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School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 11, Issue 96 **April 2017**



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Superintendent



Selling RBUSD

When it comes to talking about our schools, I am often asked the same question. The question typically goes something like: “Steven, you sure do a lot of over-selling of Redondo Beach schools. What are the measurable outcomes you have to verify RBUSD’s success over the last few years?”

Dr. Steven Keller

I’ll cut to the chase:

- Established adequate reserves for the economy that will inevitably turn downward
- Installed a very successful solar program below budget with a two-year energy savings of \$1.6 million
- Realized approvals for the Knob Hill property that will ultimately generate \$625,000 annually
- Decreased Workers’ Compensation claims and increased savings
- In collaboration with our teacher union, created a unique, reflective teacher evaluation tool
- Decreased elementary childhood obesity rate from 20% to 7.2% over the last ten years
- In two years, received National Blue Ribbon designation (1 school), California Gold Ribbon designation (7 schools), and California Green Ribbon designation (8 schools plus RBUSD)
- Implemented K-12, 1-to-1, districtwide Chromebook and tablet program seamlessly
- Implemented a leading-edge computer network with 100% wireless access
- Implemented Run, Hide, and Fight active shooter training throughout RBUSD
- Increased property values in Redondo Beach over the last several years

Let’s be honest, RBUSD’s success is thanks to an assertive and intelligent Board of Education, administrators who lead by example, teachers who advocate for each and every student, support staff who arrive early to work each day with a strong work ethic, and parents who care deeply about their learning community. We also have a relentless Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF). Finally, let’s not forget the work of the Beach Cities Health District and our Redondo Beach city leaders. (We will miss you Mayor Aspel!) I don’t believe (y)our students could have any more adults pulling for them! Am I overselling again?

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

Board of Education



Wonderful Partnerships

Here we are, already into our second semester and coming to the end of my year as president of the School Board, and what a great year it has been!

We are extremely lucky to be able to partner successfully with both Redondo Beach Council PTA (RBPTA) and Redondo Beach Education (RBEF) Foundation on many events. I want to mention a few from this year:

We partnered with Redondo Beach PTA (RBPTA) to present “Screenagers” last fall, and the response was so positive we are bringing it back again in April.

We partnered with Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) to present four nights on how to save money for college. The turnout was great, and those attending were amazed at how much they learned.

My favorite partnership with both RBEF and RBPTA is Project Unified. At the beginning of the school year, letters were sent out to a number of students in our district who can’t afford basic supplies. They were invited to come and shop for school supplies at the adult school. We had backpacks, paper, markers, folders, erasers, and other school supplies. The students were able to go through the line and pick out things they wanted. We partnered with Yoobi, a stationary company that donates school supplies to children in need. This is our third year, and each year we are able to reach more of our students. The looks on the students’ faces as they choose their backpacks and supplies let us know how important this project is. A BIG thank you to both RBEF and RBPTA for helping us reach more students.

Please join and support the PTA and contribute to RBEF so, when requested, they can ensure that these programs continue.

I just want to say thank you to all of you for helping to make this the most amazing school district around.

Anita Avrick
President

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Superintendent Dr. Keller's article on page 3 makes you aware of why parents want their children to attend RBUSD. Everytime I read one of his articles I am mindful of why he is such an excellent leader — he recognizes the greatness in others and let's them know they are appreciated. In addition, he leads by example.

The theme in this issue is appreciating and protecting our environment. South Bay Adult School's article on page 8 adds to the 3R's (Reduce, Reuse & Recycle) Rethink, Repair, Repurpose and Rescue.

I mentioned in a previous issue that when my children were in elementary school the only item recycled was newspaper. We motivated students to be aware of our environment by creating a recycling competition as a fundraiser. I remember standing by the school curb with my fellow PTA members every Friday as parents brought carloads of newspapers. We measured the stacks and tallied per room. Fortunately, recycling has moved beyond a competition and is now a way of life for all ages.

Our next issue is May 3.

