Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 52

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

MAY 2012

SUPERINTENDENT

Attending College

There is an expectation in our home that our one-andone-half-year-old daughter, Sloan, will go to college. Just ask her, and she'll tell **Dr. Steven Keller** you—this has always

been the expectation. I feel the same way about the 8,500 students in the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD). All students should have the right, be prepared, and feel the support to attend college or university and to continue their education. RBUSD believes this is the right of each child, though we realize some parents may feel otherwise.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 19

We Have Pride!



Parras has clubs to appeal to students such as the Junior Jazzercisers

Dr. Lars Nygren, Principal Parras Middle School

Parras Middle School has been serving the Redondo Beach community since opening in 1953.

Our school provides a rigorous education for our students that prepares them to be successful at Redondo Union High School. Our motivated students are high achievers, and they are able to pursue their interests in sports, music, drama and writing.

Currently, 906 sixth through eighth-grade students are enrolled in Parras. Our Academic Performance Index is over 900, which makes us

SEE WE HAVE PRIDE! • PAGE 9

An Urgent Request



Brad Serkin President RB Educational Foundation

RBEF has just completed its annual donor drive. Thank you to all parents and businesses who gave their support! For those who haven't, your support is needed more than ever!

We continue to face a large challenge in the coming school year with funding, with an estimated loss of over \$3 million for our coming fiscal school year. This amounts to over \$350 per student, and it continues to strain an already strained budget. This may mean continued increases in class sizes and loss of materials, teachers and programs as well as possible unwanted furlough days, which all hurt our students and teachers alike. With our present budget situation, our current temporary-teacher contracts may

also not be renewed! The time to act is now! Please visit our website for more information and to donate today.

As a reminder, this summer will be the start of our second year of summer school, with curriculum designed for students who need help and for those who want to get ahead. We will again be offering RUHS Cyber High for our high school students, with courses designed for their A-G college requirements. These online courses will be for full credit and are available to assist students looking to improve a grade before applying for college or complete some classes that might not fit into their normal school year scheduling. RBEF is committed to helping our students get the specific class skills they need for a successful academic career.

Besides the new Cyber High courses, RBEF will be offering on-campus classes for kindergarten through seventh grade and eighth- through 12th-grade students. We will cover the fundamentals like language arts, math and science and then go SEE RB EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION PAGE 19

A Green Way of Life



Kindergarteners enjoy an outside reading library garden. (Please see Jefferson Elementary page 7)

Vitality City page 2 • RBUSD Student Svcs/Special Ed & South Bay Adult page 4 • RBUSD Child Dev & Alternative Ed page 5
RBUSD Schools pages 6–10, • RB Ed Foundation page 19 • Camps/Activities pages 11–18 • Contests pages 10 & 18

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

Blue Zones Project™



Jens Brandt RUHS Assistant Principal / Vitality City Liaison



Lauren Nakano BCHD Vitality City Program Manager

Dan Buettner and Goldie Hawn Rally Beach Cities to Become the First Blue Zones CommunityTM May 2, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts

What is the Blue Zones Project?

Across the globe lie Blue Zones®, areas where people reach age 100 at an astonishing rate.

Citizens of Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; Nicoya, Costa Rica; Ikaria, Greece and Loma Linda, California, have maintained their healthy lifestyles for generations. Vitality City and the Blue Zones Project aim to instill the lifestyle principles of these areas into American cities and towns—transforming them into Blue Zones Communities—and help people "live longer, better" lives.

Beach Cities: Becoming the World's First Blue Zones Community™

At least 10 other cities in the state of Iowa will also be vying to become a Blue Zones Community. To do so, communities must pledge and then act on specific responsibilities in the following six sectors: personal, schools, worksite, restaurants, grocery stores and community policy.

SEE VITALITY CITY PAGE 19





Kay Coop Founder / Publisher



Get your cup of coffee and be prepared to read this issue cover to cover in one sitting. Superintendent Dr. Keller's article leads off this issue with his expectation to be college bound. Frank DeSena, Assistant Superintendent Student Services wrote an informative article on page 4 detailing the history of the District... enjoy every page!

Our readers love contests! Thank you for reading School News and for enjoying our contests. The contests are open to all ages so parents be sure you enter.

Last issue this school year is June 6.



www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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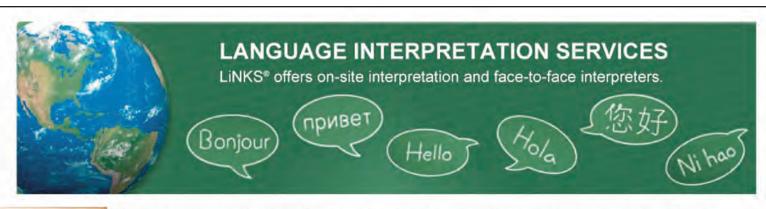
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RBUSD Student Services / Special Education

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

A Little District History



Frank DeSena Asst. Superintendent Student Services



Dr. Aaron Benton *Director Special Education*

By Frank DeSena

Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Did you know that Redondo Beach Unified School District didn't exist until 1993? Four public school districts covered the beach cities prior to that time: Redondo Beach City School District; Manhattan Beach City School District; Hermosa Beach City School District; and the South Bay Union High School District. The Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach districts included kindergarten through eighth grade. South Bay included Redondo Union and Mira

Costa High Schools, as well as Aviation High School, until it closed in the early 1980s.

A plan was developed to create Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) and Manhattan Beach Unified School District. Voters in the beach cities had to approve the plan. The idea was for Redondo Beach City School District and Redondo Union High School (RUHS) to unite and become one unified school district and for Manhattan

Did you know that

Redondo Beach Unified School District
didn't exist until 1993?...

Change may be challenging,
but, if it's done for the right reasons,
it can be very rewarding.

Beach City School District to unite with Mira Costa High School and become another unified district. Hermosa Beach City School District would remain the same, and high school students who lived in Hermosa Beach would get to choose to attend either RUHS or Mira Costa.

The voters approved the plan and the new districts were up and running in 1993, but there were many issues that needed to be worked out. Prior to 1993, each of the independent districts had its own Board of Education, superintendent, and district office. That all changed beginning in the 1993–1994 school year. There were issues regarding facilities, staffing, payroll, curriculum, and a general adjustment regarding the process of how things were expected to be accomplished. The high school district and the elementary districts had different ways of getting things done.

