

FREE

School News

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Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District

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In Partnership for a Brighter Future



Fourth graders were excited to have received an RBEF grant last year to support technology in the classroom.

*By Kara Heinrich, Principal
Jefferson Elementary School*

A beloved Helen Keller quote of mine, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," speaks to the importance of unity and teamwork. The quote resonates to why a school's success is dependent on the active parent involvement and positive partnerships formed. Redondo Beach USD is fortunate to have a dedicated educational foundation working in partnership with our schools to support teachers and to broaden our students' learning experiences. RBEF has brought our students programs in music, sports, science and technology, mini-grants and the Safe School Ambassador program. In addition, Jefferson was honored to host the first RBEF Summer Session and provide a rewarding learning experience to our K-eighth-grade RBUSD students this past summer. Thank you, RBEF, for this incredible opportunity!

SUPERINTENDENT



Doing Great Things for Our Students

A parent is a child's first teacher. It is because of this critical role, that the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) staff works to involve all parents and guardians in a child's education.

Dr. Steven Keller

Research shows that parent participation is a critical component to individual student success. In RBUSD, we work with families across the city to build enhanced relationships between the classroom and home through the assistance of our two parent/guardian groups.

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is a strong advocate for all of our students and serves as a district-wide cohesive voice. They are able to assist with the distribution and representation of the district's message and vision. Parents within this organization serve as central eyes and ears, providing key leadership within each of our sites. The issues around schooling can be sensitive at

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BOARD OF EDUCATION



Discovering New Ideas

The most important interaction you can have with your child is direct participation in his or her education. When you sit down to work on homework and projects or have a detailed conversation with your child about what he or she is learning in school, you show through your involvement that education is about lifelong learning. You share in the most exciting part of education—the discovery of new ideas.

Drew Gamet
Member

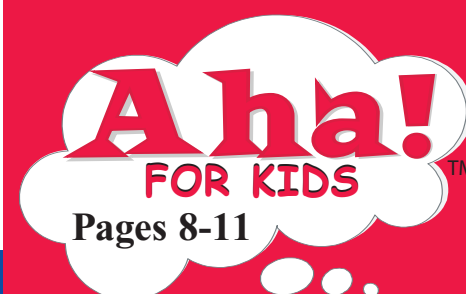
However, we are all aware of the challenges that face our children. We are confronted with raising a generation of children that potentially could be less healthy and less educated than their parents. How do we "Just say NO" to the trends that research says are befalling our children? Thankfully in Redondo Beach there are two organizations that provide outlets for support and advocacy for our students: Redondo Beach PTAs and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. You should be involved in both!

The Redondo Beach PTA is an organization that fund-raises and supports your school site so that your student experiences special events and assemblies, can attend field trips, and has

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Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



It is certainly refreshing to read positive news and the RBUSD is an example of what can be accomplished when parents, the school district and the entire community work together.

Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff to you and your family. We are always mindful of the service men and women who have volunteered to protect our freedom and are not home with their loved ones at this time.

The winners of our November contests are announced on page 10, where you'll find the new contest.

Our next issue is February 1, 2012. Happy New Year!

School News

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Covering the REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Brad Serkin
President

Great investments are tough to find these days. Fortunately for Redondo Beach parents, there's a place you can invest a little bit of money and get a 100 percent-plus return. It's that big building you drive to almost every morning where lots of little stockholders go in and come out each day—your child's school! Donations to the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) go directly to our schools and your children, and we can't think of a better investment.

Each year, RBEF holds an annual donor drive from February to April. Last year, the donor drive raised over \$200,000—money that went back to *all* schools within our district! RBEF's donor drive is the main source of funding for programs that affect your child each and every school day—programs like Music Center Teaching Program, Family Science Nights, Elementary Science Teachers, Online Student Career and Course Pathways, Laptop Computers for the Schools, College Readiness Liaison for our high schools, Arts Programs, Safe School Ambassadors and so much more! RBEF's donor drive funds teacher grants so that our best and brightest are rewarded with cash to finance innovative class projects, field trips and specialized programs for your children. And finally, the money you have given to the RBEF Donor Drive has helped shred pink slips, keeping educators in the classroom and class sizes smaller. A lower teacher-to-student ratio is always a sure bet!

