

FREE

School News

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Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 45

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

SEPTEMBER 2011

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

Welcome to the 2011—2012 school year! Redondo Beach Unified School District continues to make improvements to many of our school sites (thanks to Measure C) and there will be some fresh faces to add to the changes. We want to make you aware of the administrative changes that occurred over the summer throughout the District.

Mary Little, Principal of RUHS, has been appointed as Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the District Office.

Dr. Nicole Wesley, Principal of Adams Middle School, and formerly an assistant principal at RUHS, has been appointed as Principal of RUHS.

Anthony Taranto, Principal of Alta Vista Elementary School for

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 14

Community Partners



Students, parents, and Barnhart Balfour Beatty planting colorful flowers in new benches.

From the District

Since 2007, the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) has been fortunate to be a participant in the ShareFest Annual Work Day. ShareFest, a non-profit organization in the South Bay, focuses on fostering change in the community through service projects. The annual work day is one such project that has now touched every school site in the district. This past spring, nine school sites benefitted from ShareFest and its community partners.

The scope of each project varied, depending on the needs of the actual site. This year, through ShareFest a community partner, Adams Middle School, Alta Vista Elementary School, Birney Elementary School, Edison Pre-School, Jefferson Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, Madison Elementary School, and the

SEE COMMUNITY PARTNERS • PAGE 15

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Change is Constant—and Good

Welcome back to school! The students know that when they arrive at school they always experience change. They have new teachers, new friends in their classrooms, and sometimes new subjects. They certainly are to learn new facts. They may not know the axiom, “The only thing constant is change.” This is true for the 2011–2012 school year. You may find a new principal at your school. I hope the students and families at some of the schools also start to walk

to school. Some schools will have a walking school bus program that is part of the Vitality City program. Please look for information at your school to see how to participate in the walking school bus and maybe some parents will offer to help as well. This will also be the last year for sixth-graders to be at the elementary school. Next year all sixth-graders will be going to middle school. Another change for students going into seventh through 12th grades will be that they are required to have a pertussis, or “whooping cough,” immunization. If you have not done

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 15

Making The Healthy Choice



Key Vitality City partners Dan Buettner, Blue Zones Founder and National Geographic Explorer, Steve Diels, City of Redondo Beach Councilman, and Dr. Keller, Superintendent of Schools at the first Vitality City Walking Moai Team launch. (Please see page 3 for article.)

2011

Redondo Beach Partners in Education presents

State of Education

Please see page 12 for details...



Putting Student's Education First



Brad Serkin
President

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation wants to thank all of the parents, students, administrators and teachers who helped make our first-ever RBEF summer sessions a great success. We had 250 students participate from grades K-12 on two different campus sites, along with many others who took online courses through the Cyber High program.

The RBEF has plans to grow more summer sessions over the next several years to help those students who are either behind in their work or who want to get ahead.

The Ed. Foundation also wants to thank all of its parents and community supporters who gave to the Fall Tech Campaign and Annual Donor Drive last year. The Tech campaign generated enough funds to give each school \$2,000 towards new computer equipment. The spring Donor Drive raised over \$200,000 for school programs and teacher grants.

This money is always dispersed between the elementary, middle school and high school campuses. A list of how the donor dollars are to be used will be posted on www.rbef.org in early October.

The RBEF also wants to congratulate those students (and their families) who received laptops from the Donor Drive opportunity drawing. They are the Dunham Family, the Hoffman Family, the Prohaska Family, the Quayle Family, the Reback Family and the Spangler Family.

Please look for our back-to-school flier via email, or at your student's open house. There are many upcoming events and opportunities that can help get you involved with the RBEF during the upcoming school year. Here's to putting student education first!

Be sure to enter our Word Se



Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



I think this was the fastest summer ever! The students are back in school and the preparations by Superintendent Dr. Keller, principals and staff are obvious. They were hard at work making sure the classrooms were ready for learning to take place. With the new community partners, active PTA and Educational Foundation, caring parents and dedicated teachers, the results will be exciting to publish every month. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* in your reading selections.

Be sure to enter our Word Search Contest on page 8 and see who won last issue. Next issue October 5.

School News

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Covering the
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Vitality City

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

Making the Healthy Choice

By Lauren Nakano, BCHD Vitality City Program Manager

The Healthways Blue Zones Vitality City, in partnership with the Beach Cities Health District, is a community-wide initiative that will help make some big improvements in our local environment. It is designed to help support and nudge our residents towards making their healthy choices easy choices!

For the next three years we will be working with these groups to implement policies that will encourage healthier school meals, more physical activity and better social connectedness.

The RBUSD and its partners have a strong commitment to the health and well-being of our children. We are always looking for new ways to improve both our school and community environment. So in the upcoming year there will be several exciting new programs.

One thing you can look for in the fall is the Walking School Bus. Its goal is to promote walking to elementary school five days a week. Did you know that 30 years ago over 60 percent of children within a two-mile radius either walked or bicycled to school?

