

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering The Redondo Beach Unified School District

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DECEMBER 2012 / JANUARY 2013

SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

Thank You!
The election is over, and here we are a few weeks after the election. What do we know as it relates to the great Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD)?

Measure Q, a local school bond measure focused on technology, alternative energy, school safety, and classroom construction, passed the necessary 55-percent threshold and received a 63-percent YES vote. With Measure Q's passage, our goal for the 2013-2014 school year is to realize the \$2.2-million general fund savings. It will be challenging based on timelines and a host of moving parts; nevertheless, you know that your School Board gets things done! Thank you, Redondo Beach community, for supporting Measure Q.

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'Tis the Season for Giving and Gratitude



At Art90266 auction in October, the "Heads of the Class" painting, an original work by Ms. Tamashiro's 3rd graders at Tulita, was the highest selling item. It was purchased by Russell Hossain, President of the Bank of Manhattan mortgage division, and hangs in the lobby of their Rosecrans office. The Redondo Beach Education Foundation was fortunate to be selected as the benefiting organization.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Drew Gamet
Member

A Positive Message

We have had incredible outcomes this election cycle in education. As a result of the passage of California Ballot Measure 30, we have staved off a state-wide funding disaster, which threatened to have students lose countless instructional days. Locally, the residents took the issue of education funding into their own hands and passed Measure Q. This third affirmation of the

importance of education to the community of Redondo Beach means that district technology infrastructure will be able support the ever-changing needs of students as we look forward to jobs in the 21st century.

So, I guess all of the issues surrounding school funding have been solved, and we can all relax knowing that funding in public education has been taken care of. Or has it...?

We are far from out of the woods. What we have managed to do with Proposition 30 is create a short-term solution, where educational funding is stable. However, if you look at our funding over the last few years, we have

been constantly enduring cuts. This has necessitated the elimination of both teaching and staff positions. The passage of three school bonds has allowed the district to make capital improvements, but day-to-day operations and learning continue to be under an ever-present pall. Per pupil funding from the state of California will continue, for at least the short term, to be in the bottom of the bottom quartile when compared to other states. (Pause for a second, and let that sink in!) Given the state government's proclivity for putting off problem solving, what other solutions are there?

Regardless of election outcomes or Sacramento political whims, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) and Redondo Beach Council PTA are the organizations in our community that seek to provide what is still missing in our children's' educational experience. RBEF will be giving over \$600,000 to the school district this year. Under the leadership of President Brad Serkin, the RBEF reaches out to community members, small business leaders, and corporate leaders to provide teacher grants, program funding, and summer session classes. The

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 15

Beryl Walking School Bus Launch 2012



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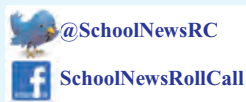
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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



This issue the theme is thanking partners in education and specifically the PTA and Redondo Beach Education Foundation. As the principal of Alta Vista Elementary said, "PTA/RBEF Breathe life into our schools."

Thank you readers for your overwhelming responses to our Word Search Contests.

Happy Holidays from the *School News* staff. We are always mindful of the service men and women who will not be home for the holidays and thank them for their service.

Our next issue is February 5, 2013.
Happy New Year!



Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



'Tis The Season



Brad Serkin
President

'Tis the season for giving and gratitude! The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been fortunate to participate in two community events recently, for which we are very grateful.

We had close to 1,000 generous Redondo Beach students, parents, family members, RBUSD teachers and principals, and friends register for the Pier to Pier Friendship Walk in October, sponsored by an athletic shoe company. It was a beautiful, warm Sunday morning filled with friendship and camaraderie as teams from every RBUSD school gathered to participate in the walk and show their support for RBEF. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Additionally, LA25, a local group of business professionals and entrepreneurs, hosted their second annual Art90266 auction in October as well, and RBEF was fortunate to be selected as the benefitting organization. Thanks to the efforts of LA25, the Art90266 event raised over \$20,000 for RBEF to fund arts-education programs for Redondo Beach Unified students. The marquee program funded through these efforts will be a field trip to LACMA for every second- and third-grade student in the district. The trip is sure to be inspiring and enriching, and we hope it will ignite passion and motivation for our students as creative individuals. LA25's motto is "Do well. Do good," and we are so grateful for their generosity and support. They are models as community leaders and citizens, demonstrating how good will and good business work hand in hand.

