

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

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MAY 2013

SUPERINTENDENT



Prepared for Success

Preparing a child for success encompasses many jobs and proposes many answers to childhood's numerous questions. The first, most important task to help a child to thrive is to try to define success itself. What exactly is the goal to be reached? How is "success" defined?

Answers to the above questions are subject to influence from countless sources, including culture, faith, and community. It is truly tenacity that is critical to success. Teach your children, through your own example, to set goals and go after them. These goals can be related to one's career, athletic participation, healthy lifestyle, or self-presentation.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 11

Growing With a STEM Education



*By Kara Heinrich, Principal
Jefferson Elementary*

Educators in the 21st century realize the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in our schools. This concept is crucial in the upcoming adoption of Common Core State Standards, where project-based learning across curricular areas is fundamental. Children are natural scientists, engineers, and problem-solvers, so why not build on these inherent curiosities? Children innately contemplate and navigate the world around them, trying to make sense of it the best way they know. Usually this "making sense" is through investigation of the five senses, paired with creation, discovery, composing and decomposing, and exploring. For children, this isn't education. It's fun!

Jefferson Elementary School is growing in STEM to build students'

See **JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY** • Page 8

Astronaut Fisher awards Jefferson a Space Shuttle Discovery memorabilia plaque.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Brad Serkin
Vice President

My name is Brad Serkin, and I am one of three new School Board members who joined the school board on April 9. I know many of you through American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Redondo Beach Youth Basketball (RBYB), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), or in other ways within the community or in my former capacity as president of the Redondo

Beach Educational Foundation for these past four years. I am honored to be able to serve as a Board member trustee for the children of Redondo Beach Unified School District. My e-mail address is bserkin@rbusd.org, and I would welcome any thoughts, concerns, or compliments for our district. I look forward to our first four years together and appreciate your support!



Michael Christensen
Member

I'm honored to serve as a member of the Board of Education for what I believe is the best school district in the South Bay. We stand on the shoulders of some great former Board members and education professionals in taking office at a time when our district is in basically good shape—and on its way to being in great shape. Our teachers, support staff, administrators, and volunteers are

among the best, and I can't say enough good things about our community, which has repeatedly shown its commitment to quality education in Redondo Beach. Our physical facilities are becoming world class, and our students are a model of achievement and diversity. I know we have some challenges ahead, particularly in dealing with funding and budgets and the implementation of a new curriculum approach. However, we have a great team ready to meet these challenges—or should I say opportunities—from the Board on down. I pledge to do my best and keep our students first.



Brad Waller
Member

I'm Brad Waller, and I'd like to introduce myself to you. I am excited and looking forward to the next four years as a member of the Board of Education. I am a product of California public schools and have lived in Redondo Beach for 27 years.

Open communication is very important to me. The best way to make sure that we do our best on the Board is to know what everyone

thinks and make informed decisions. If you have questions or comments, please reach out to me by e-mail at bwaller@rbusd.org or phone at (213) 784-2611.

While I have been heavily involved in the PTA, I look forward to making even more of a difference as a member of the School Board. We have a great district that has been moving the right direction, and I want to make sure we continue on this path while also being fiscally responsible. I will always base my reasoning and my choices on what is best for the students of Redondo Beach.

Board of Education Meeting Schedule

May 14	June 11
May 28	June 25

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*The Master of Education program is currently available on campus with full WASC and NCATE accreditations. The proposal for the online version is currently in review and is in process for WASC then NCATE approvals, which are expected to be awarded by spring of 2013. The program will be submitted for review to NCATE/TEAC in spring 2013.

School News

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**Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



I look forward to Superintendent Keller's article every issue. His enthusiasm for this district, for students, for his administration, for the community and for life just jumps right off of the page. His article this issue says a lot about him as a leader, a father, a husband and as a friend. He makes those around him a better person.

The black and white photo next to this article, makes you want to roll up your sleeves and deal the cards on May 9th to benefit all RBUSD schools. Have fun!

Our next issue is June 5th.

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



Come Play Cards for a Great Cause



Ted Craddock
President

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) will be hosting their 4th Annual Texas Hold-Em Tournament on Thursday May 9th at Blue Water Grill in Redondo Beach.