Today that number has dropped to less than 15 percent. But research and experience has shown that children who walk to school are more alert and ready to learn. They are better able to strengthen social networks, develop lifetime fitness habits, help reduce automobile traffic and learn how to be good and safe pedestrians.

There are many other ways for our students and their families to get involved. One is to go to www.vitalitycity.com and sign-up. Here you will receive regular updates on all that is happening in our school and community. You can also find useful tools to make small changes in your home.

Some other ways to make things better is to join a Walking Moai Team. These groups are designed to improve social connection and natural movement. You can also register for a plant-based cooking class. Or you can take the "Blue Zones My Home Checklist." Is your home helping or hurting your efforts to stay fit?

The "Blue Zones My Kitchen Checklist" can also help trade small adjustments for big health benefits. And the "Blue Zones Vitality City Compass" can even assess your expected longevity.




Redondo Beach Partners in Education presents

State of Education BUILDING A COMMUNITY

Please see page 12 for details.

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Educating Young Minds



Vivian Ibarra
Director

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advantage of the wonderful resources available to you at SBAS. Discover why so many people take classes here each term. Our teachers are exceptional, our classes are interesting, and our prices are affordable. Fall term starts the week of September 12.

Registration for any old favorites or new additions is easy; just log on to www.southbayadult.org and sign up. Like us on Facebook and receive early updates and special offers about classes.

See you soon at one of our convenient locations throughout the South Bay!

Please Drive Safely

Students
are
Back in School



Got Health?



Polly Kinsinger
President

On behalf of the Redondo Beach Council of PTAs, I would like to welcome you back for the 2011–2012 school year!

As I began my two-year term as Council president I tried to think of a theme that would be timely for the students and community, as well as inspire me to advance my goal of living a healthy lifestyle. Hence, "Got Health?"

For instance, did you know that children born today are projected to live shorter lives than their parents? Childhood obesity levels are so high, and thus their projected lifespan is actually shorter than ours! Of course, obesity is not just a childhood issue, it is also a community one. And we all know the old adage of, "it takes a community to raise a child."

So in conjunction with the Vitality City movement, our "Walking School Bus" is a first step (all puns intended!) in getting our students out and about and moving towards a healthier lifestyle.

According to The Alliance for a Healthier Generation, healthy students can concentrate better, attend school more regularly and perform better overall. So I encourage all of our parents to seek out the Walking School Bus routes in their neighborhood schools by calling their local PTA president for information.

And by the way, all Redondo Beach schools have an active PTA that is open to everyone. So please join it soon. This doesn't mean that you have to volunteer, although you are always welcome to do so. Joining the PTA sends a message that school is important to you and your family, and that the enrichment services provided by our PTA are necessary and wanted.

As school gets rolling, please keep an eye out for your student to have an opportunity to participate in Reflections, the PTA's national arts program. This year's theme is "Diversity Means."

RBUSD Alternative Education

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

Success Begins Today



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

Welcome back to the 2011–2012 academic year! I am honored to serve as your next principal of the Alternative Education program. I look forward to meeting all of you. Although students will enroll in the Alternative Education program for myriad of reasons, including attendance issues, credit deficiencies, and inconsistent work habits, my greatest initiative is to provide instructional leadership that will facilitate a school environment which provides different options for learning to meet the needs of all students to the best of our ability. Our educational program strives to be academically rigorous, engage each student by linking the curriculum to previous knowledge and experience, and be riveting enough to promote and encourage further exploration of new ideas.

Parents, teachers, support staff, and administration all play an important role in inciting our children to become active learners. It is my sincere desire to provide progressive and greater opportunities for our students to acquire the necessary skills to become productive citizens in a vastly changing society. To this end, consistent with the Alternative Education mission, we must take pride in providing opportunities for student success.

We invite you to visit our improved Web site at <https://rshs-rbusd-ca.school-loop.com>, which reveals our revamped dress code policy and discipline plan, and conveys pertinent information that pertains to Alternative Education.

The Alternative Education motto is "Our students' success begins today!" We look forward to another great year at Redondo Shores High School, Redondo Beach Learning Academy (RBLA), and the Independent Study program and to working with each student and his or her family.



Moving Forward



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Welcome to a new year at the Redondo Beach Child Development Centers (CDC). Everyone at the CDC is looking forward to meeting our new families and welcoming back our old friends. We have just wrapped up another terrific summer program and are looking forward to a successful school year. The CDC program is dedicated to providing the best choice in child development care and education for our students.

Last year we implemented the Houghton Mifflin Pre-K and Handwriting Without Tears curriculum in our preschool programs. These curriculum pieces were designed to provide students with good foundational skills to enter kindergarten and be successful.



Mrs. Allen using part of the Houghton Mifflin curriculum.

The students, as well as the teachers, enjoyed working with the different curriculum pieces.