However, it all worked, and here we are in 2012, continuing to move forward, make changes, and improve. Most of our current staff did not work for the elementary district or the high school district, so remembering a little history is important. Change may be challenging, but, if it's done for the right reasons, it can be very rewarding.

South Bay Adult School

3401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-3340 • www.southbayadult.org



Learn English Here!



Vivian Ibarra *Director*

By Gale Lee, English as a Second Language Teacher

The South Bay Adult School has a long and rich history of helping adults in our community reach their goals. A wide variety of classes are offered to enrich lives. These classes include several for learning to fulfill personal interests, achieving improved health and advancing one's career.

We all have dreams and goals, regardless of our background. To reach those goals, we often need help getting past barriers in our lives. For adult immigrants, the largest barrier is learning English. ESL (English as a Second Language) classes provide our students

the skills necessary to begin the pursuit of the dreams that first brought them to this country.



Doris Delgado is proud to be an ESL student at South Bay Adult School

One of our ESL students, Doris Delgado, has recently finished Level 4 ESL. As part of her class work, she wrote the following account of her own goals.

"I came to the United States from El Salvador one year, three months ago by myself. I came because I got the residency visa to get a license to practice my profession and to learn English. I liked living in El Salvador, but I wanted to progress

"My life is different now. In El Salvador, I studied medicine and plastic arts. I worked in my own medical clinic and at a hospital. Here in the United States, I study English at an adult school and I care for my

mother. My long-term goal is to practice my profession and to have my own art gallery. But first, I need to improve my English.

"I'm happy with my new life in California. Many things are different, but if I work hard, I can realize my goals."

It's a great privilege to assist Doris and hundreds of other adults like her in achieving their goals and finding fulfillment living in the United States. This is part of our heritage at the South Bay Adult School and the Redondo Beach Unified School District.

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RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 🖣0278 310/798-8683 ext. 1312, 1321 • www.rbusd.org



RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St. Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • www.rbusd.org/shores/

Getting Involved



Theresa Van Dusen Director

The Redondo Beach Unified School District Child Development Center is dedicated to providing preschool and school-age children with a safe, nurturing and enriching environment that promotes educational and social growth. —CDC Mission Statement

At the Child Development Center, we are always looking to the future and finding new ways to improve our program. Most recently we held a strategic planning meeting. This full-day meeting included parents, teachers, teacher assistants, site supervisors, principals, an assistant superintendent and a board member.

When we first met two years ago, we came up with five threeyear goals (not in priority order). These included enhancing internal and external communication, creating student support interventions, ensuring that highly trained teachers and staff exist at all sites, and increasing revenue and improving facilities and technology at all sites.

We have made great progress in addressing these goals, and will continue to do so by coming up with more objectives at each meeting to help focus on them. We would like to invite all of our families to become involved at your CDC site and help us reach these goals.

Parents are always welcome to volunteer in the classrooms, or join us on field trips, or become a part of our Parent Advisory Group. Talk to your child's CDC teacher about ways that you can become involved.

The Redondo Beach Child Development Center recognizes the importance of helping your child get a great start on learning and development. Come visit a CDC at your local elementary school and learn more about our programs.

Rising to the Occasion



Dr. Erin Simon Principal

Rather than investing heavily in a single initiative, Shores is now attempting to achieve success through a combination of empirically based and data-driven curricula that center on helping each individual student.

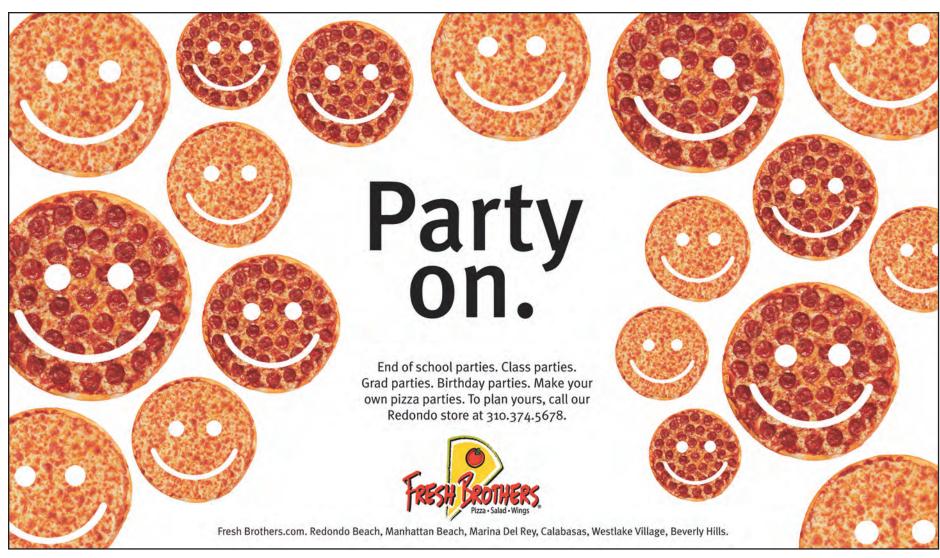
At their core, the aforementioned include a devotion to assessment as the compass for instruction, and the conviction that teachers, like students, must constantly strive to better themselves with the help of a "village" of peers.

Intimately linked with this philosophy is a culture of professional development and collaboration. For example, every other Monday or Tuesday afternoon staff members meet for an hour to

tackle a rotating list of topics such as math, reading, writing, student success, and character and life-skills education. During these meetings the teachers take time to assess data, develop curriculum and discuss the needs of individual

Even outside of these Monday or Tuesday meetings the spirit of teamwork still thrives. The master schedule is arranged so that teachers can share prep periods. They use this time to collaborate and plan accordingly. This environment engenders loyalty and a sense of commitment; over the course of this year alone staff members have been able to devise consistent completion contracts and grading rubrics.

Though a focus on achievement permeates the school, Shores also nurtures the students' social and intellectual development, not just their test scores. For at Shores we have built a sense that we are all in this together. We want to see our scores increase, but most importantly, we believe that all students can learn.