It takes each family to make a difference! We encourage all parents to participate in the RBEF Donor Drive each year. Imagine how high our students could climb if all parents donated. More technology, programs, teachers—the sky's the limit! If you're planning on investing and making a tax deductible donation, RBEF thanks you! If you haven't donated yet, we hope you'll seriously consider taking that first step. It's an investment you won't ever regret. Go to www.RBEF.org to find out how easy it is to get involved! We are always looking for volunteers, as we are parent volunteers ourselves!

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Jens Brandt
 RUHS Assistant
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Lauren Nakano
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Imagine joyful learning, academic success and a powerful sense of self and community. Imagine students who are able to engage in a focused, energetic way with each other, with their teachers, and with their learning.

Imagine schools that are productive, harmonious centers of successful learning; where all students can thrive because they recognize themselves as capable, creative learners, self-aware human beings and compassionate, responsible citizens.

The RBUSD elementary schools have taken a bold, innovative step towards transforming its students and school culture using the MindUP curriculum. It is informed by leading edge research in the fields of developmental cognitive neuroscience, mindfulness training, social and emotional learning (SEL) and positive psychology.

It is now well established that social and emotional skills, such as the ability to manage one's emotions and get along with others, play an integral role in academic and life success. Our school-based counselors are leading the way by partnering with the teachers to integrate MindUP in all elementary classrooms throughout the school year.

How it Works

The day begins: The best teachers we know are mindful about the beginning of each school day. They start the day by greeting students as they enter the classroom, gathering them for a few moments of "check in," then followed by a core practice of deep breathing and mindful awareness. This simple routine results in a day that feels more coherent and focused, and sets an easygoing tone for engagement with the rest of the daily learning.

For transition: Our classroom transition times are some of the most important routines of the day...Our days are full, our curriculum is rich, and we have so much to do together! The tighter our transitions, the more time we will have for instruction." (Allyn, 2010).

The day ends: Just as teachers can help students greet a new day with eagerness and mindful purpose, so can you close the day with a spirit of purpose and celebration. The students will leave their classrooms feeling calm yet energized.



MindUP makes my brain happy, so I can learn better. –David, first grade



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The Importance of Early Education



Vivian Ibarra
 Director

"When my oldest son entered kindergarten at Jefferson, nine of his classmates were friends that he had met in SBAS parent education classes. He made a very easy transition to public school. I know that I have become a better parent because of the parent education classes that I have taken. My classroom experiences have given me the confidence to stay involved as my children get older. I volunteer in my child's classroom, the Running Club, and Hands On Art, and I will do the same for my youngest child who is currently in a SBAS pre-K class." (Suzanne Derouin, parent in the SBAS program)

Parents are the child's first and most important teacher. This might seem obvious, but it is a very important statement to us at the South Bay Adult School.

Our parent education program starts at birth and continues through the child's preschool years. SBAS currently has 900 families registered for parent education classes, and our families are involved in every class. Parent education teachers are responsible for implementing dual curriculums: early education and parent education. The curriculums are specific to the developmental age of the participating child.

Parents Getting Involved

When you visit a classroom you will see parents leading activities at tables, supervising outdoor play, serving snacks, reading to a small group of children, or sitting with the teacher in a discussion group. Families experience hands-on learning activities where the parents and children can laugh and learn together.

We know that involved parents play a key factor in student achievement and positive attitudes towards learning. We also know that our involved preschool parents will become involved parents when their children enter the elementary schools.

Next time you are at a PTA meeting, we challenge you to ask how many of the families came from the South Bay Adult School Parent Education program. You



Parent education classes are fun for everyone.

might be surprised to find the person sitting next to you started their involvement in their own child's preschool class.

We are very proud of our lifelong learning families and the difference they make in the education of the children. Come by and visit a parent education class and sign up your preschooler today.



The outdoors as a classroom.



Hands On Art in Preschool



Theresa Van Dusen
 Director

By Gary Winning, Washington CDC Site Supervisor

Thanks to the generosity of the Washington Elementary School PTA, our Washington Child Development Center preschool students are participating in the Hands on Art program.

Beginning last year, CDC preschool volunteer parents were trained along with school-age volunteer parents in lessons that can be modified for preschool students. This is usually about three lessons per year. The preschoolers are able to go to the “big school” art room and return with a beautiful art project, a greater confidence and appreciation for themselves as artists, and a big smile on their faces.

Last year the “Watercolor Sky” was a very popular project with our families and students. Preschool students viewed and learned a little about Winslow Homer’s famous painting *Skies*, and then were shown techniques for using watercolors (such as water first, then paint, and how to mix colors). They were then ready to create their own masterpieces.

