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# School News

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**Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District**

**VOLUME 5 ISSUE 46**

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**OCTOBER 2011**

## **SUPERINTENDENT**



### **The Journey of Greatness**

While it has been some time that the theme in the Redondo Beach Unified School District has been

**Dr. Steven Keller** "Reaching for Greatness," the ongoing and endless efforts are suggestive of something much larger. We teach our students that learning and bettering oneself is a process, one that we hope they continue to explore well into adulthood. Higher education and the deepening of self-awareness are critical to democracy and community. It is here that the RBUSD efforts—be it construction, curriculum, professional development, or community outreach—translates into continual progress. Our work is simply never done.

Golf in the Kingdom, a piece written by Michael Murphy in 1972, suggests this same theme. Exploration of the next level of greatness is always a possibility and should be revered as an accomplishment in itself even if the process is never completed. One can always improve, can always get one more test question right, and can even treat another with greater kindness or respect. As I looked for my wayward ball on yet another strayed drive from the tee on a recent weekend golf game, my shoes muddied by creek goop, I was reminded that there is continual room for development, especially when we humor ourselves.

**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
1401 Inglewood Avenue,  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
(310) 379-5449  
[www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

## **We've Got Spirit!—In it to WIN it!**



**At the school rally the Redondo Union High School staff members show students how to get ready for school in less than five minutes.**

*Dr. Nicole Wesley, Principal Redondo Union High School*

**Positive school morale, spirit and pride are key ingredients to student success.**

As we move from good to great, we must all be committed to creating and maintaining a positive school culture. Redondo Union High School (RUHS) students began the school year celebrating Scholarship, Passion, Integrity, Reflection, Involvement and Teamwork (SPIRIT).

Academic success is our primary goal at RUHS, and on the first day of school every student received a copy of his or her transcript, Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) scores and a presentation on college admissions requirements. Our goal is for all students to embody scholarship and take ownership of their education.

*SEE REDONDO UNION HS • PAGE 9*

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**



**Laura Emdee**  
*Member*

### **Educated in Redondo? YES!**

Do you remember the first day of school? Do you remember the uncertainty, the excitement and the hope for a new school year? Whether your child is in kindergarten or in high school, the first day of school elicits so much emotion that it feels like a holiday.

Walking onto the Redondo Union High School (RUHS) campus on the first two days felt so exciting this year. On the teachers' first day, there was an electrifying buzz. The RUHS teachers and staff are ready and poised to do great things at the high school. Look for some great teacher-led, student-driven opportunities there.

On the RUHS students' first day, things were really shaken up. Students were treated to a Scholarship, Passion, Integrity, Reflection, Involvement, Teamwork (SPIRIT) celebration. The celebration included a motivational speaker, a rally and KIIS FM. Students were given their transcripts, Standardized Testing And Reporting (STAR) scores and learned about college's A-G requirements. Students were challenged to bring passion and integrity to this new school year.

*SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 10*

### **Walking School Buses**



**Good for our bodies, good for the earth, a nice time to chat with friends—please see page 2**

# Walking School Buses are Coming!



**Jens Brandt**  
 RUHS Assistant  
 Principal/  
 Vitality City Liaison



**Lauren Nakano**  
 BCHD Vitality  
 City Program  
 Manager

Thirty years ago, 60 percent of children living within a two-mile radius of a school walked or bicycled to school. Today, that number has dropped to less than 15 percent. Children who walk to school are more alert and ready to learn, strengthen their social networks, can develop life-time fitness habits, help to reduce traffic and learn how to be good, safe pedestrians. In the search of ways to make walking to school safer, more fun and more convenient, communities are finding that walking school buses can make a real difference and are having growing success.

What is a walking school bus? A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school chaperoned by at least two or more adults. Here in Redondo Beach and across the Beach Cities, walking school buses will take hold throughout the school year, starting with Madison Elementary School this fall. Walking school bus leaders will be responsible for walking a designated route at a scheduled time, picking up preselected children along this route and delivering them to school safely. With strong school and community support, this program can help transform the Beach Cities into a Blue Zone, where seniors, adults and especially our children can live longer, and better lives.

