

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



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Realizing Greatness



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Superintendent



Making a Difference

So, the November election is over. Chances are, like me, you won some, and you lost some. That's democracy at its finest. I have plenty of friends and co-workers who expressed concern and joy. I'm not here to take sides. Although tempting, that wouldn't be appropriate.

Dr. Steven Keller

Please allow me to tell you two good things from November's election that will directly benefit the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD). First, Proposition 55 passed. This will provide a steady and more predictable funding stream to public education in California by maintaining the current income tax rate on couples earning \$500,000 annually. It has been said that during the down economic years, public education in California can lose up to \$4 billion dollars a year. As a reminder, the new California funding model for school districts is called Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). LCFF does not favor more affluent school district communities, like RBUSD. However, Proposition 55 will certainly help us, especially when the California economy struggles.

Second, Proposition 51 is particularly helpful to RBUSD. Proposition 51 will provide \$7 billion in general obligation bonds for new construction and modernization of K-12 public school facilities. Another \$2 billion will be allocated to community colleges. The good news for RBUSD is that Proposition 51 does not embrace the LCFF model mentioned above; therefore, RBUSD is likely to realize a few million dollars in 2017. Depending on the process, we may be eligible for even more dollars based on our school district's growth over the years. We will see.

Since the election is behind us, let me throw this out to you. If you were unhappy with the election outcome, please make a difference locally. Invest in our great Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and/or join our thriving PTA. If you were happy with the election outcome, please make a difference locally. Invest in our great Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and/or join our thriving PTA.

Just remember, the next election for Redondo Beach voters is March 7, 2017.

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

Board of Education



Is College Always the Right Choice?

All children should go to college. Or should they? We read a lot in the education community about the importance of a college education, and I don't disagree. But there is also talk about how every child should go to college, and that is where I think we are doing a disservice to those young people who are not right for a college education. College is not the right choice for everyone. We need to do what is best for our youth and accept that some will not be heading off to college after high school.

Brad Waller
Member

It is vital that we give each and every student who wants to go to college the opportunity to be fully prepared for a successful college career. But we also need to recognize that some of our young people will not attend college. And we need to let them know that it is okay that they skip college if it is not right for them or their families. With a majority of our Redondo Union High School (RUHS) graduates going to college and our concentration on a college-going culture, we need to also have a strong message that those who do not go to college are no less important or valuable.

I have overheard conversations between students (off campus) where they say they are dumb because they are not going to college or that there is something wrong with someone they are talking about because that person is not applying to college. This is the side effect of the college-for-all message, and we need to ensure we are not hurting some of our young people by pushing this message above all else.

We have productive members of our society—such as electricians; plumbers; heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning technicians; automotive technicians; hairdressers; fashion designers; Web developers; and more—who are happy and successful without college. Without young people choosing these careers, who would fix your leaking copper pipes, diagnose your car, or cut your hair? Some of these non-college careers pay well, too. While a welder might start out around \$30,000 per year, add in a specialty such as underwater welding (and we have lot of youth who are comfortable in the water) and earnings can easily top \$100,000 per year.

There are many careers that do not require a college education. Many choose to serve our country by joining the military. Young people can graduate from high school with training they get for free from Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCal ROC) and enter the job market right away. Others may take longer before they enter the job market, but they can usually do so without the staggering student loan debt that is saddling the current generation of college graduates.

Make sure you show your support for all of our children, including those who do not go on to college.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation
www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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It is hard to believe we are about to say goodbye to another year.

As we prepare to celebrate the holidays and welcome 2017, I would like to thank you for being loyal readers. We are all stakeholders in public education and reading about the RBUSD students and administration certainly validates our hope for the future. Much has changed in education but the one constant is what is best for the students to prepare them for their future.

After the holidays please consider donating your holiday cards to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. They recycle the cards to support their programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families. The Operated by Kids' Corp. children and volunteers make the "green" cards Vist their web site for specifics www.StJudesRanch.org.

Our next issue is February 1, 2017. Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

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Q&A: Meet BCHD's New CEO

Tom Bakaly took the reins of Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) just weeks ago, but already the former City Manager of Hermosa Beach and Park City, Utah, says he is living out his purpose by helping create a healthy beach community.

Q: You helped organize the 2002 Winter Olympics, multiple Sundance Film Festivals, two Super Bowls and the World Cup during your career. How did those experiences shaped you professionally?

A: It's a lot of work, but even more fun. Events were always something I gravitated toward; in fact, my old boss used to say I was like a 'moth to a flame,' because I wanted to be right in the middle of the action. Those experiences taught me a lot about teamwork and the importance of creating an organizational culture of all hands on deck – which is right in line with the workplace at Beach Cities Health District.

Q: What compelled you to apply for the CEO position at Beach Cities Health District?