Alta Vista Elementary (K-5)

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



Susan Wildes Principal

A "Greener" Lunch

Did you know that every day at Alta Vista Elementary School, 18 to 20 bags of trash are produced, just at lunchtime? Recently, with the help of parents, students, and the community, Alta Vista has decided to become a Grades of Green School. Thanks to a grant from an international media company, Grades of Green, non-profit organization, is offering support to our school through a series of environmental education activities that put into motion initiatives to help us reduce the amount of waste we produce as a school.

Starting with a school-wide assembly, Grades of Green taught students, teachers, staff, and custodians about the three Rs: reduce; reuse; and recycle. We also learned the importance of trash reduction to the environment and our community. The assembly helped students understand the important link between trash reduction and the conservation of our natural resources. During the assembly, our school learned how to implement the second initiative, Trash-Free Tuesdays. Trash-Free Tuesdays utilize an expanded sorting system to promote recycling, composting, and waste reduction. Every Tuesday, our students aim to bring completely Trash-Free lunches, promoting the use of reusable containers and lunchboxes. Our lunchtime monitors even circulate the lunch area with "trashy trivia" to reinforce positive recycling habits and rewards for proper sorting. Our third initiative for this year is the introduction of a composting system for lunchtime fruits and vegetables which not only reduces our trash production but helps to nurture and fertilize our garden.

At Alta Vista, we are excited about the small steps we are making towards protecting our community and the environment and look forward to more initiatives to fold in next school year. For more information or ways to donate to recycling programs, check out the Grades of Green Web site at www.gradesofgreen.org.



Take this opportunity to get "hands on" knowledge about the latest operating room technologies. At Torrance Memorial's popular "Operating Room Show & Tell," state-of-the-art surgical equipment and instruments will be on display while surgeons and other medical staff members demonstrate advanced surgical technologies, including da Vinci robotics and minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery.

FREE – no reservations required. For more information, call 310-517-4711 or visit www.TorranceMemorial.org.



3330 Lomita Boulevard, Torrance CA 90505 • www.TorranceMemorial.org

dams Middle School (6-8)

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

Healthy Hearts



Anthony Taranto Principal

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in the United States; one in every three deaths is from heart disease and stroke, equal to 2,200 deaths per day. To fight back against heart disease and stroke, the CDC and other parts of the US government have launched Million Hearts[™], to prevent the nation's leading killers and empowering everyone to make heart-healthy choices. At Adams Middle School, we are working hard to educate our students and community on the importance of making healthy choices.

In January, we held our first Health and Wellness Fair. The event, which was organized by our PTSA with help from Vitality City and the Beach Cities Health District, was intended to help educate the community and students about healthy living and spark conversations about health and fitness. Participating organizations offered fresh vegetable tasting and nutritional information, free eye and postural analysis, a dance demonstration, and family health care information. Healthy Kids Express also conducted body weight, height, and body mass index analysis.

Since February is Healthy Heart month, students and staff participated in weekly heart healthy activities. Every Monday in physical education classes, students participating in activities such as jumping rope or running laps. A Heart Wall was created by students to show support of anyone they knew who suffered from heart disease, and each day a heart-healthy fact was read to students during advisement.

In March, Adams held a school-wide Jog-a-Thon organized by our PTSA to raise money for our school and the American Heart Association. Students and staff jogged for 30 minutes to bring about healthy heart awareness. In addition, several of our students had the opportunity be part of a live cable broadcast to share the importance of making healthy choices.

To learn more about strengthening your heart, please visit: www.americanheart.org; www.cdc.gov; or www.heart.org.



Univision visit.



Taste testing at Health and Wellness Fair.



Students and staff having "Heart" at Jog-A-Thon.

Beryl Heights Elementary (K-5) 920 Beryl St. Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8611 • http://beryl.rbusd.org



Karen Mohr Principal

Supporting All Students

It's the year 2012, and at Beryl Heights Elementary we pride ourselves on addressing the needs of the whole child. With our after-school homework club for the fourth-and fifth-grade students, and our English language learner after-school interventions, we are able to assess our students to see if they are mastering grade level

Our learning center reaches those students who need additional support in language arts and math. In our computer lab, students review key concepts. They are learning word processing, how to

write reports, and how to research certain subjects. The teachers work together to support the students at every grade level.

We recently purchased a program called "Brain Pop" that gets children excited about everyday learning. Teachers teach in small groups, use hands-on learning and differentiation, and can make the subject matter more meaningful by providing the students with additional experiences like musical performances, Rancho Day or Colonial Day. It is evident that we monitor our student's academic achievement through multiple events and intervention programs.

Parent involvement is key to our students' success. When we looked at the number of hours our parents have spent helping at Beryl, it turned out to be over 467 hours a month! We have realized that without this parent support we could not be as successful as we are with the achievement in all areas.

The students' physical and social/emotional wellbeing is also addressed by staff, parents and partnerships with the Beach Cities Health District and the Moving Children program. Through nutritional lessons taught by parent docents, and the daily exercise, our students are on the road to healthy living and healthy choices.

Their character development is addressed through our Character Counts program, as well as recognition at assemblies. Our fifth-grade and kindergarten students also participate in a buddy program to help promote friendship and mentoring throughout the year.

The Beryl Heights community takes responsibility for teaching its students how to become lifelong learners. We are very proud of our accomplishments, and continue to strive for the very best each and every year.

Birney Elementary (K-5) 1600 Green Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8626 • http://birney.rbusd.org



Lisa Johnson Principal

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

Birney Elementary School has joined the millions of other Americans who are doing their part to become more eco-friendly. With the help of our students, staff, PTA and community, Birney has greatly improved its green efforts.

One way in which it has made strides in this area is by trying to recycle on a daily basis. Plastic bottles, cans, paper products, ink cartridges and batteries are all a part of our recycling efforts.

Under the direction of fifth-grade teachers Mrs. Rummler and Ms. Leddel, the fifth-grade students assist us by monitoring the city-sponsored blue recycling bins. These bins are housed on each

classroom's patio, and every week the students make sure that they are taken out to the curb and then returned to the classrooms.

Every day at lunch, Birney students also separate their food remains into several bins which house food trays, plastic bottles and compost items. Parent volunteers assist our children with this chore. As a result, the amount of trash that we now accumulate has been drastically reduced.