Safety is the highest priority of this program, so all walking school bus leader volunteers will be trained and screened according to the school district's volunteer policy. For more information, contact your school office and find out who at the school is coordinating the program.

To volunteer, an application is available online or from the program coordinator.



**Kay Coop**  
 Founder / Publisher



Once school is back in session it seems the holidays roll around very quickly and the morning fog reminds us Fall is here...and then a heat wave arrives!

I love the enthusiasm you, our readers, have for contests! Be sure to enter the Seek 'n Find Contest this month on page 8 and there you will see who won the September Word Search.



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## Bridging the Gap



**Brad Serkin**  
President

Welcome back! We hope that all of the students, teachers, staff and administrators of our wonderful district had a happy and healthy summer. The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) is very pleased to have been able to continue to help the district in bridging the gap for programs, technology and other needs across the elementary, middle and high school levels. We are looking at another challenging budgetary year, so we appreciate your continued support. We are looking forward to our Annual November Mixer at the South Bay Galleria on Thursday, November 3. More details will be forthcoming. You can always find information on our Web site at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org). As a reminder, we are a volunteer organization, and we welcome any time you can give, even if it is only a few hours a month.

We are continuing our teacher grant program for the coming year, which puts dollars back into your child's classroom by supporting our wonderful teachers in bringing new and innovated programs to your students. Encourage your teachers to apply at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org).

We are also pleased to continue to fund the very important Safe School Ambassador program. The RBEF and the PTA have partnered once again to bring this program to our district. Safe School Ambassadors is a nation-wide program that harnesses student power to stop bullying and violence at our schools. Safe School Ambassadors will be at every school in our district: elementary, middle and high schools. Due to the reduction of bullying, violence, and social mistreatment on campus, grades and attendance rates improve, as well as student morale. Please ask your principals about the program; they have already seen much success at the campuses.

We are beginning our preparation for our second summer school/enrichment program, and we are looking for feedback on classes that you would like to see offered in the summer of 2012. For those who attended summer school, any feedback on ways that we can enhance the program would be much appreciated. We had a successful first year and look forward to expanding upon it again this summer.

Lastly, please visit us at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org). We want to thank all of you who have contributed to or volunteered with RBEF to better your child's education, and we appreciate your continued support. Please tell a friend about us and let us keep the momentum going! RBEF has made a difference and will continue to make a difference with the support of our outstanding community. Look for our flyers at Back-to-School Night.

## Reach for Greatness - Got Health?



**Polly Kinsinger**  
President

Reaching for a healthy lifestyle begins at home. With schools nationwide having to cut Physical Education and Physical Activity time during the school day, it's imperative that we as parents encourage our children to live active, healthy lives.

The 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans calls for children and teens to get at least 60 minutes a day of Physical Activity. A majority of that time should be spent doing moderate-to-vigorous activity, which means raising your heart rate and "breaking a sweat" doing the activity.

### Ways to keep your family moving include:

- Be an "active" role model. Learn a new activity with your child – like skating, rock climbing, or tennis. Kids are more likely to try new activities if you try them too.
- Go outside and play. Play tag, soccer, or just shoot some baskets together.
- Schedule weekly "active family nights" instead of "movie nights."
- Limit television and video games to 2 hours on weekends—1 hour on week nights.
- Go for a walk before or after dinner. Your kids love having special time with you.
- Plan weekend activities everyone can do - like hiking, biking, skating, or swimming.

A few of the schools in Redondo Beach will be rolling out the Walking School Bus program in the next couple of months which is a great way to get students alert and awake on their way to school. Keep an eye out for a WSB in your neighborhood.

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## Children Grow, and So Do We



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
 Director

At the Child Development Center (CDC), our success begins with our families. Children are enrolled in our program as young as 3 years old all the way through eighth grade. We are located at all eight elementary schools and both middle schools. Last year, we successfully opened our second middle school program at Parras. This year, we have had a very large demand for our program at all of our schools, so with the help of all the principals, we have been able to expand and take families off our waiting list.

When CDC first opened in January 1969 as The Redondo Beach Cities School District Children's Center, there were eight students on the first day. By the end of the first year, the enrollment was 120 children, with 30 on the waiting list. We now have an enrollment 10 times that amount, at about 1,200 students!

