

FREE

School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

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SEPTEMBER 2013

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

Team RBUSD

Our summer break has come to an end. We are poised for another great school year. I'd like to share a few important pieces of information.

Thanks to the increase in the state's budget and the fact that these dollars will increase the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) revenue for the upcoming year, there will be no furlough days and both Back-to-School Night and Open House (elementary/middle schools) are on the calendar. On a side note, we heard more parent concerns regarding the absence of Back-to-School Night than we did about the furlough days. Interesting.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 14

'Walking School Bus' is Making Strides

By Lauren Nakano, Director Blue Zones Project
By Jens Brandt, RUHS Assistant Principal/
Blue Zones Project Liaison

Starting in October, hundreds of elementary students and parents will again be catching the Walking School Bus in the Beach Cities.

Led by Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) – the nation's largest preventative health agency – the Walking School Bus (WSB) program allows children within a mile radius of school to meet up with classmates and BCHD-trained parent volunteers once per week at designated "bus stops," and safely walk to campus.

BCHD and Blue Zones Project launched the anti-childhood obesity initiative in 2011 and student participation has grown 500% since its inception. Presently, more than 500 children from 13 schools in Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach are involved in the healthy walk-to-school program.



Beach Cities Health District is always looking for motivated parent-volunteers to support the growing Walking School Bus program. For information on how to become involved, visit www.bchd.org/volunteer.

Here's a by-the-numbers look at the Walking School Bus from the 2012/2013 school year:

- **28,465,344** Steps Taken;
- **385,229** Calories Burned;
- **15,000** Car Trips Saved;
- **11,808** Miles Walked;
- **13** Participating Schools in Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach;
- **2** City Mayors who walked with students (Mayor Mike Gin, Redondo Beach and Mayor Kit Bobko, Hermosa Beach);
- **0** WSB injuries or incidents.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Laura Emdee, President

The Future is Bright

There is excitement in the air. The new school year has begun. Pencils are sharp, and laptops are charged. It is the dawn of a new age in education: budget relief, new technology, and renewable resources will help us focus on our students and their education.

With the new Common Core State Standards, there are new requirements. Testing will be done online and will be adaptive to the individual student. The community supported Measure Q so Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) will be ready to satisfy the new technology and network requirements. Thank you, Redondo Beach!

With the budget relief from the state, teacher professional development is available and collaborative efforts will be supported. All staff will be provided with the resources they need to make the transition to the new curriculum.

Education is more interactive than ever. Education resources are more accessible than ever, too. It is an exciting time to be a student. Student success is not a function of limited resources anymore. Students have the ability to access homework assignments, class notes, and research at any time of the day. Parents can easily monitor their child's progress.

Our shiny, new buildings send the message that education is important and a priority to our community. Our real estate values will benefit from beautiful and productive schools.

Many in Redondo Beach care about our environment. Solar panels will be installed this year. RBUSD is joining the renewable resource movement. Solar panels will save the school district \$500,000 per year! This will allow RBUSD to reinvest that money in the needs of children yet to enter our schools. Our community's investment will be maintained for multiple generations. RBUSD will be ready for whatever challenge we may face, thanks to you and your support.

Summer is over, and the new year has begun; it is time for RBUSD to shine.



Laura Emdee
President



Brad Serkin
Vice President



Anita Avrick
Presiding Officer



Michael R. Christensen
Member



Brad Waller
Member



Redondo Beach Partners in Education present...

State of Education 2013

A TASTE OF EDUCATION
Please see page 15 for more information

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Raising the Tide to New Heights



Ted Craddock
President

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation welcomes everyone back to school! We are poised to Raise the Tide higher than ever for the 2013-2014 school year.

This summer was a very busy time for our Educational Foundation with ongoing fundraising efforts. RBEF is pleased and proud to be contributing almost \$700,000 to fund programs and positions in college readiness, music, science, athletics, and social-emotional health.

RBEF will be funding teacher positions for lab science, band, and vocal music at the elementary levels. We are also supplementing district resources and other grants to fund counselors.

