

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 13, Issue 118

November 2019–January 2020



2019 Education Advocate of the Year, Ms. Patti Harris DiLeva with her family.

Board of Education



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Social Media.
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Empathy.
Vaping.
Mental Health.



Talk To Your Kids About Vaping.



E-cigarettes can contain as much nicotine as a pack of **20 cigarettes**.



1 in 4 Beach Cities **11th graders** reported using e-cigarettes in the past 30 days.

It's never too early – or too late – to start the conversation.

Whatever “it” is, have the talk.

Find tips at bchd.org/talk.

Beach Cities Partnership For Youth



Superintendent



Getting Into Classrooms:

As you may know, I really do enjoy getting into classrooms. Just as our students need to feel connected, classroom visits keep me connected to our core work. In short, it reminds why I'm here. Truly.

At last month's Redondo Union High School Back to School Night, Mr. Brandt, the school's principal, clearly engaged the attention of his parent audience when he said, "I was in about 95 classrooms today... let me tell you what I saw..." The parents melted; heck, I melted and I do not have a child attending RUHS, yet. I know that Mr. Erickson, principal of Perras Middle School, has a special check-list in his office to ensure he's getting into all classrooms equally. (As I recall, there is a clever color coding system that he maintains for these informal visits.) Principals work to get into classrooms every single day. District office leaders and our Board of Education get into classrooms every year, most even twice. So, why the big fuss over getting into classrooms?

1. You experience the 'bread and butter' of our work, instruction.
2. You catch the little things (a kid who needs a little pep talk, a broken LED projector that needs to be fixed, or a teacher or instructional aide who need a smile).
3. You validate the hard work of teachers. Teachers embrace your presence.
4. Students tell their parents, "I saw so-and-so in my classroom today." Parents LOVE that. I know I do.
5. You may see a student on his/her phone—AHA!
6. It simply validates our own work, as educational leaders.

I always feel reinvigorated after visiting classrooms. The vibrancy is contagious. Teaching and learning are the "business of schools" and being in classrooms keeps the energy and motivation high to continue to do what we in RBUSD do—stay connected!

Board of Education Meeting Dates

2019

November 12*

December 10*

2020

January 14

March 10

May 26

January 28

March 24

June 9

February 11

April 28*

June 23

February 25

May 12

***Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in November, December, and April (4/28/2020 – Organizational Meeting)**

**** Due to Summer recess, only one Board meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in July and August.**

Board of Education



David Witkin
Member

This is Not Your Father's RBUSD

Last year, we began offering CS First, a coding program developed by Google, to 4th and 5th graders at each elementary school as an after-school program, for free. This is just one example of how the Board, administration and faculty are committed to not just keeping up with changing times, but leading the way into the future.

Our Ed Services team, Dr. Annette Alpern and Susan Wildes, deserve significant credit for spearheading the program. We also want to thank the District teachers who stepped up and volunteered to stay late and teach the course.

After-school programs typically generate interest from a small minority of eligible students. For CS First, astoundingly, well over 50% of the 1,500 eligible 4th and 5th graders signed up! Clearly, students and parents have demand for coding instruction, and we are proud to meet it. CS First will be repeated again this coming spring.

I visited my own son's CS First class last May. Not only was the course content impressive. What most excited me was the diversity of the students. More than half the class were girls – and we all know how females have historically been under-represented in the sciences and computer science in particular.

When I asked the students what they liked about most CS First, a typical answer was, "I really enjoy coding and developing cool programs." For our kids to demonstrate an identity as creators and problem solvers, is immensely gratifying.

We're not done, nor will we ever be, innovating on behalf of our students. Stay tuned for more great things to come, whether it be in coding or beyond.



Are you looking for me for the contest on page 14



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Our publishing schedule has changed. Going forward we will print the

RBUSD *School News* September, November, February and May. Please make a note on your calendars and I thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

The article on the next page by Beach Cities Health District is so important and I am grateful they are providing information on this subject.

Our next issue is February 5, 2020.

**Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays
from the School News staff!**



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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**Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

Talk to Your Student About Vaping

Medical experts and public officials around the country are sending an urgent message to e-cigarette users of all ages: refrain from vaping now. The U.S. Surgeon General named vaping a youth epidemic. This message is particularly important in the Beach Cities – Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach – where surveys have shown above-average rates of vaping compared to other areas of the state and the U.S.

In the Beach Cities, 1 in 4 11th graders vape regularly, and 4 in 5 report that it is fairly easy or very easy to access vaping devices, often sold in flavors that are appealing to youth, including strawberry, watermelon and pink lemonade.

Unlike other substances that might make their way to campus, vaping devices are hard to detect, and can easily be concealed, because many look like common devices such as highlighters or USB chargers, and can easily be slipped into a pocket or backpack.

At Beach Cities Health District (BCHD), we are taking steps to provide resources for students and families and reinforce the message that vaping is dangerous – particularly for youth, who are putting their health in danger. BCHD has developed a series of programs and events to raise awareness, including:

- Creating a vaping-specific web page with information for e-cigarette users, parents and educators at www.bchd.org/vaping;
- Hosting public forums on vaping and e-cigarette use;
- Partnering with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and UCLA to inform clinicians in the South Bay about symptoms associated with vape use;
- Hosting a training for school nurses and health aides in local school districts;
- Encouraging parents to “Talk About It” with their children.

These initiatives are part of BCHD’s ongoing efforts to reduce youth substance use. The Beach Cities Partnership for Youth Coalition, spearheaded by BCHD and comprised of more than 150 community partners, has prioritized substance use prevention since 2017, with a special emphasis on vaping. At the August Coalition meeting, a dozen students from BCHD’s Youth Advisory Council presented about health and social implications of the vaping epidemic. The Council will continue to prioritize peer-to-peer strategies to combat this urgent health issue. Additionally, through ongoing parent education and a partnership with South Bay Families Connected, more than 6,000 parents have been reached on the topic of vaping, mental health and stress resilience.

For more information, go to www.bchd.org/vaping.

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Redondo Beach Council PTA

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All About the Arts

By Sondra Kroeger, President

Back to School means back to finding the balance in family life between homework, extracurricular activities and fun! We are fortunate in Redondo Beach that our school district emphasizes educating the whole child. And PTA's Reflections Art Program increases community awareness of the importance of the arts in a balanced education. This nationally recognized program has been bringing the arts to life for more than 10 million students since 1969.

Reflections invites students of all ages to express themselves imaginatively in their artwork, experience the fun and joy of making art, tap into critical-thinking skills to create art inspired by the annual theme, and receive positive recognition for their original works.

The theme for the 2019-school year is "Look Within," and all students are encouraged to submit original artwork in any or all of the following six areas: dance choreography, literature, photography, film production, music composition and visual arts. Students may submit as many times as they like.

Please reach out to your school's PTA to inquire about local due dates and to see how your child can get involved in this fun and educational program!

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



Hanh Archer
President

Thank You

RBEF wants to thank you! There are so many reasons why – but it is because of your generosity and your support that we have had such a successful start to the new school year.

This September we raised more money than we ever have before! And our investments in the 2018-19 campaign allowed us to present a check for \$1,125,000 to RBUSD in October.



RBEF Advocate, Diane Kacer-McCaslin

Thank you to all the families that joined us in the Annual Skechers Friendship Walk, which raises money and awareness to support children with special needs and education.

And thank you to the community and golfers who participated in our annual RBEF Community Classic Golf Tournament.

Please continue to invest: <https://rbef.org/>.

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Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Spread Fun. Not Flu!

Healthy kids of any age can get seriously sick from the flu, and they can spread it to family and friends. One of the best ways to stop the spread of the flu is to get vaccinated. Almost everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year. But did you know, there are other ways to stop the spread of germs?

You and your family can prevent the spread of flu at home, work or school by following these simple steps.

Step 1: Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

- Cough or sneeze into a tissue and then throw it away.
- No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your sleeve (elbow) or shirt (shoulder).

Step 2: Clean your hands often.