This fantastic event raises money for all RBUSD schools. Players will be competing for amazing prizes that include two iPads and four Dodger Dugout Club seats!

If poker is not your game, come play a few hands of blackjack to get your casino fix all while supporting RBEF. There will also be plenty of appetizers, great conversation, and a private cash bar for all who attend.



RBEF's 2012 Poker Tournament

There are only 100 spots available – buy in for \$100 in advance or \$120 at the door. Register now at www.rbef.org.

This year, RBEF has proudly partnered with the Redondo Beach Firefighters Association to help promote the tournament. The RBEF team and our local firefighters look forward to seeing you there!

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13790-12

O.R. SHOW & TELL

May 7 • 4 – 8 p.m.

**Torrance Memorial Medical Center
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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.



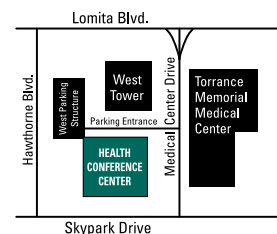
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Blue Zones Project

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

Getting Children to Move Naturally



Jens Brandt
RUHS Assistant
Principal /
Blue Zones
Project Liaison

Lauren Nakano
Director
Blue Zones Project

Over the last 30 years, the number of children living within a two-mile radius of a school that walk or bike plummeted from 60 percent to less than 15 percent. Nowadays, communities do not foster walkability, and it is no longer perceived to be the wisest option to let young children walk to school.

Blue Zones Project is trying to change that. Our Walking School Bus Program offers children in the Beach Cities a safe, fun and convenient way to incorporate exercise into their daily lives. Currently, there are 13 schools with Walking School Bus programs in place. Each school offers

multiple predetermined routes. Two or more trained volunteer coordinators are assigned to each route and pick up groups of children along the way, safely delivering them to their destination.



Tulita Elementary School kids and the Walking School Bus

Children who walk to school have shown themselves to be more alert and ready to learn; they cultivate strong social networks, develop lifetime fitness habits, help reduce traffic, and learn to be good pedestrians. The program may be tailored to the children, but it has also become a great way for adults to get involved in the community and sneak in some physical activity! Are you interested in supporting a more walkable community while encouraging children to stay fit? Contact Sara Russo at Sara.Russo@bchd.org to get involved!

A special thanks to our current volunteer teams at the following RBUSD elementary schools who make this program possible: Alta Vista*, Beryl Heights, Birney*, Jefferson, Lincoln, Madison, Tulita and Washington*.

**These schools are specifically looking for volunteers.*

RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310/798-8683x1312, 1321 • www.rbusd.org



Preparing Young Learners



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Two years ago we were pleased to announce the implementation of two new curriculum pieces in our preschools: Houghton Mifflin Pre-K and Handwriting Without Tears. Today both programs are going strong.

The Houghton Mifflin Pre-K curriculum is a “hands-on, minds-on” program designed to provide the foundational skills to prepare children for kindergarten. The curriculum focuses on phonological awareness, listening comprehension, alphabet knowledge, print awareness, and oral language/vocabulary development. This is the same curriculum we use in our kindergarten classes across the district, so our students have a

seamless transition as they continue on into our kindergarten classes.

Handwriting Without Tears is a hands-on curriculum for fine motor and language development, as well as handwriting success. The program was designed by an occupational therapist and helps children develop important readiness skills for kindergarten, such as recognizing and building letters, vocabulary growth, body awareness, socialization skills, and much more.

Mat Man, a component of Handwriting Without Tears, has activities that help develop a child's body awareness and drawing and counting skills. The wood pieces used to create Mat Man introduce preschoolers to the concepts of big, little, curves, and lines, which are later used for writing lessons. Mat Man is well loved by preschoolers and pre-kindergarteners and has even been a source of inspiration for Mat Girl, Mat Dog, and Mat Cat.

We are very excited about these great curriculum pieces, and we encourage you to stop by one of our centers to see these great programs in action.



Mat Man and Mat Woman



Making Mat Man



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Why Parents Attend Our ESL Classes



Vivian Ibarra
Director

"I understand more English now and can talk to my kid's teachers better." said Marta, a parent at Washington Elementary School.