We at RBEF are always grateful for all of our donors, supporters and volunteers. Thank you for helping us to continue to Raise the Tide for Redondo Beach Students!

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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

Partners in Education

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

The Parent Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) share a common goal: the betterment of our children's educational experience. The Adams PTSA is known for promoting strong working relationships between parents and teachers in support of the students. The RBEF provides the financial support for academic and athletic programs that enhance the overall school program.



Intermural sports at Adams Middle School.



With PTSA, parents and teachers work together for the common benefit of the students. Funds are used to provide educational field trips, assemblies, programs and other school-specific needs. Additionally, parents volunteer on campus for Hands-On Art and as docents for the Beach Cities Health District's Live Well Kids nutrition lessons, as well as assisting in the operation of the school library.

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been instrumental in providing supplemental funding for enrichment programs. The RBEF supports the district in providing invaluable opportunities for students in science, technology, arts and college preparation. At Adams, close to 30 students receive loaner laptops from RBEF.

Both the PTSA and RBEF are critical to the quality of 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!"

Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

PTA/RBEF Breathe Life into Our Schools

Alta Vista Elementary is proud of our relationships with the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) and the Parent/Teacher Association (PTA). The relationships that we have nurtured and grown have allowed our academic and social programs to flourish and students to exceed our expectations year after year. Our PTA funds such programs as Hand-On Art, the Young Writer's Conference, assemblies, field-trip transportation, PE equipment and enhanced technology for classrooms. Their support of teachers and staff through educational funds enables them to be innovative in their approach to teaching in a way that otherwise would not be possible.

Our school and community are also blessed to have a relationship with RBEF. Through the foundation, teachers receive mini-grants, our fourth- and fifth-grade students receive additional science instruction, and we have family science nights and an enhanced college-going culture. This past October, RBEF helped to coordinate the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk, sponsored by an athletic-shoe corporation, that helped raise money directly for our school. With more than 270 teachers, staff, students and families joining me in participating this year, it resulted in our biggest turnout yet!

As this next year unfolds with uncertainty with budgets and challenges, it is reassuring to know that we have these two outstanding organizations that care so deeply for our children. They are willing to do "whatever it takes" to support teachers, programs and communities as we push forward for the students.

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

Invaluable Partners in Education

Birney Elementary School is strengthened by its partners in education. We are fortunate to have the support of two organizations whose sole purpose is to advocate for students and help enrich the school's instructional programs.

Birney's success is due in part to its partnership with the PTA. Our PTA provides funding for many programs, including Hands-on-Art, Hands-on-Science, fifth-grade science camp, assemblies, field trips, and supplemental funds towards instructional programs. We are fortunate, as well, to be able to enjoy many PTA-sponsored family nights over the course of the year.

Another relationship Birney values is its partnership with Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF). As a result of the generous support of RBEF, we are fortunate to receive an elementary science teacher, a Music Center Program, Family Science Nights, and the services of a college-going consultant. Additionally, RBEF provides resources to teachers in the form of mini grants and funds to support the Safe Schools Ambassador Program.



Family Science Night demonstration.

We appreciate our partners in education. They truly make a difference in the quality of education we are able to provide for our students. Thank you, PTA and RBEF, for your tremendous support and generosity!

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Senior Citizens: Your Butler's Almost Ready!