- Wash your hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or long enough to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- No soap around? Use hand sanitizer gel or hand wipes.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes.

Step 3: Avoid close contact with people who have the flu.

- If possible, when your child has the flu, keep them home from school to help avoid spreading germs.

Step 4: Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects.

- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects at home or school, especially if someone is ill.

The number of flu cases increases drastically by December each year, with flu season peaking in January, February or March. As we head into the holidays, remember to spread fun, and not flu!



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Texting and Driving: A Killing Combination

Teens love to text. They'll send messages any time and anywhere. But if they text from behind the wheel of a car, the results could be deadly.

Studies show that texting and driving is as dangerous as drinking and driving. If you text while behind the wheel, you're 23 times more likely to crash. Although many states have laws making it illegal to text while driving, teens (and many parents) still do it, even though they know it's dangerous. When teens are driving, any activity besides keeping their eyes on the road and their hands on the wheel — like emailing, downloading music, taking pictures — is a huge no no.

So how can you make sure your teen is phone-free while behind the wheel?

- **Make it non-negotiable.** Teens need to understand that keys and phones simply do not mix. Let them know that distracted driving is just as dangerous as drunk driving.
- **Set clear rules.** Tell your teens to turn off their phones and put them in the glove box before they start the car. If you're not sure your teen has the will power to do this consistently, consider using apps that specifically restrict texting while driving.
- **Download an app that disables the phone when you're driving.** If you don't trust yourself, get an app that will keep you honest.
- **Set an example.** Resist the impulse to check your own phone while in traffic. Your kids are watching what you do. And chances are, they'll copy your behavior.

There's no denying that texting is here to stay. So managing when and where your kids do use their phones is critical -- not just for their development, but for their safety as well.

Common Sense Media is an independent nonprofit organization offering unbiased ratings and trusted advice to help families make smart media and technology choices. Check out our ratings and recommendations at www.commonsensemedia.org



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



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Pay Attention!

*By Kathy Martens,
Washington CDC Site Supervisor*

The words "pay attention" in the education world are typically reserved for students who are not listening. At CDC, we take a different spin on these words. We talk about how staff can "pay attention" to what is going on around us in our classrooms and on the playground.

By paying attention, we notice things. We notice a student alone on the playground, how a student has new interests or how friend groups have changed. We are intentional about asking questions and showing genuine interest. It might just be a "high-five" or walking a lap with a student around the turf. But, we pay attention! At CDC, we are fortunate to have the time and space to pay attention to individual needs, to create intentional programming as well as provide equity and inclusion without the worry of academic accountability. Although students still have to do homework, they also have opportunities to create connections through team-building obstacle courses or "town meetings" to discuss concerns or questions. Just by "paying attention" we are able to help students navigate positive relationships every day!

RBUSD Alternative Education

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



Anthony Bridi
Principal

Attendance = Achievement

School is in session! New teachers, new classroom environments, and a welcoming fresh start. Attendance plays a large part to transitioning into the school year. Physical presence is just one of the main ingredients to meeting the plethora of expectations in any academic setting. When you really think about it, being present is a gateway to success. However, being physically present must be coupled with also

being mentally present/prepared to tackle learning objectives and individual growth targets. Here are ways for students to maximize the rewards of being present this school year:

Be Proactive: Prepare for school the night before. What you are going to wear? What you are going to snack on? What homework do you need to accomplish? These items can be prioritized in advance to assist in getting to your carpool on time. Of course, you set the time for that too!

Be Healthy: Sleep is important. Well balanced nutrition is important. Exercise is important. Managing technology time is important. Knowing all students are different, striking a balance for what works for you to thrive, needs to be a priority.

Be Consistent: Acknowledge positive habits and routines. Stick with them. Acknowledge bad habits and routines. Get rid of them.

South Bay Adult School

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



Drew Gamet
Director

Make a Plan

One of the most important things to do when you decide to take steps to change your career, or get additional training to improve your earning potential in your current career is to develop a plan. Your life probably already has a million things going on: work, kids, relationship, and hobbies. The only way to achieve your goals is to make a plan. However, doing that on your own can be daunting.