Additionally, RBEF is funding the following programs:

- Teacher grants for innovative approaches to promote college readiness
- College field trips for elementary, middle school, and high school students
- Early participation college aptitude tests
- College readiness parent education
- Family Science Nights for all elementary schools and middle schools
- Middle school intramural sports
- Middle school vocal music enrichment programs
- Peaceful Playgrounds at the elementary schools
- Music Center Artists in Residency programs for the elementary schools

In addition to our fundraising efforts, RBEF had a successful season of summer learning with close to 800 students participating in RBEF Summer Sessions.

Our efforts will continue into this school year and we hope to make more funding announcements in the near future. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, community members, corporations, and charitable organizations who donate to RBEF to make it possible for us to Raise the Tide in RBUSD schools.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Here we are ready for another school year. We hope you had a fun summer.

In this issue Dr. Keller and the Board of Education begin with positive messages. The principal's, Beach Cities Health and the Blue Zone have informative articles to help make this the most safe, healthy and successful year for your children.

Chalk boards have faded into our memories soon to be joined by smart boards and iPads as technology continues to evolve. Until then... Common Core is here!

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**Covering the
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Back to School, Back to Exercise



Dr. Lisa Santora
Chief Medical
Officer

When it comes to children's health, downtime filled with TV, video games and social media is detrimental to their well-being, physical development and social skills. As a doctor and, more importantly, a mother, I'm here to encourage all parents to keep kids active and healthy this school year.

I've even compiled 5 fun tips to help you achieve this.

1. Make Exercise a Family Affair

Find fun, active outings that the whole family can do together. For example, go hiking, walk along the strand or toss a football in the backyard.

2. It Can Be Fun

AdventurePlex in Manhattan Beach offers after school classes and activities that incorporate physical fitness, including a ropes course, rock wall, field trips, sports games and more. It's always helpful to disguise exercise as fun.

3. Stay off the Grid

Limiting time on social media, cell phones, iPads and in front of the tube is a great strategy to encourage children to search out active alternatives to stay busy after school.

4. Lead by Example

We parents know it's important to practice what we preach. So, instead of plopping down in front of the TV or computer after work, shoot hoops, walk the dog or take a family outing. Remember, kids follow our lead.

5. Think Outside the Box

Not every family is interested in sports or working out. But there are many other creative ways to move naturally and burn calories, including playing tag, going to the beach or playing at the park.

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Open House



A Beach Cities Health District Program

Sept. 14, 10am–2pm

Join us for the Open House and receive **COMPLIMENTARY** general admission when you pre-register for one of the class demos. Space is limited so reserve your child's spot today!

Pre-register at adventureplex.org/openhouse

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- Sports
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- Rock Climbing
- Adult fitness classes
- And plenty more!



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Welcome Back to Another Year



Vivian Ibarra
Director

South Bay Adult School welcomes you back to another year of providing alternative methods for students to reach their educational, training, career and personal goals. We have been providing classes for families in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach since 1918. Our classes are held at school campuses throughout the beach cities.

A special welcome to our newest students in the Parent Education program, the parents and babies in our 0-6 month class who join the thousands of current and alumni families in the parenting community raising happy, healthy children.

Our programs are divided into 5 different areas.

Parent Education from birth to Transitional Kindergarten. Parents and children attend together and share learning experiences.



Baby Sign Language is fun for everyone.



Working together to learn English.

English As A Second Language helps adults develop important English language skills needed to communicate. We also offer Citizenship classes.

High School Diploma Program helps adults earn a High School diploma. The program offers flexible schedules. New this term... Online GED prep course for students wishing to take the GED.



Learning how to make a quilt.

Community Education courses are fun and informative. You can exercise your brain and your body with our classes in cooking, languages, computer, health, finances and more.

Online Courses let you learn from the comfort of your home with over 300 courses from Keyboarding to Becoming a Veterinary Assistant.

Look for your Fall brochure in the mail or online at www.southbayadult.org. Come learn, enjoy yourself, and make new friends. We invite you to take advantage of the wonderful resources available to you. Discover why so many people take classes here. Our teachers are exceptional, classes are interesting, and prices are affordable. Fall term starts the week of September 9th.