The compost is then used to fertilize our garden, which is a vital component of the school. Thanks to the Beach Cities Health District and Laurie Stimpfig (our garden coordinator) the students have been able to plant, grow and harvest their crops over the course of the year. This season alone the garden has produced pumpkins, beets, lettuce, sugar snap peas, carrots and radishes!

Birney is green in both its school color and in its efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle!

Jefferson Elementary (K-6)

00 Harkness Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • http://iefferson.rbusd.org

A Green Way of Life



Kara Heinrich Principal

Jefferson has shifted into a "green culture," embracing the fact that environmental responsibility is all of our responsibility to ensure a bright future for our children. As a school, we are doing everything to reduce our waste, spending and carbon imprint.

Driven by environmental and economic concerns, we first started by "taking back the backpack" for academic use and posting newsletters and messages online. Each year, we reevaluate to improve our awareness and efficiency. Energy conservation and environmental awareness on campus are routine. Staff participates

nightly in conservation practices and complete "shutdown" procedures during breaks in addition to monthly Know Energy Days as a specific conservation focus.



Jefferson School is proud to be a finalist in the Grades of Green Challenge.

Jefferson provides a variety of forums to involve all stakeholders in daily green operations. For example, Beach Cities Health District supports Jefferson through LiveWell Kids in physical health and nutrition through morning exercises, a PE specialist and our school gardens. Our school's Green Committee (GC) is key to the implementation of focal activities and events. The GC runs a campuswide recycling program in partnership with ReproCycle in addition to Trash-Free Tuesday lunches, Walk-to-School Wednesdays, Beach Community Cleanup days, Earth Week celebrations, recycle drives, compost preparation and reclaimed watering of campus plants. The GC additionally trains our fourth-grade Student Green Ambassadors to reinforce each program.

Our programs ensure the involvement of parents as a strong support system to our green culture. Students are taught to make a difference through recycling, reusing and reducing to conserving resources for a better tomorrow.



Lincoln Elementary (K-5)

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



Jeff Winckler Principal

Hatching Eagles

As we progress through the school year and June draws nearer, many fifth-grade students and their families begin to focus on life after Lincoln Elementary School. At this time in a child's school experience, the years in the elementary setting are all they have come to know. With middle school on the horizon, this can be a period of excitement, possibly some anxiety, and certainly a number of questions. Lincoln is very proud of the proactive approach we take in partnering with Adams Middle School to facilitate the transition from elementary school to middle school for students and families.



Lincoln students with the Adams Eagle in the Eagle Quad.



Student with Adams T-shirt that was won during a game played at an Adams school visit.

Beginning in the fall, dates are set and plans are made between to communicate essential steps and valuable school information about the transition process. There are several events coordinated throughout the year, which allow the transition process to occur smoothly so that children and parents are at ease. One of the first events is All About Adams Night in February. The Adams campus is

open to all students and families for school tours, registration information, and presentations about key school information. It is an excellent first experience at Adams.

In March, all of the fifth-graders are visited at Lincoln by the Adams administrative team for an orientation meeting. This meeting covers what students can expect as they begin sixth grade, as well as how class scheduling happens. This visit is followed up in April with a fifth-grade walking field trip down to Adams. During this visit, students see firsthand how Adams operates during the day and begin to feel more comfortable in their soon-to-be new school. By June, fifthgraders finish the school year ready for middle school.

The combination of these events and interactions allows students to be successful and do their best in middle school, while also giving families the information they need to be comfortable with this new experience. While we are sad to see our fifth-graders depart each year, we are confident they are heading into a well organized and supportive environment, due to the relationship that has been built before sixth grade begins.

Madison Elementary (K-5)

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

Joseph Ledoux Principal

Grades of Green

Madison has partnered with a prominent local movie studio to bring the "Grades of Green" recycling program to Redondo Beach. Currently, both Madison and Alta Vista Elementary Schools are working closely with Grades of Green, a nonprofit environmental organization, to educate students on what they can do to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Both schools conducted an eco-audit recently to look for ways to minimize waste and compost any leftover food. In fact, Madison took the results from the eco-audit and cut its daily trash bags

down from 10 bags to two, which is a whopping 40 fewer trash bags per week! Furthermore, students are encouraged to participate in the "Trash Free Tuesdays" program, which seeks to drastically cut down on the amount of lunch trash produced by plastic baggies and disposable containers. Students are instead asked to bring reusable items such as water bottles, metal utensils and trash-free lunch boxes. Students who produce "zero waste" on Tuesdays are then entered into a raffle for a "green" lunchbox. Students are also recycling their fruits and veggies in a compost bin, and the composted material is eventually is used as soil for the school garden.

Madison is truly growing greener day by day.



Mr. Ledoux speaking at the Grades of Green Assembly.



Madison students recycling their lunch waste.

arras Middle School (6-8)

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

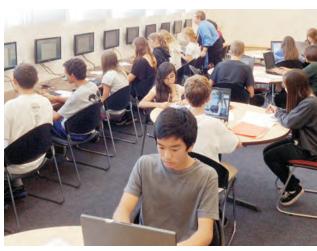


WE HAVE PRIDE! • FROM PAGE 1

one of the highest-achieving middle schools in the South Bay. We offer overnight science camps for all three grade levels to further enrich our students' learning experience at Parras as well as elective classes for students to pursue their interests such as drama, media technology, computers, creative writing, yearbook and leadership.

Dr. Lars Nygren Students have the opportunity to play in our comprehensive Principal intermural program, which has sports such as flag football, soccer,

volleyball, basketball and softball. Our after-school GATE program gives students a one-of-a-kind experiential learning opportunity. We have two highly trained



Teachers utilize technology to support student learning at Parras.

counselors to help our students with academic, social and emotional needs during their three years at Parras. Our students are placed with a core team of teachers so that they can better address their needs. We also have Infinite Campus Parent Portal so that you can see your child's attendance and assignment grades in real time.



Parras students play at the Winter Concert

Teams Work!

Our students receive PE every day along with the core subjects of math, social studies, science and language arts. Our sixth-grade students are placed with a small team of two teachers. One team will teach math and science while the other will teach social studies and language arts. Our teamed teachers share a common conference period each day so that they can meet with parents any day of the week to address concerns. We have jazz band, concert band, wind ensemble and symphonic band, and we will have orchestra for the 2012-13 school year! We have a 30-minute tutorial period twice a week for all students to get additional help if needed; a new performing-arts stage and outdoor amphitheater for performances; and a foreign language department that offers Spanish and now includes Chinese! Our teachers incorporate technology into their instruction at the highest levels to appeal to our students. There are also numerous student-led clubs to appeal to all students who have interests outside of school.







