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School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

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SUPERINTENDENT



Dr. Steven Keller

Supporting Our Leaders

Have you ever been a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) leader? Or, have you ever been a Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) leader? Chances are

that most people reading this will say, "No." I have held many positions in my more than 27 years as a public school educator with various school organizations. One job that I have never held is the principal of a high school. Because of this, and I'm not sure that she knows this, I tend to be more lenient, understanding, and supportive to our outstanding Redondo Union High School principal, Dr. Wesley. Sure, this may irk our middle and elementary school principals, but they understand. What am I getting at?

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 6

Supporting Our School



The Redondo Union High School Drum line motivates the community during the Friendship Walk.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

By Michael R. Christensen, Member

A Redondo Beach Tradition of Excellent Volunteers

What is it that makes the Redondo Beach Unified School District so good? Let's start with the best students in the South Bay, fantastic teachers, a world-class staff, and our newly upgraded facilities (thanks to your support of Measures E, C, and Q). In addition, and near the top of the list, is something I call the Redondo Beach Tradition of Excellent Volunteers.

The caring parents, concerned businesses, and enlightened citizens of Redondo Beach have spent generations working toward the success of our community, our schools, and our students—and it is paying off. Today we have one of the most engaged and effective Parent Teacher Associations in the state. The PTAs and PTSAs in our district have mobilized nearly 7,000 members who add depth to our students' educational experience through the support of arts education, field trips, assemblies, family nights, Battle of the Books, and book fairs (just to mention a few). In addition, a core function of the PTA is to advocate for every child with one voice on critical issues such as funding and regulation.

Adding to this positive impact and complementing the efforts of the PTA is the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF). The RBEF was formed in 1991, the first education foundation in California, and dedicated to the premise that an excellent school system cannot rely on state funding alone. The RBEF has generated millions of dollars for our schools, augmenting the district's

budgets in such critical areas as lab science, vocal music, band, elementary counseling, college field trips, and teacher grants. The RBEF's volunteers and staff are working hard to mobilize our community to generate over \$700,000 for our schools this year!

The PTA and the RBEF, working in concert with each other, demonstrate the Tradition of Excellent Volunteers that makes our district and our community the best in the South Bay. From the bottom of my heart, THANKS for all you do and for all you give. You are an inspiration to me and my family, and you are one of the main reasons I sought this position on your School Board. Let's continue the Redondo Beach Tradition of Excellent Volunteers...together!

Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



Laura Emdee
President



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Michael R. Christensen
Member



Brad Waller
Member

Inside: RB Council PTA, RBUSD Educational Svcs. *page 2* • RB Educational Foundation *page 3* • Beach Cities Health District, South Bay Adult School *page 4* • Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach *page 5* • RBUSD Child Development, RBUSD Alternative Ed. *page 6* • Schools *pages 7–11* • Contest *page 14*

Seat at the Table



Lisa Christensen
President

Connecting families and schools for more than 115 years, PTA is the largest children’s advocacy organization in the country. As a member of PTA, you add your voice to the more than 800,000 other parents, educators, students, community members and other caring adults who are committed to positively impacting the lives of all children. PTA membership gives you a “seat at the table” when important decisions are made about your children’s school.

As parents, we are fortunate to live in Redondo Beach, a community that provides outstanding educational opportunities to our children. Show your children that school matters and that you are invested in their success. Three decades of research proves that students achieve higher grades, have better attendance, and more consistently complete homework when parents are involved. Demonstrate to your children the importance you place on education by joining PTA.

Membership information is available at each of our school sites in Redondo Beach.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Every district should be as fortunate as RBUSD to have an outstanding PTSA and Educational Foundation. When you add in the Superintendent’s leadership, a committed Board of Trustees, knowledgeable teachers and staff, supportive parents and community, and motivated students the result is success!.

Happy Holidays! We are always mindful of the service men and women who are not home with their families. We thank them for their service.

Our next issue is February 5, 2014...Happy New Year!

Covering the REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RBUSD Educational Services

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

Committed to Our College-Going Culture



Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

Thanks to funding from the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation, in mid-October, our high school community celebrated its second annual College Preparation Day. For the first time, all 10th- and 11th-grade students from Redondo Union and Shores High Schools participated in taking the PSAT exam on a school day. The PSAT helps students predict how they will succeed on the SAT/ACT. Students taking the PSAT are entered into the National Merit Scholarship Program and have the opportunity to qualify for scholarships and awards. Last year, 16 juniors were identified as National Merit Semifinalists. We look forward to seeing how many more students will meet the challenge this year!

Not to be outdone, all ninth-graders took the Princeton Review Early Edge Math Diagnostic test. Receiving feedback early in their high school experience gives time for students to adjust their skills, effort and course-taking options. Twelfth-graders heard from the regional vice president of Princeton Review, who discussed college funding and how to fund life after high school.

