are. The district is fortunate to have them. Special thanks to Ricardo Gallegos for keeping me on task and taking care of details at all times.

Thanks to parents and students who are active partners in this education process. You have concerns and use the system to express your wants and needs in a thoughtful and considerate way. You are an important part of an excellent school system, and I know you will continue to participate by helping with PTA, Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), school site councils, athletics, band, and dance guard, just to name a few ways parents help in this district. You will help in classrooms, assist with homework, and share your ideas and concerns with the School Board. Your input is important.

Thanks to the citizen who voted for the two school bonds over the past 10 years. I hope you all use the new facilities in some way: watching a grandchild at an event; walking the track; going to a performance in the auditorium; taking classes in adult school; or swimming at the new pool. The second bond is unique, and I believe it will help the district strive for excellence in a time of fiscal difficulties.

Thanks to all the other community helpers. The city has always helped the schools, and we have worked hard together during these times of money difficulties to maximize taxpayer dollars and interest. The Beach Cities Health District is such a blessing to your community and our students. The Beach Cities Health District has helped us with Moving Children, counselors, and our gardening programs.

Well there are many to thank, but I have gone too long already. Just know it was a wonderful experience, and I thank you all.



**Drew Gamet**  
*Member*

from providing students with a high-quality working environment and providing parents and the community with incredible customer service to providing students with help and support in the classroom, thank you.

To all the Child Development Center teachers, who provide not only great start for our youngest students, but extended educational opportunities as they get older, thank you.

To the countless PTA volunteers, who work tirelessly at all our school sites to enhance all of our students' education, thank you.

To the Redondo Beach Education Foundation, that has provided the district with resources that expand opportunities for the students of RBUSD, thank you.

To the RBUSD administrators, who have provided unparalleled educational leadership at a time of great trial and innovation in education, thank you.

To the voters of Redondo Beach, who have twice reaffirmed the need to provide additional funding, beyond the meager amount doled out by the state of California, for a cutting-edge education that is unmatched by any school around, public or private, thank you.

To Steven Keller, who when described as the finest superintendent in California is grossly under-described, thank you.

To Anita, Arlene, Carl, Jane, Laura and Todd, Members of the Board of Education, who always give everything of themselves for the Redondo Beach Unified School District, thank you!

And finally, to my wife Cecilia and daughter Marianna, who have been supportive from the moment I came home with a strange look on my face and said "What do you think about me running for School Board?" thank you.

So, as you can probably tell, I can get a little sentimental about these moments, so I would like to end this last article with a little quote by Dr. Seuss: "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." Thank you!



**Todd Loewenstein**  
*Member*

that they do for our school district, but I don't have the space to do so. To our teachers, our administrators, our classified and confidential staff, Child Development Center (CDC) educators, parent volunteers, RBEF Board members, PTA volunteers, and cabinet at the district office, what you do on a daily basis, in spite of limited resources from our state, is truly amazing and makes

the district the special place that it is today. In addition, we really have terrific School Board members, who put their hearts into looking out for the best interests of our children. Thank you, Anita, Laura, Jane, and Drew, and also Carl and Arlene, whom I enjoyed serving with previously on the Board. Finally, to our superintendent, Dr. Keller, it truly has been a pleasure working with one of the finest leaders I have known in business or education.

My father once told me that the true mark of leadership for an organization is not how well things are functioning when you are present, but how well things function after you leave. I believe we have left the school district in great shape, and I know our successors will continue our progress.

We are truly fortunate to have a school district that strives for excellence in educating our children.

### SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



**Dr. Steven Keller**

sponsored Family Science Nights and Middle School Intramural Sports Programs. These are contributions that immediately improve the learning environment of schools and students. RBEF funded the Safe School Ambassadors program across sites, which is designed to transform school culture and relationships on campus. This group also bestowed top fund-raising schools with cold cash! Without these donations, none of these additions would be possible.

Last year and continuing this year, RBUSD offered innovative proposals to RBEF, including a college-going culture consultant. This individual was carefully selected to establish, define, and promote Redondo Beach students' attitudes about higher education. This consultant, Phyllis Hart, is responsible for raising awareness about college entrance requirements, academic institution options, and general student preparedness, starting at kindergarten. RBUSD believes that all students can go to college or university, and RBEF has helped provide our families with a support person to guide the students on the right path.

The work of a school district is never done, even as resources have dwindled. Teaming with a group like RBEF provides a buffer against the reality of public education funding and communicates that our students are our priority, whether the budget is there or not. Please consider getting involved and donating to this generous group. As RBEF says, "Every dollar makes a ripple, and together our ripples will make powerful waves."

### Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



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# The World is Ours



**Dr. Erin Simon**  
*Principal*

During the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, several students shared their experiences at Redondo Shores High School (RSHS) and why they believed academic success began here. These students emphatically stated that the notion that all students cannot learn is unequivocally false. More importantly they shared that their overall success was due to Shores' staff, the academic delivery model, and the myriad of whole-child activities present.

In addition to discussing their academic success, students also shared brand-new courses and whole-child activities evident at RSHS. Students mentioned the additions of biology lab and electives in consumer math, integrated science, and environmental science. RSHS students insistently affirmed these courses have invoked them to become innovative and critical thinkers and have also allowed them to make meaningful connections between school, community, work, and global issues. Students also mentioned our monthly assemblies and weekly shout-outs, which celebrate students excelling academically and recognize students who model superior character. They also noted the additions of Associated Student Body and PTSA.

This year, Redondo Shores is fortunate to have three counseling interns, who provide emotional and academic counseling and have worked to schedule several college tours for all students, particularly Redondo Shores' English Learner (EL) students and parents.



**Roya Kalani (PTSA President), Chillandra Bell, Kenya Spencer, Dr. Erin Simon (Principal), Brittany Domingo, and Blake Ruskin (ASB President)**



Redondo Beach Unified School District  
Child Development Center  
(310) 798-8683 ext 1312 or 1322

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