Our students look forward to the next lesson, and are asking when they will be able to go again. The PTA provides the necessary art materials, as well as training for the art docent parents. In addition, Washington preschoolers have also been welcomed to school cultural assemblies planned and paid for by the PTA.

The CDC families at Washington have become full members of the Washington School community. These are positive ways for parents to contribute to all of our students’ learning, and for them to get involved with their future school and PTA organizations..

Thank you to our great PTA. We are looking forward to another amazing year.



Hunter shows off his Water Color Sky.



Mrs. Jones and her preschool students enjoy the One World Rhythm assembly

Thank You Times Three!



Frank DeSena
 Asst.
 Superintendent
 Student Services

Dr. Aaron Benton
 Director Special
 Education

The Office of Special Education would like to thank our parent community for its generous support for our Special Education students and programs over the years. All students have strengths and the ability to learn, but it is up to us as educators to find out what those strengths are and to tap into them to ensure students continue to stay interested in the learning process.

First, we would like to thank the Redondo Beach Council of PTAs, which funds numerous enrichment activities, such as Hands On Art, Safe School Ambassadors, student assemblies and dances, and field trips and special programs. Some PTAs and PTSAs also give teacher appreciation and teacher classroom grants.

Second, we owe thanks to the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF), which funds a variety of activities as well, such as music, science, art, and technology, all very motivating for our students. Tulita School Special Day Class teacher Ilana Lopez was eager to express her gratitude to RBEF. “Last spring,” Lopez shared, “RBEF bought a digital camera for every student in my class! Each week, we went on photo scavenger hunts to learn about our community, build



Danny enjoys working on the Fusion Keyboard in the Learning Center.

functional communication skills, develop appropriate interests, and express ourselves through art and writing. We are so thankful to RBEF!” At Jefferson School, Learning Center teacher Jen Otero was thrilled to receive funding from RBEF to purchase the latest fusion keyboards for her students.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank the Exceptional Kids Parent Teacher Organization (EKPTO), a unique organization that provides social activities to help normalize the lives of special needs students by assisting classrooms with grant funding for materials and activities not otherwise available through the school system. Past grants have paid for special classroom supplies, equipment, computer software, field-trip transportation, and community-oriented activities.



Andrew carefully assesses his photography skills on an RBEF-funded digital camera.

In the area of Special Education, educators depend on strong support from the greater parent community, and for this we thank you!

Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

A Healthy Body leads to a Healthy Mind

Stop by Alta Vista Elementary any morning, and you may wonder where we all are. You won't find us in the cafeteria or in our classrooms, and you won't find us in the library. At 8:15 a.m. every school day, you will find us outside on the blacktops warming up our bodies so that we may better use the most important muscle our body has: the brain. This morning workout, sponsored by the Beach Cities Health District and led by parent volunteers, begins with a series of cardiovascular exercises that target major muscle groups and culminate in stretching and deep breathing.

Why spend the first 10 minutes of our instructional day exercising? Aside from the physical benefits of building and maintaining healthy bones and muscles, daily exercise by young people has been proven to reduce feelings of depression and anxiety while promoting the child's psychological well-being. According to the Centers for Disease Control, regular daily exercise may improve students' academic achievement and grades as well as academic behavior. Daily exercise can increase students' concentration, attentiveness and time on task. Our 10-minute commitment returns hours of benefits to us in the classroom.

The benefits of exercise aren't limited to just school-based physical education and recess. There are numerous studies that examine the positive link between extracurricular physical activities and academic performance. We appreciate all our Wildcats involved in soccer, baseball, gymnastics, karate, dance and more. Your family's time commitment—and we know that some sports are a whole-family commitment—empowers your child and allows us to accomplish even more with them in the classroom.



PTA members working to welcome and support families at Back to School Night



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Anthony Taranto
Principal

Partners in Education

Our school learning community is strengthened by our partnerships. The active participation of students, staff, families and community organizations is essential to our continued success. All are encouraged to be active in the Adams PTSA and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation.

The Parent Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) share a common goal – the betterment of our children's educational experience. The Adams PTSA is known for promoting parental involvement in the school, while the RBEF supports programs district-wide.

With the PTSA, our parents and teachers work together for the common benefit of the Adams students. Funds are used to provide educational field trips, assemblies, programs and other school-specific needs.