It all started with a group of students who didn't know a thing about robotics. They also didn't know a thing about programming. In February, a group of fourth-grade families at Beryl Heights Elementary school came together to form a First Lego League (FLL) robotics team. Ten fourth-graders began meeting each Friday in the Beryl Heights computer lab. They first learned how to build with NXT Lego robotics sets. Then, they learned how to create basic programs for the robots. In May, the team registered with FLL and became Superbotics, team number 58 out of 291 in the Los Angeles area. There are some 29,000 teams worldwide. All the students had worked together in classes before, and therefore, forming a team came easily.

FLL is the result of an alliance between FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), founded by Dean Kamen and the LEGO Group organization. The 2012-13 FIRST Tech Challenge theme is "Senior Solutions." The students all have learned about seniors and their special needs and how to program intricate movements for the robot to do. All of this helps them get ready for competition. All of the students are grouped into three teams, each having a programmer, a builder and a strategist. Each gets missions for the robot to complete that represent a problem that a senior citizen might face in everyday life. As a group, they need to accomplish these missions using the robot on a game table that represents the challenges a senior faces. For example, one challenge is related to shopping, so the students need to build a mechanical arm for the robot to reach up and down to grab things.



The crew at Beryl Heights Elementary: (front) Jordan and Julian Ethan, Dylan, Jacob, Ford, Mrs. Mohr, Principal, Beryl Heights (center), Ryder, Koray, Maya

Teamwork Brings About Innovation

In the competition, the team is judged on the robot tasks, a project and core values. For the project, the team will do a small play about a product they have invented to help seniors. During the competition, the students also need to cheer for their team. Finally, on the game table, the robot does all the work, and this is where the programming comes in. They need to do many missions to get points, and to win the robot game, they need to have the most points of all the teams.

In November, the Beryl Superbotics team went to practice and qualifying tournaments where they put everything they have learned to the test. As a team, they started and finished a lot of challenges, but they are a team, and a team can get through anything if they work together and set their minds to it.

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

In Partnership for a Brighter Future

Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. —Henry Ford

There are many quotes which outline why an organization's success depends on positive partnerships of its members. The above quote is one example of how a strong working relationship can lead to a successful outcome; the Jefferson Elementary School PTA is yet another example. In today's difficult economic time for our schools, these partnerships are more meaningful and needed than ever. Our PTA embraces and enhances our school through their work for a better tomorrow. They are dedicated to bringing the school community together through philanthropy and education. The whole child support is phenomenal, from enriching activities, such as educational assemblies, field trips, and visual and performing arts to the jog-a-thon, Running Club, and Green Committee. The PTA's connection with the school community is an extraordinary and valuable part of our school's success.



Rocket Robbie Wows at Family Science Night.



PTA hosts Dining with the Dolphins community event.

Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) is fortunate to have yet another strong partnership with our dedicated Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF). RBEF works in partnership with our schools to support teachers and broaden students' learning experiences. RBEF supports teacher innovation through teacher grants, provides support to the Safe School Ambassador program, and has brought visual performing arts and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to our classrooms. Additionally, RBEF is working to build our college-going culture with university field trips, parent information nights, and funding for a supportive consultant. The past two years, Jefferson has been honored to provide a rewarding learning experience to our RBUSD kindergarten through eighth-grade students by hosting the RBEF Summer Session.

Together in partnership with our PTA and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation, we deepen our children's learning and educational experiences by making positive impacts that brighten futures! Thank you, Jefferson PTA and RBEF, for your generous and ongoing support!



Ready, Set, Go! Jefferson's Annual Jog-a-Thon takes off every October.

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Together We Are Better

Lincoln's partnerships with the PTA and the RBEF are a significant factor in our overall success as a school. We appreciate the strong advocacy and support that we get from both of these organizations. Each group helps us with our commitment to provide a valuable educational experience to our students.

The PTA is responsible for a number of programs, such as Hands-On Art, school assemblies and field trips. These various activities enrich the lives of our students and help to extend the overall educational program. The PTA is also involved in organizing a variety of events throughout the school year. This includes Movie Night, the Book Fair and the Battle of the Books. Our PTA volunteers also contribute countless hours of school service in the classrooms and across the campus.