Marta enrolled in the Distance Learning program while her older son attended first grade at Washington Elementary school and her younger son attended a part-time preschool. Although Marta didn't have the opportunity to attend daily classes, she was able to learn English in order to speak with her children's teachers and to communicate more effectively in the community. Marta's comprehension and communication skills improved greatly during her time in the Distance Learning program.

Now that her children are both attending Washington Elementary during the day, Marta has been able to continue learning English by attending our daily classes.



Student love the individual attention in distance learning.

Marta is an example of just one of our students. We believe in helping parents learn English so they can become more involved in their children's education. The mission of SBAS's English as a Second Language program is to advance California's economic-workforce development and societal goals by helping our adult learners prepare for college, career and civic responsibility. Students can attend daily classes designed for all levels of English learners. Teachers help with conversation, workplace skills and grammar.

Our computer lab provides support with programs that teach vocabulary and pronunciation. Students can also attend citizenship classes and become U.S. citizens. Many students cannot come to school every day. With Distance Learning, students meet once a week and bring packets home that include a DVD or CD along with written homework and tests.

Just like Marta, all of our students are eager to learn and focus on improving their English skills. Visit us on the Web and learn more about all of our lifelong learning classes.



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Revenue from Recycling



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

The Associated Study Body leadership class (ASB) is working hard to help motivate our students and staff members to contribute to a cleaner campus and also raise money for multiple nonprofit organizations.

Recently, during fourth-period advisory, the ASB members showed a PowerPoint presentation to the students and teachers which included images of cans, bottles and trash-infested beaches. The PowerPoint touched on how recycling can be used to fund our senior activities.

Due to the hard work of our ASB students, and the Redondo Shores office staff, special recycling bins have now been placed in the main office and other strategic points around campus. Select students and the night custodian will empty the bins and containers and then check on them when they are full or might contain contaminants.

After the bins and containers are emptied, the ASB is then responsible for transporting the items to a storage area prior to a recycling center. The students will begin to use the revenue that this generates to fund a specific nonprofit program or RSHS senior activity.

This new recycling program augments the paper recycling program that many teachers have already established in their classrooms, where assigned students transport bins to a storage container located within the main office.

The RSHS staff is happy that this ambitious project will help keep our campus cleaner, as well as instill a greater sense of pride in our school and the community.

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Keeping the Torch Lit



Dr. Annette Alpern
Asst.
Superintendent
Instructional
Services



Phyllis Hart
College Going
Culture
Consultant

Submitted by the elementary school counselors: Alta Vista, Dr. Joyce Stout; Beryl, Debbie Kantor; Birney, Jacqueline Man; Jefferson, Karen Spiwak; Lincoln, Veronica Guerrero; Madison, Kimberly Pappas; Tulita, Debbie Kantor; Washington, Paige Mosqueda

In the Redondo Beach Unified School District we are opening the doors to college for all! That's because this year the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has generously funded college-exploration field trips for each of our fourth-grade scholars from the eight elementary schools.

The scholars took campus-wide tours and spoke with college students and admissions counselors. While each tour was different from one college to the next, our students were able to see a variety of campus life, such as student housing, the student unions, bookstores, athletic facilities, libraries and dining facilities.

Some of the students were able to see inside a real college classroom. They also asked great questions, such as, "What happens if you are tardy to class? What do you do if you can't hear the teacher or professor because the room is so big? What if you don't like the dorm food?"

These questions allow us to begin the college-going conversations at an appropriate developmental level for our students. The answers we provide high school students are very different from the level of detail we offer to the younger children. But the important point is that we begin our conversations early and often, and continue to keep the educational torch lit for everyone. Our students were deeply inspired by these visitations, and we are all grateful to the RBEF for supporting them.



Alta Vista students begin their UCLA tour next to the Bruin Bear

Some of the colleges and universities we visited were Pepperdine (Jefferson Elementary School), USC (Madison Elementary School), UCLA (Alta Vista, Birney, Beryl and Lincoln Elementary Schools), CSU Long Beach (Birney and Washington Elementary Schools), Loyola Marymount University (Lincoln Elementary School), and Chapman University (Tulita Elementary School.)