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation



Hanh Archer
President

Greatness in Character!

By the time this *School News* issue goes to print, the local elections will have passed. Elections have the tendency to bring out the best and the worst of human characteristics.

In our amazing school district, we encourage and foster an atmosphere among our children and students to REACH FOR GREATNESS – Greatness in Academics, Greatness in Citizenship, and mostly importantly Greatness in Character.

We thank our schools for seeking out and recognizing our students for their acts of kindness, respect, responsibility, fairness and trustworthiness. Support and encourage your child to participate in the anti-bullying

campaigns, Red Ribbon Week, Yellow Ribbon Week, AVID, Buddy Bench or CASEL.

We thank our district administrators who work tirelessly to reach for greatness in our schools, as RBUSD has been recognized as recipients of – California Green Ribbon School (All Levels); Gold Ribbon Award; National Blue Ribbon School; Alliance for a Healthier Generation Recognition Awards; PTA National School of Excellence; and Honor Roll School, just to name a few.

So when you have a chance, please personally thank your custodial staff, room parents and volunteers, PTA, lunch monitors and playground aides, librarians, counselors, front office staff, teachers, principals, district administrators and school board members. Every day, through volunteerism and countless hours spent, these individuals exemplify greatness in character for our students and our school community.

By Reaching and Realizing Greatness in Character for our children, we are shaping them into great citizens of tomorrow.

Join our community at RBEF's Annual Spring Gala on May 12, 2017 at the Portofino Hotel & Marina to Celebrate Redondo Beach's 125th Birthday! Tickets on sale now at www.rbef.org.



RBEF receives Friendship Walk check.

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

Redondo Beach Council PTA



Raymur Flinn
President

PTA at Work for All Children

In Redondo Beach, we are incredibly fortunate to have very active PTAs on each of our school sites. But did you realize that your membership in PTA helps affect the lives of all students in California and the United States?

PTA volunteer legislative advocates representing the broad scope of the organization closely monitor pending legislation and testify at public hearings to ensure our voice is heard. The advocates include the director of legislation, state advocates, a federal advocate and consultants with specialized skills. They meet with elected officials and policy-makers, speak at meetings of the California Legislature and carefully monitor both state and federal legislation. Advocacy focus areas include education funding and policy, community and school safety, juvenile justice, child care and early education, children's health, and other issues affecting kids and youth.

Volunteer advocates also analyze statewide ballot measures and determine California State PTA's position, based upon convention resolutions and other PTA authority. California State PTA has specific advocacy initiatives:

Mission Statement: The mission of the California State PTA is to positively impact the lives of all children and families. Organizational Goals:

- Empower, support and inform PTA members and leaders
- Increase awareness of the importance of family engagement and expand family engagement programs
- Promote, strengthen and expand the organization

Advocacy Goal: Represent, inform and mobilize members and the public to advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children

Our asks:

- ONE BILLION DOLLARS of one-time funding for Family Engagement
- A full curriculum which eliminates the opportunity gap and ensures all children succeed
- Increase per-pupil funding by \$3,000 to move California toward the national average

CAPTA's Director of Legislation Shayne Silva, said, "Remember no matter how much fundraising you do, it will never equal the impact of one piece of legislation." Advocacy is what makes PTA unique. As leaders, your work and contributions are an important part of PTA's legacy of advocacy that has held strong for more than a century.

For more information about PTA's advocacy efforts in California, go to www.capta.org.



Attendees will be able to enter an opportunity drawing to win a **Fitbit Charge 2!**

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RBUSD Child Development



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Growing Young Conservators

By Socorro Stephens-Wallace

CDC is getting ready for Earth Day! Teaching students the importance of doing our part with this mantra is important—the planet they're inheriting is overcrowded with people wanting convenience over sustainability.