Our continued collaboration between the school-age CDC teachers and the primary school teachers continues to grow. The after-school program offers a curriculum that builds on the standards-based instruction of the regular classrooms. Our teachers provide activities to enrich the children's school experience and to allow them to have fun. Homework time is also a part of the daily schedule, in order to offer assistance to the children and support to our working parents.

CDC is continuing to move forward! We are very excited to begin another great year.



Preschoolers using roll-a-dough letters from Handwriting Without Tears.

Special education programs are authorized by federal and state laws.

These laws require that a free and appropriate public education shall be offered in the least restrictive environment to all students identified as disabled.

Through the District's Student Study Team process and other procedures, a continuous effort is made to locate and identify individuals who might qualify for special education services.



The law also provides that parents may initiate a request to have their child assessed to determine eligibility for special education and/or related services.

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Adams *Middle School (6-8)*

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Anthony Taranto
Principal

Welcome Back!

I hope that you all had a fine vacation and are looking forward with much enthusiasm to the new school year.

A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings: new classes; new faces; new courses; and often new materials. Middle school is also a time of change. The workload and social adjustments are greater here than at the elementary level. Students are expected to attend class on time, complete all assignments, and behave appropriately. The middle school years will be challenging, yet exciting and filled with new opportunities.

As your child transitions to middle school and the social change that accompanies this time, here are some helpful hints to help you and your child to stay connected.

Stay engaged with your child and his/her teachers. Be proactive and monitor your child's grades and attendance on the Parent Portal.

Read all information on school policies and curriculum carefully. Check the school Web site for school and district information.

Request periodic meetings with the teachers. If you don't speak or understand English, ask for a translator or bring a bilingual friend or family member with you. Request information concerning programs that the school offers for students with limited English proficiency. Be sure your child is placed in the program that best meets his or her needs.

Answer e-mails and other correspondence the school sends. If you do not understand these messages due to language problems, ask the principal to send them to you in the language you understand.

Be an active member of the school community by getting involved with school activities and programs. Join the school PTSA.

We are pleased to join our parents as partners in the educational process. With your help and cooperation, we can make this an excellent school year. We will continue to "Reach for Greatness!"

Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Gearing Back Up for Learning

Welcome back! As the school year begins at Alta Vista, I want to take the opportunity to share my excitement in becoming your new principal. It is a pleasure to join the Redondo Beach community, and I am looking forward to meeting and talking to everyone soon.

As parents and teachers, one of our greatest wishes for our children is that they not only experience yearly success but also that they become lifelong learners. Teaching children to become involved in their own learning can begin at home. First, while reading aloud to your child, remember to put the book down and talk. Talk about how the book makes you feel, what surprises you, what you find interesting or connect to. By helping our children have conversations about books, we help them to understand their own thinking and to speak more fluently.

Encourage your child to live like a writer. Provide a variety of opportunities and materials for writing such as recipes, notes, rules, lists, stories, or poems and celebrate all they have done right. The most meaningful element a child needs to grow as a writer is to believe that he or she is a writer.

Parents can also help children explore math and science in the real world. A simple trip to the grocery store can help show how math is a part of our everyday life. Having conversations and posing questions about the world around us can help children see themselves as scientists.

With your help and support, this will be another successful year. The Alta Vista staff is excited to welcome all our learners back!

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Partners for Success

Can you believe another school year is about to begin? The Beryl Elementary School staff is excited and ready to partner with all of our students and families for another fantastic year! Teachers have been preparing to make this the best year yet, with rigorous academic standards taught at every grade level and our Character Counts recognition program embedded within our daily activities. As a learning community, we welcome your questions and ask that you become an active participant in your student's education.

Prepare your child for success. Remember to take time to meet your child's teacher during the first month of school. When your child comes home after school, talk with him or her about the day and ask what your student learned. Use time in the car with your child to squeeze in a little more learning by reviewing the day. Set priorities with your child and spend one-on-one time with him or her. Sit down together and help organize your student's backpack, binder, and materials. Devote 30 to 60 minutes each night to discussing school work, homework, and the other activities at school. Read together every night to make reading a priority in your child's life. Take an active part in your child's learning by keeping open communication with his or her teacher.



Mrs. Mohr and students welcome you back to school.

Attendance is key to your student's success. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Research shows that children who are in school do better in their academics and on tests. We can't do our job of educating your child if he or she is absent. Being late for school hurts a child's learning, too. A student who is consistently late every day could miss up to 30 hours of instruction during the year. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background—one that can only be gained through regular school attendance. Please make sure your child attends school regularly and on time!