Madison students happily pose with Tommy Trojan on the USC campus



Anthony Taranto
Principal

STAR Testing

Tests are a fact of life for all students. Tests help teachers gauge student progress, measure skills, determine grades, indicate areas for student growth, and evaluate instructional programs and instruction. Each spring, the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program is administered to measure how well students in California's public schools are achieving California content standards. English language arts and mathematics in grades two through 11 are the targets of these achievement tests. In addition, science and history-social studies are given in select grades.

While testing will not take place until May 2013, the STAR testing Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp> is a valuable resource to help parents become familiar with the STAR program. Here you will find links to released test questions for your child's specific grade level and subject area, as well as a parent guide to the STAR Program. Check out www.starsamplequestions.org for examples of released test questions.

No matter how big or how small the test, testing time can be stressful for our students. Here are some helpful hints to better prepare your child for testing.

The night before, please make sure your child gets to bed early and is well rested. Ensure that you child eats a healthy breakfast and avoids heavy foods that may make him or her groggy or high sugar foods create a sugar high. Make sure your child arrives at school on time and prepared.

Both parents and students should keep a positive attitude about the test. Talk with your child about the importance of testing and stress the value of trying to do his or her best without putting too much pressure on the student.

Our goal is to make the testing period as smooth and stress-free for our students as possible. With your support, I know we can achieve it! Thank you for your ongoing commitment to all of our Adams Middle School students.



Karen Mohr
Principal

STAR Testing Tips for Success

Starting April 29, second- through fifth-grade students will be taking the standardized tests. To help your child do well on their testing, please make sure he or she gets a good night's sleep before each day starts. Also, make sure that you provide a light, healthy breakfast, and have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time. Most importantly, send your child off to school with confidence-building words of praise and support like "You'll do great! Believe in yourself! I love you!" A positive interaction before testing always helps motivate students to do their best and gives them a feeling of self-worth and confidence.

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

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



Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

Getting Ready for Middle School

As the end of the school year approaches, many of our Birney families will be thinking about life after elementary school. For some families this will be viewed with excitement, but for others, trepidation.

At Birney Elementary we realize that the change from an elementary to middle school environment can be difficult, and so we take measures to help ease the anxiety and make this transition as seamless as possible.

One way we do so is through a close partnership with our feeder campus, Adams Middle School. Over the course of their fifth-grade year our students are given multiple opportunities to visit Adams to help familiarize themselves with the campus and learn more about sixth-grade life.

The “All About Adams Night” also provides our students and families with an opportunity to visit the campus. There they can receive a tour and have their many pressing questions answered about registration and other invaluable school information.

Following this activity, Adams Principal Anthony Taranto and members of his administrative team will visit the campus for an orientation assembly. At this time the students can learn about the instructional program and what to expect as an incoming sixth-grader. This assembly is followed by a walking field trip to personally visit the campus, at which time our students receive a first-hand view of middle school.

By the year’s end our fifth-grade students are eager and ready to begin middle school. And although we are sad to see them go, we know that they will be successful after we hand them off to one of the best middle schools in the South Bay!

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Reading Is Fundamental

The name Reading Is Fundamental is more than just an appropriate and memorable slogan—it is a timeless truism. Reading *is* fundamental and is arguably the most important skill an individual can develop in order to be successful in all aspects of life.

At Lincoln, reading is a fundamental part of every student’s day. The importance of literacy is modeled by every individual on campus, and the message to our students is consistent. Many of the activities and events at Lincoln focus on reading. Our Accelerated Reader (AR) program offers a number of titles at each student’s reading level. It incentivizes students through a point system, and students work with teachers to set goals. Additionally, events like Battle of the Books and our PTA-sponsored Dr. Seuss Night encourage reading.

Lincoln Elementary regularly updates and enhances the reading selections in its school library as well as classroom libraries. New and varied titles have been added to our collections. We acknowledge the value of Internet-based material, and so the library, computer lab and classrooms have access to several different age-appropriate resources.