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been instrumental in providing supplemental funding for enrichment programs. Many of our teachers have been awarded mini-grants for instructional materials and specific field trips to support their respective grade-level curriculum or subject area content.

On Sunday, October 30, Adams students, parents and staff members joined thousands of participants in the third annual Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk. This 3.4 mile walk from Manhattan Beach Pier to Hermosa Beach Pier and back brought everyone together to improve education for our children.

Both the PTSA and RBEF are critical to the quality of the education in our learning community. Both groups work together to support quality education at Adams Middle School and in Redondo Beach, and to see us "Reach Greatness!"

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Better than Ever

Every day Beryl's parents are giving of themselves. This past year they have donated over 10,000 hours of volunteer time!

Our daily exercises are led by PTA President Linda Buck, and our fall fund-raiser was a huge success! Beryl's PTA board has improved communication within our community and brought our school even closer together. Our Web site is an outstanding resource for events and information, and is monitored by an amazing parent, Jessica Mentessoglu. Her technology expertise has added more ways to communicate with our PTA and staff members.

Meet and Greet

Our monthly PTA newsletter highlights current events, and recognizes those staff members who continue to make a difference. Mrs. Buck and Mrs. Mohr, our principal, have scheduled a "coffee with the principal" event on the first Friday of each month so that parents can talk about what is happening at school. They can also make suggestions on improvements and share the wealth of knowledge that is in our parent community.

These new events will continue to show that communication is the key to success, and that our hardworking, dedicated PTA is open to making changes when needed.

We are so fortunate to have the Redondo Beach Education Foundation in our school district. Many Beryl families have donated to it in order to help raise money for the schools. This year the Foundation has been very supportive, and has put an emphasis on the need for more technology in the classrooms.

Beryl families, along with 10 teachers, participated in the Pier to Pier Walk in Manhattan Beach to help raise money for the Foundation and the Friendship Circle.

Each RBEF member has risen to the occasion to help our school district in many different ways. The Beryl community would like to thank them for all of their hard work and determination!

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

Winning Partnerships

At Birney Elementary School, we are fortunate and grateful to have formed partnerships with two very supportive organizations: the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF). The two have been instrumental in providing invaluable resources and support to the school.

Our PTA raises money for many of our school programs including Hand-on Art, Hands-on Science, and Growing Educators, a coaching program which supports the teaching of reading comprehension and writing instruction. In addition to funding field-trip opportunities, the PTA also gifts each classroom with \$21 per child for curriculum enrichment and raises funds over the course of the year to ensure Birney's fifth-grade students are able to attend science camp in the spring.



Students and parents participating in a Hands-on Art project.



Birney students and PTA raise funds for 5th grade Science Camp

The RBEF has been instrumental as well in providing supplemental funding for enrichment programs. Our students are exposed to music and band as a result of the generosity of RBEF. Additionally, many of our teachers have been the recipients of mini grants, which provide opportunities for them to purchase instructional materials for curriculum enhancement.

Birney truly appreciates and values the support we receive from our partnerships with the PTA and RBEF! We thank those who have gotten involved and pledged their support, and we encourage those who have not done so to join today. Birney is a wonderful, close-knit community, and we welcome you to join our family!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Working for a Better Tomorrow

The Jefferson PTA unites to enhance and embrace our school through its work for a better tomorrow. The PTA promotes enriching activities such as field trips, Hands-on Art, teacher grants, Jog-a-Thon, Reflections Visual and Performing Arts program, and educational and cultural assemblies. Our PTA is dedicated to bringing students and families together through educational programs and community experiences. The executive board, committee chairs and members' connection with students, parents and teachers are valuable to providing positive additions to our school. The support that RBEF and our PTA offer our schools through community events gives the community a voice in educational matters involving our children. Together, we deepen our children's learning and educational experiences by making positive impacts that brighten futures!



2011-12 Jefferson PTA Executive Board



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Parent to Parent

Keeping New Year's Resolutions



Jodie Lynn

Each year people make the same resolutions for the New Year. Among them are: lose weight, begin an exercise program, eat healthier, quit smoking, back up computer files, play with kids more, entertain more, volunteer more, allow for more personal time, stop drinking so much alcohol...

While this may strike a chord with you and your loved ones, why not jot down what is not only meaningful to you, but ask the whole family to join in. Each person can make up his or her own list. Discuss each list. Do not laugh or make fun of what another family member comes up with. It may seem silly to you but to them it is important.