Lincoln Student in RBEF Supported Hands on Science Class.

The RBEF plays a big role in helping to support student success at our school, and throughout the district. In turn, our Lincoln School community supports the RBEF through its 360 fund-raiser, or by attending such events such as the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk. The RBEF also assists us by contributing to such programs as Safe School Ambassadors, College Tours, and the Hands-On science program for the fourth- and fifth-graders.

The combined efforts of the PTA and RBEF make a significant difference in the lives of our students. Their many contributions represent the kind of successful partnership that makes Lincoln School an even better place to be.



Students in the Hands on Science Class.



Students at the Pier to Pier Walk.

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 lean budgetary times, it sure is nice to have the kind of educational partners who are working hard to help our school district close the funding gap.

Madison's amazing PTA works tirelessly throughout the school year to help raise money for a variety of events and programs. For instance, they fund our Hands-on Art (HOA) and Hands-on Science (HOS) programs, which help our students develop an appreciation for the arts and sciences. The PTA also makes a financial contribution to Growing Educators, a special group that provides professional development on the writers' and readers' workshop approach to literacy.

Another exceptional educational partner is the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (the RBEF). Every fall it awards various teacher mini-grants to enhance the curriculum, or to buy specific materials for the individual classrooms.



Writing partners



Madison Elementary students listening to a Writers' Workshop lesson.



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

The RBEF also helped coordinate the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk on Sunday, October 28. This event raised thousands of dollars for the community, of which a portion of the money will come right back to Madison. We had over 50 Madison parents, students and teachers walk along the scenic oceanfront strand between the Manhattan and Hermosa Beach Piers.

We are very lucky to have these two outstanding educational organizations going the extra mile for our Redondo Beach students. Madison's PTA and the RBEF have been, and will continue to be, steadfast partners in furthering the district's goal of educating the "whole child."

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

Our PTSA

By Anthony Bridi, Assistant Principal

Parents and community members, RUHS welcomes you! Have you ever wondered how you can support the school through volunteer efforts? It's easy! Check out our website under the parent tab. You will find an extensive list of events and services that the Redondo Union PTSA supports and promotes. Their role is more than being seen at athletic events, welcoming parents and answering questions during registration, and hosting staff-appreciation luncheons. Their presence is strong as they support programs that acknowledge student academic achievements and recognize individuals that believe in the success of our school community. In addition, our PTSA pledges to support our new STEM program as well as fund various extracurricular excursions for our students.



PTSA board member, Vicky Oetzell, assists a parent at Registration and explains the importance of being a PTSA member.

This year, under the new leadership of Ashant'a Stoner, the RU PTSA is headed in the direction of taking a more active role in educating parents and students about college. In September, the PTSA partnered with the Redondo Union College and Career Center, better known as the "The Nest," to host the first PTSA-sponsored college-information night. Shannon Rodriguez, the college and career advisor, provided parents with useful tips on the college application process from freshman through senior year. In addition to hosting college information nights, the PTSA plans to assist students with collegiate experiences such as providing transportation funding to the upcoming National College Fair held on April 28 at the Anaheim Convention Center.



PTSA board member, Tracey McMartin, is the Queen of RUHS spirit wear. Tracey's efforts allow PTSA to raise thousands of dollars that go directly back to RUHS students

With the variety of opportunities that are available within the RUHS school community, there is no doubt that the RU PTSA is involved and knowledgeable. Please consider volunteering and getting more involved in our PTSA. You are needed!

Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Caring Counselors at Our School

Feb. 4-8 is National School Counseling Week, a time when we celebrate the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems. At Parras, we are thrilled to have a counseling department that has a tremendous impact on the success of our students. Our counselors follow the ASCA National Model and focus on three main domains: academic, college and career planning, and social and emotional concerns. In order to meet the needs of students in these three areas, counselors work with students individually, in small groups, in the classroom and in collaboration with teachers, support staff and parents. Schoolwide programs include Safe School Ambassadors, Red Ribbon Week guidance activities, Career Day and Yourspace. Yourspace is a weekly lunchtime program offered to all students who are interested in joining counselors for a fun-filled lunchtime experience, giving them the opportunity to make new friends in a supportive environment. Parras has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying; therefore, counselors work closely with students trained through the Safe School Ambassadors Program and administration to prevent and address mistreatment and to improve the school climate.

In the classroom, counselors teach guidance curriculum focusing on such topics as active-listening skills, strategies for achieving academic success, college and career planning, and the transition into and out of Parras Middle School, to name only a few. Counselors also support students in the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) program by providing both academic and social/emotional counseling services to ensure success.

Self-Responsibility: A Pillar of Counseling

Parras Middle School has an active CJSF (California Junior Scholarship Federation) population. Students must meet rigorous academic standards and must apply to be a member. The primary focus of CJSF is for students to maintain a high level of academic performance, to expose students to universities, and to encourage students to give back through community-service opportunities.

In addition to providing services to all students, counselors work closely with those who are at risk academically and emotionally. Students are given targeted support through referrals, coordinated collaboration between the school and home, and academic program planning. In order to expand our services, Parras is a training site for counseling interns who are attending local-area graduate programs in the field of school counseling.

Our counselors serve on the Violence Prevention Action Committee, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Task Force, School Site Council, SST Committee, IEP Team and AVID School Site Team. Parras Middle School's counseling program played a key role in earning us the California Distinguished School Award. The Parras Counseling Team has also been given the Best in the West award for having a superior SPARC (Support Personnel Account Report Card).

For more information on the counseling program, please visit our counselor at our website.

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Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

No Gap Left Unfilled!

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 Charisse Eickoff and Evelyn Lucero, 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.



Fourth grade students work together with hands on science experiments.

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, Jog-a-Thon, Family Nights and Spring Carnival.

Our other educational partner, the RBEF, has funded minigrants 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!



Happy Holidays!

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



Christina Giguere
Principal

Thank You!

This is the perfect time of year to both express our gratitude and share all that we are thankful for at Tulita School. We would not be able to provide our Tidalwaves with such a superb educational experience without the wonderful support of our Parent Teacher Association and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation.

Tulita greatly benefits from the efforts of both of these dedicated organizations. The PTA provides our students and teachers with new computers, library books, assemblies, field trips, classroom supplies, newsletters, Hands-on Art, countless volunteer hours and many more meaningful programs and events.

We are also thankful for the RBEF! The Foundation supports district-wide programs such as our family science night and music center instruction for the first- and second-grade students. It also sponsors a field trip to LACMA for the second- and third-graders, a field trip to a local university for the fourth grade, science specialists for the fourth and fifth grades, and a vocal music teacher for the third and fourth grades. The RBEF also supplements grants to fund elementary counselors and the Safe School Ambassador program.

Making Memories

On October 27, our PTA hosted the 20th anniversary of Tulita's Western Night Carnival. Although this is an important fund-raiser for the school, it is also a time-honored tradition where our parents and children can come together to play games, taste chili, win cakes and goldfish, line dance, and just have a good old time.



First grader riding the mechanical bull at Western Night

The next morning, we met up to participate in the Skechers Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk to help raise money for the RBEF and Tulita. From bull riding to soda-bottle tossing, to walking along the Strand, our Tidalwaves created great memories that will last a lifetime!

At Tulita, we all feel a deep sense of gratitude for these two organizations. They both go above and beyond to support our schools. So thank you to the PTA and RBEF; we appreciate all that you do for our students, teachers and community.