The Lincoln community is committed to promoting the importance of reading and is working hard to stress that reading is not only vital to academics but also can be a great source of pleasure. This commitment is only enhanced by having strong reading support at home. We are grateful to our families for making reading a priority. Through our solid home-school partnership, Lincoln students are getting the message that “Reading Is Fundamental.”



Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Keeping Our Children Safe in a Digital World

Our students are growing up in a world that is very different from our own. They use media and technology in a way that most of us would not have even dreamed possible just a few short years ago.

Although we as adults may feel comfortable navigating the digital world, it is important that we as parents learn how to dialogue comfortably with our children in order to teach them how to stay safe, smart and responsible. The reality is that children today spend far more time interacting with the media than they do with their own parents at home, or with their teachers at school. The digital world can offer amazing opportunities, but it is loaded with multiple challenges.

Children today can use the media to more than just entertain themselves. It also serves as a vehicle to socialize, communicate, create, play, explore and even learn; all of which can be positive. However, it’s important to remember that the media also pushes the kind of boundaries with which parents and kids may not be comfortable.

Overexposure to violence and ads has also been found to have negative health effects. Although the media allows children to learn and use new norms of communication and collaboration, it can also be highly addictive. The Internet gives children access to vast information and a broad audience. However, since children don’t always think before they post, it can also lead to damaged reputations, exposure to unknown identities, cyber-bullying, and important personal information being replicated and misused.

Good Rules to Follow

Since technology and media aren’t going anywhere, and will continue to evolve and advance, it is important for our parents to begin talking with their children in order to raise responsible digital citizens. So, Common Sense Media (www.commonsense.org) encourages parents to follow some basic rules when working with children:

Learn to embrace their digital world. If being digitally savvy is what it means to be a child today, then share their enthusiasm and learn to navigate it.

Encourage balanced use. A good rule of thumb is that use of media should not exceed the amount of time spent performing other activities. Start a media log to keep track.

Always monitor media use. Keep the media out of children’s bedrooms, and ask questions about what they are doing to keep an open line of communication.

Discuss what sites they can visit and what can be downloaded.

Don’t allow cyber-bullying.

It’s also a good idea for parents and children to complete a yearly media agreement or contract in order to discuss family expectations and set limitations, as well as have an established line of communication. Although the job of teaching children the appropriate use of technology can be daunting, the courage to tackle it will result in happier, well-rounded children.



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Kara Heinrich
Principal

Growing with a STEM Education (continued from page 1)

competencies as problem-solvers, innovators, and inventors who are technically literate, self-reliant, and logical thinkers. This year Jefferson piloted a First Lego League robotics team to expose students to real-world engineering and programming challenges. The goal is to now expand this team to interested third-graders and additional upper-grade students.

The robotics team has been an inspiration for students to further explore interests in science and technology. This program engages students as a motivating, mentor-based model,



The Dolphintors learning an engineering program



The Dolphintors Robotics Team constructing their Robots.

which builds on engineering and teambuilding skills while inspiring innovation through the nurture of comprehensive aptitudes, including teamwork, self-confidence, communication, and leadership.

STEM is also growing in curricular projects and activities across campus. From science nights and fairs and assemblies when Astronaut Fisher visited and students interacted with the Space Station to an upper-grade science teacher and engineering enrichment classes, STEM is blooming at Jefferson!

Bike It, Hike It, Like It!

A Walking School Bus is a carpool without a car! There are set meeting locations, departure times, and walking paths. **Last year, the local Walking School Bus program saved more than 15,000 car trips to school!**

- Two or more adults safely lead a group of kids to school
- Students walk or bike with classmates and friends
- Reduces local traffic
- Gets children to school safely and on time
- Great way to exercise

Interested in Volunteering?

Contact Sara Russo at Sara.Russo@bchd.org to get involved!



Presented by
Beach Cities Health District



Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Preparing to be a Shine

The testing season is upon us, and I wanted to give you some tips to ensure your child is ready to shine.

Make sure your child gets enough sleep and eats a hearty breakfast. Children need fuel to help those synapses fire. Arrive at school a little earlier than normal. If we can avoid rushing in the morning, our children will feel less anxious and worried.