At Lincoln CDC, we educate the whole child. Learning occurs in various environmental genres inside and outside the classroom. Our environment matters to all our students. Preschoolers take part in reusing boxes for arts and crafts, recycling old paper to make new paper, and holding a yearly recycling drive. Kinders learn that we need to reuse, reduce, and recycle and do composting as well. The waste we create must be carefully controlled for things that we don't need, especially items with excess packaging that will just end up in our landfills.

At Lincoln CDC, we are proud to be learning and doing our part.



Kinder friends sorting items

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Dulling the Pain of a Headache



Naser Elbalalesy, M.D.
*pediatric neurologist,
Miller Children's & Women's Hospital
Long Beach*

Nearly two out of three children will have a headache by age 15. Headaches are one of the most common reasons for pain, missed school days and visits to the doctor. During a headache, your child may experience a dull pain around the front, top, back and sides of their head.

Headaches in kids can be either "primary," such as a migraine, or "secondary" to an exhaustive list of conditions that could be as simple as a nasal sinus infection or as serious as a brain tumor. A detailed history and examination is critical to differentiate different headaches.

While it's not possible to prevent all headaches, making sure your child avoids identified triggers, stays well hydrated, maintains a well-balanced diet and keeps a regular sleep schedule will help reduce their frequency and severity and also will optimize the response to other treatments, if needed.

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806
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Migraine headaches in particular can be triggered by a variety of factors, including:

- Dehydration
- Irregular eating
- Inadequate physical activity and exercise
- Poor sleep hygiene or habits
- Emotional problems, such as a big life change like social and family problems
- School-related stress (whether academic, sports-related or personal problems)
- Weather changes
- Certain foods, drinks and odors

If your child continues to experience recurrent and worsening headaches or pain in the head area that is not responding to the usual measures directed by your primary care physician, your child may be suffering from a primary headache such as a migraine, or from one of the secondary headaches.



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RBUSD Alternative Education



The Natural Influence

By Chelsea Gallucci, Patrick Vaughan, and Lissa Watts

Walking the environs of Redondo Shores High School, one would be quick to notice swaying palms, purple blooms, and a variety of drought-tolerant landscaping.

Anthony Bridi
Principal

The open spaces provide enriching opportunities for our learning community. A prime example of this would be our indoor/outdoor science lab, which allows our students to access curriculum within a natural setting. To provide a culture of mindfulness and appreciation, school-wide collaboration is also expected among students and staff.



In both pictures student photographer, Christopher Nakahara-Yamazaki renders his perspective on the Redondo Shores High School campus.

During our monthly outdoor assemblies, students and staff members are acknowledged for their contributions to the school and personal success. The common spaces also enhance healthy relationships and contribute to an eco-friendly culture.



Our students, teachers, and staff members have created a harmonious social culture to further elevate the learning landscape. At Redondo Shores we think about our surroundings. Are they warm and welcoming? Do they promote student growth and success? We believe that our environment does both!

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277
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South Bay Adult School



Moving Toward Zero Waste: Minimizing Your Impact on the Environment

In partnership with the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC), on April 4, 2017, South Bay Adult School (SBAS) hosted a “Moving Toward Zero Waste: Minimizing Your Impact on the Environment” community education workshop at Mira Costa High School. The SBESC works in conjunction with the Gas Company, West Basin Municipal Water

District, Sanitations Districts of Los Angeles County and Metro to provide resources to the community on statewide and local energy efficiency and conservation programs.

This class explored the concept of zero waste, which is a philosophy that redesigns our systems and resource use to prevent wasteful and polluting practices. In other words, zero-waste means aiming to reduce landfill-bound trash to a bare minimum. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a family of four produces more than 17 pounds of trash a day or 4.38 pounds per person

of landfill bound trash or Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)—resulting in an annual total of more than 6,200 pounds. Therefore, in addition to the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, consider also these other Rs:

- **Rethink** your every purchase in terms of zero-waste, considering how it will finally be disposed.
- **Repair** broken appliances, electronics and other items rather than discarding them into landfill trash.
- **Repurpose** or upcycle by transforming the old into new, usable objects.
- **Rescue** still-usable items from the neighbor’s landfill-bound trash or dumpster (Star, 2015).