Be involved with your child's school. Please attend Back to School Night on September 14 to listen to your child's teacher carefully outline the school year and expectations. Our PTA meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, followed by a presentation and staff introductions. Classroom presentations will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be time to sign up for conferences and give the teacher your phone number and e-mail address. September is the time to establish a positive, ongoing relationship with your child's teacher, and it will help you to understand your child's needs and teach you how to support him or her when necessary. Being involved in your student's education is a big indicator of success. Through teamwork, devotion, and an optimistic outlook on your child's educational experience, he or she will be successful in school. Behind our school is a dedicated team ready to help your student excel and have an amazing educational year. The Beryl staff is looking forward to a successful 2011–2012 school year!

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

A Great Year for Sure

Welcome back! It is my hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are well-rested and ready to begin a productive school year. I am looking forward to a successful one that is full of exciting learning opportunities for our students and their families.

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new principal of Birney Elementary School. This will be my first year with Redondo Beach Unified, and I am both thrilled and honored to lead such a distinguished school.

As we move into the school year together you should know that we are dedicated to providing an exceptional educational experience in a nurturing environment. We want to see all of our students grow academically, emotionally and socially.

I would like to extend a special welcome to those new students who are joining us for the first time. I am certain that your academic career at Birney will be both prosperous and enjoyable. Birney is an outstanding school with a dedicated staff and parent community. We are wholly committed to academic excellence, student achievement and intellectual growth.

Our parents are encouraged to join our very active PTA, too. Here everyone can make a difference! The PTA has been instrumental in providing fantastic support and resources. We ask for your continued participation in the various events and fund-raisers that you will see over the course of the next school year.

Once again, welcome. We are looking forward to a year full of wonderful and exciting happenings!

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Welcome Back!

It's that time of year again! We want to welcome back our Lincoln students and families, and extend a special greeting to our new kindergartners. Fall is also the appropriate season to offer suggestions on how to prepare for a successful school year.

We have found that education is a necessary partnership between students, parents and staff. Good communication is vital to a healthy and productive partnership, too. So parents should talk to their children about going "back to school" in a manner that is positive and supportive.

They should also take time to discuss appropriate behaviors and academic expectations. This should not be a pressure-filled or stress-inducing conversation, but should communicate your expectations about their best efforts. Be sure to ask your children how they feel about the upcoming year, and be prepared to address any concerns they might have.

Good communication with the school community is also important for a successful beginning. Parents are encouraged to communicate with our teachers during the first week of class. They should share any important information that will benefit the school relationship, or which might help to mitigate a potential problem. They can also use this time to find out how to contribute to the classroom.

Establishing a regular routine is one of the most important things that we can do to guarantee a successful school experience. Your student should experience a healthy transition from the freedom of summer to the more regimented school schedule of the fall.

Bedtimes should be appropriately adjusted, breakfast should be a regular part of every morning, and students should arrive on time every day. Arriving late adds much unnecessary stress. Your children should also have a regular place at home where they can study and do their homework. A quiet, well-stocked work area, along with a regular routine for study, is key to a successful academic year.

I am looking forward to a great school year at Lincoln. Thank you.



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Entries must be received by September 30, 2011

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

Bittern	Cormorant	Hummingbird	Pelican
Blackbird	Cowbird	Junco	Pheasant
Bluebird	Crow	Killdeer	Robin
Bluejay	Eagle	Loon	Sparrow
Bobolink	Flamingo	Meadowlark	Swallow
Bobwhite	Goldfinch	Mockingbird	Tanager
Cardinal	Gull	Nuthatch	Woodpecker
Chickadee	Hawk	Oriole	Wren
Condor	Heron	Owl	

Congratulations to June Contest winners:

Annette Taylor Word Search and
Maksyn Kuchynska Seek 'n Find

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

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

Note-ables

Jungle Gym



Kate Karp

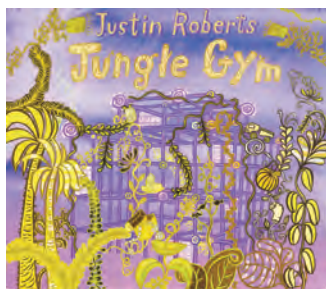
Jungle Gym by award-winning singer-songwriter Justin Roberts's could be a musical soundtrack for *Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing* or *Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No-Good Very Bad Day*. For every instance of childhood angst and glee, Roberts, who's a former preschool teacher, has created clever lyrics that children will relate to.

"I write stuff that makes me feel something, and then I hope kids will like it, too," Roberts said. Children will not only like them but will also easily relate to songs about a truck-obsessed younger sibling, sleepovers and homesickness, and getting lost in the mall.

Each song is a vignette of a child's life. There are fun and games—"We Go Duck" expresses delight at a rainy day that brings indoor recess and Duck Duck Goose to kindergarten; in "Gym Class Parachute," a child who admittedly isn't the athletic type sees his teacher dragging out the giant parachute and knows that they'll all be playing games in which there's no winner or loser. "Sign My Cast" has the temporarily dethroned self-anointed King of the Jungle Gym telling his friends, with the swagger of youth, to choose a "color with a good contrast" and "form a line while there's still time" to sign his cast. And there's "Snow Day," which of course we don't have in Southern California, but your child may nag you to move to Minnesota after hearing it.