A: A chance to be part of the solution and make a difference in my community. I was drawn to the opportunity to work for a respected community organization that has a clear purpose and vision: to create a healthy beach community. Additionally, BCHD's organizational culture and methodical approach to improving health, using research, evidence-based programs and measurement, really resonates with me.

Q: Why work in community health?

A: Community health just makes sense, and I find myself thinking about my own health more as I age, though I'm still a young 52. I was fortunate to be in a position in Hermosa Beach, and now at BCHD, where I could make a difference by supporting evidence-based efforts to improve public health, like stronger smoke-free policies, a social host ordinance to curb underage drinking and implementing Blue Zones Project to help people live longer. Now as I look at this opportunity with BCHD, I'm excited and honored have the chance to make a positive impact and create a healthier environment where families can thrive.

Q: What health challenges are you eager to address?

A: Ultimately, our goal at BCHD is to create an environment that supports healthy choices, because it's all about personal choice. To achieve that, our Board of Directors recently outlined our health priorities for the next three years, and the two priorities that jump off the page to me are reducing the prevalence of teen substance use, especially among high school kids. That's a challenge our community isn't fully addressing yet, so that's an area that needs more dialogue. And the other is helping older adults age gracefully by providing them with necessary resources like transitional housing, dementia support and end-of-life planning.

Q: What about the Beach Cities do you enjoy most?

A: The culture, the beach and environment, but most of all the people and families who live here. They are who make it a really special place to call home.

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Redondo Beach Educational Foundation



Ted Craddock
President

It's Been A Very Busy Fall for RBEF

RBEF would like to thank all of our investors and partners. We just wrapped up our 2016 Investor Drive, which brought in over \$350,000. This has been our most successful annual appeal to date. We are truly grateful for the generous support RBEF receives every year. The money raised supports a variety of educational programs

that reach every student in our District. We are proud to be supporting the best School District in the South Bay.

RBEF and RBUSD families also participated in the October Skechers Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk. We had about 1,600 registrations. The Redondo Beach community really turned out and made a fantastic showing. Funds raised through the walk will go back to the schools to fund site-based needs and programs. In the past, this event has funded teacher training, libraries, updated audio/visual equipment and much more.

Finally, our Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament was held on November 14th. 100% of the net proceeds are going back to supporting our kids and our community. It was a great partnership with City Leadership; the event was an



Our Kids.
Our Community.
Our Legacy.

instant sell-out. We look forward to making this an annual tradition with the Mayor's office.

We are now hard at work planning our 2017 Spring Gala. Mark your calendars as this event sold out last year. This year's event, celebrating the 125th birthday of Redondo Beach, will be held on Friday May 12th at the Portofino Ballroom, overlooking the harbor. Registration and how to donate information will be coming out early next year.

If you haven't invested yet, make sure that you make your tax-deductible contribution before 2016 is over at www.rbef.org. It is through the gifts of our community and generous corporate and philanthropic partners that RBEF is able to provide and maintain exceptional staff and programs for RBUSD schools. It takes significant financial resources to create cutting edge programs for college readiness, science, music, and art. State funding alone cannot be relied on to make Redondo Schools amongst the best in the country. It's a team effort and we thank everyone for their investment in our legacy.

Happy Holidays from all of us at RBEF!

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

Redondo Beach Council PTA



Raymur Sweeney
President

Working Together for Every Child

Redondo Beach is a wonderful place for your children to spend their school years. The parents, staff and organizations on our campuses work together to provide our children with boundless opportunities for learning in a safe and caring environment. Two of the organizations involved in rounding out your children's educational experience are the Parent

Teacher Association (PTA) and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF). There is frequently confusion regarding the differences between these two organizations—below is a quick overview of each.

RBEF and PTAs work together to fund the gap between the funds provided to the school district by the state and what is actually needed to educate each child.

PTAs pay for school-site-specific needs like field trips and classroom enrichment such as Hands-On Art and Hands-On Science. PTA is also the largest children's advocacy organization in the United States. PTA membership fuels child-focused lobbying activities at both state and national levels. Our annual membership drive is

essential to keeping the positive influence that the PTA has on our children's lives. I thank the more than 8,000 PTA members for joining our cause and remind you that there is still time to become a member. For more information, visit our website.

RBEF's focus is on funding the people needed to teach programs at school sites throughout the district. PTA cannot fund teacher salaries—this is where RBEF comes in. RBEF helps maintain the quality of education offered at each of RBUSD's 12 school campuses by providing salaries for music teachers, science teachers and other specialized instructors. RBEF prides itself on supporting the whole child at every school. For more information about how you can support RBEF, go to www.rbef.org.

Both organizations are critical funding sources for our schools. I am proud that our PTAs support RBEF. Together with the school district, we will continue to provide the best learning environment for our children.

Thank you for your continued support, and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

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

Seeking Support from Your Children's Hospital



Stephanie Stembridge

Manager, Patient Family and Volunteer Engagement, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Being admitted into a hospital can be overwhelming. When choosing a children's hospital, consider the programs, services and support groups available for your entire family.