After everyone has had a chance to contemplate their lists, add a T for True or F for False beside each one that can really be accomplished. Now, redo the list and leave off all of the false ones. We add more stress to our lives by trying to do too much too soon and end up feeling guilty and totally giving up. Take the list that you think can be realistically done and cut it into half. Now, you have a list that you can stick to and are happy about. Midway through the year, if you feel like you are ready to take on more, add the other half of the list and try to obtain those goals.

Make eating right and exercising some of the top priorities for you and the whole family. Here's a little firsthand knowledge from what I have learned by being a fitness instructor and teaching changed eating habits (healthy eating) over the last few years to women and children:

- Get a physical. This is the first thing that kids as well as adults need to do before changing their eating habits beginning an exercise program.
- Make gradual changes. Unless your doctor says otherwise, do not throw everything out at once or try to change every little bad habit in one sweep. It only creates frustration and you will end up stuffing yourself with food, and who knows what, after only a short time of your new program. This not only makes you feel bad about yourself and make you feel like a failure, but your body can have an instant reaction in weight gain, water retention, bloating and/or upset stomach.
- Have a least one bite of a forbidden treat every other day. This will suffice in a low calorie or sugar free candy in your favorite flavor.
- Have whatever you want for one meal once a month. If you are working out on a regular basis, do not cut your carbs in half and go ahead and eat your favorite meal, maybe with smaller portions, at least once a month. Children as well as adults need carbs while in an exercise program or strenuous sports or activities.
- Include weight training, which also goes by the term, "strength training," with your exercise program. If your child is under the age of twelve, do not allow weight training.

Jodie Lynn is an award-winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best-selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having, Doing, and Surviving It All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* www.ParentToParent.com

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—Maria Montessori

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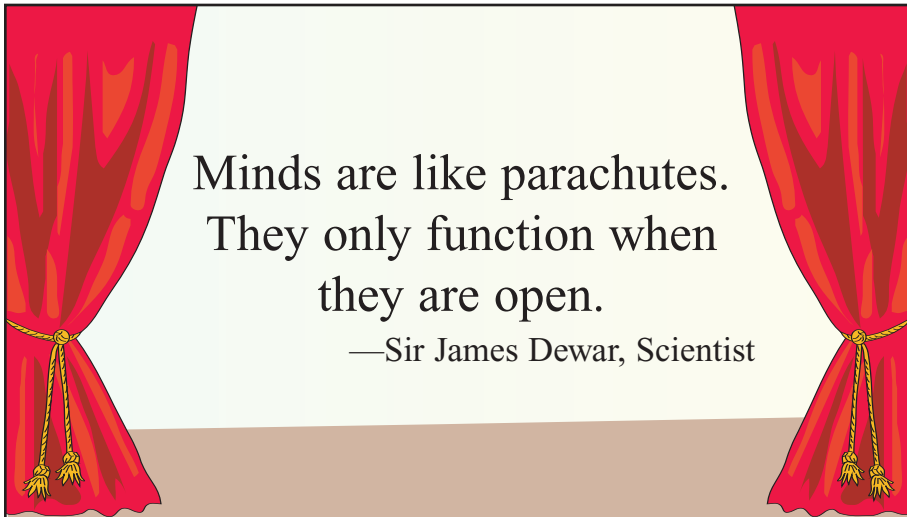
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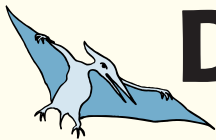
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|---------------|-----------------|
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Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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Jeff Winckler
Principal

PTA and RBEF: Partnerships in Success

Lincoln is appreciative to have PTA advocacy and RBEF support play a strong role at our school. Our partnerships with both organizations are significant factors to our overall success as a school. Each group assists us in our commitment to providing a high-caliber educational experience for students that focuses on the whole child.

The PTA is responsible for a number of programs and events at Lincoln school. These programs and events enrich the lives of students and help extend our overall educational program. PTA programs run throughout the school year and include Hands-on Art, Hands-on Science, assemblies and field trips. The PTA is also involved in organizing and holding a variety of events during the school year that include Movie Night, the Book Fair and Battle of the Books. PTA volunteers also contribute countless hours of school service in classrooms and across our campus.