You can pick a favorite jelly bean out of the *Jungle Gym* bag for a classroom lesson or a family situation. You can also just play it through and enjoy Roberts's songs backed by the Not Ready for Naptime Players, a group of talented musicians who play flutes and French horns, Wurlitzers and Moog synthesizers, ashtrays and hair clippers. And ducks. Of course.

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



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Positive Parenting

Establishing a Routine



Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel

One of several issues child advocates are concerned about these days is that children are not getting enough sleep at night. A regular bedtime is essential to the health and growth of your child.

If eight o'clock is the child's bedtime, it is made clear that there is no room service or further negotiating after eight. "I am done with my mothering/fathering for today. Your job is to get some sleep. Once I leave the room, any requests, complaints or fooling around noise will cost you fifteen minutes off of when you go to be tomorrow night. Two complaints means you go to bed tomorrow night at seven thirty. It is time to sleep. I will be glad to see you tomorrow." Hugs and kisses are given and the

line drawn in the sand—no more communication.

Children need a regular study time each day. This is sometimes difficult with the multiple interruptions provided by the after school extra curricular schedule. To the extent the time is regular will the child be able to adapt to doing the work at hand.

With a child who has trouble focusing, it is best to have the child show you what the homework is and then show you what he/she has accomplished at the end of the homework period. Tell the child up-front that work must be legible (Your teacher will love you for this one!) and the work must be done. Work that is not legible will be copied over.

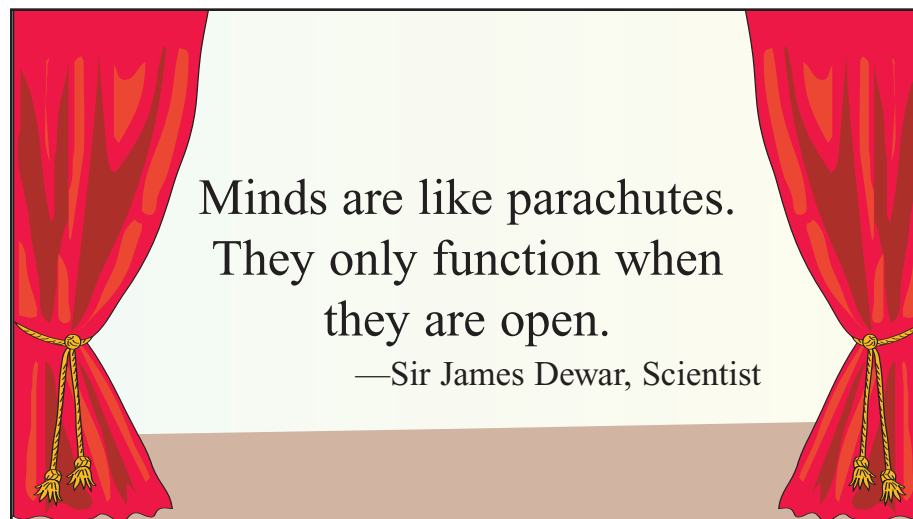
Keep an eye on your child's progress. Too many children flounder in school and then don't have the initiative or skills to catch up again. Ask the teachers for a grade report long before the school schedule provides one. Let the teachers know you will support them and that you want to know if your child slips behind. A letter to the teacher might say, "Thank you for choosing to teach school. We want our son/daughter to be successful this semester and request that you let us know if he/she begins to fall behind, not do homework or otherwise fail to do his/her job in school. Thank you for your time and caring."

Inspire your child, help your child and do not do for your child what he/she needs to learn to do for self. As a former classroom teacher, I can tell you that it is easy to spot work that is done by a parent, not the child. This is especially true with projects. When one California mission is crudely glued together with popsicle sticks and another one has architectural design involved, a teacher knows that the parent probably took over the project.

Working together on a project is great fun, and it is important not to take the "child" out of the project. A good grade is not as important as a sense of doing something yourself. And, if the child puts off a project let him/her fail. Failing is an important lesson that inspires a child to make better choices. Rescuing a child does not teach responsibility.

Most important, make it clear that your child has two jobs in your home: (1) to be a good human being and (2) to do his/her best in school.

Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel has written three books. She has taught school, raised two children, worked as a consultant to schools and has taught parenting for the past 20 years. Sandy lives in Meridian, Idaho. www.ParentingSOS.com



Learn to Read Tool Box



Rozanne Lanczak Williams

Congratulations parents—you've made it through the frenzied first days of back-to-school. Now that routines and schedules have been established, I hope things are running smoothly in your homes. At this point, I would like to invite you to put together a simple tool box that you can use to help support and extend the emerging literacy skills of your beginning reader. Most of these easy-to-find and inexpensive materials can be purchased at discount stores. Start with a small plastic caddy, tub, or basket. Fill it with these items.