RBUSD is dedicated to ensuring that all students are highly qualified for success after high school, and we know that the activities planned on College Preparation Day will help our students become even more prepared.

RBUSD is dedicated to ensuring that all students are highly qualified for success after high school, and we know that the activities planned on College Preparation Day will help our students become even more prepared. We could not do this without the support of our educational partners. Thank you, RBEF!

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The Season of Gratitude



Ted Craddock
President

In the spirit of the holiday season, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation would like to thank all of our donors and supporters.

Thank you also to everyone who registered to participate in the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk back in October. We had a total of 1,366 walkers register on behalf of RBEF, and it was a pleasure to see all of the school teams walking together that morning. We are proud of the fun and generous spirit our Redondo students, parents and staff displayed.

As soon as we hear from the Skechers Foundation about how much money we raised we will share the news. Funds raised through the Friendship Walk will be directed back to the schools to help fund site-based needs and programs.

We also want to thank everyone who gave to the 2013 Donor Drive, and those of you who have continued to make monthly contributions during the

year. It is through these gifts from our community, and our generous corporate and philanthropic partners, that the RBEF is able to maintain the exceptional staff and programs in its schools. Thank you for helping us to promote college readiness and support science, music and art activities. Thank you for helping us "Raise the Tide"!



Friendship Walk fun!

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Beach Cities Health District

514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/374-3426 • www.bchd.org

Venture Away from L.A.



Dr. Lisa Santora
Chief Medical
Officer

I'm a Jersey girl in search of trees. Many people think of Jersey as an armpit instead of the Garden State, but for a densely populated region, it has a lot of open space. I have countless memories of chasing fireflies through backyards, biking on wooded trails behind my house and playing a variety of games in the great outdoors. If I ever told my mom I was bored, her instant response was "go outside."

Today, I find myself living in a concrete jungle. Don't get me wrong – I *love* the beach. I spend countless hours cruising up and down the Strand on foot or by bike, building sand castles and braving the warm waters of the Pacific.

But, I miss nature. I miss trees.

Fortunately, my family has found the type of nature I crave. The Santa Monica Mountains have parks, trails, nature centers and a wilderness area for your family to explore. Three of our favorite hikes are the Temescal Canyon Loop, the Musch Trail to Eagle Rock in Topanga Canyon and the Solstice Canyon Trail. Depending on the energy and whim of the "spirited one" (my three year old son), we may hike a couple of miles through an overgrown canyon or find ourselves pretending to fish for an hour in a creek.

What I'm saying is I hope your family makes time to move naturally outdoors. Research has shown that walking for 30 minutes a day is the easiest way to increase your physical activity and stay healthy. Next time your kids say they are bored, go outside and play with them. Then, plan a weekend hike to help your child experience nature and burn some energy (your family will also benefit from better sleep!).

Visit <http://www.modernhiker.com/> to learn about the hikes listed above and the other trails L.A. has to offer.

South Bay Adult School

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



Building a Community of Learners: Part 1



Vivian Ibarra
Director

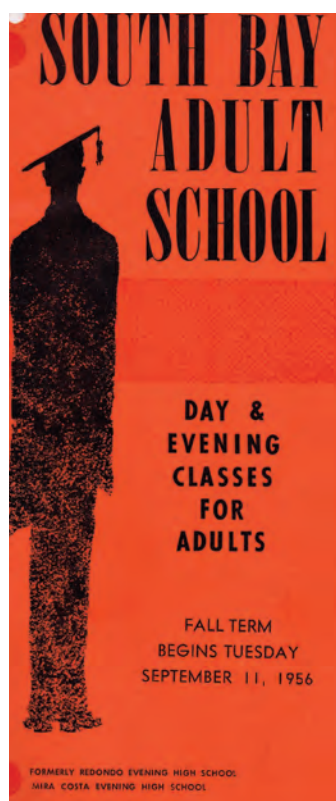
Did you know that the South Bay Adult School has been part of our community since 1918? In the early years, programs were designed to meet the needs of all adults, were held in community centers or rented store buildings, and were scheduled at times for the convenience of the students. Education on demand, any time, any place and any pace: the California adult education tradition was now established.

In 1938 the South Bay Union High School District approved the Redondo Evening High School as an adult school, and the program officially became part of the school district. Classes included civilian defense and training, employment training for women, military service training, high school diploma programs, and more.

At the end of World War II, veterans, many of whom had gone to war as teenagers and returned home as adults, were welcomed with educational opportunities, including high school diploma programs as well as job training opportunities, including auto shop and engineering. There were enrichment classes such as knitting, ceramics, and photography. A formal graduation ceremony was held yearly, with performances by the Light Opera Chorus and The Elysians band, both adult school classes.