Additional topics included: source reduction and an introduction to composting. Experts from the Sanitation Districts of LA County and Grades of Green are scheduled to present. Visit www.southbaycities.org or www.sbesc.com to learn more about this class and other conservation workshops.

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

'Taste of Blue Zones' Benefits RBEF



Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

More than 500 Beach Cities residents sank their teeth into delicious food and a good cause at the "Taste of Blue Zones" in March, featuring healthy bites from 23 popular Blue Zones Restaurants including local favorites like Jus' Poke, Locale 90, Good Stuff and Sacks on the Beach.

The Beach Cities Health District event celebrated the more than 130 Blue Zones Restaurants in the Beach Cities. A Blue Zones Restaurant is an eatery that has successfully optimized its dining experience – though tactics like highlighting nutritious menu items, eliminating deep fryers, removing salt from tables and using smaller plates and glassware – to encourage patrons to make healthier choices.



Annette Alpern, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services, and her son, Aaron, strike a healthy pose at the Taste of Blue Zones event.

Proceeds from the event benefited RBEF and other local education foundations. This is part of local restaurants' ongoing support of RBUSD. Blue Zones Restaurants also participate in the State of Education, support PTA efforts to promote healthy fundraising and contribute to other school events throughout the year.

Dine locally and find a full list of Blue Zones Restaurants at bchd.org/restaurants.

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Lisa Veal
Principal

Going for the Gold!

Adams Middle School is proud to be recognized by the state of California as a 2017 Green Ribbon School. As we strive to promote student and staff well-being, reduce our environmental impact, and educate the

school community on sustainability and environmental awareness, we are honored to have achieved Gold Level status, recognizing the outstanding efforts our community!

Our work began last year with the formation of the school's first Green Team. Led by teachers Ammie Ibarra and Keith Ellison, the team has been instrumental in kick-starting and sustaining our conservation efforts. In our second year of recycling and composting, our waste reduction is significant, going from over 20 bags of trash per day to just three. Students have learned to recycle, reuse, compost, and understand the importance of packing their bring-to-school lunches responsibly.

Adams' wellness practices have greatly improved as



Adams students enjoying an outdoors classroom

well. With the help of Beach Cities Health District and Blue Zones, our staff and students are eating healthier, moving more, and making wise lifestyle choices. Additionally, our Wellness Council is in its fourth year, with work centered on strengthening the school's practices and ensuring we are adhering to the pledge we made as a community to improve our health practices. We encourage non-food rewards, as outlined in our wellness policy, and our cafeteria offerings

meet the USDA dietary guidelines, ensuring students are offered fresh fruits and salads on a daily basis.

As we strive to reduce energy use, the natural landscape of the Adams campus provides a perfect opportunity to take learning outdoors, thereby reducing the amount of electricity used. This, combined with our one-to-one technology initiative, reinforces the importance of reducing paper usage and going green.

Congratulations to Team Adams for its gold! We are well on our way to doing our part to create an eco-friendly future.

Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Fostering Stewardship

Imagine standing next to an assortment of trash cans in the middle of the cafeteria during a busy first-grade lunch that is getting ready to bring in the second-graders!

Whenever I stand between the blue flip cans, the grey bins, and the cardboard boxes that our custodian routinely lays out for each grade level, I quickly realize that this team

effort of teachers and staff is all worthwhile when a first-grader looks up at me with a cardboard food tray in hand and asks, "Is this recycling or composting?" I immediately point to the recycling bin, and the onslaught of little first-graders throwing their food waste into the composting bins and placing their cardboard food trays on the recycling trays begins!

This is only one effort in a series of changes that our school has made over the years to help students and staff become more conscious

about the importance of becoming good stewards of our environment. From rolling out Chromebooks in an effort to consume less paper, to having parents help wave down cars during valet to avoid the exhaust of idling vehicles, to switching to light fixtures that turn off automatically — or partnering with Heal the Bay to organize volunteer events — our school has set into motion the development of an increased student awareness of our carbon footprint.