Registration is easy at www.southbayadult.org

“Like” us @ www.facebook.com/SouthBayAdultSchool. Receive early updates and special offers.

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

Success Begins Today!



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

Welcome back to the 2013–2014 academic year! Although students have enrolled in the Alternative Education program for myriad of reasons, such as attendance issues, health concerns, credit deficiencies, and inconsistent work habits, my utmost charge is to provide instructional leadership that produces a school environment which encourages different options of learning to meet the needs of all students. The Alternative Education program strives to be academically rigorous, engage each student by linking the curriculum to previous knowledge and experiences, and be riveting enough to promote and encourage further exploration of new ideas.

Parents, teachers, support staff, community members, and administration all play an important role in enticing 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 greater opportunities in order for students to succeed academically and personally.

As a result of the Alternative Education mission, last year Redondo Shores High School (RSHS) received a couple of prestigious accolades, including the California Model Continuation High School Award and the Alliance for Healthier Generation Bronze Award. RSHS also made great strides with the incorporation of a student-led PTSA, field trips to several local universities, and the completion of a successful Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation Self Study. Alternative Education implores you to visit our improved Web site at <https://rshs-rbusd-ca.schoolloop.com>, which provides information about our dress code policy, attendance and discipline plans, and cell phone policy, as well as other pertinent information that pertains to RSHS and all of Alternative Education. The registration packet is also available on the Web site.



Redondo Shores Teacher, Rose Vadakan, and students tour UCLA in the rain.

The Alternative Education motto is “Success begins today!” We look forward to another great year at Redondo Shores, Redondo Beach Learning Academy, and Independent Study and to working with all of our students and their families.



PTSA Organizational Meeting - Board Member, Anita Avrick and Redondo Shores staff during the Redondo Shores High School PTSA Organizational Meeting.

Common Core State Standards – What?



Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year. This year promises to bring many new and exciting educational opportunities for both students and teachers.

We will begin the process of implementing the new Common Core State Standards in all kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms. These learning standards for students in mathematics and language arts have been adopted by 46 states, including California. They establish clear expectations that are aligned to college and career readiness expectations. Your principal, along with your child(ren)'s classroom teachers will best be able to explain the changes in curriculum and instructional strategies that you will begin to see this school year. As California educators and students engage in this transition work, sample tests have been released to give individuals a picture of what the new end-of-year tests will look like beginning in the 2014-2015 school year.

Please consider taking some of these practice tests yourselves at the following link: <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>. As well, do plan on attending Back-to-School Night events in September (Elementary – Sept. 18th, Middle School-Sept. 19th, RUHS-Sept. 26th) where more detailed information about the Common Core State Standards will be provided.

Childhood Cancer, What You Need to Know



Amanda Termuhlen, MD
Medical Director
Jonathan Jaques
Children’s
Cancer Center

Childhood cancer is rare. The odds of your child developing cancer by the age of 19, is approximately 1 in 330. Still, as a parent, you need to be aware. Cancers in children are often hard to recognize. The symptoms can overlap with common illnesses or injuries and cover the early signs of cancer.

- Childhood Cancer Signs and Symptoms:
- Continued, unexplained weight loss
- Headaches, often with early morning vomiting
- Increased swelling or persistent pain in bones, joints, back or legs
- Lump or mass, especially in the abdomen, neck, chest, pelvis or armpits
- Development of excessive bruising, bleeding or rash
- Constant infections
- A whitish color behind the pupil
- Nausea which persists or vomiting without nausea
- Constant tiredness or noticeable paleness
- Eye or vision changes which occur suddenly and persist
- Recurrent or persistent fevers of unknown origin

Make sure your child has regular medical check-ups and watch for any unusual signs or symptoms that don't go away. An early diagnosis is the best way for a child to beat a cancer diagnosis.

Tell your pediatrician if you are worried about any prolonged symptoms that your child has. Your child’s doctor can work with you to assess your child’s risk, by reviewing family medical history, a physical examination, or screenings.