The RBEF plays a part in helping support student success at Lincoln and throughout the school district. In turn, our school community consistently supports RBEF through its 360 Fund-raiser and by attending RBEF events such as the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk. RBEF assists our school by contributing to such programs as Safe School Ambassadors. Lincoln teachers have also been recipients of RBEF mini-grants, which have supported such things as Project PALS.

It is clear that the combined efforts of the PTA and RBEF make a significant difference in the lives of Lincoln students every day. Their contributions are strong examples of partnerships in success that make our school a great place to learn in.



Lincoln Students Support RBEF at the Pier to Pier Walk.



Lincoln's Librarian reads to students at the PTA's Dr. Seuss Night & Book Fair.

Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Joseph Ledoux
Principal

Partners in Education

During these scary economic times it is nice to have educational partners who are working to help supplement our funding needs. Madison's amazing PTA works tirelessly throughout the year to raise money to support a myriad of events and programs.

Our PTA funds the Hands on Art and Hands on Science programs which help our students develop an appreciation for the arts and sciences. They also sponsor events like the Men of Madison Barbecue and the Moms of Madison event, which seek to engage the educational stake holders in the Madison community.

Another outstanding educational partner is the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), which is currently working hard to raise funds to supplement the district's vocal and performing arts programs.

In fact, a portion of the money raised at the Pier to Pier Friendship Walk in October will help pay for these new programs. The RBEF also recently awarded teacher mini-grants to enhance technology in the classroom.

We are very lucky to have two outstanding educational organizations that go to bat time and again for our Redondo Beach students. Madison's PTA and RBEF have been and will continue to be steadfast partners in the district's goal to educate the whole child.



Third graders engaged in dissecting owl pellets for a Hands-On-Science experiment.



Madison parents, students, and teachers at the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk on October 30.

Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Giving Back

The Parras Middle School PTSA and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) have been instrumental in the successes of our students. Without their support, we would not be the school we are today!

Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

PTSA has provided countless volunteer hours at our school for various events. Parent volunteers are present at registration, evening activities, and various special events. Their volunteerism has allowed our functions to operate smoothly, and we are very appreciative. In addition, our PTSA donates thousands of dollars to provide current technology for our students. Our PTSA has also funded some special projects at the school. Their latest contribution is the donation of cushions for the window seats and benches in the new library. We are also extremely grateful to the PTSA for providing funds to teachers to ensure they have the necessary classroom supplies.



Parras students work in the new library that PTSA is helping to complete.



Donations and grants from RBEF and PTSA make it possible to provide our students with the latest technology.

RBEF has also been an important supporter of Parras students. They have provided funding to purchase electronic microscopes, computers, student response systems, video cameras, and other equipment used to enhance our programs. In addition, their support for Safe School Ambassadors, an anti-bully program, has had a positive impact on the culture and climate at our school. The money generated by RBEF has helped lessen the impact of the state's educational funding cuts and has improved our school greatly.

At Parras, we are incredibly grateful to the PTSA and RBEF. Their willingness to give back to our students is greatly appreciated. Please join in their efforts to help our school and the Redondo Beach Unified School District. To donate, please visit: rbeff.org or www.parrasmiddle.org for more information.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



The Redondo Village

In Redondo Beach, we truly take the African proverb that it takes a village to raise one child seriously. It is a common sentiment that a high school cannot reach its fullest potential without involvement from its surrounding community. At Redondo Union High School (RUHS), we are fortunate to have two parent-driven organizations that help us to achieve our potential: the PTSA and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF). Each of these generous organizations take its commitment seriously when it comes to providing assistance to RUHS.

Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

Our outstanding PTSA, run by president Tina Marvray, funds various field trips, sponsors the Student Recognition and Academic Letter Nights, and also informally serves as a principal's advisory committee. The field trips funded by PTSA provide some well needed experiences for our students. For some, this may be the first time they have toured a college, seen a live play, or visited a museum. The delightful Student Recognition Night honors students for a variety of criteria, from outstanding effort to unique contributions to the classroom environment. The teachers at RUHS really appreciate the opportunity to award their students outside of the academic arena. Our PTSA Board members volunteer throughout the year, and it is nice knowing they will help us any way they can.

RBEF, headed by president Brad Serkin, has done an unbelievable job raising funds for a variety of much needed projects within our school and district. These funds, partially distributed via teacher grants, have allowed several of our instructors to incorporate technology into the classroom and purchase resources and instructional tools to engage students in new and exciting ways.

All of these contributions signify an enlightened community that cares about our children and their collective futures. Thank you, RUHS PTSA and RBEF!