The Redondo Evening High School became South Bay Adult School in 1956 and expanded offerings with classes such as art, parent education, sewing, shorthand, and rug construction. The diploma and basic-skills programs continued to be high-demand classes. The fee for any class was 25 cents for the year. Classes continued through the years for all adults in the South Bay community. Students came back to school to learn new skills, take enrichment classes, or finish their high school careers. Adult education is growing, and demand for classes is increasing.

Next month, our journey continues. Visit us at www.southbayadult.org and sign up now for winter-term classes.



**1956 South Bay Adult School
Brochure**

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Redondo Evening High School Class of 1950

Miller Children’s Hospital Long Beach

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/933-KIDS • MCHLB.org

Keep the Holiday Season Jolly



Divya Joshi, MD
Chief Medical
Officer

For many families the holiday season truly is “the most wonderful time of the year.” School is out, parents take time off of work and families gather to celebrate special traditions. But with all the shopping, dining and Christmas parties – everyone is exceptionally busy during this time of year. Unfortunately, this includes the emergency department. Miller Children’s wants you to be able to protect your family and avoid unnecessary trips to the ER.

Be Diligent With Decorating

- When setting up a fresh or artificial tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters; and don’t block doorways.
- Be sure to keep your tree watered – dry trees are fire hazards. Also, check your smoke detectors to make sure they are working.
- Check all tree lights, before hanging them on your tree. Make sure there are no frayed wires or broken sockets.
- Don’t overload electrical outlets – it’s a fire hazard. Also, turn off all lights before bed, have inclement weather or leave the house.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other greenery.
- Tree ornaments, light bulbs, icicles, tinsel and small toys are choking hazards for children.
- Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants and other plants are used as holiday decorations. Like many plants, these could be poisonous if ingested. If you suspect ingestion, call the National Poison Center Help Line:(800) 222-1222.



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Holiday Festivities & Parties

- Clean up immediately after a holiday party. A toddler could wake up early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco.
- Lots of cooking happens during the holidays! Practice food safety by washing hands, utensils, dishes, and anything that comes in contact with raw meat, including poultry and fish, and raw eggs before and after use.
- Common holiday foods such as peanuts or popcorn are potential choking hazards; don’t give to children under 4.
- Keep a list with all of the important phone numbers a baby-sitter is likely to need in case of an emergency.
- Be aware when traveling during holiday evenings, since there is a higher incidence of drunk-driving accidents on these days.