Redondo Union High School

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley Principal

Testing Season at RUHS

It's the most wonderful time of the year -testing season. We started off with the sophomores taking the high stakes California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and will end with STAR and AP

This year RUHS students will have the opportunity to earn special privileges by simply improving their STAR score from last year. If a student achieves the "Sea Hawk Elite" award, there will be many rewards throughout the school year, such as getting to leave early for lunch on designated days, BBQ lunches, t-shirts, free admission



Students concentrate as they take the National Assessment of **Educational Progress (NAEP) exam.**

to events, and more! Our advanced placement students are rewarded with college credit if they score a 3 or higher on their exam, so that is motivating in itself!

All told, Sea Hawks will be well prepared academically for these challenges. Here's a little poem with some helpful advice:

Testing Season

'Twas the week before testing and throughout RUHS All students were studying to do their test season best The teachers were instructing with relevance and rigor In hope that the API scores would steadily get bigger The scholars were nestled asleep in their beds As an early bedtime is key to success! Other bits of wisdom that matter just as much: Read all instructions thoroughly, try not to rush! What matters most on all of our tests Is that students try their hardest and truly do their best So on AP, on STAR, and the ever loving API! All tests are important, the stakes really high! Please eat a good balanced breakfast; keep your minds filled with knowledge You need to do well, so you'll be successful in college!

Contest!!

Can you find Olivia in this publication? When you find her, email the **page number** to: kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



Please put **RBUSD** in the subject line. Your entry must be received by May 25, 2012. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble. Thank you for reading School News.

ita Elementary (K-5)

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



Dr. Danielle **Allphin** Principal

Summer Fun and Learning

We have lots to do near the end of the school year. Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) testing, Family Science Night, and Open House this month and lots of fun yearend activities in June. I look forward to a great end to a successful and rewarding school year.

As we start to wrap up, families begin planning for summer vacation. Whether traveling, spending time at the beach, or just relaxing together at home, enjoy the summer. I encourage you to make time for enriching and fun family learning, too.

There are many ways you can mix some education in with your summer fun. Enroll in Redondo Beach Educational Foundation summer sessions, visit one of our local museums, or go for a nature walk. Create a family history album, visit a local farm to pick and enjoy fresh fruit and veggies, or compare and contrast the book and movie versions of the same story. You can also study maps and guide books to plan a vacation or a weekend trip and work together on a family budget for the trip.

Of course, I encourage you to read together, too. Whether you read picture books, chapter books, new books, or old favorites, reading is always a great way to spend treasured time together and encourage ongoing learning. Our teachers will recommend books for summer reading, and we encourage you to participate in the public library's summer reading program.

Have a fun relaxing and learning together!

Washington Elementary (K-5) 1100 Lilienthal Lane, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8641 • http://washington.rbusd.org

Jacqueline O'Sullivan Principal

Distinguished: What It Means

Congratulations to the entire Washington community on recently being named one of 387 California Distinguished Schools!

What does it mean to be a CA Distinguished School? In California, there currently exists an achievement gap among student subgroups that

threatens their future and the future of California. Access to high-quality educational experiences should be the right of every student in California, and it is the responsibility of the schools, districts, county offices of



education and the California Department of Education (CDE) to work together toward that end. The CDE has made closing the achievement gap a top priority and strongly believes that making schools work for all students, regardless of their background, condition or circumstances, is an imperative for a strong education system and a strong California.

The 2012 program directly focuses on California's students and their entitlement to an equitable and rigorous education. The California Distinguished School Award identifies and honors those schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap.

In order to be invited to apply for Distinguished School honors, schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria including designated federal and state accountability measures based on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the Academic Performance Index (API) requirements. We are very proud at Washington School to have received this honor!



BY SUSAN PETERSON

Noted author of the comprehensive guidebook: "Fun & Educational Places to go with Kids & Adults in Southern California."

THE WORD "SUMMER" brings to mind a myriad of images from my childhood—going to the beach, reading a good book, eating popsicles, building a treehouse, and hanging out with my friends.

ACCREDITED

Those are great memories. I also remember getting bored. And I remember sharing this information, persistently, with my mom—I think she referred to it as WHINING.

Summer Camps in Redondo Beach!!



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 Young artists will discover arts and crafts using paints, clay, watercolors, paper and other materials to produce artwork to bring home every day.

ANIMAL CREATIONS • Ages 6 – 13

 Aspiring artists will learn about animals by building, painting, creating, and transforming natural objects into imaginative animal themes to display at home.

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From the Boathouse

Rowing to the Top

Nick McCutcheon does not look like the typical heavyweight rower, standing about 5 feet 11 inches and weighing in at about 185 pounds. But Nick can pull ahead of most rowers, due to his determination and desire to succeed.

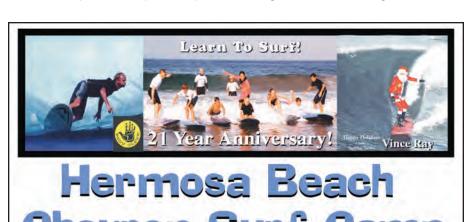
Nick started rowing in January of 2009 with Long Beach Junior Crew, coached by Jack Nunn. He experienced almost immediate success on the team. In the 2009–2010 season, Nick had one of the top junior



Concept 2 Indoor Rowing Machine 2,000-meter test scores in the country, completing the event in just six minutes and 17 seconds, faster than the qualifying time for the US Junior National Team. The following year he served as team captain, and that summer Nick was one of the 40 US rowers to be invited to the Junior National Team Selection Camp. Nick placed sixth at the Head of the Charles Regatta in the Junior Men's Double Event and trained for a spot on the U23 National Team while also competing with his junior program in 2011. Nick was given multiple awards in rowing when he graduated Los Alamitos High School and is now training for a seat in the Freshman Eight at University of California, Berkeley.