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Nonstop Going and Growing!



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Welcome to a new year at the Redondo Beach Child Development Center (CDC)! Everyone at the CDC is looking forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back our old friends. We have just wrapped up another terrific summer program and are looking forward to a fun and successful school year.

The CDC program is dedicated to providing the best choice in child-development care and education for our students. Our continued collaboration between the school-age CDC teachers and the primary-school teachers continues to grow and allows our after-school program to offer a curriculum that builds on the instruction of the regular classrooms. Our teachers provide



activities that enrich a child's school experience and also allow them to have fun. Homework time is also a part of the daily schedule in order to offer assistance to the children and at the same time offer support to our working parents.

CDC is continuing to move forward! We are very excited to begin the new school year, and we look forward to another great year.




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School Funding Reform



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

It's a long-awaited piece of good news that Gov. Jerry Brown's newly revised budget retains his plan to direct more school money toward the areas of greatest need.

Senator Carol Liu (D-La Canada Flintridge), who was recently a guest on *Schools on Point* – a public affairs program produced by the Los Angeles County Office of Education – lauded the governor's plan and described it as a "huge step" in changing the way California distributes money to schools.

She said the governor aims to "clarify and simplify" school funding by doing away with layers of categorical funding requirements. The plan is to consolidate the dollars now

scattered across many programs into a single per-pupil grant. Local educators would then be able to decide how best to spend the money they get from the state to design programs that meet the specific needs of their students.

The system would also direct additional resources to schools that need them most – those serving disadvantaged students who face greater challenges, including students living in poverty, children in foster care, and English learners.

But Sen. Liu – Chair of the Senate Education Committee – also pointed out that the governor's proposal is hardly perfect. For example, it does not fully address accountability and could use constructive legislative input on some policy questions.

Senate Bill 69*, authored by Sen. Liu, outlines more specific spending plans for each grade level. It also increases funds for disadvantaged students, boosting supplemental grants from 35 to 40 percent. This means that districts would receive extra per-pupil funding at 40 percent of its base grant level for every disadvantaged student.

However, it does away with concentration grants — additional funding for districts with disadvantaged students making up more than half the student population.

SB 69 also adds teeth to the accountability measures. It requires more comprehensive data collection and requires districts to demonstrate improved outcomes for student subgroups. Districts that do not show academic progress could see spending restrictions.

The good news is no school is going to receive less money than it did for the past school year under either the governor's proposal or SB 69.

Both Gov. Brown and the senators target increased funding levels for school districts with a high number of disadvantaged students. They just differ on "how to get there," said Sen. Liu.

It's heartening to know that Sen. Liu and the other legislators are working with the governor on improving the plan and supporting a crucial reform.

As Sen. Liu said on *Schools on Point*: "We are moving the education agenda forward in a very, very positive way."

I'm very hopeful that the governor's initiative to reform the school funding system would lead to lasting solutions to end our education budget crisis. The devastating cuts have hurt our schools for far too long.

I'd like to invite you to visit our Web site and watch the *Schools on Point* segment on school funding reform.

[*The Senate passed SB 69, 30-6, on May 30, 2013]

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

Lacrosse—Word Search Contest

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

Word Search by Kai Coop

Entries must be received by September 22, 2013
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

ATTACK	HEAD	SCORE
CLEATS	HELMETS	SHAFT
COACH	MIDDIES	SIDE LINES
CREASE	MOUTH GUARD	STICK
DEFENSE	NET	TEAMS
FIELD	PLAYERS	UNIFORMS
GOAL KEEPER	RULES	

Congratulations to **Lucas Livingston**
Winner of the June Word Search Contest!

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

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Welcome Back!

Can you believe another school year is about to begin? The Beryl Heights 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.

Preparing 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 has learned. Devote 30 to 60 minutes a 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.

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!

Please attend Back-to-School Night on September 18 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. Afterward classroom presentations will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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 2013–2014 school year!

Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Welcome to Your Road to College

Alta Vista Elementary has kicked off what promises to be another exciting and successful school year. For so many of our preschool and kindergarten families, this is the beginning of your child's educational journey. Our teachers and staff members are thrilled to be building the educational foundation upon which your children will grow for the next 13 years.

We at Alta Vista pride ourselves on creating a nurturing community of learners, one that will support your children as they embark on their academic careers. Our staff and PTA work hard to foster strong relationships with parents, extended families, and the community. They want your children to feel safe enough to take risks and develop their passions, as well as experience success and recognition.

The talented staff at Alta Vista is committed to implementing best practices to make sure that students will achieve greatness. This year, as we incorporate the Common Core State Standards, and raise expectations even higher, we will continue to cultivate our Professional Learning Communities. We believe that the best gift we can give your child is to model ourselves as life-long learners.

Your child is our top priority, and we look forward to working with our families and community. We value your presence in our classrooms to help support important programs and attend various PTA and academic events. Alta Vista welcomes your involvement in helping to create another outstanding school year!

Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Anthony Taranto
Principal

A Time of Change

Middle school is a time of a change. The workloads and social adjustments are greater here than at the elementary level. At the beginning of each school year, parents frequently ask questions about what they can do to support their child during the middle school years. Middle school can be challenging at times, but there are several simple things that will help students achieve success.

Parents, please take time to:

- Talk with your child about their school day. Ask them specific questions about their time at school.
- Review your child's grades on the Parent Portal on a regular basis.
- Maintain contact with your child's teachers and staff members to establish a successful home/school connection. All of our teachers have classroom websites with their contact information, homework assignments, and useful resources.
- Students, here are some tips to help you get started with your transition:
- Make reminders and plan ahead.
- Use your school planner/agenda.
- Make time for homework and assignments.
- Check your grades frequently on the Portal.
- Break big projects into smaller ones.
- Prepare the night before.
- Get involved at school. Join a club or participate in intermural sports.

Our goal at Adams Middle School is to challenge students academically, grow them socially and emotionally, and guide them toward independent thinking and problem solving. Students are encouraged to display good character and to make good choices that will result in successful outcomes. We are looking forward to a great school year filled with enriching activities and learning experiences that will help our students display "Eagle Pride!"

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Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Preparing for a Successful Start

On behalf of Jefferson School, I want to extend a warm welcome back to our old families, and a special welcome to the new ones. The beginning of a school year is always an exciting time. The anticipation of meeting friends, greeting a new teacher, or discovering the year's learning can release an unparalleled sense of excitement. It is also a significant step in a child's life, one that by working together can be made into a positive and supportive experience.

Parents can support a smooth transition from summer to school by defining priorities and schedules. They can develop consistent routines that are important for creating a successful school experience. For example, children's bedtimes should be properly adjusted before school begins, and a nutritious breakfast can also be added as a regular start to the day.

Weekday morning times should be adapted to make sure that school arrival is prompt. Arriving late is a distraction, and causes needless stress. Children should also have a routine place after school to study and complete their homework.

Community and Parental Support is Key

Jefferson strives to provide a nurturing and engaging learning environment, one where children are encouraged to reach their full potential. Working together supports this goal.

We can begin with positive communication throughout the school community. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers, participate in activities, and share important information that is relevant to the benefit of the school relationship. We understand that our students will be better prepared to receive tomorrow's challenges because of the learning experiences they receive today, and so our staff is dedicated to providing a challenging and stimulating educational program.

Given this dedication, and with the continued support of the community, I invite you to join our staff and students in a collaborative effort to create another successful school year!

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Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

Smooth Transitions

Welcome back, Birney Bobcats! It is my hope that you have enjoyed your summer and are well rested and looking forward, as I am, to the 2013-14 school year.

The start of the school year is an exciting time. Children look forward to meeting new teachers, making new friends and acquiring new knowledge. To ensure a smooth transition, take time to discuss "going back to school" with your child. In addition to excitement, there may be feelings of trepidation, and these discussions can help alleviate their concerns in addition to providing an opportunity to discuss behavior and academic expectations.