- Set of alphabet cards. Sets usually come with directions for playing simple games with the cards like "Go Fish." Use them for sorting and phonics activities. Or use them to create your own alphabet book.
- Dry-erase magnet board. Look for one about 8" x 11" in size. They usually come with a pen and eraser. Get an extra set of pens in other colors.
- Lower-case magnet letters. Most of what children read is in lower case, so don't buy the upper case sets by mistake.
- Sight word magnets. These high frequency words are outlined in boxes, which is a very simple concept that has been shown to increase the child's visual recognition of the words. Learning these words greatly enhances your child's reading fluency. Store these words and the magnet letters in separate Ziploc bags.
- Reading Pointers. Invite your child to help make a fun collection of pointers using craft sticks (popsicle sticks). You can place a sticker on the end of each stick, or glue on a wiggly eye, or a small object like a button or plastic spider. It's fun to match the theme of the book with a fun pointer. One-on-one matching of the spoken word to the written word is an important beginning reading skill.
- Index cards and ring.
- Finish the tool box by adding some markers, crayons, and a small notebook.



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When working with your child, pull out the sight words which appear in a book your child is reading. Place the words, one at a time, on the magnet board. Then invite your child to build the word using the individual magnet letters. Your child can then practice writing the word using the dry erase marker. Next, write the word on an index card and add it to the ring. Practice these words often. Also, record each book your beginning reader can read fluently, (without mistakes) in the little notebook. After each 10 books recorded, reward your child with a fun activity or small prize.

I hope the materials and techniques I suggested are successful in every way. Enjoy this special time with your child!

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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Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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Joseph Ledoux
Principal

The Best is Yet to Come

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone was able to enjoy the summer and take the time to relax and have some well-deserved fun.

During the summer I ran into several Madison Comets who were out and about, and they told me how much fun they were having being out of school. I, too, was able to take some moments off to relax and spend time with my family. We were even able to go on a few day trips around Southern California to see the sights.

Your teachers and I have been working hard over the summer getting ready for the upcoming school year. Mrs. Crompton, our new PTA president, has been working closely with her executive board to plan a number of new and exciting assemblies and activities that will take place throughout the school year.

We kicked off the year with Madison's first-annual "Back-to-School" barbecue on Monday, August 29. This was a great opportunity for our students to reconnect with one another and share their summertime adventures before the first day of school.

Class lists were posted at the beginning of the afternoon's activities. This way the students were able to get an early glimpse at not only who their teacher will be for the entire school year, but also who they will have in their class.

The 2011–2012 school year promises to be one of the best yet at Madison! So let's go, Comets!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

A Successful Start

On behalf of Jefferson School, I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our returning families, and a special welcome to our new ones!

The beginning of a new school year is an exhilarating time for the students, teachers and parents. The anticipation of meeting new friends, or greeting a new teacher or discovering a new learning experience releases unparalleled excitement.

A few tips can help support a smooth transition. The first one is to prepare your child in advance and ease into the regular school schedule. Getting back into a good routine can be a challenge for everyone in the family!

A second recommendation is to set priorities and schedules, such as about bedtime, homework or extracurricular activities. A third is to prepare for homework. Try to set routines and a home-study area to help support your child's organizational skills and success.

Jefferson strives to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment where every child can reach their full potential. Working together will help support this goal. Your students will be better prepared to receive the challenges of tomorrow because of the learning experiences of today. So I invite you to join our staff in a collaborative effort towards students success at Jefferson.

The start of school is a significant step in a child's life. The Jefferson staff is dedicated to providing a challenging and stimulating program. Given this dedication, and with the tremendous support that you can give your own children, we know that this year will be successful!



Mrs. Ingrassia welcomes her class on the 1st day back to school.

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Redondo Beach Unified School District



Welcome back to your newly modernized school!

Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Changes

Hopefully everyone had a restful summer break. We are excited about the new school year and have been busy making preparations and plans for exciting new changes. The Parras Middle School staff has created a new school-wide mission: "To ensure continual growth in our students' learning and academic achievement while promoting responsible citizenship." Our school's fundamental purpose is to ensure that our mission is fulfilled.

As such, we have made some important changes.

The Measure C bond funds approved by the city of Redondo Beach were used to completely renovate the school's library, among other things. The newly renovated library has quiet study rooms, natural lighting, and more seating to accommodate additional students. Along with the library renovations, our band students will have more room to stretch in a larger, renovated classroom. The new band room underwent renovations in order to better accommodate the growing program. Lastly, 12 new skylights were installed in the multipurpose room to allow for more natural light to enter.

Along with changes to our buildings, we have new changes to help students achieve more success in the classroom. Parras has implemented a tutorial period for the 2011–2012 school year. Every Tuesday and Thursday, students will have 30 minutes during the school day to receive help from any of their teachers. Teachers will be able to provide additional help for students who performed poorly on exams, need additional homework help, or need organizational support. Students who do not need the additional support can use the time as a study hall period.