The good news is, there is someone at the South Bay Adult School that can provide you with all of the answers.

Brett Ploumen is the academic counselor at the SBAS and he is ready to help you with all of your questions about the classes you need to realize your goals, as well as planning your time so that you can make it happen. Brett has been a counselor with RBUSD since 1991 and has been with the SBAS since 2017. You can call him at 310-937-3340 to get a plan together to reach you and your families goals!

RBUSD Educational Services

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/937-1221



Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

It Starts with Hello!

During the last week of September, a number of our schools participated in the Sandy Hook Promise's Start With Hello! campaign. The program teaches students to make a difference with their peers in a simple, fun, and impactful way. They take small actions to promote connectedness and inclusion at school, and identify and help lonely students who are showing signs of social isolation. Social isolation and loneliness can have a significant impact on a

students' mental and physical health, academic performance and peer relationships. The Start With Hello! Campaign is one of the many ways our schools are committed to tackling these difficult issues on behalf of every child we serve.



Washington Elementary School community welcomes students to school during the Start With Hello! Campaign



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Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Lisa Veal
Principal

School Connectedness

Over the past several years, the Redondo Beach community has seen the tremendous efforts the district and schools have put forth to increase safety in our schools. Student safety is, and will always be, our top priority; however, our students' emotional and social health are of similar importance, and we have worked equally hard to design programs and establish systems to support their wellbeing in these areas.

School connectedness is our students' belief that adults and peers at school care about their learning and value them as individuals. This belief inspires our work to support the whole child. One way we do so is through Second Step, a social-emotional learning curriculum that teaches middle-school students to handle strong emotions, make good decisions, build positive, strong relationships, and set attainable goals.

Additionally, we strongly encourage students to get involved. We have increased our course offerings and intermural sports program as we strive to help students find their niches. Students who are connected to the school are more likely to do well in school and have positive school attendance and are less likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors, including alcohol, tobacco and drug use, early sexual initiation, and self-harm.

As a parent, you play a role, too. Research has shown that children who feel supported by the adults in their lives are more likely to be involved and interested in school. They need to know you care about their academic achievement and their individual concerns. In addition to finding positive peer groups, it is important for students to be able to recognize at least one supportive adult at school whom they feel close to. Lastly, encourage them to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to get involved at school!

Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Dale Hillyer
Principal

Encouraging Growth Mindset

Growth mindset, perseverance, resiliency, and grit are the focus of what we do at Alta Vista Elementary School. We are teaching students to never give up and to always go back to improve.

Some of the strategies we are using to help students gain a growth mindset are rubrics, individual goal setting, praise, and a variety of motivational videos, including "Austin's Butterfly."

We are also mindful of the words we use when talking with students. This kind of encouragement can also be done at home. Parents can replace simple "fixed mindset" statements with "growth mindset" statements when engaging their kids. For example, instead of saying, "You are so smart!" you can say, "I can see you worked

really hard on this!" Or instead of "Math isn't your best subject," you can say, "Can you think of a new strategy you can use?" Try these growth-mindset encouragers next time you are praising your child.



Students are learning resiliency.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Participating in the Learning Process

At Beryl Heights, we salute the parents and guardians in our community. We can't have a team without you. Parents play an active role by helping to read to the class and assist with reading groups. They also model reading in their homes and track their children's progress by communicating with their teachers.

Our Beryl parents also read newsletters and keep current on their child's classroom activities. Parents help set expectations along with the teachers, and they accept the responsibility in assisting their child with homework and daily reading.

Our parents also generously donate to the school by supporting our PTA and RBEF. Our "dad" parents recently

came to a Watch Dog kickoff on September 25th and signed up to be an integral part of their students' learning by committing to one to two days help at our school. Our Beryl parents also stay in touch with their teachers through email and daily communication logs.