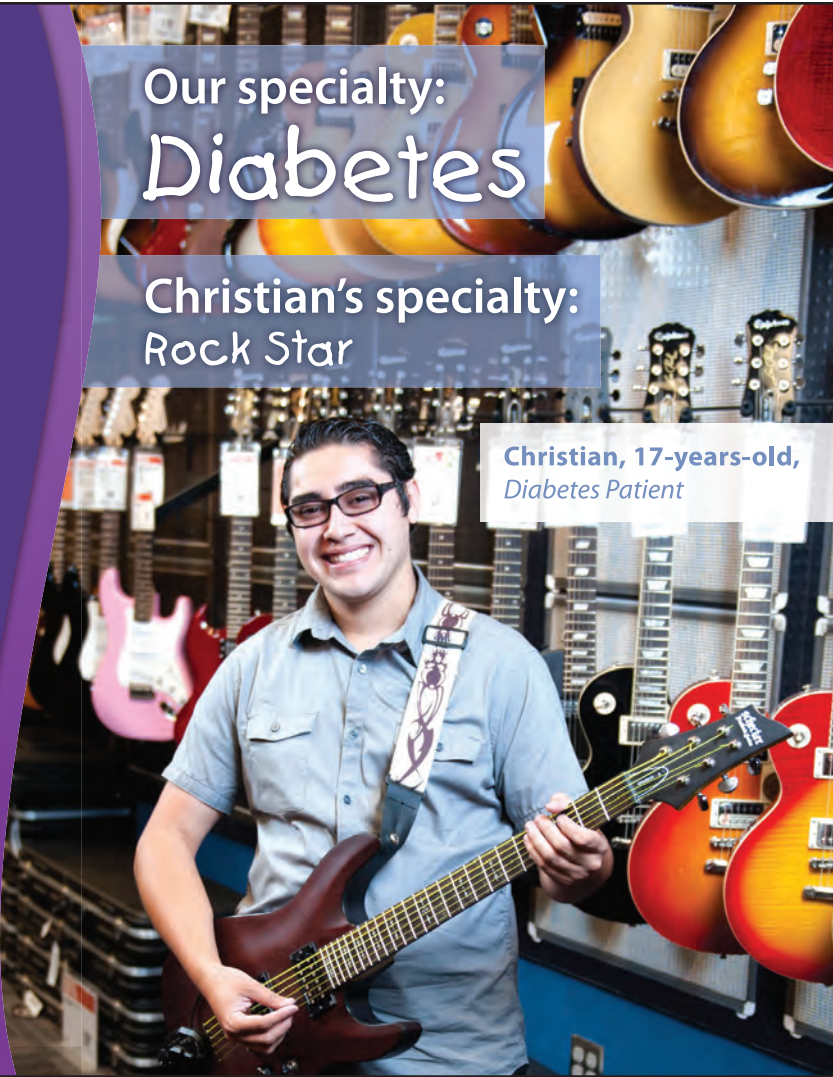


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Follow the leader to Miller Children’s.

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Our specialty:
Diabetes

Christian’s specialty:
Rock Star

Christian, 17-years-old,
Diabetes Patient



Something for Everyone



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

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

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

Lots of Activities

For school-age parents, we provide an orientation at each of the CDC sites when their students begin kindergarten. Here we answer any questions they may have, introduce staff, and review procedures. Every family is also invited to schedule two individualized parent-teacher conferences each year to discuss their child.



Officer Horta speaks with CDC students

However, parents are always welcome to visit at any time. Each center also has a parent advisory group which meets regularly so that the parents can share ideas and talk about how to support and improve our programs.

Participation activities vary at the different sites, but each one offers a way for families to meet their children's friends, greet the other parents, or just have a great time. Some of the different activities have included a Teddy Bear Picnic, Harvest Carnival, Spring Carnival, Thanksgiving Feast, Mothers' Day Tea, FUDGE Day (fathers, uncles, dads, grandparents and everyone), and, most recently, pumpkin carving.

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

RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • <https://rshs-rbusd-ca.schoolloop.com>

The Dynamite Duo: PTSA and RBEF



Dr. Erin Simon
Principal

Redondo Shores High School (RSHS) is privileged to have the support of two outstanding partners in education, PTSA and Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF), whose aim is to enrich the educational experience of all students. Due to the two aforementioned entities, RSHS has made great strides in increasing its instructional and extracurricular offerings.

During the 2012–2013 school year, a PTSA was formed at RSHS to increase students' advocacy skills and leadership opportunities. Moving forward under the new leadership of Malcolm Heron, RSHS PTSA has increased its membership, is working to provide scholarships for students, and is broadening parents' awareness about college and financial aid.

Since the Redondo Beach Education Foundation's (RBEF) inception, they have been instrumental in providing necessary resources for schools in the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD). For instance, last year, RBEF generously supported RBUSD in providing vital opportunities for students in the areas of science, arts, and technology. This year, Alternative Education teachers have submitted mini grants to RBEF in hopes of being awarded monies for arts supplies and educational trips. Community support from RBEF will help RSHS offer a much richer experience for our students. If you are interested in learning more about RBEF, please visit www.rbef.org.

RSHS is deeply indebted to our partners in education, as they have made a profound impact on the quality of education we are able to impart to our students. The dynamic duo, PTSA and RBEF, has definitely helped RSHS seize greatness.

SUPERINTENDENT • From Page 1



Dr. Steven Keller

I have learned that in this world there are many, many arm-chair quarterbacks and critics. I have no problem with these folks...IF they are willing to participate and lead "off their seat" as well. If the critics have not walked in this leader's shoes or personally experienced the highs and lows of his or her position, I struggle with the negative commentary when one is doing nothing to assist or solve the problem.

I am here to say to you, the reader, if you have never led in PTA or RBEF, please do me a favor and either step up and lead or do whatever you can to assist those folks who are volunteering their time, putting themselves out in front, and trying to make a difference in our learning community. They have a tough job, and they are doing it for free.

Our PTA and RBEF do so very much for our great school district. I personally want to thank them for their willingness to lead and improve our schools. In particular, I want to thank Lisa Christensen, Redondo Beach PTA Council President, and Ted Craddock, RBEF President. These two model what I am talking about above. I have never done their jobs either so, like Dr. Wesley, I will always do whatever they tell me and help wherever I can. While I have your attention, please don't share this with Dr. Wesley. It's our secret.

1401 Inglewood Avenue
Redondo Beach, CA 90278
(310) 379-5449

Board of Education Regular Meeting Schedule

2013	2014	2014	2014
Dec. 10	Jan. 14	Feb. 11	Mar. 11
(Due to holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in Dec.)	Jan. 28	Feb. 25	Mar. 25
(3/25/2014 – Organizational Meeting Effective 4/22/14)			

Alta Vista *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Meaningful Change

Meaningful change is occurring at Alta Vista Elementary, thanks to the strong partnership between our teachers, our Parent Association and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. With every PTA meeting and Foundation event, I am amazed at the commitment that the members of these groups offer. Our parents and community dedicate countless hours inside and outside our classrooms and open their wallets to provide our students with innovative experiences and resources.