Tulita community at the Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk

THE ZONE



at Adams and Parras Middle Schools



Fun Activities

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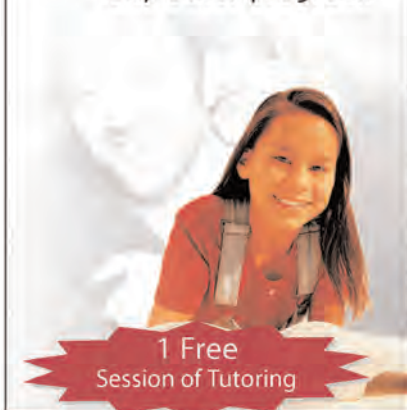
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This activity is not school sponsored and any involvement in this activity is at the discretion of the parent and student.

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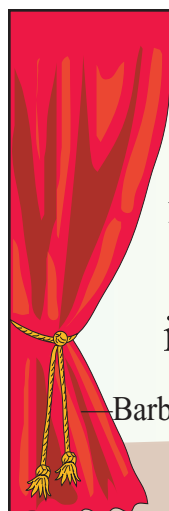
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—Barbara Grizzuti Harrison

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Courtesy of the Redondo Beach Library

12 PM - 3 PM

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- FREE gift wrapping station by Santa's elves
- FREE Kids Face painting + balloons

Join the Fun!

Note-ables

Welcome to the Village!



Kate Karp



Aaron Nigel Smith & One World Children's Chorus

No man, woman or child is an island. Award-winning musician Aaron Nigel Smith illustrates our interconnectedness through his One World Chorus, combining the voices of children from the United States with those of residents of the Cura Rotary Home, an orphanage and school in Kenya. The vocals and instrumental musicians combined produce a collection of African folksongs, contemporary pop, blues and scat—world music especially for children.

The CD welcomes in listeners with “Fanga Alafia,” a traditional Nigerian morning song, and closes with a Zulu marching song, “Siyahamba.” In between is a world of good. “Grateful” sums up childhood joy and invites a celebration of life and our planet, “Mother Nature’s Spirit” is an obvious choice for a group performance, and “Che Che Cole” and “Copy Cat Scat” are spirited activity/movement numbers. The standouts, however, are the treatments of songs familiar to anyone who’s listened to pop radio in the past few decades: “Banana Boat Song,” which has all the spirit and soul of the original, and then some; a goose-bump-raising version of Jewel’s “Hands”; and a marvelous version of Bob Dylan’s “Man Gave Names to All the Animals.” I’m a Dylanophile from way back, and I can tell you that that number should have always been a children’s song. With a change in lyrics approved by the Great Man himself and an added rap bridge, it now is.

A portion of proceeds from the sale of the CD will help build a music program at the Cura orphanage.


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

Contest!!

This drawing is hidden somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put RBUSD Contest” in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by **January 15, 2013.** From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



Congratulations to the Winners of the November Word Search Contests!

French: Ivan Acosta
Apples: Sharon Perez



Children's First Teachers



Vivian Ibarra
Director

This year, my daughter is a confident, eager and well-prepared kindergarten student. I credit her four years at South Bay Adult School for helping to make her transition into kindergarten a seamless experience! Not only has South Bay Adult School provided my children with a wonderful learning environment and school experience but it has helped make me a better parent. I have learned so much and built wonderful friendships by interacting with teachers, teacher's aides and other parents. There is no other early-childhood program that offers this type of experience for both children and parents!

—Cindy Finigan, a parent in the SBAS Parent Education Program



Painting fun.



Parent education classes are fun for everyone.



Moms and toddlers enjoy rug time together.

Parents are their children's first and most important teachers. That 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. 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

parents and children can laugh and learn together. We know that involved parents play a key factor in student achievement and positive attitudes toward learning. We also know our involved parents 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 might be surprised to find the person sitting next to you started involvement in his or her child's preschool class. We are very proud of our life-long learning families and the difference they make in education for all children.