Alta Vista student, McKenzie Allred, places her food waste into our composting bins.

These efforts were lauded last month during the California Green Ribbon Schools Awards ceremony at RUHS when Tom Torlakson, our state superintendent of public instruction, recognized those schools that are helping cultivate increased environmental awareness. Alta Vista was honored with the Silver Level, which celebrates our school's efforts to impact resource efficiency, health, wellness, and sustainability. It is my goal and hope that we will continue these efforts throughout the years, and nourish our students' stewardship of the world around them.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

We're Eco-Friendly!

When it comes to being eco-friendly, Beryl Heights students and staff have gone above and beyond to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Classrooms 17 through 20 on the playground have natural light that is provided by the many skylights that were installed. Energy is reduced throughout the day when lights are turned off and natural light is utilized.

Our students are taught how to recycle at lunchtime, with blue cans for recyclables as well as green cans for leftover food so that it can become compost.

We also have Trash-Free Tuesdays at Beryl. Students who are trash free receive a raffle ticket every Tuesday, and each month, we raffle off cool prizes donated by our wonderful PTA. Every classroom has recycling bins that are filled to the brim at the end of every week. Student

council students take the recycling out each Wednesday, and they collect bins from classrooms, the office and the lunch area. A big conservation push is to use less paper in our daily work. Staff and students reduce the amount of paper used, and we have upgraded our communication techniques and our technological processes to promote a paperless environment.

Our LiveWell garden has a green-waste can in order to compost and recycle as we plant and take care of our gardens.

It is evident that energy conservation is a top priority at our school. We educate our students and staff to make a difference in their communities with programs to recycle, reduce waste, save energy, and conserve resources. We turn off lights, recycle more, and reuse materials in classrooms and the office environment. We always welcome new suggestions as we continue to grow an eco-friendly future!

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Going Green at Lunchtime

Grades of Green is an eco-friendly program that educates our students about living in a cleaner and healthier community. Its aim is to motivate children to think about their personal impact on the environment and the ways in which they can make healthy choices.

Over the past two school years, our Grades of Green program focus has been on reducing our lunchtime waste. The lunchtime recycling program which we have implemented this year has already decreased the number of bags of trash that we generate at lunch. This is due to a waste-sorting system that our students each follow. It separates waste, recyclable items, food, and other products that can be used as compost.

Our students have taken tremendous ownership and pride over this process, and are also participating in our "Waste Not Wednesdays" by packing trash-free lunches.

Birney students across campus are more aware of their impact on the school, as well as the Earth itself. We



Student sorting their items into the proper bins

are so proud of our Bobcats and their continued effort to participate in a program that will lead to a cleaner and healthier community. As a result, both Birney and our planet are better places to be. Way to go, Birney Bobcats!



Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Caring for the Environment

At Jefferson Elementary School, we believe it is important to give students opportunities to learn and

practice environmentally sound habits. Our community is engaged in activities and programs to create a school that is not only eco-friendly but where students are eco-minded about the world we live in.

One school program to highlight is our Green Ambassadors Program. The goal of this PTA-supported program is to encourage students to make environmentally minded choices, such as walking or riding a bike to school or bringing a trash-free lunch. The Green Ambassadors program also aims to help keep our campus looking green and clean. In recognition of Earth Day this spring, they will hold a beach clean-up event on April 22.



Environmentally Minded Jefferson 2nd graders team-up as the Beach Club.

This year we welcomed a new group of environmentally minded students who wanted to make a difference at school and on our planet. Six second-grade girls have come together to form the Beach Club, which meets on a regular basis to sweep our campus to pick up litter and small pieces of trash.