Without the support of PTA and RBEF, countless programs at Alta Vista would not be possible. The Foundation provides access to programs that help reach the whole child, including music, art and science initiatives. For example, over the past year, RBEF has funded a \$3,000 grant toward furnishing and supplying our schoolwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) lab. To continue the work RBEF started, our PTA generously awarded our lab an additional \$7,000 to complete the renovation. These gifts allowed us to enhance our science instruction in grades four and five, adopt Hands-On Science instruction for grades K-3, and create a home for our First Lego League/Engineering team.

The PTA goes on to fund many of our most meaningful programs, and their involvement directly and indirectly helps to improve the lives of our students in school. The PTA works in a united effort with our school to ensure that our students leave us as well-educated and socially responsible people. The partnership that exists between the PTA, RBEF and Redondo Beach Schools creates meaningful advancements toward the success of our students.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Our Great PTA and RBEF

We are very fortunate to have such a supportive PTA at Beryl Heights Elementary School. Not only do we have fundraisers and lots of activities, but we have over one thousand hours of volunteerism in our school. This month we will have our Ruby's Night and our 5th graders attend Science camp before winter break. In January, we have our Family Math Night on the 29th where families have fun exploring math together.

Our Redondo Beach Education Foundation has had such a positive impact on all of our Redondo students but in particular, our Beryl students have been impacted in many ways including:

- Our college going culture programs: all 4th graders will visit a college this year
- Family Science night in March funded by RBEF
- A Credentialed Science teacher provides weekly lab experiences for 4th/ 5th grades
- A Credentialed Vocal Music Teacher provides our vocal music in 3rd & 4th grades
- All 2nd and 3rd graders will take a trip to LACMA (LA County of Music and Art)
- Our counselor who teaches Mind Up that promotes academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Please donate to the Education Foundation during our donor drive this year. There will be incentives and a special event with the principal if we meet our school goal (more details to follow!) As always, thank you very much for your support.



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

The goal of our schools is to foster not only the academic development in students, but their social, emotional, and physical development as well. Also, schools encourage students to become motivated and engage in learning. Doing so requires our families and schools to work effectively together toward what is best for children. The Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF) are two organizations that bring families together in order to provide students with learning experiences that help schools accomplish these goals.

PTSA and RBEF share a common goal: the betterment of our children's educational experience. The Adams Middle School PTSA is known for promoting parental involvement in the school, while RBEF supports programs district-wide.



Adams vs. Perras Intermural Flag Football Game

With PTSA, parents and teachers work together for the common benefit of the Adams students. Funds are used to provide campus-specific experiences and parent volunteers to support school-wide programs. With the backing of PTSA, Adams students receive Hands-On-Art and Beach Cities LiveWell Kids health lessons from parents who act as docents.

RBEF has been instrumental in providing supplemental funding for enrichment programs. Teachers have been awarded mini-grants for instructional materials and specific field trips to support their respective grade-level curriculum or subject area content. Additionally, RBEF supports inter-mural sports and the implementation of Naviance, a college and career readiness tool, in the middle school.

Both the PTSA and RBEF are critical to the quality of education in our learning community. Both groups work together to support the development of the whole child and to see us "Reach Greatness!"

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Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

Caring Partners in Education

Birney Elementary School is very appreciative of the support it receives from both our PTA and the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation, or RBEF.

Our partnerships with these two organizations ensure that Birney students and teachers receive the enrichment opportunities and support that they would not otherwise have. The PTA supports many of the school's programs, including Hand-on Art and Hands-on Science. It also assists Growing Educators, a coaching program that supports the teaching of the

Readers and Writers Workshop.

Additionally, the PTA funds field trip opportunities for students; gifts each classroom with a monetary amount per child for curriculum enhancement; and provides dance, music and anti-bullying assemblies. It also supports our families so that all of Birney's fifth-grade students can attend science camp each year.

In short, the PTA is a child advocacy organization that shares in Birney's goal of educating the whole child. To this end we appreciate their continued pledge of support.

The RBEF also provides invaluable resources that help support our school's many programs, including elementary school counselors, our college-going culture, art in the schools, and teachers for investigative science. Additionally, mini-grants have been awarded to many of our teachers for instructional materials and curriculum enhancements.