Family-Sized Support

A long-term hospital stay or change in diagnosis can be difficult to deal with. From arts and crafts to music therapy, a variety of workshops, events and support groups can make the hospital stay and transition home easier on everyone.

More than Medicine

Children's hospitals have a unique position called a Child Life Specialist, who ease anxieties and help children become better situated to the hospital environment. With child development degrees, they help prepare children going into any medical procedure, surgery or test.

The Right Resources

A Family Resource Center is a place for families raising children with special needs, illnesses or injuries find knowledge and support. Encouraging families to feel prepared once they leave the hospital is important to recovery and/or management.

Family Feedback

Families are an important part of a child's care team. Many hospitals have committees or advisory boards that patients and families can join. Including families in patient rounds, committees or advisory boards supports a patient and family centered care model that creates partnerships between families and care teams to best meet patient's needs.

With an extensive list of support programs, patients and families can find comfort in knowing that Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach cares about all aspects of their well-being – in and out of the hospital room. For more information, call 800-MEMORIAL or visit MillerChildrens.org.

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL
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RBUSD Alternative Education



Sue Hall
Principal

Building a Strengths Generation

Research shows that students who focus on their unique strengths become more engaged in their education and community. Redondo Shores took note and adopted a plan of action. Through the schoolwide implementation of the Strengths Generation curriculum, students are becoming more self-aware as they explore and develop their top five attributes. We know that increasing students' self-awareness will benefit them throughout their future professional and personal lives.

The Strengths Generation curriculum guides students in developing a positive vision for their future and the mindset and resilience to meet their goals. The curriculum begins with an individualized online StrengthsFinder assessment, and seminars are presented weekly throughout the year. "The students are actually talking about their strengths during class discussions and applying them to issues and challenges in their personal and academic lives," said English language arts teacher Patrick Vaughan.

The students agree that the program has made a positive impact thus far. "Strengths Academy helps

motivate me for my personal goals and aspirations," said senior Austin Gunnell.

"Strengths Academy gives us identity and helps build up our self-esteem," said Matt Masani. Madison Campos added, "Strengths Academy has us thinking more positively about ourselves." Focus on what's strong and not what's wrong is a common motif embedded in the curriculum and expressed in the statements of the students.

After just a few months of implementation, students and staff are already reaping the benefits of the program and are proud witnesses to the social-emotional growth of the student body. Looking to the future, everyone agrees that "students get a competitive edge by learning to apply their strengths in interviews, resumes, application essays, financial planning and working collaboratively," as stated on the Learning Together website at www.learningtogether.com.

The program culminates with students creating a practical-strengths portfolio that will guide them as they transition to college, trade school and careers.

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

RBUSD Educational Services



Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

Our Partners in Excellence

I can't think of a more fitting way to end the year than by acknowledging our appreciation to our partners, the RBEF and PTA. For the past two years the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and the Redondo Beach Council PTA have partnered with the school district to provide back-to-school backpacks and school supplies to well over 800 of our very own students, ensuring that the opening days and weeks of school are met with equal parts excitement and readiness for success.

RBEF has served as an invaluable partner in helping support our school district's focus on preparing every student for college readiness. They have done so by directly funding classroom teacher grants, elementary science and music teachers, middle and high school math coaching periods, and college field trips for elementary, middle, and high school students. In January, if you are a parent of an elementary or middle school student, please plan to attend one of the college financial planning events that are co-sponsored by RBUSD and RBEF.

The PTA is not only a powerful advocacy organization on behalf of all children, they also serve as an important resource for families and communities. This year, they have supported numerous parent outreach/education events in conjunction with RBUSD, including the "Power of Choice," "Screenagers," and working with the school district on



Back to School Supplies Event Co-Sponsored by RBEF and PTA

our implementation of the "Run, Hide, Fight" emergency response protocol. And just this month, our school site PTAs and the RB Council PTA will ensure that over 60 families in need during the holiday season are supported through our Project Unified program.

If you have contributed money or time to either or both of these organizations, a heartfelt thank-you on behalf of our 9,500+ students. If you are not yet involved, I challenge you to set that as a personal goal for 2017. Make a difference this year through your support and involvement. You won't regret it. Happy New Year!

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

RBUSD Child Development



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Generosity Is Contagious!

By Kathy Martens, Site Supervisor

Being generous with our time, our talents, and even our money can be contagious. In the month of December, many families celebrate holidays with traditions, food, and gift giving. All of these are important, but did you know that giving something away can help you too?

The greatest impact of giving is on ourselves. Giving reinforces our feelings for others, and makes us feel effective and caring. Generosity also creates a ripple effect throughout the community. The giving goes on and on.

At Washington Child Development Center, students express their generosity by collecting canned food, toys, and school supplies for peers in Mexico, socks and mittens for Project Paper Bag, and bottles to recycle for Cabrillo Aquarium.