Parents are a necessary part of student success. We want our parents to help instill the desire for lifelong learning that we recite in our Beryl motto. Parents calendar important events too, such as Back to School Night, conferences, Open House, and Town Meetings to help keep in touch with what is happening. Parents also help to teach their children the six pillars of character, and they often give of their time and talents to nutrition lessons, P.E. lessons, and Hands-On Art.

Thank you, Beryl parents and guardians, for supporting our school and your wonderful students.



Watch Dogs at Field Day

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Student Council

It's an exciting time at Birney Elementary School, as we just elected our student council leaders as well as classroom representatives for students in third through fifth grades. Students that are part of the Birney Student Council will meet two times each month where they will learn various skills in leadership capacity. Students will be led through this journey by our student council advisors, Mrs. Hertz and Mrs. Cholakian.

Birney's student council representatives will be part of the Birney community in various ways, including planning special days for our school, promoting school spirit and unity, helping others who are in need, and serving as positive role models. Students will also be able to share their ideas and understand all the components that come

with leading their school into continued positive change. The president, vice president, public relations officer, secretary, and treasurer will also be part of Birney's wellness council, where they will share ideas about the school's continued path toward making healthy choices through food selection and exercise.

As Birney students embark on this journey of student leadership, we would like to acknowledge all the students who ran for student council offices or room representative positions. These candidates exhibited a lot of courage in taking on such a challenge. They worked hard as they wrote speeches and present them in front of their classes or the student body. I am very proud of each student who was a candidate in this process. Birney Bobcat are not afraid to challenge themselves while giving it their very best. Whether they were elected to a position or not, these students have learned a valuable lesson—to try their very best despite the outcome.

Jefferson *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Staying Smooth

At the very end of summer, Jefferson was fortunate enough to have all of our existing campus blacktop areas resurfaced right before school started. This “finishing touch” was much needed, allowing our students increased



The new playground surface looking smooth and safe

safety in play and common space areas due to the smoother and even surface. Additionally, the new asphalt significantly improved the aesthetic look of our campus.

Many thanks to the RBUSD School Board, as well as our Maintenance & Operations Department for prioritizing this project and making it happen.



Runners hitting the track on our new asphalt

Lincoln *Elementary* (K-5)

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8646 • lincoln.rbusd.org



Dr. Jason Johnson
Principal

We're in This Together

Two heads are better than one is generally an unquestioned maxim, but, in practice, it goes out the window when it comes to parenting. For whatever reason, we tend to get a little defensive and say things like, “Don’t tell me how to parent my child,” when confronted with our shortcomings. Yes, I am guilty, too. Nevertheless, often advice comes in the areas where we need the most help

with. And, often, it is highly practical because so many parents are going through the same challenges. We are surrounded by parenting experts: each other.

Thankfully, our community caught on to this fact. South Bay Families Connected (SBFC) is a partnership between 90 South Bay schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, all of which share the same goal of helping to raise healthy youth. Their motto is “We’re in this together!”

SBFC connects our community with speakers, workshops, and practical solutions. For example, the Families Connected Parent Chat brings parents together to share their parenting challenges in a supportive, non-judgmental environment. The SBFC Parent Blog offers authentic stories related to personal challenges and successes with the goal of letting others know they are not alone in their challenges.

What began as a resource I recommended to parents has now become my personal resource for questions I have about supporting my daughter as she grows up. I like the online format because I can avoid those wincing moments in front of others when I feel my parenting approach is perhaps not cutting the mustard. I also learned from SBFC to be a little more forgiving of my shortcomings as a parent because, clearly, we are all going through it.

I encourage you to take five minutes to visit southbayfamiliesconnected.org. A whole community of heads is better than one.



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california.providence.org/pediatrics

Madison *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Heather Cash
Principal

Safety in a Digital World

When my father-in-law gifted my son his prized slide rule, which he'd kept in a treasured and well-worn leather sleeve, it was a moment of honor. There was a time when that slide rule opened up a world of possibilities for an aspiring engineer.

The tools our students use today are exponentially more powerful but require even more education and guidance to keep

our students safe while empowering them to become college and career ready. Students at Madison school are taught how to care for their devices as well as care for themselves and one another when interacting digitally.