It is also imperative to establish routines and schedules. Adjust bedtimes to ensure that your child is well rested and prepared to start each school day. Make breakfast a part of your morning routine. Identify a work space and time for your child to complete homework. Putting these simple tips into practice can help your child have a successful school year.

Parent involvement is also key to your child's success. Birney prides itself on having the most active and supportive PTA in the South Bay, and we encourage you to become a part of it. Opportunities to volunteer in your child's classroom or through the PTA are presented on a daily basis, and the staff at Birney looks forward to partnering with our families to ensure that our students have a successful and prosperous year.

Once again, welcome back. It is a privilege to be kicking off another school year with the Birney community, and I look forward to a great year!

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Our Great Year Ahead

Welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! I hope that summer was enjoyable for all! We are off to a great start for an excellent school year together.

Education is a partnership between students, parents, and school staff. Good communication is vital to a healthy and productive partnership. Parents should talk with their children about school in a positive and supportive manner. Take some time to regularly discuss appropriate behavior and academic expectations. This should not be a pressure-filled or stress-inducing conversation, but should be aimed at expressing that we simply expect each student's best effort.

Parents are also encouraged to communicate with teachers on a regular basis. Parents should share any important information that will benefit the teacher in his or her relationship with the student or information that might mitigate a potential problem before it happens. Parents can also use this time to find out how they can contribute in the classroom.

Establishing a routine is one of the most important things we can do to ensure a successful school experience. There should be a healthy transition from the freedom of summer to the more regimented school schedule. Bedtimes should be appropriately adjusted, breakfast should be a regular part of every morning, and students should arrive on time every day. Students should have a regular location at home where they can study and do homework. A quiet, well-stocked work area, along with a routine time to study, is also a key to a successful academic year.

Thank you and welcome back! I am looking forward to another great school year at Lincoln Elementary School!



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Madison *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

To Prosper and Shine

Welcome to the start of the 2013–2014 school year! I am excited to be the new principal of Madison Elementary School, and a returning member of the Redondo Beach Unified family. It is an honor to be appointed leader of such a distinguished school, and I look forward to working with the dedicated staff and community to continue to provide an exceptional educational experience for all our students.

To give you a little history, I hold a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University, and a Master in Music Education from the University of Oregon. I come to you from the Inglewood Unified School District, where I was a teacher and administrator. I also served on the RBUSD Board of Education from 2005 until last April.

Prior to my career in public education, I was the principal tuba player in the Nuevo Leon State Orchestra (Orquesta Sinfónica de Nuevo León), and taught at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León. It was there that I met my wonderful wife, Cecilia.

As a former Madison Elementary parent, I know that this is a gem of a school recognized for its outstanding curricular program, dedicated staff, and supportive parents and community. This year will be no exception; I am certain that with your support, Madison will continue to prosper and shine!

Know that my door is always open: I encourage you to visit with your questions, concerns, or just a friendly “hello” for the new principal. I look forward to a successful and rewarding school year!

Tulita *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Christina Giguere
Principal

An Awesome Year

Welcome back! We hope the Redondo Beach community enjoyed a wonderful summer, and will return to school feeling rejuvenated and ready to learn.

As the dog days of summer come to an end, we look forward to launching a successful 2013–2014 school year. The teachers and staff are planning enriching units, and cannot wait to meet their new class of students! We are dedicated to ensuring that all of our children learn and make great strides in their academic achievement and social development.

This year we will be adopting a new set of standards to guide future teaching and learning. We are aligning the English language arts curriculum and instruction with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). A new set of standardized assessments, aligned with CCSS, will roll out in the spring of 2015. There are many Web resources available for parents and families to begin learning about these Common Core State Standards and assessments. Please visit www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ to become familiar with the framework.

As the year gets underway, please remember that there are a few simple ways to support your child in their educational journey. You can organize school supplies, have a consistent bedtime, follow a morning routine, create a homework regime, look for and review the information coming home from the school and PTA, and be enthusiastic about going back to school!

We are going to have an awesome ride on the Tulita “wave” of learning. See you there!

Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

New Opportunities for Students

For the 2013–2014 school year, Parras Middle School will continue to provide a high-quality education for our students. For this coming year, we will be offering more challenging courses to our students. Additionally, we will be expanding our arts program so our students can pursue their artistic interests.

The number of students participating in the arts at Parras is growing. Our instrumental music program has benefited from the early exposure to music in our elementary programs. We have over 150 students participating in our band program. Last year our Wind Ensemble students were recognized with a gold rating at the Irvine Forum Musical Festival and our Jazz Band students won a silver rating. We have added a new advanced band class called Wind Symphony, which will help our students excel in band. Our drama, art, and creative writing classes have all experienced a significant increase in student participation. We experienced a large turnout for our annual school play. With our new stage, we are able to put on large and elaborate productions that are enjoyed by our school and community. This year our students will be performing “Guys and Dolls.”

We have added a new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) to the courses offered. The class is an introduction to engineering, which delves into flight and space. Additionally, students will study molecules and electrons. It is a hands-on class which will help spur interest in the sciences.



For this school year, Parras will once again challenge its students in many ways. We work to help our students reach their fullest potential so they may go on to be successful in high school. With the help of parents, community and staff, we will continue to make great achievements. We are very excited about the school year, and we look forward to seeing you!

Washington *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Parents—The Most Important Component!

Welcome back to Washington for another fantastic year! Here are two important things to work on this year to make sure your children have their best experience ever!

First, plan on getting involved. The Washington School community counts on parent participation to help get things done, and parent participation is the most important component for student success in school. Join the PTA, sign up to volunteer in the classroom, lend a hand at a special event, share a talent, weed the garden, paint a wall—the list goes on! Get to know your children’s friends and teachers. Stop by the office to say hello or to sign up for a Friday night bedtime story. I’ll come to your house, read a story to your children and visit with your family.

Second, read with your children every single night, even on weekends. Read to them, and have them read to you. I know it’s not easy finding time for homework and reading in our busy, busy lives, but literacy is the key to everything else, and we need our children to be strong readers! Find books that are interesting to your children and read them aloud. Our school website has leveled book lists, so ask your children or their teacher what level they are on—A–Z—and read the appropriate books. We’ll also have access to online reading programs that you will learn about as the year progresses.

The Washington Staff is excited to welcome you back to school! Go Explorers!



Please Drive Safely
Students are Back in School

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

We Rank!

Welcome back to school, Sea Hawks! We have so much to be proud of and even more to look forward to as we continue to grow as a school and a community. Before this journey begins again, we would like to thank all of the amazing students, inspiring teachers, supportive parents/guardians, resourceful staff, loyal alumni and contributing community members who continuously make RUHS a truly special place!

Our school has been recognized throughout the state and nationally with a variety of accolades: silver medal by *US News & World Report* in its 2013 list of nation's best public high schools;

Newsweek's America's Best High Schools top 2000 list—No. 376; selection by California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) as one of 2,108 public schools in California to receive the prestigious title of 2012 Honor Roll School; and by the College Board for earning a place on the third annual Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll List.

In addition to academic recognition, our Sea Hawks continue to shine beyond the bell! Our 2013 Academic Decathlon Team returned from their state competition with a ranking of 29 out of 61 schools. Our school yearbook, *The Pilot*, received the Silver Crown from Columbia Scholastic Press Association and was a Pacemaker Finalist for top 50 yearbooks in the nation. Athletically, our teams continue the Sea Hawk tradition of Victory with Honor! Our girls' and boys' cross-country team were ranked No. 6 and No. 3 in the state, respectively. With a historic season, our boys' basketball team was Bay League, CIF and state champion! We are truly proud of all of our athletes. Additionally, our arts, band, music, MJROTC and performing arts programs continue to produce outstanding work and events throughout the school year!

You Make Our Success!

So, students, how are you going to contribute to our amazing school and develop as students? We challenge you to get involved! Whether it's in a club, an activity, an event, the performing arts or athletics, there is something for everyone at RUHS. Let this be the year that you try something new. Challenge yourself academically! Whether it's taking an honors/AP course, a STEM class or an A–G course beyond the minimum requirement such as three or four years of a world language, this is your chance to stretch your learning and knowledge. Be healthy! Make choices that benefit you mentally, socially and physically.