In addition to clubs and programs, all Jefferson students are guided toward having a greater awareness about the environment. The Beach Cities Health District Garden Program focuses on nutrition and raising sustainable foods, while classroom instruction focuses on creating a healthy habitat through water, fuel, and waste conservation. The school also regularly participates in campus-wide recycling and has reduced its lunchtime waste to three bags or less per day.

As Earth Day approaches, we celebrate all of our students' efforts to help take care of the environment as we continue learning how to protect the world we all share.

Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



The Benefits of Composting

“Can I help with the trash?”

It may not sound like what most parents hear at home, but on a typical day at Lincoln School this is what you would hear during the lunch period. Lincoln students are vying for “volunteer” spots in the line-up at our trash-sorting station.

Lincoln has always been an eco-friendly school, but this year our Lions are taking it to the next level. Led by noon supervisors and other staff members, our students are learning good lessons about helping the Earth, and they are having fun doing it. In addition to basic recycling, the students also help their peers with their food waste. By sorting food waste such as apple

cores and half-eaten carrots, we are able to create our own on-site composting program. Thanks to the efforts of parent volunteers, this food waste is then picked up and taken to composting bins in our very own Lincoln garden.

Along with saving landfill space, school composting programs like ours have many other benefits. Compost as a finished product enhances the soil and plant quality in our garden. It also reduces the amount of waste to be removed from our school, which cuts costs. Most importantly, the composting program is teaching our students a science lesson in the most authentic way. They get to see for themselves how nature recycles and how waste can be dealt with in a responsible and environmentally friendly way.

Our lunch “trash sorting” helpers also get rewarded with Lincoln Leader slips, but they all say that they would do it anyway just because “It’s fun!” We love helping our Earth, and that is the best reward of all.



Lincoln students help their peers sort trash at lunchtime.



Composting at work at the Lincoln garden.

Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

Water-Saving Changes

One of the most important lessons of science that we can teach our students is the science of how our daily lives on this planet impact the future of our environment. It is vitally important for students to not just learn the science behind the impact of an international climate change conferences that happen around the globe, but also the science behind

the impact of their actions as individuals. One of the most commonly overlooked places where Madison Elementary School and the entire district have made such a change is in the bathroom.

Yes, the bathroom. When Measure C (the bond that preceded Measure Q) was passed, one of the upgrades that occurred district-wide was the replacement of old urinals with modern, waterless urinals. Most urinals at the time used approximately 1.5 gallons of water every time they were flushed. Assuming that the seven urinals at Madison were being flushed on average six times daily, that

means that, prior to the installation of the new, waterless urinals, Madison was using 11,340 gallons of water every school year. If you account for the fact that there are many activities that go on at Madison either after school or on the weekends and during the summer, that number goes even higher. Then, as you consider the reduction in water usage district-wide due to the conversion to waterless urinals, you get the largest single reduction in water usage in the history of the city of Redondo Beach.



This reduction in water use has resulted in Madison being awarded the California Green Ribbon Award. This award is given to schools that manage facilities in an environmentally conscious fashion and provide education to students about the importance of preserving and protecting the environment for future

generations. Partnerships with Beach Cities Health District and the forward-thinking members of the community that supported Measure C have ensured that Madison is a leader in California in environmental consciousness.

Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Making the Move to Middle School

One of the hardest things for students and parents to go through is the transition from one school to another. For some, the anxiety of going to a larger, unknown school can impact emotional wellbeing. For others, it's not a problem. To address feelings of uneasiness, Parras Middle School has designed a program to help students make the transition smoothly and successfully.

We will visit each of our feeder elementary schools and present to students what it's like to go to Parras. At our presentations, students see pictures of students attending class, eating lunch, and participating in other activities. Our counselors will walk them through a school day, so they have a better feel for what it is like to be a middle school student. After the presentation, all the questions students may have about lockers, tardies, and homework are answered by counselors and administrators.

Elementary students tour Parras Middle School with

their entire fifth-grade class. Elementary students walk the halls and see sixth-grade classes in session. They go into the gymnasium, cafeteria, and other places so they become familiar with the school. At the end of the tour, students have another opportunity to ask questions.