Moving to Great with PTSA & RBEF



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

Redondo Shores High School (RSHS) is pleased to announce that an informational meeting was held earlier this year, and it was decided to discuss the proposal of organizing a PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) at RSHS. PTSA at RSHS will be student led and comprised of students within the Associated Student Body leadership class. Moreover, PTSA at RSHS will be an engaging and enterprising endeavor that will pride itself in being a persuasive voice for our students. An organizational meeting was held in November, and parents, students, and teacher attended to bring their leadership skills and voices to this endeavor.

Since its inception, the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) has been instrumental in providing necessary resources for schools in the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD). For instance, last year, RBEF generously donated salaries for two district teachers to help offset budget cuts. In addition, RBEF funded RBUSDs bullying-prevention program, Safe School Ambassadors. This year, Alternative Education teachers have submitted mini grants to RBEF in hopes of being awarded educational trips for spring 2013. Community support from RBEF will help Alternative Education offer a much richer experience for our students. If you are interested in learning more about RBEF, please visit www.rbef.org.

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

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

The Search and Serve Mandate



Frank DeSena
Asst.
Superintendent
Student Services

Dr. Aaron Benton
Exec. Director
Special
Education

By Dr. Aaron Benton, Executive Director - Special Education

I was recently asked by three different people what to do about their children or grandchildren they suspected may have exceptional needs. It was fortunate they happened to bump into me or knew how to reach me by phone, and I was glad to refer them to the appropriate staff members, who could follow up on the referrals. But, I would venture a guess that there are some out there who do not know what to look for—or if they do, they may not know how to go about getting help for their children or grandchildren.

Please know that, under state and federal regulations, your local school district is required to seek out individuals within its boundaries who are suspected of having a disability. The district is required to assess, and, if the child is eligible, to provide child and his or her parents with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). We do this by working with the Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) to contact private schools, doctors, and pediatricians in the area, letting them know about the services we provide. We also advertise in local newspapers (including *School News Roll Call*) each year so parents are aware.



Kate Chiverton, occupational therapist,
assists a student across the swinging apparatus
in our specialized LIFT environment.

The school district's responsibility to assess and provide services begins when the child turns three years old. The district's Learning Is Fun Together (LIFT) Preschool assessment team includes a variety of licensed and credentialed professionals, including Special Education teachers, psychologists, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, board-certified behavior analysts, and more. LIFT Preschool is located on the campus of Alta Vista Elementary School.

For more information, please contact Ann Paour, Program Specialist, at (310) 798-1324.

RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278
310/798-8683 ext. 1312, 1321 • www.rbused.org



We Value Our Families



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

The mission of the Redondo Beach Unified School District Child Development Center (CDC) is to provide students with a safe, nurturing, and enriching environment that promotes educational and social growth. We recognize that the entire family is both our customer and partner and that we must work together to provide a truly great experience for our students.

Parents and caregivers are the first and most important teachers. From a child's first day of enrollment, CDC welcomes parents and considers them valuable assets to our program. Preschool orientation requires parents to visit the classroom before school begins to help transition their children into the program. We encourage volunteers in all of our classroom environments.

For parents of school-aged children, we provide an orientation at each CDC, where we answer any questions parents may have, introduce staff, and review procedures. Every family is invited to schedule two individualized parent-teacher conferences each year to discuss their child, however parents are always welcome to visit at any time. Every center also has a Parent Advisory Group, which meets regularly so parents can share ideas and talk about ways to support and improve our programs.

Come visit a CDC at your local elementary school to learn more about our programs!

RBUSD Instructional Services

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

Common Myths About College



Dr. Annette Alpern
Asst.
Superintendent
Instructional
Services

Students often have beliefs about why they cannot attend college. These beliefs can get in the way of students pursuing their opportunity to make the choice to attend a college or university after high school. We must debunk these myths and help students separate rumor from reality as these can be obstacles to gaining access to higher education.