Encourage your child to take the test seriously, but don't overdo it. It is a test, not the end of the world. Remind your child that, no matter how they do, you love them. You can even share what your testing experiences were like growing up. You made it through, and so will they. Remind your child that assessments and testing are one way of demonstrating what they have learned this year.

Joseph Ledoux
Principal



Students prep for the STAR Tests

Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Transitions, Transitions, Transitions

One of the hardest things for students and parents to go through is the transition from one school to another. For some, the anxiety of going to a larger and unknown school can impact a student's emotional well-being. This being said, for some students, it's not a problem. To address feelings of uneasiness, Parras Middle School has designed a program to help students make the transition into middle school.

We will visit each of our feeder elementary schools and present to students what it's like to go to Parras Middle School. At our presentations, students will be able to see pictures of students attending class, eating lunch, and participating in other activities. Our counselors will walk them through a school day so they have a better feel for what it is like to be a middle school student. After the presentation, all the questions that students may have about lockers, tardies and homework will be answered by counselors and administrators.

We will arrange for elementary students to tour Parras Middle School with their entire fifth-grade class. Elementary students will be able to walk the halls and see sixth-grade classes in session. They will be able to go into the gymnasium, cafeteria and other places so that they become familiar with the school. At the end of the tour, students will be given another opportunity to ask questions that they may have.

It Can Be Fun, Too!

In May, our Leadership class invites all incoming elementary students to come to a carnival that is held in our gymnasium. Students get to play on jumpers and participate in games led by our leadership students. Importantly, this is the first time that all of our future sixth-graders get to meet their future classmates from the other elementary schools.

Lastly, during sixth-grade registration, we will hold Camp Parras for all new incoming students to Parras Middle School. This important orientation allows students to meet many of our sixth- and seventh-grade teachers along with other new students. Teachers will help students learn about life in middle school. It's a fun afternoon for everyone involved!

We look forward to welcoming new students to Parras Middle School and hope you take advantage of our program to help with the transition. Please go to our website for all dates related to transitioning to the middle school.

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Let your child know that it is alright to take a mini break by putting down your pencil, closing your eyes, and take some deep breaths. Remind your child to visualize staying relaxed and focused during the test.

Remind your child that if he or she does not know the answer to question, skip it and come back. If you guess, you have a 25 percent chance of getting it right. If you do not guess, you have a zero percent chance of getting the question correct.

I wish all our Madison Comets good luck on the upcoming tests. You have worked hard this year, and your teachers have prepared you well. Go, Comets!



Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

Academic Pride

By Mr. Jens Brandt, Assistant Principal

The students at Redondo Union High School made significant gains last year on the California Standards Test (CST). Our 19-point improvement, from 837 to 856, was the result of our teachers' energy, our parents' unwavering support, our staff's dedication, and, of course, our students' drive and focus. We also followed through on our promise for some more spirited hairdos!

So, why are the CSTs important? First and foremost, they are a key ingredient in our Academic Performance Index (API). The API is a measurement of the academic performance and progress

of individual schools in California. It is one of the main components of the Public Schools Accountability Act as passed by the Legislature in 1999.

The API scores ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1,000. In other words, API is a great way to measure the instructional rigor and student productivity at any given public school in our great state. Furthermore, colleges and universities closely analyze indicators such as API in order to measure the quality of our instructional program and the level of success that our students achieve.

From Proficiency to Advanced



RUHS Administrators keeping their promise!

During approximately four weeks in April and May, our students will have the opportunity to show exactly what they have learned during the 2012–2013 school year. Students will be tested in English language arts, mathematics, science and history. We expect all of our students to be successful during testing; it is our goal for every student to achieve, at minimum, proficiency in each content area.

We especially applaud those students who are able to move from basic into proficiency and advanced. Students who make at least 50-point gains, and/or reach a level of 475 in any content area, will be recognized as "Sea Hawk Elite." Sea Hawk Elite students will earn privileges such as leaving class early, attending athletic events for free, public recognition, and the chance to win prizes such as an iPad.

While distinguishing our school in the eyes of colleges and universities, earning recognition as a Sea Hawk Elite, and elevating Redondo into one of the top high schools in California, are all worthy and important goals, we also know that our exceptional students are intrinsically motivated to do their best and be their best!