There are many resources available for families who are working to establish boundaries with technology while preparing their children to engage in a global society. An

excellent resource for families navigating digital-media issues with their children is commonsensemedia.org. There you will find reviews on movies and books but also a very helpful Family Media Agreement that can be used as a guide for having important conversations about being safe online, being kind online, staying balanced with media, and being honest with parents about what is happening online. Some important topics to discuss as a family include being safe with personal information, being kind in words and actions, reporting unsafe behavior by friends, being a critical consumer of digital media, and being balanced in consuming media.

Embracing technology can increase efficiency, such as our new online STAR Reading reporting form, but holding a book, either paper or digital, reminds us that technology really is about connecting to each other, to imagination and creativity, and to knowledge

Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Jonathan Erickson
Principal

Social Emotional Learning

By Ashley MacDonald, Counselor, and Jonathan Erickson, Principal

In order to support the whole child at Parras, we are placing a large emphasis this year on meeting the social-emotional needs of our students. Every student is receiving the Second Step curriculum during advisement. Second Step is an SEL curriculum that promotes open discussions about topics relevant to today's middle school

student. The goal with the implementation of this program is to teach students skills that will empower them to make good decisions, set goals, and navigate conflicts—the basic life skills that will help students succeed both personally and academically.

Additionally, we are making it a priority to have at least one dedicated wellness tutorial each semester. Last May, we hosted our first Mental Wellness Tutorial, and it was wildly popular with both students and staff. Teachers were able to choose any topic for their tutorial that focused on stress relief. Activities included making calm-down jars, coloring for calm, relieving stress via acupressure, writing for relaxation, yoga and golf. We are excited to see what our creative teachers come up with this year!

Some other exciting initiatives we have in the works include forming a peer program at Parras, integrating PBIS, and looking at utilizing more restorative-discipline strategies. As you can see, we have a lot of great programs in the works to support our students!

Contest!

This little boy reading is hidden in this issue in 2 places. When you find him, email the **page numbers** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

Please put RBUSD in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by Dec. 15, 2019

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations Aliyah Jackson,
winner of our October Word Search.



Redondo Union *High School*

One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • www.redondounion.org



Jens Brandt
Principal

What is ACS WASC?

The Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACS WASC) is the accrediting body for the western region of the United States. Accreditation is the process for evaluating and assuring the quality of educational institutions and programs. Having an accredited school is a statement to the broader community and stakeholders that

this is trustworthy institution for student learning and is committed to ongoing improvement.

We plan to focus on five school-wide criteria during the process. The first is Organization, which means vision and purpose, governance, data-informed decision making and ongoing improvement, professional development, and school resources. The second is Curriculum, with a rigorous and relevant standards-based set of materials to which all students have access. The third is Instruction, through student involvement in challenging and relevant learning experiences, and student engagement through a variety of strategies and resources.

The fourth is Assessment and Accountability, by using assessment to analyze and report student progress and monitor and modify learning in the classroom. And the fifth is School Culture, which involves parent and community engagement, school culture and environment, and personal and academic student support.

Our three-day visit from WASC will be in the spring of 2021. We started planning this fall by forming five focus groups for each school-wide criteria. We will involve all stakeholders when we review the vision, mission, and student learning outcomes, and then complete a self-study report.

How can our parents and students get involved? RUHS families should be familiar with the California School Dashboard at <https://www.caschooldashboard.org> to explore the Redondo Union High School's performance overview. Join and attend all PTSA meetings. This is where we discuss what is happening during the school year and answer parent questions. Also, be a part of the School Site Council to develop, review, and evaluate school improvement programs and the RUHS budget.

Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Andrea Bittick
Principal

Start with Hello

Hello: such a simple word we teach our children at a young age to properly greet others. Yet this word has the power to create a culture of connectedness and inclusivity in our schools and community.