You don't have to break the bank to teach your child the importance of generosity. Does your child know that giving a gift is more meaningful if the act of generosity comes from the heart? Try these ideas for giving this year. Offer

to sit with an elderly neighbor and watch his or her favorite television show. Play a board game with a sick friend. Send a younger family member a storybook with a recording of your child reading the book. Volunteer as a family at a local food bank or charity. Draw pictures or write a note to a teacher or friend to brighten his or her day. Participate in a local charity walk for a great cause.

Acts of generosity can also happen as you focus on your child's interests. If your child loves animals, consider helping with a donation to a local humane society. If your child enjoys baking, find a soup kitchen and ask if you can donate homemade cookies. If your child enjoys sports, seek out a local organization to donate old uniforms or equipment. If your child plays a musical instrument or sings, help him or her to find a local assisted-living facility where he or she can "perform" during the facility's social time. Your child's gift may even be a simple act of kindness, such as sharing a toy or a smile with a friend.

Help your child to understand that giving is easy, fun, and rewarding. And most of all, it's contagious!

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

South Bay Adult School



Dr. Anthony Taranto
Director

Edison Preschool

In addition to offering a diverse range of community-based classes designed to promote learning and social development and to improve the quality of life for students of all ages, the South Bay Adult School (SBAS) is also home to the Edison Preschool.

Edison Preschool, free for qualifying families, is a dynamic program that encourages children to explore, experiment, and discover. Our staff is highly knowledgeable and trained to provide safety and educational experiences that are developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive. Every child is respected, and all ideas are validated. Edison Preschool uses its community of learners and its rich, varied cultural diversity to foster opportunities for greater learning with opportunities for parent engagement and education that take place throughout the school year.

Mirroring the Redondo Beach Unified School District Child Development Center preschool curriculum, our high-quality instruction and interaction is guided by the Houghton Mifflin Literacy Program, Handwriting Without Tears, Desired Result Development Profile, Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale, Classroom Assessment Scoring System and Quality Rating and Improvement System. Additionally, Edison Preschool



Edison Preschool BCHD Live Well Tots

students participate in the Beach Cities Health District Live Well Tots program. Our preschool teachers have been trained to deliver 30-minute nutrition lessons in their classroom, focusing on food groups, healthy eating behaviors and mindfulness.

If you are looking for a preschool experience that fosters learning and success in future education, careers and life, then consider the Edison Preschool. Our "hands-on, minds-on" program is designed to provide the foundational skills to prepare children for kindergarten. Visit our website for more information.

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

Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



Lisa Veal
Principal

Finding Your Niche

By Gina Guglielmana and Amber Beach

Research shows that students who feel connected to their school are more likely to have higher academic achievement and maintain a healthier emotional state. School connectedness means that students feel supported on both an academic and personal level. It also means they feel welcome, and share a sense of belonging within their

school community. At Adams Middle School, we make

it our priority to provide as many opportunities as possible for students, staff, and community members to feel and be connected with Team Adams.

Over the past year, our after-school sports program has grown, and now offers 10 intermural sports. Teams are coached by teachers, parents, and community volunteers. Involving our parents and the community extends feelings of connectedness and identifies role models inside and outside of the school gates. Adams also has programs such as WEB, ASB,

AMS News, Yearbook, and over 20 clubs that are created by students and sponsored by teachers.

New to Adams for the 2016–2017 school year are the Hangout Spot and the Recognizing Acts of Kindness Initiative. The Hangout Spot is hosted by our school counselors and takes place every Wednesday at lunch. Students are encouraged to spend time in an alternative and supportive environment. Eagles can enjoy the company of new friends while listening to music, playing board games, and relaxing on bean bag chairs. The Hangout had over 50 students attend on opening day, and has become

increasingly popular!

Recognizing Acts of Kindness is an online forum that allows members of the Adams community to recognize students and staff members for random acts of kindness. It is heart-warming and motivating to hear about the many kind acts that happen on a daily basis at AMS.

Adams is proud to offer numerous opportunities for students, staff, and community members to become involved and truly feel connected to Team Adams!



Students enjoying the company of friends at the "Hangout Spot"

Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



Susan Wildes
Principal

Building Resiliency

By Dr. Joyce Stout, School Counselor

Every Sunday, my family drove to Denny's Restaurant. It was Denny's on Sunday, every Sunday. As a preteen, all I wanted to do on Sundays was sleep. As an adult and looking at the tradition through the eyes of an elementary school counselor, I recognize that my parents were building my protective factors & increasing my resiliency.