Another change is the ability for our students to check out books over the Internet free of charge. Students can download a book to their E-reader and have it for two weeks before it is automatically returned and made available for others to check out. Students will have hundreds of books available to them anywhere they have access to the Internet. The electronic checking out of books is building upon our library's Kindle E-reader pilot program from the 2010–2011 school year. For those who do not own an E-reader, our library has some available for

checkout. In addition, a new library reference and resource Web page was added to the school's Web site. It is available at www.parrasmiddle.org under the "eLibrary" link.

We are looking forward to another successful year. We have made some positive changes, and we look forward to seeing the impact they have on our students.



A Parras sixth grade student drawing in art class.



Parras students working hard in class.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

Dress to Impress – Both Inside and Out

Everyone knows one of the hardest decisions a student makes happens a day or two before school starts: what to wear on the first day of school.

Oh, the agony of finding the perfect shoes to match your outfit, the perfect pair of jeans, and the most unique top...and let's not talk about hair!

Time, thought, analysis, and input are all invested in this huge decision, and, for some, more time will be dedicated to wardrobe decisions for days to come. The first day of school is exciting and scary, but if you look great, you feel confident! This is a philosophy that I believe in: feeling good about yourself on the outside reflects how you perform on the inside.

Students, as you prepare your outfit for school each day, I challenge you to prepare your mind, your attitude about school, and your goals for the year. (You might want to write them down.) I also challenge you to ask yourself and your parents, "Am I dressed to go to school...or the beach? A party?" But that is an article for the future.

With a new school year comes a fresh start and, for some, a fresh new wardrobe. Now go beyond your appearance and spend some time preparing yourself mentally. Students, your minds are your strongest assets. This year, I look forward to seeing you impress the staff with your high level of participation, work completion and dedication. Don't forget that a smile is an important part of your wardrobe!



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Danielle Allphin
Principal

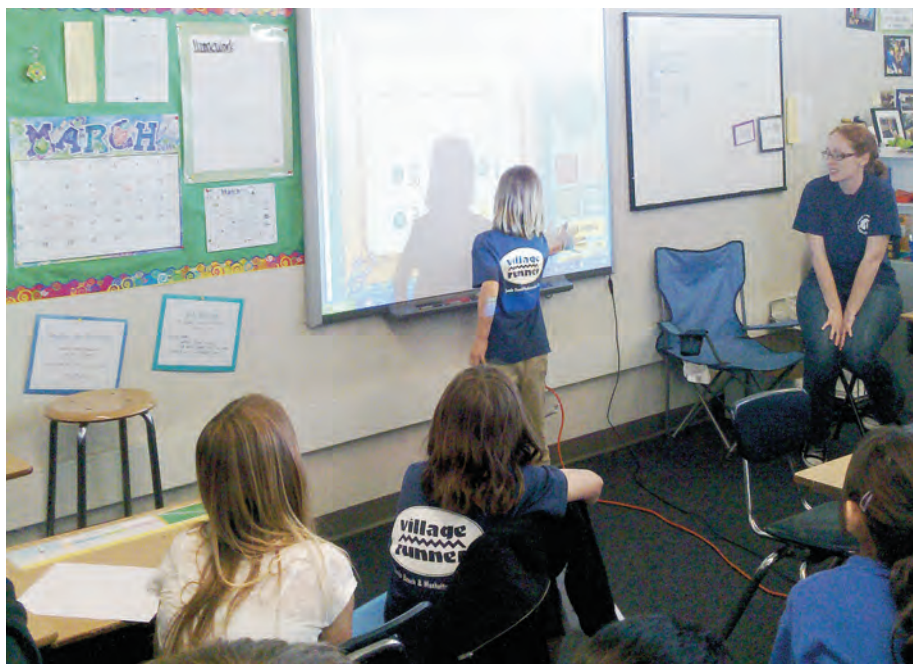
A New Look for the New Year

Welcome back, Tulita School students and families! It is a privilege to be kicking off another great school year with the Tidalwave community.

I am pleased to welcome the Tulita family back home to modernized facilities, thanks to several Measure C projects that have been completed this summer. When you return, you will see all new classroom windows, a brand-new floor and stage in our cafeteria, and a resurfaced playground. Students, teachers, and parent volunteers will also get to enjoy our new science and art room, Room 5, which has been upgraded to include some additional cabinets, counters, and sinks. Additionally, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our PTA, every classroom will be equipped with a SmartBoard this fall. Thank you to all parents, PTA, and the Redondo Beach community for making our school such a fabulous place to learn and work!

We have much to look forward to in the 2011–2012 school year. The teachers, staff, and I have been working hard preparing for an awesome year. We hope that you will make a family commitment to join our school success team. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared to learn with a positive attitude every day, convey your family's value for education through daily conversations about learning, and get involved in your child's classroom and our school as a volunteer and PTA member.