The educational experience that Birney students receive is enriched by the school's valuable partnerships. Every day our students are touched in some way by the generosity of the PTA and the RBEF, and for this we are truly grateful. Thank you, PTA and RBEF, for your continued support of our schools and our students!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



Kara Heinrich
Principal

Bridging Success through Partnership and Collaboration

Research indicates family involvement and community collaboration within schools greatly contributes to student social and academic success. When organizations such as PTA and Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) come together and support learning, students perform better in school, continue on to secondary educational institutes, and have positive attitudes regarding both education and themselves.

Challenges public schools face today may be complex, but with PTA, RBEF and Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) united in heroic efforts to address, overcome and move beyond such challenges our students will continue to achieve at high levels. PTA embraces and enhances Jefferson Elementary School through their work for a better tomorrow, dedicated to bringing the school community together through philanthropy and education. The PTA's connection with our school community is an extraordinary and valuable part of our school's success. Whole-child support is phenomenal, from enriching activities such as educational assemblies, field trips, visual and performing arts, to the Jog-a-Thon, Running Club, and Green Committee. The PTA is the site organization that creates a great school community!

RBUSD is fortunate to have yet another strong partnership with our dedicated education foundation. RBEF works in partnership with our district, funding both programs and staff to maximize student learning in our great facilities and great communities. RBEF supports teacher innovation through grants, provides support to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and College-Going Culture programs, and has ensured visual performing arts are in our schools. The past three 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.



Pier to Pier Jefferson Family Walkers

Together with our PTA and Redondo Beach Education 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!



Pier to Pier Walk Jefferson Group



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Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Beyond the Greater Good

Partnerships between the PTA and RBEF are significant factors in Lincoln's ability to go above and beyond in meeting the needs of its students. We are grateful to have support from both organizations play a vital role at our school.

The PTA is responsible for a number of Lincoln programs. This includes Hands-On Science for grades K-3, Cooking in the Classroom for grades four and five, and school-wide assemblies and field trips. These activities enrich the lives of students and help extend the overall educational program.

The PTA is also involved in organizing and holding a variety of events during the school year, including our Fall Movie Night, Spring Book Fair, and the Jog-a-thon. PTA volunteers also provide many hours of school service in the classrooms and across our campus.



Members of the Lincoln Family
at the Pier to Pier Walk

The RBEF also plays a major role in helping support student success at Lincoln School, and throughout the school district. The RBEF assists our school by contributing to such programs as band, college tours, and the lab science program for the fourth- and fifth-graders. In turn, our school community supports the RBEF through its spring donor drive, and by attending RBEF events like the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk.

The combined work of the PTA and RBEF on behalf of our school makes a major difference in the lives of Lincoln students. Their contribution is a great example of the kind of successful partnership that makes our school an even better place to be, and shows how we can all "go beyond" in support of the greater good.



Students in the PTA Supported Hands on Science Program

Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

Get Involved!

If you have come to Madison and participated in our Halloween Carnival, seen Blue Dog on campus, or heard wonderful tales of great assemblies from your child, you are the beneficiary of the relentless work and dedication of the Madison PTA. Madison PTA, under the leadership of PTA president Caroline Osborne, supports many activities at Madison Elementary School. On any given day, one can find PTA busy supporting great education at Madison Elementary School. Many of you who read this article may be one of those dedicated volunteers. If you are not, I bet you are wondering how to get involved.



Madison Assembly on the history of Flight and Space Exploration

You can find the Madison PTA page under the "Parent" menu on our website. There, you will see a list of activities that Madison PTA supports. For every activity, there is always a need for volunteer support. The skills that are needed are quiet varied as well: everything from grilling hamburgers to web design. Time commitments vary, too, from small projects that require no more than an hour's commitment to recurring programs that last over the course of a year. You can find information on how to sign up under the "Help Wanted" tab.

With your support, these great programs will continue at Madison Elementary School.



Anthony (Frank) Kelly II
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Jacqueline O'Sullivan
Principal

Providing Opportunities

Washington School is proud of the academic programs and experiences we provide for students. We rely on help from our PTA and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) to make these programs even better!

Our PTA and 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 provides advocacy for our school and enrichment funds so that teachers 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. The PTA also facilitates our 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 students like restaurant nights, the Fall Festival, the jog-a-thon, family nights, and the 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, California history resource books in fourth grade, and mini electronic tablets in Dual Immersion Kindergarten. The RBEF supports every child in our school district, providing 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!

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

Supporting Our School

By Anthony Bridi, RUHS Assistant Principal

It is a great time to be a Sea Hawk! The Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF) and the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) are two outstanding organizations that continue to provide educational and technological support to Redondo Union High School. Their overall commitment to RUHS can be attributed to our generous community and parent support.