There are protective factors that can increase a child's resiliency. The more resilient a child is, the less likely that child is to experiment with drugs & alcohol. Parents can strengthen a child's resiliency by building these protective factors:

- Problem solving, being socially competent & autonomous
- Mindfulness and acts of kindness – developing a sense of purpose
- Environmental factors - feeling safe, positive peer influences & a sense of identity
- Family factors which encompass warmth, cohesive family group, positive relationship with a parent figure, structure, physical/emotional safety & stress management

I encourage you to create more opportunities for your family to spend time together, such as going to the beach, having breakfast on Sunday mornings or having a family game night. At times daily life can seem overwhelming, but what if you re-prioritized and made family time a top priority? Could you commit to scheduling family time once a week? Could you invest in 30 to 60 minutes of uninterrupted family time? What would happen if you made this shift? Would you feel less stressed? Would you be building your child's protective factors?

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University found that there are powerful positive long term effects when children spend time with their families. In 2001 they launched Family Day in an effort to encourage families to spend more quality time with their children. Check out, <http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/>. There are some great resources on this website such as conversation starters, a family activity kit to help you structure some fun activities & some suggested guidelines for talking to your child about drugs.

Take this opportunity to make your own Family Day a priority.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Learning through Robotics

Our students in Redondo Beach have an amazing opportunity to be a part of the First Lego League (FLL) and participate in a nationwide robotics program. Eighty-eight countries participate in a robotics program, with 32,000 teams and over 255,000 participants.

Our Beryl Heights' students meet twice a week to build, program, and test their robots' abilities, while also working together to solve a real-world problem. This year their focus is on co-existing with coyotes. Some may think it is overwhelming to first learn programming and then build a robot and make it move through activities, but it is actually not so scary. Guided by a staff member and adult coaches, the adults and students learn together and help each other go through the challenges. Most of all it is about teamwork while competing in a challenge; each team designing their own robot to complete tasks on a robotics board, and then discussing and researching real-world problems while coming up with a team-based solution.

The teams also practice the robotics program's signature core values. The program develops good critical

thinking and team-building skills. Eighty-seven percent of the students who participate in this program are more interested in attending college now because they learn how to apply real-world math and science concepts. They also learn to utilize technology and engineering, and understand and practice "Gracious Professionalism," a core value that is needed to succeed when they enter into the workforce.

Our teams love to participate in tournaments and celebrations, and the impact is positive and rewarding. Come out and join the fun while challenging yourself in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)!



Beryl Heights' 2016 Robotics Team

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Red Ribbon Week

Celebrating National Red Ribbon Week at Birney was full of excitement, as well as an opportunity for conversation around making good choices.

Red Ribbon Week was celebrated during the week of October 24. We kicked off the week with the students showing their school pride by wearing a predetermined color by grade level. During the remainder of the week they participated in Pajama Day, Crazy Hair Day, and dress up as someone you admire. We ended the week with Halloween costumes.

Of course, the most important message in our week-long celebration was not how we celebrate each day, but how the conversations that occur in and outside of the classroom deal with diversity, respect, being a problem solver, goal-setting, and being a healthy person.

Students also signed a banner where they pledged to be good Birney Bobcat citizens. Additionally, the Redondo Beach Police Department supported this national effort by providing the students with goodies that revolved around Red Ribbon Week.

Although this week-long event celebrates making good

choices and becoming a healthier you, we will continue this message all year long. We hope that you will also continue these discussions around your home. Some questions that could prompt a deeper discussion with your child at home are: what is one thing you will do this week to show respect? What is one problem you encountered this week, and how did you solve it? What is one goal that you have this week? What is one choice that you can make this week that will help you become a healthier person?

Although Red Ribbon Week is a week-long celebration, the message surrounding making good choices and putting good things in our bodies will continue on as a life-long journey.



Jefferson *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Welcome to Your Road to College!

With the school year now well underway, Jefferson has begun what promises to be another exciting and very successful school year. For so many of our students and families, elementary school represents the beginning of the educational journey. The Jefferson teachers, staff and I are thrilled to be building the educational foundation upon which your children will grow

from for their educational careers. We pride ourselves on creating a nurturing community of learners who support your children as they embark upon their academic careers. Our staff and PTA work hard to foster strong relationships with parents, extended family and the community in order to help your children feel safe to take risks and develop their passions while experiencing success and being celebrated.

The Jefferson staff is committed to implement best practices to ensure that our students achieve their potential. This year, as we dig deeper into Common Core State Standards and raise our expectations even further, the staff will continue to cultivate our climate of a college-going culture, as we believe that the best gift that we can give to your child

is to model ourselves as lifelong learners. This is evident through our College T-Shirt Thursdays, college-focused class projects, pennants on display and our annual fourth grade college field trip.

Your child is our top priority, and we look forward to working with our families and community. We value your presence in our classrooms and your support both of important programs and during PTA and academic school events. Jefferson welcomes your involvement as we continue the outstanding year we have begun this fall.



Jefferson in-town college rivals showing their colors.

Lincoln *Elementary* (K-5)

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



Jane Tasker
Principal

Attendance Matters!