Our program has come a long way over the years—our name has even changed from Children's Center to Child Development Center, which better reflects our commitment to enriching the educational, physical and social-emotional development of our children. Our teachers work hard to design a program and curriculum to meet the needs of the whole child. We continue to employ teachers who are credentialed by the State of California and who are wonderful and loving and enjoy working with children and watching them grow. Stop by and visit a Child Development Center at your local elementary or middle school and see how we continue to "Reach for Greatness."

Stop by and visit a  
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 continue to "Reach for Greatness."

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**Boys & Girls U9 & U10 age group  
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# Adams *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Anthony Taranto**  
*Principal*

## Got Eagle PRIDE?

A new school year is always an exciting time for all. Our goal at Adams Middle School is to provide all students with the opportunity to excel in academics, athletics and fine arts so that they may become positive contributing members of our school and community. While middle school can be a time of change, we are committed to fostering the education of the whole child.

This year, our focus is to instill PRIDE in our young adults. PRIDE stands for Personal Responsibility in Daily Effort. Our vision of PRIDE is for all students to be positive ambassadors for Adams Middle School in the classroom, on the playing fields and in the community. As a positive ambassador, our Eagles will display good character, make informed decisions and foster a caring school community that encompasses not only our school campus but also our learning community as a whole. Through promoting personal responsibility, strong academic performance and continued character growth, PRIDE will nurture each Eagle's desire to achieve.



**Ms. Farzad acknowledging a student for having "Eagle Pride!"**

Students will be recognized daily by staff and monthly and quarterly at awards/spirit assemblies for academic achievement, attendance and overall character development. Through positive acknowledgment, our Eagles will learn the importance of having PRIDE in all that they do.

The Adams PRIDE program will propel students to continuously "Reach for Greatness!"

# Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

## Reach, Reach, Reach

As we continue the Beryl journey, we know that it is through a collective vision that we can best attain greatness. One way to do this is by creating a rich atmosphere where every student can be a lifelong learner.

Throughout the year we will be reiterating this philosophy and vision of success. And we will always be there to reassure our parents that the idea of a "village" to help raise a child is key to their success in school and daily life.

This ideal translates into the creation of positive connections, which makes our staff an integral part of your child's education. We realize the importance of having a positive outlook on life. We also recognize the fact that educating the whole child can lead to later success, and that this goal should be a central theme throughout the year.

When commenting on the idea of working together, legendary coach John Wooden once said that, "We can become great in the eyes of others, but we will never become successful when we compromise our character." So we continue to recognize our students in the areas of respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, trustworthiness and great citizenship.

We also realize that we need to grow as teachers and people in order to reach this greatness. And when we do, we can influence our students' lives in positive ways academically, socially and emotionally.

Our staff will continue to support this worthy goal, and will encourage efforts to reward students for their accomplishments. Greatness comes from many things: learning to rise to every occasion, giving your best efforts, or making those around you better as well. So let's make this year the greatest one ever.

# Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
*Principal*

## A Positive School Culture

Birney is on the path to greatness! With the increase in our API score of 26 points, we have not only grown academically but also exponentially in size. Our beautiful neighborhood school now houses over 400 students!

This growth can be attributed to many factors: a great student body, wonderfully supportive parents, an outstanding PTA, or our dedicated teachers, to name just a few.

As a result of our expansion, we have added a fourth kindergarten class to help keep class sizes small during these formative years. We have also opened up an additional Child Development Center classroom because our parents recognize the invaluable service that these partners can provide.

As educators, Birney's staff also knows the importance of ongoing professional development. So our staff participates in the Growing Teachers program, which is designed to improve instructional practices in reading comprehension and writing.

Here the teachers meet in grade levels or one-on-one with a coach. They demonstrate lessons, co-teach classes or help plan various learning strategies. As a result, our students are now receiving the kind of guided, individualized and differentiated instruction that they need.

We also know that as we strive further towards greatness, we must also consider the whole child. So Birney students will continue to participate in our Safe Schools Ambassadors Program. Here trained student leaders help promote a positive school culture that is nurturing and accepting.

Our community of lifelong learners will continue to strive for excellence. Our reach for greatness will see to it that this year of success will only be one out of many!

# Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
*Principal*

## Setting Goals for Greatness

Alta Vista Elementary School has kicked off another exciting and successful school year. Thanks to the great help from our teachers and staff members, our students are now beginning their year-long journey to develop themselves as good learners.

As adults, we are modeling the goal of achievement for our students. Reaching for greatness involves fully understanding our strengths, and yet never losing sight of the goals that we have set for ourselves as individuals and members of a team.

We can help our children set good goals and develop the plans to achieve them. Whether it is in conquering the multiplication chart, or reading more words per minute, or becoming better organized in their work, I highly recommend that every family create a "goal chart."

Choose an area for growth together, decide on an appropriate and attainable timeline, brainstorm a few ways to achieve these goals, and then revisit progress frequently. The rich conversations that can result from asking your child to self-evaluate their progress will help them understand their own ability to attain greatness, as well as the simple value of good, hard work.

At Alta Vista we believe in the power of conversation. We embrace the idea of celebrating achievement, and are always searching for new areas of improvement.

It is an absolute joy to have joined this team of wonderful educators. I hope in the weeks and months to come that you and your child will stop by and share some of your own goals for the school year.

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kara Heinrich**  
Principal

## Extending Our Reach!

Jefferson School is very excited to be kicking off another successful year! The joy and discovery of learning releases an unparalleled amount of excitement around our campus.

As a learning community, Jefferson continues to grow to new "highs" of greatness! We are proud of our great tradition of being able to maintain a strong academic program of rigorous instruction and balanced enrichment offerings. We recognize the importance of preparing our students to be productive members of society, the kind of individuals who are able to compete in a competitive global society.

In addition, we find it equally important to develop the whole child, too, through such partnerships as the Beach Cities Health District, LiveWell Kids for nutrition and fitness, Junior Achievement for economics and accounting, and Community Matters for safety and conflict-resolution strategies.

Each year we also look forward to developing a positive educational and working partnership with our families. An important goal at Jefferson is making sure that we provide a rich learning environment where children can reach their potential and be inspired to greatness.

Our students will be better prepared to handle the challenges of tomorrow because of the educational experiences that we provide today. A child's school years are a major foundational step in life, one that we work hard to keep positive and supportive.

In partnership with our parents, we are sure that this school year will be yet another successful one, as we extend our reach for greatness!



Mrs. Yoneka and GATE students discussing Polyhedraville



Mrs. Baker and students learning story boards

# Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
Principal

## Reaching Greatness in 2011-12

Students, Parents, and Guardians:

Welcome to the 2011-12 school year! We have already started a fantastic fall at Lincoln and are on the road to having an excellent school year together as we continue to reach for greatness.

I am very excited to be returning to Lincoln for my second year as principal. We have an outstanding school, with a dedicated and hardworking staff and a very caring and involved community of parents and students. I am looking forward to the work we have ahead.

While we are poised to look ahead this year, we must take a moment to celebrate the school's accomplishments from last year. Last year, the school posted a 909 on California's Academic Performance Index (API) score. This mark is the highest in Lincoln's history and the first time the school has scored above 900. This is truly a credit to our community of students, parents, teachers and staff as we have all reached for greatness.

This school year, we have a lot of exciting pieces in place, including the new Vitality City initiative, our PTA-sponsored Hands on Art and Hands On Science programs, and the continuation of our schoolwide writing program, called Writer's Workshop.

I believe that it takes a village to ensure the success of our students. Please be an active member of our school community. The school, the PTA and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation need your help and involvement in order to help provide all the wonderful opportunities our children have at Lincoln. Also, please visit the school's website for a detailed calendar of all school, PTA, school district and community events.

I look forward to having another outstanding year with you as we continue to reach for greatness at Lincoln.



Lincoln students make a Graph to Greatness with school API scores



# Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Joseph Ledoux**  
Principal

## Enriching the Student Experience

The Madison School staff continues to “Reach for Greatness” while simultaneously focusing on the needs of the whole child. First, our Madison third- and fourth-graders have the chance to enjoy our outstanding vocal music program, taught by Megan Melrose. Students have two performances throughout the school year, where they sing a melody of different songs. Madison also has a wonderful instrumental music program for our fifth-grade students, which is taught by Yvonne Zoetway. Students can choose between clarinet, flute, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone to expand their musical repertoire.