Students, Sea Hawk pride begins with you!

Tulita *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Christina Giguere
Principal

Our Future is Bright

This spring, the buzz around Tulita is college and careers! This trimester our students have been immersed in experiences that will motivate them to attend college and pursue an exciting future.

Mrs. Debbie Kantor, our counselor, organized the school's first Career Day event. We brought in 17 parent volunteers to speak to the children about their own college and career experiences. The students listened to a variety of presentations about careers in the medical field,

advertising, real estate, social work, firefighting, law enforcement and more. Many of the presenters showed videos, brought in supplies, and, most importantly, shared their passion with the Tidalwave community.

Thanks to the RBEF, our fourth-graders visited Chapman University at the end of March. Not only did they take a traditional campus tour, they were also able to see college classes and laboratories with actual college professors! The children ventured into a Human Performance Lab, experienced a food science presentation, and had a real lesson in geology.



Mrs. Whaley's 4th graders field trip to Chapman University.

Planning Ahead

This trip definitely sparked everyone's curiosity. Many of the children said that they are now more motivated to attend college. In addition to the career day and college field trip, the fourth-graders also had a few special guest speakers come and talk about architecture, social media and robot software.

Our Tulita fifth-graders are now taking the idea of going to college very seriously. Recently they worked on a "Path to College Report" where they selected a college, researched entry requirements and admissions information, gathered facts about the school's history, and learned about financial aid. The students then designed and made a college doll and pennant, and later gave an oral presentation to their classmates.

All of our Tidalwaves have what it takes to attend college, pursue an inspiring career and enjoy a bright future!



5th graders learning about a career in law enforcement.



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Developing a Love of Reading

Washington School is successfully completing its first year of Reader's Workshop (RW), part of a balanced literacy program that teaches students to become lifelong readers and to comprehend various texts in an engaging manner. Students “shop” for the books they read once a week and read for an extended period daily. This extension leads to stronger reading skills, increased vocabulary development, and better fluency. In the fall, with the help of the PTA, Washington teachers shored up their classroom libraries with leveled fiction and non-fiction books. Students are frequently assessed so that they are reading

books at the proper level. The RW model includes mini-lessons to teach a concept each day, book talks in which students promote and recommend books they enjoy, one-on-one time with the teacher to meet individual student needs, and an opportunity for the teacher to work with small groups to catch up on certain skills. Classes work on building reading stamina each day.

To support this important work, Washington teachers spend time out of the classroom twice monthly with our Growing Educators coach, Jessica Martin. During this time, teachers plan units of study, engage in lesson study, and watch demo lessons to improve their teaching practices. This summer, a team of teachers will travel to Teachers College in New York City for a week-long Readers Workshop Institute with experts in the field.



A dual immersion kindergarten student reads a book at his level during Readers Workshop.

To support our RW program, students are encouraged to read leveled books at home online with Raz-Kids, which provides animated leveled books and interactive quizzes to strengthen reading skills. Students listen to books, read with vocabulary and pronunciation support, and read without support.

The Washington staff is proud of the progress we’ve made with reading instruction and can see the love for reading developing in our students!

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Steven Keller

This modeling will demonstrate a commitment to accomplishment that will translate into your child’s social, emotional, academic, and physical aspirations.

All parents want their children to enjoy and do well in school. It is important to let your son/daughter know this desire. If a child believes that he/she can be successful, he/she will be. This strong bond at home will give a child the necessary confidence and self-reliance to meet and overcome the challenges faced at school. With a positive sense of self, achievement will also extend to other avenues, such as relationships, college pursuits, and careers.

With a well-built system of support at home, a child will learn even before entering school that cultural and societal differences are not an excuse for failing to work hard. Parents should maintain school involvement and celebrate the diversity of a child’s learning community. It is important to discuss with your child his/her homework, academic ambitions, and social pressures—often and with ease. As a child’s first teachers, parents must encourage strong language skills and appropriate study habits; these are proficiencies that will further an individual through all facets of life. Every situation is an enriching learning experience that can be used for the benefit of your child, who actually thirsts for your guidance. Set high expectations, follow through with commitments and consequences, be honest, laugh frequently, and, parents, try to remember that, while a child is a unique individual, don’t spend more time trying to perfect him/her than you do on trying to perfect the relationship you share!