Most parents understand the importance of getting their children to school on time every day, unless they are ill. But what many don't realize is how quickly absences—excused and unexcused—can add up to academic problems.

Nine or fewer absences is considered satisfactory. It is a warning sign of absence problems are when a student is absent 10 to 17 days. Chronic absences of 18 days or more signal a significant problem.

Research shows that each day a student is absent requires two days to make up instruction. Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read and succeed in school. Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up. By middle and high school, chronic absences indicate that a child is at risk for dropping out of school.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Good attendance in the

early grades helps children to do well in high school, college, and work. So how can parents support school attendance? Here are some ways you can help!

Set regular bedtime and morning routines. Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before. Don't let your child stay home unless she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be signs of anxiety, not illness. If your child seems anxious about school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice about making her feel comfortable and excited about learning. Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent. Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session. If the appointment must be during school hours, please have your child attend school prior to the appointment and return to school after the appointment to complete the school day.

Finally, we know that extenuating circumstances often impact school attendance. Schools have many community resources available. Please contact your child's principal or school counselor for more information.

Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

Mathematics in Action

As we continue transitioning to the new Common Core State Standards in mathematics, one of the most important things that we can do with our children is to have productive and critical discussions about mathematics. Many of us who experienced mathematics education in the 70s, the 80s, or even the 90s are accustomed to mathematics as a subject that is based in “fact,” where $5 + 5$ is always equal to 10. However, the reality that we all confront in our jobs every day is that sometimes it does, and sometimes it doesn't. You may receive two shipments of 5 packages each, but 2 of the 5 packages in the first shipment could be damaged and unusable, so in this case, one could argue that even though you have 2 shipments of 5 packages, because of the damage to some of the packages, $5 + 5$ will only give you 8 packages. This may seem like silly semantics, but this is the cornerstone of the mathematical talk that we want students to engage in.

According to the book *Intentional Talk: How to Structure and Lead Productive Mathematical Discussions* by Elham Kazemi and Allison Hintz, there are five structures to mathematical discussion that you can engage children in. First you can get students to compare the strategies that others (including you) use to solve problems. Second, have students justify the reasons they used a particular strategy to solve a problem. Third, have students explain why a solution is the most efficient for solving a problem. Fourth, have the student clarify the meanings of the words they are using or the strategies they are employing to solve a problem. And finally, if students have made a miscalculation even after discussion, have them talk about revising the answer.

These are all very valuable steps in helping your child to have a deeper understanding of the mathematics they are learning. If you need additional resources or would like to see some of these new concepts in mathematics, just go to the Madison Elementary School Web site and click on the “Math at Madison” link in the programs menu to see videos of mathematics in action.

Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Supporting the Whole Child

By the Parras Middle School Counselors

The Parras Middle School counseling team strives to provide our students with emotional support by having an “open door” policy, which encourages students to visit their counselors. Counselors can provide students with guidance as well as referrals and resources for additional emotional support outside of the school. Counselors also work closely with parents and guardians to connect families with community supports, including parenting classes, referrals for low-cost mental health services, and other opportunities.

To address the emotional needs of our students, one-on-one and group counseling services are provided through our counseling department. In addition, counselors run the Hangout Spot, a weekly lunchtime program designed to provide extra social and emotional support to students looking to sustain healthy interpersonal relationships.

An essential component to being a middle school student is understanding how to manage stress by recognizing when stress is being experienced and how to deal with the stress effectively.

As academic pressure continues to grow for our students, the Parras staff is committed to providing our students with the tools to cope with academic and emotional struggles in a number of ways. Teachers collaborate on assignments and tests. Tutorial periods

allow our teachers to devote more time to re-teaching and reviewing concepts that students may be struggling with. Professional Learning Community training stresses the importance of serving the needs of the whole child, both intellectually and emotionally. Books in our library provide our students with valuable resources that encourage positive self-worth, self-advocacy and assertiveness skills. We also have an outstanding Where Everybody Belongs (WEB) mentoring program.

We are proud of the numerous programs in place to address the needs of our students. We are looking forward to an outstanding school year and the positive impact our programs, training, and collaboration will have on our students.

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Jens Brandt
Principal

RU Connected?

When you think back to when you were in high school, what is your favorite memory? For some people, it may be succeeding in a traditional class, but for many people, it is winning an athletic event, performing in a concert or a play, creating an original work of art, joining a club, or participating in some other extracurricular activity. These experiences leave lasting positive memories

that we can appreciate for the rest of our lives.

There are other advantages, too. One that we hear about a lot in high school is the college resume, in which going beyond good grades and test scores has become increasingly important. Just as we talk about educating the whole child in Redondo Unified, colleges are saying that they are interested in more balanced applicants who are successful beyond academics and showcase many other skills, interests and experiences.