Nick doesn't just stand out on the water. He is also a young man of character and an excellent student. A coach's dream to have on the team and a teacher's dream student in the classroom, Nick makes his dedication to excellence part of everything he does. Nick is the ultimate athlete, combining the best power-to-weight ratio along with a very focused and driven attitude. He also competed successfully in football, baseball, and wrestling at Los Alamitos High School.





*For kids ages 7-17. Join over 8000 successful students. Our 21st year!
*You will learn about ocean safety, paddling, standing and tricks like the switchfoot.

*Classes have a 1:6 teacher-to-student ratio for safety and a lot of one-on-one attention.
*Location: South of the Hermosa Pier at the 10th street L.A. County Lifeguard Tower.

1 1/2 hour class (5 days, M-F) Fee: \$134,/\$124. resident discount. Two different times: 9:00-10:30am or 10:45-12:15pm

** 3 hour class (5 days, M-F) Fee: \$209./\$199. resident discount One time: 9:00-12:15pm.

Ex Junior Lifeguards needed for paid instructors, call Vince!

*To register: HB Community Resources Department 310-318-0280 or www.hermosabch.org

*More Information: Vince Ray 310-370-1918, surferjay@losangeles.usa.com or

www.hermosasurfcamp.com



friendskip circle surf cemp

Surf camp for children and adults with special needs (ages 7+). Surf classes have a 2:1 teacher-to student ratio for safety. Surfboard provided. Please call the Friendship Circle before registering: 310-429-1536 or 310-214-4999 or www.gotfriends.com Class is 5 days- 1 1/2 hours each day.

Volunteers with surfing experience needed. Vince 310-370-1918



He treats everyone with the utmost respect and gives all of his efforts his full attention and focus. Nick understands that through hard work and persistence, his dream of becoming a great student-athlete can come true!

For the past couple of years Nick has taught multiple classes for Powerhouse Fitness as a part-time job while in high school, and he has brought knowledge of rowing and training regimens from world-class coaches to our members in Long Beach. His goal is to teach and give great fitness workouts to everyone, giving all of his effort to each and every workout with his class. We are grateful to have his expertise as part of our team!

Jack Nunn/Owner, Powerhouse Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90803 562/688-1716, www.powerhousefit.com.



Boys & Girls 5 - 14

Camps Begins June 11

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The Spectrum Club presents **Summer Basketball Camp** Boys & Girls • 7 – 13 years Monday - Friday • 9:00am - 3:00pm Session 1 July 16 - 20 Session 2 August 6 – 10 nd Siblin **Location: Spectrum Club** (Clippers Court) 2250 Park Place SPECTRUM El Segundo, CA 90245 (310) 643-6878 **Contact:** coach@schoolofskills.net (800) 595-0838 Teaching Skills for Life.

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Magic Book Garden

Reading/Writing All Spring & Summer



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Keep your beginning reader's hard-earned literacy skills from slipping and sliding this summer with some simple and fun activities. Along with signing up for spring and summer reading programs at the library or bookstores, make sure you keep reading aloud to your child every day. Stressed for time? Check out books on tape, and play these in the car when running errands or on road trips. By listening along, too, you can discuss the story with your child, make predictions about what will happen next, think up new endings, and so on. These kinds of activities build and extend reading comprehension as well as promote the enjoyment of reading.

It's sometimes hard to find books for beginning readers on their levels. So, be sure to encourage your child to read and reread the little books he or she made at school during the year. Even reluctant readers will enjoy these short easy-to-read books, and they will get lots of practice reading sight words, reviewing vocabulary, and building fluency. Also, before school is out, ask your child's teacher for a book list that includes titles that would be appropriate for your child—not too hard, not too easy, but just right, to keep reading going!

If you are supermotivated, get together a group of children reading approximately on the same level, and form a book club. Get together once a week and have a book exchange. Have each child recommend a book to the group. Start each meeting off with one parent reading a favorite book aloud. Make it fun and engaging! Don't ask children to do workbook pages!

Reading Travels Well

Keep a Magna Doodle in the car. Write little messages to your child at stoplights so that he or she can read and write an answer back. Encourage your child to write postcards to friends and family while on vacation. Even if you don't go anywhere far, send them from your area.

If your child is begging you to go on a special outing, have him or her write you a persuasive letter explaining why this is such a good idea. Write back to your child explaining your decision.

Start your child on a summer scrapbook or journal. It doesn't have to be fancy—even a simple notebook will do. Attach photos and invite your child to write captions and descriptions. Cut and paste pictures and paragraphs from brochures of museums, theme parks and other destinations. Encourage your little one to add illustrations. Your child can ask a friend to write and illustrate a page in this scrapbook.

For more information and great ideas to promote spring and summer reading, go to readingrockets.org/calendar/summer and readwritethink.org, and click on "Summer Activities."

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: www.magicbookgarden.com



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The Importance of Summer!

What Students Should Know Upon Entering Each Grade



We Teach Success! www.TutoringClub.com

Elementary School

Kindergarten – Students should be familiar with all letters and many basic sigh words.
1st–3rd – Early elementary students need to become proficient readers and memorize all basic math facts. Any issues with comprehension and phonics can be worked on with our summer reading programs (If students are still counting on their fingers by the end of third grade they will be overwhelmed with the amount of math covered in later grades).

4th & 5th – Extremely important years for future academic success. Students should understand fractions and decimals, and be able to interpret word problems Students need to draw conclusions when reading and be comfortable writing structured paragraphs.

Middle School

6th – Come October, we will have more 6th graders than any other age. The jump from the friendly confines of an elementary classroom to having more than one teacher leaves many preteens shell- shocked. Most of our sixth graders are overwhelmed with the amount of math covered, and lack the study skills for the transition to middle school. If your student has struggled with any area during elementary school, these deficiencies will become amplified in middle school.

7th & 8th – Writing and Algebra are the two areas 7th and 8th graders tend to struggle with the most. If your child passes into Algebra 1for 8th grade, it is important to master all core math concepts, as there will be no time for review.

High School

9th & 10th – For some reason all high school students think summer means brain freeze. Maybe we should tell them summer break is three months because most children used to work on the farms for their parents. Now, we allow them to spend endless hours on the beach and hang out playing PS3 and Xbox. Our athletes spend countless hours practicing for the upcoming sports season, but do nothing to help themselves academically. Summer is a great time for course reviews and previews, especially in math and science courses.