Our PTSA board members have fun as they proudly sell Redondo spirit wear at a football game.

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Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Danielle Alphin
Principal

Children and Love

One of my favorite quotes as an educator and parent comes from the late Coach John Wooden. He wrote, “My two favorite four-letter words are *kids* and *love*.” We are so fortunate to have two outstanding organizations that share a love for Redondo Beach children: the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and the Parent Teacher Association.

RBEF has become an invaluable resource for Tulita and RBUSD, providing funds for programs that otherwise could not be offered in challenging budget times. We are particularly excited about the programs RBEF will be funding to support arts, science, and college and career readiness. PTA enriches the educational experience we provide at Tulita in numerous ways, including classroom volunteering, assemblies, field trips, Hands-on Art, Science Week, Western Night, book fairs, movie nights and several other community events. PTA has also generously provided technology, including SMART Boards and document cameras in every classroom and additional computers for our computer lab.

We recently celebrated Red Ribbon Week at Tulita, and we had a great event that occurred out of love for children. Several parents, including Casey Schwartz, Juan Camou and photographer Jean Lerner; our neighborhood city councilman, Steve Aspel; and the City of Redondo Beach Public Works Department coordinated efforts to take a photo of all Tulita students and staff showing our commitment to live healthy, drug-free lives. The photo is a fun product, but the event of taking the photo and the interaction among city officials, city workers, parents, staff and students was a testament to the commitment our school and city community have for Redondo Beach children.

We had our PTA inaugural Holiday Boutique in December. To show your love for Redondo Beach children, donate to RBEF. RBEF’s donor drive will begin in February, or you can donate today our website.



Tulita students and staff show their Red Ribbon Week spirit in a photo taken by parent, photographer, and PTA member, Jean Lerner.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Dr. Steven Keller

times, and this group collectively assists with balancing staff and community interests. These members even stood in unity when the staff protested the state’s continued cuts to public education!

Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) provides the “icing on the cake” for our schools’ instructional programs. The dollars raised by this hardworking group provides value-added activities and opportunities in our educational community. Year after year, donations and fund-raising have increased on behalf of all our students. Like PTA, this is a volunteer-based group, and, as a nonprofit organization, they tirelessly work to provide rich learning experiences for our city’s youth.

Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Our Invaluable Partners

Washington School is proud of a long tradition of engaging academic programs and rigorous instruction. While these are vitally important in preparing students for the future, it’s not enough! Our PTA and Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) make it possible for the Washington staff to educate the whole child and fill in the gaps where we have limited resources.

The PTA, led by president Ashant’a Stoner, provides advocacy for our school and enrichment funds to all teachers so that they can take their students on field trips and enjoy cultural arts assemblies. In addition, the PTA supports Hands-on Art and Hands-on Science for each classroom. These enrichment programs give students a chance to work with materials and perform experiments to make learning come alive. The PTA also facilitates our twice-weekly running club to give students an opportunity to exercise before school and to earn rewards as they go. Of course, the PTA provides all of the fun events hosted monthly that make lifelong memories for our children, like restaurant nights, the Fall Festival, Jog-a-Thon, Family Nights and Spring Carnival.

Our other educational partner, the RBEF, has funded mini-grants for our teachers, including science kits and SMART Boards in kindergarten, Touch Math for second grade, a document camera and scanner in third grade, and California history resource books in fourth grade. THE RBEF supports every child in our school district, providing students with opportunities that otherwise would not exist. These resources and programs that add so much to the educational experience for children would not be possible without the strong support of our RBEF and PTA!



PTA moms Tanya Corcoran and Joanne Widenhain enjoy the Back to School Ice Cream Social with Jessica, Paige, and Mia.

To all who work and team with staff and students within our district, we appreciate you! We would like to especially recognize Redondo Beach Council PTA President Polly Kinsinger and RBEF President Brad Serkin. The continued synergy of RBEF and PTA creates enriched school learning communities and a stronger focus on what matters most—the success of each and every RBUSD child. If you have yet to join your PTA or RBEF, please do so. They DO great things for our kids.

Redondo Beach Unified School District
1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(310) 379-5449 • www.rbusd.org



Drew Gamet
Member

adequate classroom supplies. Volunteering in your child's school's PTA gives you an opportunity to contribute to the hard work that your child's teacher does every day. When you donate to or volunteer in PTA, your child can see and experience the contribution that you make directly to the school. Your child will see that education goes beyond what goes on in the classroom.