One advantage that we unfortunately hear less about is the importance of connectedness. Yet research in education has consistently shown that participation in extracurricular activities is correlated both to higher grade-point average and to a more positive experience in school. Some people

are surprised by this, feeling something along the lines of being “too busy” to do more beyond what is expected for their classes. But for adults and students, the conclusion of research is the same, that even for the busiest people, engaging in activities beyond schoolwork or any work creates balance and purpose that make people happier and more engaged in everything that they do.

So, what activities beyond the classroom or the office are members of your family connected to? At RUHS, we have over 90 clubs, 21 sports and innumerable other unique experiences. Give one a try if you haven't already!



During Club Rush Week RUHS students shopped through a showcase of over 90 clubs. The rush may be over, but it is not too late to join!

Tulita Elementary (K-5)

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Encouraging Lifelong Character Traits

Tulita Elementary recognizes that we are preparing our students to be successful citizens not only while they are our students but after they leave us for middle school and beyond. The entire learning community strives to meet and exceed the Tulita Expectations for Success. Our goal is to promote habits and beliefs that will help our students be inspired and confident learners inside and outside of school. During the first weeks of school the teachers involve the students in learning about each of the expectations.

The Tulita expectations for Success stress the importance of hard work, enthusiasm, cooperation, and self-control. At each month's Town Hall assembly, one student from each classroom is recognized for their hard work with one or more of the expectations.



Tulita student being recognized for exceeding expectations for success.

Our Tulita Expectations for Success are:

1. We are self-confident learners. We set goals, monitor our progress, and strategically work to achieve our goals.
2. We value challenges and obstacles as opportunities to learn and grow.
3. We communicate. We share thoughts, questions, ideas, and solutions.
4. We collaborate. We work together to reach a goal – putting talent, expertise, and smarts to work.
5. We are critical thinkers. We look at problems in new ways, linking learning across subjects and disciplines.
6. We are creative. We show innovation and invention by trying new approaches to get things done.
7. We use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information.
8. We are mindfully aware. We are aware of our thoughts and actions and their impact personally, locally, and globally.
9. We value empathy and optimism.
10. We express gratitude.

Thank you for supporting our community in our effort to raise expectations. Character counts!

Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



Kristen Holm
Principal

Parent-Teacher Conference

The school year is quickly approaching its midpoint. The classroom procedures have been established, the routine of homework is becoming more and more customary, and tests and quizzes have been studied for and taken by our students. Now, parents and teachers will come together for the midyear review through parent-teacher conferences.

One major thing that parents and teachers have in common is that both have the best interests of the students in mind. So, how can both parties conduct parent-teacher conferences that create a dialogue that identifies the strengths and needs of the student? The Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP) lays out some helpful tips to help you and your child's teacher conduct an effective conversation that will help recognize the best educational plan for your child.

Your conversation should open with your child's progress. You can begin by asking, "What are my child's strengths? How could my child improve?" Ask to see samples of his or her work. Feel free to share your own thoughts on your child's progress. Communicate with the

teacher as to what you think your child is good at. This is a welcome perspective for a teacher, and you can help bring about new strategies the teacher might not have discovered just yet. Be sure to also share what you think your child needs more help with by pointing out a few concerns. Review with your child's teacher what you can do at home to help your child's educational growth.

Remember, BE HEARD

Be mindful that parent-teacher conferences are built in with the school year to establish a thoughtful conversation between the two most important stakeholders in your child's life. It is equally important to continue the conversation and follow up with your child's teacher by scheduling another time to check in.

The HFRP developed a handy acronym to help remind parents and teachers how to focus conversations during parent-teacher conferences: BE HEARD, with these guidelines: Best intentions assumed, Emphasis on learning, Home-school collaboration, Examples and evidence, Active listening, Respect for all and Dedication to follow-up.

Together, teachers, parents and students can create opportunities for success and improve student learning.

Weather 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 January 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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Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

No Digital for Toddlers Isn't Bad

Q. My 20-month-old son goes to a mom's day out program twice a week. Many of the moms volunteer a couple of times a month in the classroom. I've noticed that during free time some of the kids have iPads and seem to really enjoy various types of educational games and material on them. My son loves to play and touch the screen on my phone and computer. Could you recommend apps that are fun but also teach our kids?

A. If you search online for "free apps for toddlers," an abundance of choices of apps and games will come up. I do want to point out that The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a report that says that parents still need to "avoid digital media for toddlers younger than 18 to 24 months other than video chatting." Of course, they still limit screen time for all kids at different ages, but from age two to five, one hour a day of "high-quality programming" is recommended. The report gives tips and guidelines but also explains why there "continues to be evidence of harm from excessive digital media use." See <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/10/19/peds.2016-2591> for the full report. Read the recommendations and then base your decision on how much one on one time you currently give your son. He is at an age where everything is fun, regardless if it's digital or a book or you and him just playing together, etc. He will get into the electronic world soon enough. But for now, there's nothing that can substitute human interaction, talking, touching, laughing, listening and just letting him be a kid.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. 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*.