11th—Junior year is the most stressful for students planning to go to a four year college. Unfortunately, many 11th graders try to cram for the numerous standardized tests at the end of the year when their classes are the most difficult. The Tutoring Club has individualized test prep for both the ACT and SAT standardized tests. Students who take our classes during the summer can devote all their attention to the tests, and not worry about sports and academic obligations.

12th – If students have not taken any of their standardized tests they have until November of their senior year to complete them. Students should use the summer to prepare for the exams so they can focus on college applications in the fall.

If Tutoring Club can be of assistance, give us a call today!

Redondo Beach

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Palos Verdes Campus

Ages 18 months – 12 years 31100 Hawthorne Blvd. Rancho Palos Verdes (310) 544-3099

For more information and registration form, go to

www.PeninsulaMontessori.com



Making Memories One Summer at a Time

Programs run from June 18 - August 30

Summer Child Care, Sports and Specialty Camps, Day Camps and Resident Camps all fun filled with:

- arts & crafts
- field trips & friendships!
- sports & games
- and lots of memories!

songs & skits

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Enrolling Now

Note-ables

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important



Chicken Joe is an orange cat who loves rock and roll. Trout Fishing in America, aka folk-rockers Keith Grimwood and Ezra Idlet and creators of this endearing character and the "funny farm" he lives on, tell Joe's story in original songs with country-flavored rock and plain ol' country. This latest CD is a follow-up to *My Name is Chicken Joe* and is available either solo or with a whimsically drawn storybook illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch. In this story, narrated by Grimwood and Idlet and augmented by their band, Chicken Joe sleepily arises, as cats will, from his bed in the hen house and tries

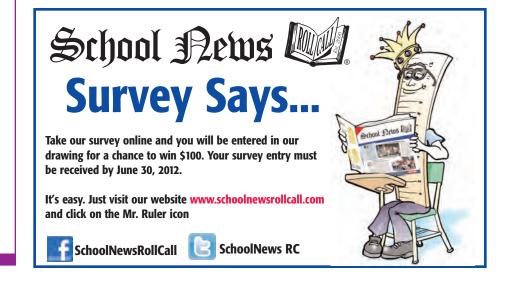
Kate Karn

hard to remember an important thing he'd forgotten. After talking to the hens, the dog named Miss Kitty, and a very odd kazoo-playing mule, he lies down to take a much-needed nap, as cats also will. You and your children will undoubtedly have picked up on the clues and try to shout Joe into waking, which could be why he remembers what he'd forgotten when naptime's over.

The songs are accompanied by guitars, banjos and synthesizers, and spoons, hand claps and a frottoir—that's your washboard! They're wonderfully clever and can be considered the show after the story. Roosters crow "Rock and roooollll!" in "Rock and Roll Roosters," and all the farm animals display their eccentric and species-bewildered behavior ("Hello, My Chicken Thinks He's a Dog"; "You've Got a Funny Name.") One in particular, "The Fish Swim Backwards in the Sky," is lovely in a mountain-ballad way; mournful strings eerily contrast with whimsical lyrics like "Don't hold hands with a cactus tree." And it's not all silliness and games. "Where Did Everybody Go" tells about taking a wrong turn in life and making your way back, and "Dance with Me" is simple love and friendship, flavored with Cajun filé gumbo.

Chicken Joe Forgets Something Important is simply a fine time—and what's that pig doing in the bathroom?

Kate Karp is an editor for $School\ News\ Roll\ Call$ and a free lance writer and editor.



Ready, Get Set,...Create!

As a parent, I really now understand what everyone was saying when my sons were born: "It goes by so fast! Before you know it they will be...." And it is true! Since they grow so fast, I often think, what are the "seeds" that we parents should plant in our children? Manners? Of



course! Respect? Of course! Self-esteem and self-confidence? Yes and yes!

But as I my youngest child moves into elementary school, I truly believe that giving children the opportunity to think critically, problem solve, imagine, and create will elevate them even more as they continue to grow.

Math calls for it. Social studies calls for it. Playing in the yard and getting into arguments call for it—the ability to analyze a situation, concretely or theoretically come up with solutions, and communicate those solutions through thought, speech, written word, movement, or art.

I opened Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc. in 2000. There were not as many demands on our children as there are now. Kindergarten is truly the new first grade. Our children's minds need to be agile, sharp, open to new ideas, curious, passionate, and creative, no matter if they will become chemists, professional athletes, teachers, artists, musicians, or business executives.

If you can give your child a gift in 2012, take the time to do something creative with him or her. Get out those cardboard boxes and turn them into a race car or doll house. Get out wire, tile, and glue and play. Read books, take walks and collect rocks, write letters, and talk! These life skills will be a gift to your child.

Lauren Perelmuter, President/Founder of Art To Grow On Children's Art Center, Inc. www.art2growon.com (310) 625-6028





Welcome to Dragon Martial Arts Summer Camp! Your child will fill his or her days with daily Taekwondo classes, learn about the Great Master Artists and design crafts with Art To Grow On Inc, will learn how to read music, play instruments and sing with Bourque Music, and will practice and develop math skills with JEl Math Tutoring.

Sign Up Now for Spring & Summer Activities



Jodie Lynn

Q. We have four kids in school, ages six to twelve, and are being bombarded with sign up forms. Is it really necessary to get our kids signed up in February for spring and summer activities? With as many kids as we have, it gets expensive very quickly. Are there any other options when a family is on a budget?

A. While it may currently be financially overwhelming, getting kids signed early for activities that begin in the spring and summer can be crucial in securing a spot. However, let me remind you things happen there may be vacancies for the summer due to other conflicts, so don't panic.

Also, be mindful that due to the current economy, many organizations, including sports, art activities and classes, dance, music, science, math and even computer programs, etc., are trying their best to offer scholarships to families who qualify. Many are trying to cover everything pertaining to the cost, uniform, equipment and shoes by offering a full scholarship, while others are trying to help with at least a twenty to thirty percent savings with a partial one. Before you make any final decisions, call the organizations your children are interested in and ask if they offer any type of financial assistance, full scholarship, or a partial one for their spring and summer program. Ask where the information is posted or printed so that you can get a copy. Once you do, look it over carefully and call with any concerns or questions regarding the criteria guidelines. Check to see if there are any rules against submitting more than one application per household. For example, sometimes kids will be grouped together according to a specific age range and will be assigned to play on the same team but both may not qualify for help by the same organization.