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been in existence since 1991 and is an organization that works across our community to raise funds from businesses and individuals. The "Ed Foundation" then uses those resources to provide support directly to the school district. In the past year, they have provided grants to teachers to enhance learning experiences in their classrooms, supported programs such as the School Ambassadors program, and even provided funding to rescind layoffs for two elementary school teachers. The fund-raisers hosted by the Ed Foundation include mixers, events at local businesses, and an annual poker tournament. The Ed Foundation also accepts donations directly on their Web site for anyone wanting to contribute to improving the educational opportunities across the school district.

Our children face challenges in their education that we never had to deal with ourselves. To ensure your child has everything he or she needs, your support must go above and beyond the hours spent every evening working on homework. Please make sure you join your school's PTA and log on to rbeef.org and make a donation to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. Together, we will overcome these challenges.

Redondo Beach Council PTA

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • www.rbusd.org

Happy Holidays



Polly Kinsinger
President

On behalf of the 11 school Units and your Redondo Beach Council of PTA's, I would like to wish all parents, teachers, staff and students a healthy and happy Holiday Season.

Remember that traveling, visiting family members, getting presents, shopping, etc., can all increase your child's stress levels. Trying to stick to your child's usual routines, including sleep schedules can help you and your child enjoy the holidays and reduce stress.

Enjoy this festive time while being cognoscente of elevated fire dangers, choking hazards and air & food borne illnesses.

Remember about your pets at this time of year too. Lots of socializing means lots of food and beverages for Fido to snack on and new toys and Holiday decorations can be a choking hazard for your pets.

As I was taught growing up in Hawaii – Mele Kalikimaka me ka Hau'oli Makahiki Hou – "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Hau'oli Lanui – "Happy Holidays"

RBUSD Alternative Education

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

Grateful Thanks



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

Although Alternative Education does not currently have a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA), the PTA within the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) has still been very gracious in conducting valuable activities, such as Hands-on Art and Reflections at Redondo Shores High School. I firmly believe the Alternative Education community is better because of their efforts! Alternative Education is hoping to have a PTA for the 2012–2013 school year and will begin to solicit parent interest in spring. If you are interested, please contact Erin Simon at Redondo Shores.

Since the Redondo Beach Education Foundation's (RBEF) inception, this organization has been instrumental in providing necessary resources for schools in the RBUSD. For instance, last year, the RBEF generously donated salaries for two district teachers to help offset budget cuts. In addition, the RBEF funded the RBUSD's bullying prevention program, Safe School Ambassadors. This year, Alternative Education teachers have submitted mini grants to RBEF in hopes of being awarded technology for their classrooms and educational trips. Community support from the RBEF will help Alternative Education offer a much richer experience for our students. If you are interested in learning more about the RBEF, please visit www.rbeef.org.

Both the PTA and RBEF organizations play a very important role in assisting and enriching our Redondo Beach schools.



Jane Diehl
President

Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



Anita Avrick
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Regular Board Meetings Schedule

2011– December 13

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



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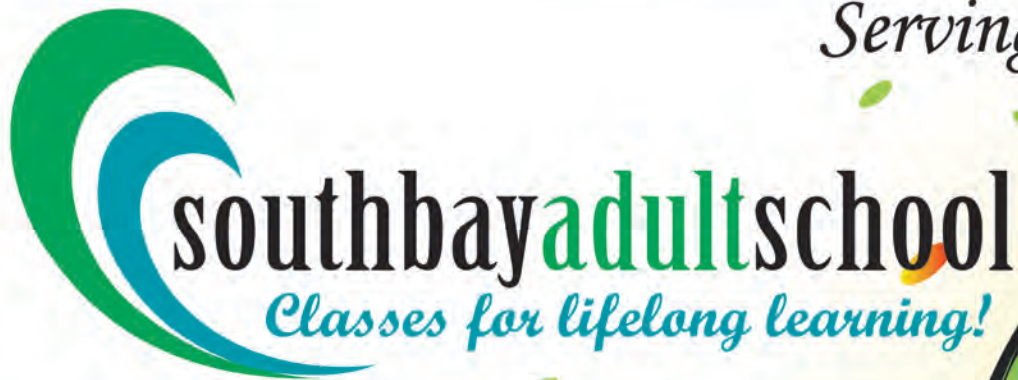
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