In May, our leadership class invites all incoming elementary students to a welcome party that is held in our gymnasium. Students get to play on jumpers and participate in games led by our leadership students. Importantly, this is the first time that all of our future sixth-graders get to meet their future classmates from the other elementary schools.

Lastly, during sixth-grade registration, we will hold Camp Parras for all new, incoming students. This important orientation allows students to meet many of our sixth- and seventh-grade teachers, along with other new students. Teachers help students learn about life in middle school. It's a fun afternoon for everyone involved!

We look forward to welcoming new students to Parras! Please go to www.parrasmiddle.org for all dates related to students articulating to the middle school.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Jens Brandt
Principal

RU Environmental?

From solar panels to rain barrels, RUHS is committed to green initiatives that reduce waste and conserve energy. It was thus an honor for us to host the 2017 California Green Ribbon School awards ceremony in early March. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson was here to present awards to dozens of schools and districts.



Tom Torlakson and Principal Jens Brandt with the highest level "Green Achiever" honor awarded to RUHS this year

After the formal ceremony, RUHS Class of 2017 students Tyler Boyd and Alexis Johnson from Advanced Placement Environmental Science (APES) talked about the amazing work that they are doing to make our community and our perspectives more eco-friendly.

In the words of Ms. Moberg, our APES teacher, "The APES classroom uses "engaged scholarship" where the classroom learning provides structure, but our campus and community provide opportunities to put this learning into practice, often with the help of community partners. As our students learn about real environmental issues, they are encouraged to find solutions."



Ms. Gillian Moberg, Alexis Johnson, Tyler Boyd and State Superintendent Tom Torlakson together after our AP Environmental Science presentation

Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Many Ways Green!

I'm honored and proud to announce that in March, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson presented Tulita with Green Ribbon Recognition with bronze-level status. Tulita was recognized for exemplary achievement in the program's three pillars that include reduction of environmental impact and

cost, improving overall health and wellness, and providing effective multidisciplinary environmental education, incorporating science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education; civic skills; and green-career pathways. Thank you so much, staff and volunteers, for helping achieve this goal!



Accepting Tulita's Green Ribbon Award from State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson.

Our partnership with Beach Cities Health District, Blue Zones and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation supports healthy eating and living. Students are becoming environmentally conscious and healthy. Our LiveWell Kids program ensures that every student gets dedicated garden and nutrition instruction. We also have recycle bins wherever there's a trashcan. We encourage our students to have trash-free lunches, and our fifth-graders commit one day a week to sort trash at lunchtime and keep our campus clean and green!



Learning about farm to table in the Tulita Garden.

Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



Kristen Holm
Principal

We Go Green!

In January, Washington became a whole lot greener with the launch of its brand new Green Team. This team of 13 environmentally

conscious fourth- and fifth-graders is working hard to raise environmental awareness on campus and ensure that Washington Elementary fulfills its commitments as a California Green Ribbon School.

With the help of Washington moms Kathleen Jacecko and Christine Wilkas, the Green Team will be taking on several projects, including:



Washington's Green Team

helping fellow students sort their trash at lunch, running a marker-recycling program, working to reduce food waste on campus, beautifying the campus through cleanups and plantings, and organizing events for Earth Week and Washington's annual Earth Day Festival.

Washington will be hosting our fourth annual Earth Day Festival on Friday, April 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Highlights of the event will include a garden harvest, a salsa competition, planting in a reused paper cup, educational stations, a toy-and-clothing swap, trash-to-treasure crafts, trash-sorting demonstrations, a campus cleanup, and a bottle-and-can recycling drive. Everyone is invited! Go Explorers!