It is our mission at Tulita to make sure all of us are working together to ensure success for every student. I look forward to an awesome year!



Students participate in a lesson enhanced by interactive learning with their Smart Board.

Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Helping Out At Home

Welcome to the 2011–2012 school year! As your new principal, I am delighted to join the Washington School community during this period of renewal.

Over the summer we got new windows, a beautiful new stage and a fresh coat of paint! These renovations, however, are just the beginning of the changes in store as we work together to ensure an outstanding education for our students.

I want to emphasize now what I think is one of the most important ingredients for academic success: parent involvement. But what does this really mean in practical terms?

For one, be sure to talk to your children every day about school. Ask them how their day went. Get to know their teachers and our wonderful staff. Always check their homework, come to school events, and talk to their teachers whenever you have any concerns.

If you can manage it, please come to school and volunteer. Our doors are always open and we welcome your help. And make reading a family affair, too. Read to your child every day and have them read to you.

I especially want you to know that building strong relationships is my No. 1 priority. There will be plenty of opportunities outside of school to meet all of you at our family nights, restaurant events and PTA functions. If you want, I'll even come to your house and read your child a bedtime story!

This fall I will be rolling up my sleeves and working with the whole Washington community to provide our students with the excellent education they deserve.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Steven Keller
Superintendent

the last four-plus years, has been appointed as Principal of Adams Middle School. Previous to coming to Alta Vista, Anthony was a middle school assistant principal.

Susan Wildes, previously an administrator in Georgia and now living in the South Bay, competed heartedly in a statewide search to earn the role of Principal of Alta Vista.

Dr. Erin Simon, Assistant Principal of RUHS, has been appointed as Principal of Alternative Education.

Jens Brandt, Coordinator of Instructional Services and former Community Day School/Redondo Beach Learning Academy teacher, has been appointed as Assistant Principal at RUHS.

Linsey Gotanda, Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) at Adams Middle School, has been appointed as Assistant Principal at Adams Middle School.

Jackie O'Sullivan, Principal of Birney Elementary School for the last five-plus years, has been appointed as Principal of Washington Elementary School.

Lisa Johnson, Assistant Principal of Crozier Middle School in Inglewood, has been selected as the principal of Birney Elementary School.

Vivian Ibarra, Principal of Washington Elementary School has been appointed as Director of South Bay Adult School. Previous to coming to Washington, Vivian was our Director of Child Development.

Please help us in welcoming each of these leaders to their new position. RBUSD would like to challenge you to exceed even your own expectation and to continue to REACH FOR GREATNESS!!!

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Jane Diehl
President

this yet, you have until September 30. Your child will not be allowed in school after this date without proof of immunization.

The Special Education Department has moved to the district office. If you are looking for them, they are on the ground floor. Special Education Local Area Plan (SELPA), the county program that was at the district office, has now moved to Knob Hill. Other physical changes will be found at Redondo Beach Unified High School. The cafeteria is gone, so this will make food service a change for the students. The high school administration has been planning for these changes for awhile. The big gym is still under construction so the small gym will be used for more things. The library will be moving to the old bingo building, and science classes will move to 200 Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and portables in the parking lot.

We have enjoyed the changes on the athletic fields for awhile, and I hope that we can all be flexible and understanding during the construction of these other locations at the high school.

The School Board will be working with city officials to make some changes in use of Redondo Beach Unified School District property. The discussion will include Edison, Franklin and 200 PCH. These changes will take some time and citizens will be able to express their opinions on the property changes.

So during the school year we will see change, and change is constant, but it is not always easy. Hopefully we can all be patient and remember we do these things for the students so they can receive the best education for years to come.



Jane Diehl
President

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



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Member

Regular Board Meetings Schedule

2011

September 13
September 27
October 11

October 25
November 8
December 13

Holiday Schedule
Nov. & Dec

2012

January 10
January 24
February 14
February 28
March 13

March 27
April 3*
April 24
May 8
May 22

June 12
June 26

*Organizational
Meeting

Child Development Center program at Washington Elementary School received new redwood planter boxes and benches filled with California indigenous plants and colorful flowers to spruce up already impressive campuses.

Also at the Edison Pre-School, the same community partner created a concrete tricycle path that curves through the grass and back to the blacktop. This new addition to the playground supports students' physical fitness and healthy living goals. Another ShareFest community partner painted school spirit murals on the new handball walls at Alta Vista. At Parras Middle School, an Eagle Scout treated the sidewalks with a special paint containing sand to make the surface safer on rainy days.



New tricycle path at Edison Pre-School.



Through their community partnerships, ShareFest has created and sustained lasting change in RBUSD. The Redondo Beach Unified School District thanks ShareFest, its community partners, and all the volunteers for making a notable difference on our school sites.

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