Madison also addresses the emotional needs of students through the Safe Schools Ambassador program, which will be entering its third full year. This outstanding counseling program takes fourth- and fifth-graders and teaches them how to be conflict mediators and problem solvers.

Students meet at least twice a month to discuss issues from both in and outside the classroom. Students brainstorm possible solutions and ideas with their family groups, which are led by teacher advisors.

This year our Madison teachers will be participating in professional development centering upon writing instruction. The Writers Workshop approach to literacy instruction emphasizes daily writing and helps students improve their writing stamina. The Growing Teachers literacy coach will assist teachers in curriculum mapping, as well as planning month-long writing units. Each unit will culminate in a Writing Celebration, where students will share their writing with parents, staff, and community members.



**Megan Melrose, vocal music teacher**



**Yvonne Zoetway, instrumental music teacher**

# Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
Principal

## Reaching for Greatness

Parras Middle School has crafted a mission statement that will help guide our students to even further levels of greatness!

Our fundamental mission has been to “ensure continual growth in our students’ learning and academic achievement, while promoting responsible citizenship.” To help reach this goal, Parras has organized itself into special teams. These consist of a language arts, science, and social studies teacher.

These three teachers all share the same students, which helps them work together to attain high achievement levels. Sharing students also aids parents with guidance assistance if and when their child is having a problem. When teachers share a common conference period the parents are able to meet with them on any day.

Parras has also made more electronic resources available for outside use. Students can visit our homepage at [www.parrasmiddle.org](http://www.parrasmiddle.org) and access the “eLibrary Center” to find a number of good links for their reports and projects.

One exciting new resource is the Khan Academy. This allows students an opportunity to seek tutorial help on virtually any subject. I recommend that every parent check into the eLibrary Center and Khan Academy.

In addition to these new resources, our library has also gone online. Students can now check out books for download to their eReaders. After two weeks the books are automatically returned for others to check out. You can go to our Web page and click “eLibrary” to view the books that we have available.

We look forward to the new school year, and to reaching even higher levels of achievement!



**Parras Middle School received the California Distinguished School Award for recognition of its high achievement.**



**The entrance to Parras Middle School. This is where great things happen!**

## Contest!! Where's Olivia?



Olivia's picture is hidden in an advertisement somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to: [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) (Please put **RBUSD** in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by October 15, 2011.  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.  
Thank you for reading *School News Roll Call!*

**Congratulations Lauren Miller the Sept contest winner**

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## Autism Certificate Program

This 18.5 quarter unit program includes 4 courses plus a portfolio and meets the requirements of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for the Education Specialist Added Authorization ASD credential. Innovative courses that focus on current research and practical application are open to all, and may be of special interest to parents, mental health professionals, administrators and paraprofessionals.

For more information contact Laura Harvey at [lharvey@uclaextension.edu](mailto:lharvey@uclaextension.edu) or (310) 825-4581.



# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
*Principal*

## **WE'VE GOT SPIRIT!** • FROM PAGE 1

Students were encouraged to keep track of their success and progress by reviewing their individual results and records regularly on Infinite Campus.

Our school motto this year is "In it to WIN it!" During our back-to-school celebration, students were challenged to exhibit passion and integrity in everything they do, in their peer relations, and as they respect school rules. Our students created personal goals for the year, reflecting on their academic progress and study habits thus far. Students were encouraged to become actively involved in their high school experience by making things happen instead of letting things happen. Our celebration culminated with an all-school rally, where students recognized the importance of working as a team during class competitions.

School spirit is a commitment to doing everything with a winning attitude.

We've got SPIRIT at RUHS!



**Sammy and Sally Sea Hawk lead the students in welcoming our administrative team.**



**All students received a spirit shirt to remind them of the importance of school S.P.I.R.I.T.**



**Mr. Dargen, math teacher, beats a student in a dance off to the song "Do the Twist."**

# Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Danielle Alphin**  
*Principal*

## **Riding the Wave to Greatness**

Tulita School is a great place, and we will continue to strive to provide an even greater education for all of our Tidalwave students. Our staff and students earned an Academic Performance Index (API) of 916 in 2011, which was an increase of another six points from the previous year. Our API has increased 50 points over the past three years, just one indicator of our school's outstanding academic achievement.