Washington kicked off its Start with Hello Week in September with students, teachers, parents, PTA members, district-office educators, Board of Education members and RBPD welcoming students with high-fives and smiles. The energy created that morning continued throughout the week with other themed days such as No One Eats Alone Day and Say Hey Day, where all students and staff wore name tags. The Washington community rallied behind the mission of the Start with Hello campaign, which is to recognize signs of social isolation and take small yet powerful actions to ensure that students who may feel lonely are connected to their school.

Washington continues to strive to make our school community a place where all students feel like they matter and ensure that each and every student feels connected to our school and our community.



Over 250 Explorers say "Hello!"

Tulita *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

A Sea of Blue

The Tulita Elementary School community is proud to be recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos as one of the nation's 362 National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2019. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance and progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools Award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 37th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program has bestowed recognition on more than 9,000 schools.

Tulita was recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School. With that, the school ranks among the highest performing schools in the state of California as measured by state assessments. Student subgroup performance is also at the highest levels. Tulita's award flag, now gracing a school's building, is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is a testament to the hard work of our students, the dedication and innovation of our teachers and staff, and the support of our families and community. This is a public acknowledgment of what we, the Tulita community, have known all along.

Congratulations, Tulita!



Tulita staff, district leaders, Board of Education members, and parents celebrate being named a National Blue Ribbon School.



The 19th Amendment

On August 18, 2020, the 19th Amendment will have been the law of the United States for 100 years. The women and men who fought for the passage of this amendment go back to the time of the creation of the nation, including Abigail Adams, who told her husband not to forget the ladies. By 1848, women were calling for equal representation at the Seneca Falls Convention. Many of these women fought for the abolitionist movement, and, with the passage of the civil rights amendments after the Civil War, the suffrage movement took two different approaches.

The split in the suffrage movement was over how to win the vote for women. Some believed a state-by-state approach was best. Western states began passing suffrage provisions, which they were required to remove when they joined the nation. The other group pushed for a national amendment. Peaceful protests brought these groups together.

However, soon division erupted when activist Alice Paul returned to the United States after working with firebrand Emmeline Pankhurst, whose followers were known for slapping police officers, throwing bricks through windows, and setting fires to gain attention. Alice began using aggressive yet legal tactics that and propaganda imagery to gain attention for the cause.

Organized by Paul, the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington D.C. in March of 1913 was a very public sign of women's unity. Each group marched in different colors to show their diversity. When men disrupted the parade, the women wrote to their hometown papers to share stories of their mistreatment, and the message was spread across the nation.

Alice and her supporters picketed the White House and were arrested on trumped up charges. They refused to pay the fines and went to jail. Their penalties were increased, so most spent 60 days in the workhouse.

Public opinion changed when Lucy Burns was chained to the wall in a punishment cell and other women were physically abused. States began passing suffrage bills. Finally, the U.S. Congress passed the bill on June 4, 1919, and it was then sent to the states to ratify. By the spring of 1930, 35 states had approved the amendment.

Why Study History?

Sitting in history class, you may have wondered why you were made to study the past. Then, as you became older, history became more relevant. Teachers told us we study the past so that we will not repeat the same mistakes or so that we can know our history. Those are true statements, but they fail to explain the whole value of studying history.

The study of history includes all occupations from archaeology to tourism. History develops important skills in leadership and task-solving. Employers look to their employees for skills in communication, problem solving, initiative, analyzing data, attention to details, planning, organization and the ability to work as a team. All of these skills are taught in the study of history.

Have you ever wondered who came up with the safe way to eat lobster? Was there a researcher sitting on a rock watching people eating lobster and taking notes to write a paper on the best way to prepare lobster that wouldn't end one's life? Or was it, more likely, passed to others by word of mouth in the same way Homer passed on the story of Troy to the world in the spoken word, called oral history today?

As society became more developed, the written word became the standard of communicating the past to later generations. Archaeologists, anthologists and historians all used the written words of the past to come to a better understanding of the past.

The research skills learned in the study of history provide an understanding of how to work for a common goal. Here is a list of some of the occupations that the study of history makes one more accomplished in: analyst, archivist, conservator, curator, geographer, lawyer, librarian, logistician, journalist, paralegal, researcher and teacher.