Going Green! Word Search Contest

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

Entries must be received by May 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- | | | |
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| Efficient | Planet | Reuse |
| Emissions | Process | Solar |
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| Environment | Recycle | |

Congratulations to:

**Raymond Sun, Emma Biggs
and Joy Yurada**

**Winners of our February and March
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Girl Scouts

The Dangers of Leaving Kids and Pets in Hot Cars

By Alessandra Gonzalez and Meena Kabbani

We are two Girl Scouts trying to spread awareness of the dangers of leaving children and pets in hot cars. Unfortunately, this issue has been on the news in recent years. We live in a busy world. Forgetfulness happens; it can be so easy to forget the world around us. And sadly, one of the dangers of being forgetful is accidentally leaving kids and/or pets in hot cars. Did you know that there were 32 heatstroke deaths in the U.S. in 2016?



Lucy's Book Review

The Other Boy



Lucy Davis

What if your brain and heart didn't match the way your body looked?

Shane Woods is a normal sixth grade boy. He loves baseball, video games, and has a crush on his classmate, Madeline. But Shane has a secret, and his biggest fear is that someone at his new school finds out, especially because he came to this school for a clean slate.



When troubles begin at school, he becomes uneasy. Will his secret get out? To add to his troubles, he wants to start taking medication to change his body - but his parents haven't totally agreed.

Through all the mayhem, Shane realizes that through life, the people who truly care about you stick by your side. This inspiring story is about finding the courage to express your true self against a sometimes cruel world. This is a brilliant read that definitely deserves five bookworms.

Lucy is a fifth grade student that enjoys theater, playing guitar and singing. She's a Harry Potter fanatic and hopes to one day publish a series of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



Redondo Beach Firefighter Brian Regan and Redondo Beach Fire Division Chief Robert Rappaport met with Meena and Alessandra to plan their upcoming booths at the RB Fire Department's Open House on May 13.

We are trying to accomplish our goal by handing out informational brochures and reminder stickers at events' booths. In May, we plan to have three booths - one at Alta Vista Elementary School's Open House and at both North and South Redondo Beach Fire Department's Open Houses. We hope to see you there.

Alessandra Gonzalez and Meena Kabbani are 8th grade Girl Scout Cadettes from Redondo Beach. They wrote this article as part of their Silver Award project, the highest award a Cadette can earn. They have been Girl Scouts since the 1st grade at Alta Vista Elementary School.

South Bay Hands On Art

What a Colorful Celebration!

By Co-Chairs Gina Clancy & Erika Snow Robinson

We celebrated our 30th Anniversary Color Celebration in style!

A tremendous thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and sponsors. We had live artists painting on site for our live auction, over 40 silent auction donations from local



business and artists. Live entertainment, delicious food and dessert, not to mention lots and lots of dancing and celebrating. What a fun and special night for SBHOA, a tremendous success.

It was heartwarming to see all the love and support our community has for our beloved art program.

We have two more workshops left. Modigliani and an Eiffel Tower delight. Can't wait!

Thanks again for all who make it all possible.

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Sophie's Choice



Rising Above

Hope Solo: My Story is a nonfiction book about a girl who tries to achieve her goal, which is being a professional soccer player.



Sophie O.

Hope went on to become of the greatest soccer players in the women's professional league and went to the Olympics multiple times, earning many medals.

When Hope was 10 years old, her mom and dad got divorced. Her mom remarried, and Hope did not like her new stepdad because he wasn't very nice to her. Hope would always run away to her grandmother's house when her step-dad was mean to her.

Hope got offered a lot of soccer college scholarships, but she chose Washington State because she knew a lot of people there and felt welcomed. Her real dad attended one of her college games and it was then that she learned a secret about him. Her dad started coming to all of her college games. Then something sad happened, and it affected Hope but also gave her a way to honor him.

I give this book 9 out of 10 stars because I really enjoyed learning about Hope Solo's life and her soccer accomplishments.

Sophie is a 4th grader who is a lover of all books, loves to bake, act, draw, sew and play soccer.



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Aug. 10: Medieval Times
Aug. 17: Soak City

THEME DAYS

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June 30: Decade Day
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