Some typical examples include:

- Nobody in my family has gone to college
- I cannot afford to go
- My grades are not good enough for college
- I don't know how to apply or where I want to go
- I need to decide on a career before I can choose a college
- I just want to get a job and make lots of money
- College will be too difficult for me
- I don't need to start planning for college until my junior year in high school
- I can't go to college full-time
- I'm not sure I'll fit in
- Only the best students receive financial aid from colleges
- I only have to take the minimum college-prep courses to get into college
- I didn't do well in my 9th and 10th grade years, so it's too late now

We have heard these comments from some students and families here in RBUSD. Together, we want to demystify who can go to college, debunk the myths about college eligibility and attendance and help open the doors for ALL students and families. Everyone should have a choice.

Myth: Many students owe more than \$100,000 by the time they graduate from a private college.(Council of Independent Colleges, September, 2012)

Fact: One third of students who graduated with a bachelor's degree did not have any educational debt. The average debt level of bachelor's degree recipients who borrowed for college is \$20,000

School News



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Dr. Steven Keller

Proposition 30, a statewide initiative focused on “temporary taxes to fund education...” passed the necessary 50-percent threshold and received a 54-percent YES vote. Based on what we know today, our leaders in Sacramento have stated that school districts will not receive midyear reductions because of the passage of Proposition 30. As this pertains to RBUSD, the potential for 12 additional furlough days will not occur.

Proposition 38, a statewide initiative focused on “tax[es] to fund education and early childhood programs” did not pass the necessary 50-percent threshold and received a 26-percent YES vote.

Of course, there were many other items on your local, state, and national ballot. The purpose here is to focus on dollars that directly impact RBUSD. We will continue to apprise you of any significant developments that pertain to our district. Our goal is to maintain clear communication with our community, staff members, and families. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and care of our students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION • FROM PAGE 1



Drew Gamet
Member

Redondo Beach Council PTA is active at all of the school sites and provides your child’s school with localized support. Whether it is Science Night, field trips, or materials for the classroom, the PTA plays a vital part in improving the quality of education for all students in Redondo Beach.

So, what does that mean for you? If you walked for Measure Q or phone banked for Measure 30, your work is not done yet. If you haven’t taken action yet, then it is time to get in the game. Go to RBEF.org, donate, and keep an eye on the calendar of events to be aware of what events are upcoming. Also, e-mail an RBEF Board member and find out how you can get involved. For PTA, make sure that you are a member and make sure to check your school site’s PTA Web site for upcoming meetings and events and find out how you can donate your time.

If I had to say what is the most positive message that the citizens of Redondo Beach sent in the last election, it is that we support public education for ALL of our students and we will step up, even if our state government will not. I truly have never been more proud to be resident of this community, and I would like to personally thank the citizens of our fair city for their support.

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

Walking School Bus Update



Jens Brandt
RUHS Assistant
Principal /
Vitality City Liaison



Lauren Nakano
BCHD Vitality
City Program
Manager

Blue Zones Project™ was happy to celebrate International Walk to school Day on October 3, 2012. Eleven elementary schools participated and three more have since signed up for the program. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Sara.Russo@bchd.org or call 310-683-6809.

We would like to say thank you to all of the students in the Blue Zones Project Club at Redondo Union High School. We sincerely appreciate their volunteer efforts and look forward to supporting their upcoming projects. Special thanks to club co-presidents Tayler Berman and Kaley Krause for starting this initiative. The club meets every Tuesday at 12:30p.m. in room 306 if you are interested in joining or learning more.



Lincoln Elementary School’s Walking School Bus

Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

Mark Your Calendar

December 11, 2012
Due to holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in December.

2013

January 8	March 12	May 14
January 22	March 26	May 28
February 12	April 9*	June 11
February 26	April 23	June 25

***April 9 – Organizational Meeting**



Anita Avrick
President



Laura Emdee
Vice-President

Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



Jane Diehl
Presiding Officer



Drew Gamet
Member



Todd Loewenstein
Member

Daniella Ruotolo, Student Member



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