Lucy's Book Review

Eleven and Holding



Lucy Davis

Author: Mary Penny
 Macy is an eleven year old girl, and her birthday is fast-approaching. She swears to herself she won't celebrate without her dad. She doubts herself though, because whenever she asks when



he is going to come home, she is always given the same answer: he's working on an important project right now. He will make it home for her big day, right?

Meanwhile, other things aren't much better. Her beloved grandmother's café is now in the hands of a "thief", her mom is getting on her nerves, and a new neighbor's lost dog completes her troubles. But soon, her only mission is to bring her dad home, no matter what.

I give this book three bookworms, because while it was entertaining, I found it a bit slow.

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.

South Bay Hands On Art

We Are OFF to A Great ST-ART!

By Co-Chairs Gina Clancy & Erika Snow Robinson

Our first two workshops Green Man and American Impressionism were an amazing success with some beautiful creations. Green man taught us the colorful and inspirational landscape art by Hundertwasser. The students had fun incorporating a face in their scenic art.



The impressionistic art inspired by Willard Metcalf taught us some new techniques with acrylic paints and brush strokes. Come see some of our students incredible talent displayed at the district office by Birney Elementary.

We hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season, remember to visit our website for more information at www.southbayhandsonart.com

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Naomi's Book Review



Naomi

A Magical Box

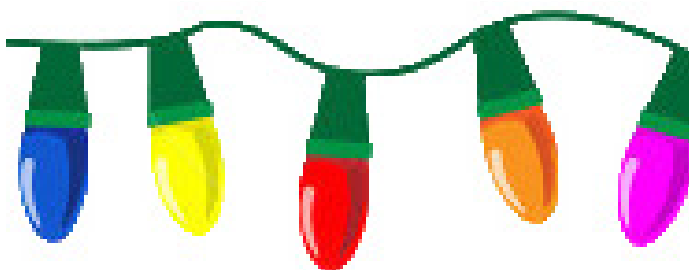
The Secret Kingdom by Rosie Banks, is a book full of mystery, suspense, adventure, thrills and excitement.



This book is about three girls called Jasmine, Ellie and Summer who found a magical box that gave them a riddle. That the girls couldn't solve. Therefore the box sent the three girls to another world where they saw fairies, kings, queens, and trolls. Where they also went through different stages in weather. After going through all that adventure the three girls solved the riddle. Then the box sent the three girls back home. Where they made sure to put the box in a safe place where no one could ever find it again.

I give this book 5 stars because it is interesting and has many different scenes that just make me want to keep reading it over and over again. This is why I recommend this book to everyone.

Naomi is a fourth grader that enjoys reading and writing. But aside from her joy of reading she loves to play the piano, drawing, coloring and be involved in any school event. She rates her book from 1-5 stars with 5 being the highest.



Happy Holiday!

Michael's Book Review

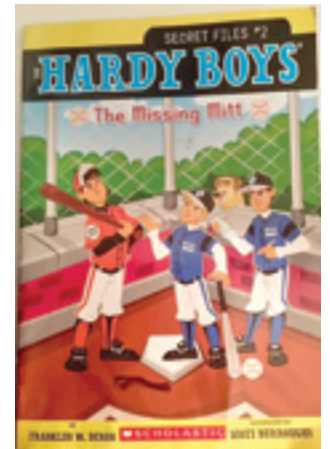


Michael H.

The Missing Mitt

This Hardy Boy case is about Joe and his brother Frank. They try to figure out who took Jason Prime's baseball mitt. Their team, the Bayport Bandits, were ready to win the final little league game of the season using their good luck charm. Jason's mitt was special because his dad, Winner Prime, had used it to win the world series. Right before each game the whole team would touch it for luck.

Jason thought it was Conner Hound from the opposing team, because he had seen him snooping around their bags while they were practicing. Jason was upset and did not want to play until the mitt was found. After some detective work they figured out what had happened to the missing baseball mitt. They remembered that earlier that day Mr. Mack's dog Lucy had jumped on Jason. Lucy loved to play fetch especially with things that people threw on the ground. You had to be very careful around her because anything thrown might end up buried somewhere. They decided to throw another mitt. Lucy immediately picked it up and began to run. Jason, Joe and Frank chased her. When Lucy stopped she dug a hole and there in the hole was Jason's mitt. The Hardy boys were very happy. Secret File Case #2 was solved.



I give this book 4 stars I really enjoyed the mystery. The only thing that would have made this book more exciting was if Lucy the dog wasn't the one who had taken Jason's mitt.

Michael H. is a 4th grade student. Besides his love for reading, he also enjoys Karate, playing guitar and sharing new adventures with his mom. He will rate the books 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the highest.

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\$20,001 – \$30,000	\$200	\$50,001 +	\$500
\$30,001 – \$40,000	\$300		



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