The PTSA presence at RUHS is felt daily. With over 1,800 members, and various programs such as Academic Letter Award Night, Student Recognition Night, Hands-on Art, and Reflections, it is clear that our PTSA is quite involved. However, their dedication does not end there. Without this group, our school would not be able to provide student advocacy opportunities like the Sacramento Safari and Teen Scene.

In addition, the PTSA spends countless hours organizing parent volunteers for various onsite functions like registration, senior activities and college ready day. This year the PTSA weekly e-news has been keeping members informed about site activities and parent opportunities.

Outside Assistance

The RBEF is another exceptional organization that supports students and staff. Our teachers have received grants for laptops, field trips, TI-84 calculators, student-response clickers, and document/digital cameras. The RBEF also reinforces our students' quest for college by providing aptitude exams like the PSAT for the tenth- and eleventh-grade students (over 1,200 exams), a national college fair field trip, and support for our AVID program.

The Foundation's commitment to RUHS and the Redondo Beach Community was especially visible on October 27 at the annual Skechers Friendship Walk. Various student and parent groups were there to show their Sea Hawk Pride.

Thank you, PTSA and RBEF, for supporting our RUHS!

Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Positive Connections

At Parras Middle School, our focus is not only on providing our students with a strong academic education, but also on ensuring their social and emotional needs are met. Great strides are made to allow students the opportunity to make positive connections with one another. It has been shown that when students feel connected to their school and have positive peer relationships, academic achievement increases. To foster these positive connections, Parras has implemented several activities to provide students with out-of-classroom opportunities to build positive connections. Our Buddy Lunches, Yourspace, and Club Rush are several programs that are designed to give our students opportunities to make friends and connect with their school while having fun.

Buddy Lunches are typically held at the start of each school year. The goal of this program is to help students build friendships. Students are split up into pairs and eat lunch, listen to music, and play games with other students. This is a popular program and has proven to be a great way for students to meet friends.



Parras students attend the Pier to Pier Friendship Walk

Yourspace is a counselor-driven program. The goal is to offer students a fun-filled, lunchtime experience while making new friends in a supported environment. Yourspace is a weekly program open to all students. Yourspace is held on Wednesdays in the cafeteria.

Each year our Associated Student Body (ASB) Leadership class hosts our Club Rush event. Club Rush is an organized lunch event where all of our students are able to explore the variety of student-run clubs offered at Parras. Each club is invited to set up a booth to advertise the club to our students. In the past, we have had Glee Club, Drama Club, Jazzercise Club, and Writer's Club.

At Parras Middle School, we are committed to providing your student with the best education possible, both in and out of the classroom.



When you are finished enjoying your holiday cards, please help abused, abandoned and neglected children by mailing your used cards to:

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They create new cards out of your old ones and sell them to raise money for the children.

Thank you,
Kay Coop, Publisher
School News Roll Call



Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Christina Giguere
Principal

It Takes a Village

At Tulita, we all feel a deep sense of gratitude for two organizations that go above and beyond to support our school. Thank you to PTA and RBEF—we appreciate all that you do!

We would not be able to provide our Tidalwaves with such a superb educational experience without support from our PTA. Every year, PTA provides students with rich field trip experiences, hands-on science, the science fair, the Young Writers' Conference, literacy programs, family events, instructional materials, technology, endless volunteer hours and

more. Each day, school staff and parents are partnering to help children learn, grow and achieve greatness.

We are also thankful for RBEF! The foundation supports programs at Tulita such as family science night, Music Center instruction for first- and second-graders, a field trip to Chapman University for fourth grade, science specialists for fourth and fifth grades, and a vocal-music teacher for third and fourth grades. Recently, the Tidalwave community registered 190 walkers for the Pier to Pier Friendship Walk sponsored by a sports footwear corporation and will soon receive dollars to fund several curricular programs and professional development for teachers.



Pie-eating contest winner & principal
at PTA Western Night carnival



Team Tulita at Friendship Walk

Parent To Parent

Protect Your Family from Holiday Stress



Jodie Lynn

Always File Your Receipts in a Safe Place: You never know if the gift is going to do or measure up to what you think it supposed to; so keep those receipts filed in a special place just in case. Eight-five percent of gifts are returned or exchanged. That's a high number, but isn't too terribly complicated if you have the receipt. Make up a folder and clearly write 2013 Holiday Receipts on the outside. For online stores, make sure you know about their return policies, especially if you are sending any type of plant, food or toy.

Keep a Running List of Names for Greeting Card Recipients: Make a list of each person you'd like to send out a card to. Get the kids to help address envelopes and even to put on stamps. Depending on how many cards you are sending out, it might be best to do this in steps so the kids will view it as Holiday joy and fun instead of work and dumb. That's right; delegate the card sending to the kids by separating the process into steps so no one will get overwhelmed.