We have several initiatives in place this year to continue our efforts in reaching for greatness. Our school is using the Math Expressions components of our adopted curriculum to extend math instruction beyond procedural fluency. We are committed to helping our students develop balanced math skills and abilities that include conceptual understanding, strategic competence, and adaptive reasoning in addition to procedural fluency. Our new approach will help students understand and appreciate math as a sensible, useful, and worthwhile academic and practical domain.

We have also embraced the concept of Homework Free Wednesdays to promote balance in our students' and families' lives. Suggested Wednesday family activities include: reading a novel together; cooking together; family game night; a picnic at the park; and physical activity, such as a walk at the beach or a family game of tag.

We are also striving for greatness with technology. Our teachers are learning to enhance their instruction with the use of their brand new SMART Boards, provided by the Tulita PTA. Thank you, PTA!

We are sure to have another great year at Tulita.



**Academic excellence begins in Developmental Kinder at Tulita.**



**Jack and Dylan hard at work on one of their first 4th grade assignments.**

# Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jacqueline O'Sullivan**  
Principal

## Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child

At Washington School, we "Reach for Greatness" each and every day! This was most recently demonstrated by our significant jump in our Academic Performance Index (API), a gain of 57 points. The teachers, staff, students and parents at Washington are dedicated to student achievement in all areas, including academic, social and emotional. Recently, our team developed a strategic plan to insure that we continue reaching for greatness. As part of our strategic plan, a new vision and mission statement were developed.

Our Vision: We are committed to the belief that the purpose of education is to support students in becoming confident, healthy, independent lifelong learners.

Our Mission: The mission of Washington School is to provide opportunities that enable students to: develop as responsible citizens who will contribute to their community; develop critical thinking skills; develop effective communications skills; develop problem-solving skills to assist them in resolving conflict appropriately; and develop an inner drive for learning.



**Mrs. Nunez teaches a writers workshop mini-lesson to her students.**

To continue growing as educators, some of our staff will be participating in professional coaching. This coaching will begin this year and continue in the years ahead. Our teachers will meet with a literacy coach one-on-one and in grade levels to plan and implement Readers and Writers Workshops. This research-based approach to language arts naturally differentiates instruction for all students. To learn more about this exciting program, you can check out the Columbia University's Teachers College Web site.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



**Laura Emdee**  
Member

In order to be competitive, we adapt to new ideas, learn new technology and accept new, more efficient ways to do things. The Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) understands what it takes to be competitive. Everything is aligned for great things over the next two years.

RBUSD is a very good school district. In many ways, we are already great. We have proactive administrators, inspirational teachers, dedicated support staff, intelligent students, involved parents, and a supportive community.

Redondo Beach is a supportive community rich in tradition. Unlike other communities, generations tend to stay close. I often meet people who are third generation Sea Hawks. Many of our employees went to RUHS and are so proud to come back to their Sea Hawk home. Why is Redondo Beach such an attractive destination?

Redondo attracts people who understand four basic things: the importance of honest, hard work; packaging is nice, but it is the inside that counts; achieving excellence is mandatory, not a choice, nor are excuses allowed; and relationships, not things, matter most of all.

To me, test scores are just the packaging. Tests are a simple way to measure, compare and identify. We need to make sure our packaging is attractive. The state is asking all schools to reach 800 on their Academic Performance Index (API) scores, which is good. Redondo is already there. All our schools are over 800. We need to have all our Redondo schools reach 900. That would be great! We are Redondo where great is mandatory, not a choice. We can make this happen; over half of our schools are already over 900!

While test scores/packaging is nice, the important stuff is really on the inside. On the inside, past the test scores, you will find a safe, nurturing place filled with opportunities. Redondo cares about the whole child. Redondo schools are the best place to educate your child.

Be part of RBUSD. Join something great!