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5 - 14

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August 5 - 9

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July 29 - August 2

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August 5 - 9

Ages: Boys and Girls 5 - 12
Location: Hess Park, Rancho Palos Verdes
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www.rbused.org/specialeducation

Planning for Summer



Frank DeSena
Asst. Superintendent
Student Services

Dr. Aaron Benton
Exec. Director
Special Education

By Frank DeSena, Superintendent Student Services

Planning for summer can be a challenge for many families. When parents are working, having summer options for your children is a necessity. Even if a parent is able to stay at home, it is important to have your children involved in some organized program or activities. June 14 through August 27 is a long time for children to not have some kind of organized learning or fun activities.

The RBUSD CDC has a summer program that is available for all elementary students. Parents

may sign up for the CDC just for the summer program. There are many fun and interesting activities planned during the summer.

The RBEF is once again running a summer school program. Classes are available for K–12 students. The RBEF program is at Jefferson School for K–8 and RUHS for 9–12. The RBEF summer school is a fee-based program, and you can enroll by going to their website at www.rbef.org. The people that organize this summer school program do so to benefit Redondo Beach community members as well as RBUSD. When your children go to the RBEF program, they benefit, as does the entire school district. Once RBEF pays for the cost of running the summer school program, the remaining funds are used to support worthy district programs. Most of the teachers employed by the RBEF summer school program are RBUSD staff during the regular school year. The K–8 program is from June 25–July 24, and the 9–12 program is from June 20–July 31.

There are many interesting and fun camp opportunities run by the city of Redondo Beach and other organizations. Check the city website for some of their options at www.redondo.org.

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Can You Canoe?



Kate Karp

The Okee Dokee Brothers—actually lifelong friends Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander—invite us on a canoe trip down the Mississippi by grace of their 2013 Grammy-award-winning CD/DVD combination. The DVD's video chronicle of their monthlong trip is a study in geography and sociology, utterly American in the topographic and literary senses. Trains rumble by on the riverbank, turtles lay their eggs in the mud, two children dressed as Becky Thatcher and Tom Sawyer are captivated by the Brothers' challenge to spell *Mississippi*.

It's hard to select a standout selection on the music-only CD. Like the Mississippi, the songs flow into the motif of the river journey. American traditional bluegrass and melody lines from familiar public domain sea chanteys and folk songs combine to re-form as the paddles that move the craft. Lansing and Mailander play banjo and guitar, respectively, and the canoe's crew, if canoes have crews, consists of technicians, photographers, guest artists, and musicians who play everything from accordions and fiddles to bass harmonicas and tomato boxes. The CD is easy to listen to and provides a great background to the outstanding, remarkable DVD video.

Evident to viewers and listeners will be the strong undercurrent of respect for and appreciation of the beauty of everything nature manifests, from the soaring water birds to the terrible storm that uprooted their tent to 22 pesky mosquito bites. Completing the theme is the wisdom of the river people. In the most memorable part of the video, Kenny Selway, the "last river rat," spoke of the generations before him and the trouble on his mind: the eroding respect for the river's ecology. The Okee Dokee Brothers brought this home with them, and it's their souvenir gift to you.

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



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The Importance of Summer!

What Students Should Know Upon
Entering Each Grade

Elementary School

Kindergarten – Students should be familiar with all letters and many basic sight 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 1 for 8th grade, it is important to master all core math concepts, as there will be no time for review.

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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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7 - 13 years
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Cost: \$299 per session
\$550 for both
\$60 per day

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\$25 second sibling

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Word Search Contest—Words Associated with School

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 (Please put RBUSD in subject line)

Entries must be received by May 15, 2013

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

Achievers	Focused	Principal
Character	Homework	Recess
Classrooms	Instructors	Reunion
Curiosity	Integrity	Student
Discipline	Learning	Success
Educators	Mentors	Technology
Encourage	Nutrition	Thinkers
Excellence	Parents	Workers

Congratulations to April Winner!

Hannah Winslow

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

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