Meal Planner: Always plan your dinner way ahead of time. Go to the store with ingredients written on a list for each dish. If it's a dish that uses heavy creams or other fat-laden ingredients, don't forget to scan either a conversion chart for healthy substitutes or look them up on the Internet to see just how good or bad they might actually be. Since this is the time to gain weight, remember that kids cannot always say no to certain foods rich in fat largely in part because they taste so good. Consider what you need to have around the house for the kids to snack on and only allow a nibble here and there of special food. Compare notes and make a plan that you are comfortable with for your family keeping in mind my personal motto: "easy to add weight on...but very hard to get off."

Utilize an Organizer: It's never too early! If you would take a few minutes to organize every couple of days now YOU WILL FEEL SO MUCH BETTER especially if you do a little delegation to other family members and don't put so many stressful things on any one day. Write every detail up and mark it off as it is done. It doesn't matter how small it is, it still counts and feels great when you get to mark it off. The kids love to help with this task as well as will stay busy for hours making and marking off lists.

Take a little time for yourself: It should and must be done even if it's only a 30-minute lunch with a long lost friend; sitting down with a brief short book; watching a loved but often missed TV show, taking a walk, or even making a visit to a local nursing home. Or, take a family trip. There's nothing better than to take several loaves of homemade cranberry bread, pumpkin cookies or fruit pies to a nursing home that the kids have helped you bake. Let them help to pass out the food and enjoy those smiles from senior citizens. Giving to others fills your heart with incredible warmth and makes a huge impact on your kids by allowing them to see firsthand how their special made gifts bring pleasure to other people—as well as see you smile.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. 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!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, *Inside Parenting Success*.



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Note-ables

A Gift for Sophie



Kate Karp

Quebecois poet and songwriter Gilles Vigneault has created a multilayered literary experience in *A Gift for Sophie*. The storybook with primitive watercolor illustrations by Stéphane Jorisch and a music CD set comprise a tale of friendship across the ages. Seven-year-old Sophie loves to draw and share her art with her best friend and soul mate, Emilio, and her ancient great-uncle, Tom. The gifts Sophie receives from these dear people tie in to the wisdom that “Old Man Tom,” as he is known, passes on to his little niece when he passes on himself. Sophie comes to understand and use this wisdom in a delightful way when she and Emilio encounter a mystery.

The story, translated from the original French, is told in a lilting, evocative manner. The narrative on the CD carries the engagement further—the songs are grouped at the end and so don’t interrupt the storyline; instead, they peel back the layers of each character or incident to reveal its essence. The musicians and artists, including Canadian folk-rock singer Martha Wainwright, expose the story’s undercurrent with voice, woodwind, accordion, and all sorts of string and percussion. Melody lines transport the listeners to a café in southern France, the center of a folk dance, the psyche of a cat.

A Gift for Sophie evoked in me all of this and also a nostalgic memory from across my own years: me on the floor next to my little suitcase 78 rpm player listening to records about Tubby the Tuba, Peter and the Wolf, and the Churkendoose, reading the storybooks that accompanied them. See what this lovely set does for you.



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

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A Gift for Sophie 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 **Sophie** in the subject line)

Entries must be received by

January 15, 2013

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a copy of the book *A Gift for Sophie* with CD.

LITERARY	SOPHIE	PRISM
STORYBOOK	BEARD	RAINBOW
TALE	CAT	TREASURES
FRIENDSHIP	SIR	HEART
WISDOM	EMILIO	ILLUSTRATIONS
MYSTERY	FISHING	WATERCOLOR
CHARACTER	BEACH	
GIFT	GLASS	

There were 3 contests in the November issue and the deadline is December 15 so you still have time to get your entries in!
If you don't have the publication, go to our web site
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FRAM Soccer Club 2014 – 2015 Season Tryouts

Ages U8 – U13
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FRAM Soccer Club is holding tryouts for the upcoming 2014-2015 soccer season. We will be building new teams in the age groups and are seeking players to strengthen our existing teams.

U8 Boys & Girls - Jan 7, 14, 16 4:30-6pm
U9 Boys & Girls - Jan 6, 13, 15 4:30-6pm
Miraleste Intermediate School

U10 & U11 Girls - March 10, 12, 17 4:30-6pm
U12 & U13 Girls - March 10, 12, 17 6-7:30pm
Miraleste Intermediate School

U10 & U11 Boys - March 11, 13, 18 4:30-6pm
U12 & U13 Boys - March 11, 13, 18 6-7:30pm
Miraleste Intermediate School

Please bring the FRAM Tryout Application form with you to the first try-out session. The form is available for download on the Tryouts Page of the FRAM Soccer Club website.

FRAM JUNIORS Winter 2014 Skills Session For players ages 7 to 11

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