Class of 2014, welcome back as the leaders on campus! This is your opportunity to leave a lasting impression as role models. What will be your legacy? Classes of 2015 and 2016, welcome back as contributing and valuable members of our school. What goals will you set as you continue your journey through RUHS? Last but not least: Class of 2017, you are the most fortunate of all, as you are the first class to enjoy the campus free of construction. With four years to learn, explore, participate, and succeed, never hesitate to seize upon every opportunity to become a more accomplished student and a well-rounded person. Sea Hawks, RU Ready? RU Involved? RU Healthy? RU In?

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1

We have a few new administrators joining Team RBUSD:

- Dr. Tom Stekol is the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. He comes to us from the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), where he has held several positions in his nearly 25-year career. He is also a South Bay resident. Dr. Stekol replaces Dr. Nancy Kelly, who is now the Superintendent of Schools in the Upland Unified School District.
- Dr. Erik Elward is the new Director II—Educational Services. He comes to us with 16 years of experience within the LAUSD, including being a high school principal. Dr. Elward replaces Mr. Frank DeSena, who retired after 30 years in RBUSD.
- Mr. Drew Gamet is the new Madison Elementary School principal. He is a former RBUSD Board member, a former Madison parent, and a former band teacher and assistant principal in the Inglewood Unified School District. Mr. Gamet replaces Mr. Joe Ledoux, who is now a principal in Orange County.
- Additionally, Dr. Annette Alpern, formerly Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services, was promoted to Deputy Superintendent. Janet Redella, our Chief Business Official, is now Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

As a parent, please pay close attention to these two words: Common Core. Common Core changes the public education landscape. With a two-and-one-half-year-old daughter eying public school in a few short years, I am elated to see this pedagogical shift. As the Common Core goes into effect, some of the most immediate changes parents may notice, especially in the early grades, are a new emphasis on nonfiction reading and a push to get students of all ages to sharpen their analytical writing skills in all content areas. As for mathematics, the emphasis is on developing a deeper understanding of math procedures and concepts and an ability to apply different mathematical ways of thinking to real-world issues and challenges. The use of technology as a research, communication, and productivity tool will be an important component of the shift to Common Core Standards as well.

Finally, we are excited to begin our solar shade structure construction. Over the next nine months, each school site will see solar shade structures raised. This will save RBUSD's budget over \$500,000 annually, not to mention minimizing our carbon footprint. Thank you to the Redondo Beach voters for approving Measure Q, which will pay for this solar installation.

As I begin my 8th year as RBUSD's Superintendent of Schools, I want to thank you for entrusting us with your children. Team RBUSD takes its job very seriously, and we are relentless in our pursuit of providing a progressive and rigorous educational program for each student. Please do us a favor and have your children arrive at school each day on time, well nourished, and ready for the best education in the South Bay!

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These laws require that a free and appropriate public education shall be offered in the least restrictive environment to all students identified as disabled. Through the District's Student Study Team process and other procedures, a continuous effort is made to locate and identify individuals who might qualify for special education services.



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

This request should be in writing and submitted to:

The Office of Special Education
1401 Inglewood Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

2013

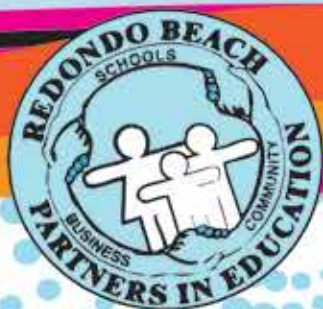
Sept. 10	Oct. 22
Sept. 24	Nov. 12*
Oct. 8	Dec. 10*

*** Due to holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in Dec. and Nov.**

2014

Jan. 14	Feb. 25
Jan. 28	Mar. 11
Feb. 11	Mar. 25

**(3/25/2014 – Organizational Meeting
Effective 4/22/14)**



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