History is more than connecting the past to the present. It is the development of critical skills in life today. When we forget that history is part of the present and not just the past, it is diminished in value. It is the connections and not the names, dates and events to be remembered.



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**Are you looking
for me for the contest
on page 14**

Ethan's Review

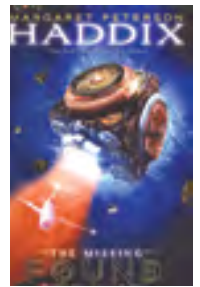


Ethan H.

Who Are They?

Found is the first book of the series *The Missing*. It is about two boys named Jonah and Chip who are regular kids in the 20th century. When Jonah and Chip start getting mysterious letters in the mail, they set out on a quest for clues to answer the question, "Who are we?" They discover many secrets and learn that people from the future are coming to get them. Will Jonah and Chip learn who they truly are before time catches up to them? I loved his book because it's full of surprises! I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in time travel and mysteries.

Ethan H. is a fourth grader. He likes science, reading, history and physical activities like soccer and basketball.



Note-ables



Kate Karp

Swamp Romp

The ingredients alone will make you lick your chops: Cajun, zydeco, R&B, Carolina beach and the great Fats Domino; luminaries like Irma Thomas and the Dirty Dozen Brass Band; a potpourri of bayou musical instruments from accordions and guitars to washboards and a cane fife; and a booklet of cultural and historical details. *Swamp Romp* is a spicy musical jambalaya!

Louisiana-roots-music duo Johnette Downing and Scott Billington conceived the collection as a dance party for children. From the first song, title tune "Swamp Romp," the good times will roll. You can line-dance to "Mud Bug Boogie"—mudbugs are crawfish—and no matter how you learned to spell *Mississippi*, the catchy "Mississippi River" encourages children to worm their bodies around in time to the music to shape the letters in the word. Hey—teaching idea!

And what's a party without food? "Gather Something Sweet" is a lilting Caribbean melody about picking fruit, and "How to Dress a Po' Boy"'s washboard accompaniment is like a grumbling tummy. "Baby in the King Cake" sings of a centuries-old tradition of baking a plastic baby—sometimes a ring—into a cake. Whoever gets the baby will have good luck but also has to host the next party!

My personal favorite is "Poor Worry Anna," a haunting swamp-music/doo wop ballad about a woman who worries about everything. The dual voices of Irma Thomas and Johnette Downing intensify the song's mournful beauty.

Bayou music is family music. That's *Swamp Romp*. Bring your dancing shoes and your spoon and bowl, and *fais do-do*!

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

South Bay Hands On Art

"it's my small world"

By Co-Chairs Caasi Copp and Buffy Soule



Our first project of the year was inspired by the expressive and colorful concept art of Mary Blair for Walt Disney's 'It's a Small World' attraction. Mary was one of Disney's favorite artists, and was selected to create a pavilion for the 1964 World Fair that centered on the world's children. Jennifer Stenta, the project's creator, taught over 280 volunteers

the lesson so they can teach it to their classes. Students used oil pastel to draw various lines and shapes, which shaped their buildings. They learned about watercolor resist, how the oil pastel will prevent the paper from absorbing watercolor, then painted their composition with their own color palette. We hope that this project takes everyone to a happy place!



2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805,
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
www.southbayhandsonart.com

Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

Doing Homework

Homework Hassles (Ready, Freddy!—Series 3) by Abby Klein

I was recently introduced to the book series of "Ready, Freddy!" and this is my favorite book so far. This book focuses on what happens when



you don't do your home assignments in a timely fashion. Freddy Thresher, a first grader, goes through a big problem when his teacher wants the class to do reports on nocturnal animals. He couldn't find an animal until the last moment. He went overboard with his research and got himself into trouble. The book includes exciting twists and turns in the story. The conversation of Freddy and his friends reminds me of my own conversations in the class. I couldn't stop reading the book to find out if Freddy completed his assignment on the due date. I also learned the value of friends and family through this book.

Manhar M. is in First Grade. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.



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Boys & Girls Age Group 2012-2009

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