If you cannot secure financial aid soon enough, perhaps think about allowing the older kids to participate in one sport for the spring and one for the summer. This way, they will be signed up, ready to go and if a scholarship comes through or even a partial, you will have the freedom of signing them up for one other important activity, or even passing it on to the younger kids.

You may also want to ask if there are any active volunteer positions that need to be filled that might offer an advantage of lowering the cost of an activity and take that into consideration as well.

Last but not least, get yourself organized early by also planning activities for the little ones to do that will still be a ton of fun, yet free:

- trips to various parks that offer different activities during the week that are free to the general public
- visits to the local libraries, which continue to add new things for kids to do at no cost whatsoever
- neighborhood plays (or, just one for your family right in your own back yard), creating costumes, jewelry, hats, scenes and music from things simply lying around the house
- movie nights with kids helping to cook same/similar type of theme as movie via special meal; loads of fun!
- take the younger kids to the older kids' games as a family; it shows continued support and is truly a family affair to have fun.

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent $^{\text{TM}}$ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including $Mom\ CEO\ (Chief\ Everything\ Officer),\ Having,\ Doing,\ and\ Surviving\ It\ All!$ and $Syndication\ Secret-What\ No\ One\ Will\ Tell\ You!$ Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

Pokemon Word Search Contest

NEW 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 is the word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put RBUSD in the subject line)

Entries must be received by May 25, 2012

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

A special thank you to Tristan Luedee, 7 years old, for suggesting this Pokemon Word Search and emailing the words.

Aerodactyl Jigglypuff Rotom Bayleef Kingler Seviper Chikorita Lileep Togepi Ditto Unown Meowth Electabuzz Noctowl Vibrava Oddish Wobbuffet Flygon Grimer Pokemon Xatu Hoothoot Pikachu Yanmega Qwilfish Zubat Igglebuff

Congratulations to Alysson Bautisa Winner of the April Word Search Contest!

Α	Ε	R	0	D	Α	C	T	Y	L	V	Q	В	V	F
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SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Steven Keller

Today, students face an ever-changing future that is much more difficult and intense than the world in which we now live. The workplace is uncertain, jobs are fragile, and our economy may further impact each young individual's ability to secure his or her own livelihood. Our students will be released into a job market after high school that requires much more skill and expertise at entry-level than ever before. Students who have four-year degrees compete for these entry-level positions and are often still lacking in the critical-thinking proficiencies to excel. 21st century learning

is a priority at Redondo Beach Unified School District, and we hope to instill these required abilities not only for attending college, but for achieving success in the workplace.

Students must be socially and emotionally prepared for college, as well as academically ready and physically healthy. This is quite the task to take on! This is a transitional time for young adults, and the guardians in their lives must assist with this change. The college application process is complicated. Students are asked to "know" themselves, to select a major or course of study for life, and to define themselves as the future adults they wish to become. With the previously mentioned future so uncertain, children need support to meet the expectations of these higher-learning institutions and to complete their application requests. This is the responsibility of parents, guardians, and educators. Going to college is our hope; this message must be consistent. At RBUSD, this is our message; obviously a percentage will not attend, but all students should have the chance.

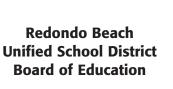
> **Redondo Beach Unified School District** 1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 (310) 379-5449 • www.rbusd.org



Anita Avrick President



Jane Diehl Presiding Officer



Drew Gamet Member



Laura Emdee Vice-President



Todd Loewenstein Member

2012 Regular Board Meetings Schedule

June 12 May 8 May 22 June 26

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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





Brad Serkin President

Board of Education • From Page 1

beyond to specific subjects that will include prealgebra through calculus, sciences with labs, Spanish, French, PE, and art and

We understand the concerns and needs of working parents and have kept our pricing the same as last year. We have continued to partner with our Child Development Center (CDC) for onsite daycare. A six-week curriculum course will run as low as \$89 per week to make it affordable for everyone.

Please look for information and sign-up today on our website.

Additionally, look for information in your children's backpacks and online through vour school's e-mail blasts.

VITALITY CITY • FROM PAGE 2

Blue Zones Project Community Community Kick-Off & Challenge

Join hundreds of Beach Cities residents as we rally to become the world's first Blue Zones CommunityTM. This exciting kick-off will reveal the process, and helping us celebrate will be Dan Buettner, National Geographic explorer and best-selling author of the book The Blue Zones, and Goldie Hawn, award winning actress and founder of The Hawn Foundation. RSVP: www.bluezonesproject.com/kickoff

The Challenge: At the Blue Zones Project Community Kick-Off, individuals and groups who have been instrumental in the past year's success will gather to celebrate. For an additional element of fun and friendly competition, Dan and Goldie will bestow two awards on the night of the event.

\$500 Blue Zones Project Spirit Award – To the community group or organization that shows up with the most Blue Zones-inspired spirit. Spirit will be judged by the attire, props, signs, etc. and the enthusiasm with which the group represents themselves at the event.

\$500 Blue Zones Project Team Award – To the community group or organization with the most people in attendance at the event.





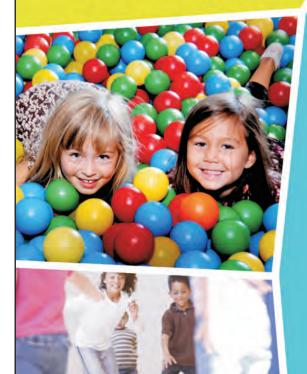
You deserve a

A Beach Cities Health District Program

Night Out

Best Kids Camp Best Play Facility **Best Birthday**

in the Easy Reader's Best of the Beach awards



Parents' Night Out

Drop the kids off while you enjoy a fun guilt-free night out while they have a blast at South Bay's Best Play Facility!

Activities include:

Arts and Crafts Sports Court Games Play Structure Fun **Rock Climbing**

Healthy dinner also included!

Every Friday & Saturday 5:30 - 9pm Ages 3+ \$25 first child, \$15 for siblings

Reservations required. Extended care available until 11pm for