**Jane Diehl**  
President



**Anita Avrick**  
Vice-President

## Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



**Todd Loewenstein**  
Presiding Officer



**Laura Emdee**  
Member



**Drew Gamet**  
Member

## Regular Board Meetings Schedule

**2011**  
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

## Increasing Our Reach



**Dr. Erin Simon**  
Principal

As we continue to strive for greatness, it is Alternative Education's collective vision to prepare our students for the second half of the 21st century and beyond. Alternative Education, in particular Shores, has made great strides in improving our tests scores and Academic Performance Index (API). In order to become even better, we have incorporated new intervention courses, core courses and intervention groups into our schedule. We believe the aforementioned courses and groups will not only help students succeed in school but will also help the social, emotional and physical well-being of every student in the Alternative Education program.

At Shores' Back to School Night scheduled for Oct. 13, our staff will share with you our vision, mission and goals for the 2011-12 school year. You will witness firsthand why I am excited about working with such great teachers and staff members. This year, staff members at Shores and RBLA will participate in several professional-development workshops in order to stay up-to-date on new cutting edge curriculum and instruction. It is my belief that teachers, particularly in Alternative Education, must continue to find ways to motivate at-risk students. Furthermore, I believe that educators must continue to grow in order to "Reach for Greatness," because when this happens, students' lives are positively impacted.

It's going to be a great year for Alternative Education! We are confident that our vision will rein in student power to enhance the culture within our programs and help all students continue to reach for greatness.

## RBUSD Student Services / Special Education

Student Services: 1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-1231

Special Education: 1107 Vincent St, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8683 ext. 1301  
www.rbused.org/specialeducation/

## New To 320 Knob Hill



**Frank DeSena**  
Asst.  
Superintendent  
Student Services



**Dr. Aaron Benton**  
Director Special  
Education

*By Aaron Benton, Ed.D.*

We are pleased to announce that the Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) recently moved its offices from the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) district office to 320 Knob Hill Avenue. The SELPA assists 12 South Bay school districts and over 20 charter schools in coordinating services to infants, toddlers, school-age students, and adults with disabilities. The new Southwest SELPA director is Mary Ring, a former district Special Education director, coordinator, and school psychologist.

One of SELPA's most important functions is to provide a wide array of resources for families. The SELPA Family Resource Center provides information, education, referrals, and parent-to-parent support. The SELPA encourages families to take advantage of alternative dispute resolution in the event of disagreements with the school district. The SELPA also innovates in the areas of autism training, Student Study Team processes, and professional development. A quick visit to www.swselpa.org reveals the complexity of the agency's role and responsibilities.

We are also very excited to report that the RBUSD Special Education Office and the Child Development Center (CDC) Office will soon relocate to 1401 Inglewood Avenue. After many years tucked away in the Shirley Rogers Student Service Center at 1107 Vincent Avenue, the Special Education Department and CDC will at last be getting a new look and will literally become more a part of the district office. Effective October 3, the Independent Study Program has moved to the Redondo Shores High School campus. While we don't have a move date as yet, we thank you in advance for your patience during the transition.



## Lifelong Learning



**Vivian Ibarra**  
Director

As schools in Redondo Beach continue to "Reach for Greatness," we at the South Bay Adult School (SBAS) are no different. Our mission is to help each of you increase your learning and reach your own level of greatness. At SBAS we believe that continual learning is essential to fulfilling human potential.

The South Bay Adult School believes in lifelong learning but you may wonder how that applies to the families in our community. Lifelong learning classes can enrich and improve your life. They help you find different interests or hobbies, grow in your career, or learn something fascinating and new. At SBAS you can learn about a living trust, take a cooking class, learn how to line dance, take an exercise class, make a quilt, or enjoy one of our many other classes. One of my goals as the director of SBAS is to take a class every term. This fall I will be learning Italian cooking. Come join me and meet new friends while making great food.



Preschoolers at play.



Floral Design is always a popular class.

We offer classes for adults of all ages. Some are for fun, and some can help you in the job market. Students can learn English or complete their high school diplomas. Some of our most popular classes are the parent education programs. Here families with children from birth to age five can sign up for parent/child classes. We have classes during the day and at night for working parents. The adults make lifelong friends, and the children get a great preschool experience.

South Bay Adult School has been serving the beach community for over 90 years, offering a wide variety of classes in a safe, healthy and relaxing environment. Our main office is at 3401 Inglewood Avenue, with classes at campuses in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach.

We invite you to visit us on the Web at www.southbayadult.org. Sign up for a class and reach for your own greatness.



# Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

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