

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



Volume 12, Issue 111

December 2018



(Above) Walking School Bus, please see Tulita Elementary page 17.

(Below) RUHS Marching Band greets football team as they enter Sea Hawk Bowl, please see page 16.





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it begins with U

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# Let's Argue About College



**Dr. Steven Keller**  
*Superintendent*

Believe it or not, one of the most sensitive topics of late involves RBUSD's "going to college" culture and movement. I have had this conversation with parents, staff members, my senior staff team and especially with Mr. Brandt, our outstanding RUHS principal. Honestly, I've enjoyed the conversations—even the debates, at times.

Let me be more specific. I have been told by several people that they believe I'm "anti-community college." This is simply not an accurate statement. Please allow me to first summarize our RBUSD focus.

Dr. Annette Alpern, our elementary principals and I meet with incoming kindergarten parents at the annual Kindergarten Roundup, usually in January. At that time, I highlight that RBUSD focuses on having our students meet the minimum requirements for eligibility into a four-year college or university. These requirements are also known as A-G courses. I also highlight that now is a great time to begin saving for college, even before the child has entered our kindergarten program. That college bank account is a good symbol for the child about investing in continued education, and it is addressing the most difficult aspect of college for 95 percent of our parents—affordability. Finishing this thought: if as a parent, you believe that college—two-year or four-year—is not for your child, that is a family decision, and we support it. Team RBUSD is not going to "choose" who is going to college by sorting students along the way or limiting opportunities. This is known as institutional discrimination, and RBUSD will *not* have any part of that. Ultimately, going to college is a parent-child choice. Team RBUSD does not judge a family's decision; it is our duty to position your child for options, whether college or career.

With all this being said, one of the arguments people make about attending a community college is that it is more affordable and the return on investment (ROI) is more

manageable. We all are too aware of the growing national college loan debt—approximately \$1.5 trillion—but the ROI doesn't objectively highlight what a four-year college can provide beyond just moving away from home: a more global understanding of the world and a more informed and better educated citizenry. Yes, that's idealism to some extent. For those parents and students who are committed to a two-year option, may not be able to afford a four-college, or just do not wish to move away to attend a four-year school, I say, great. You considered it, RBUSD prepared you, you weighed your options, and you are choosing to attend an excellent community college, for example, El Camino. For a short period of time in high school, I considered attending El Camino. For a short period of time in my son's high school experience, we considered a community college. In the end, we chose a different path. I can ardently argue that for both Jaxon and me, our college experiences were priceless. In my own case, I attended a private liberal-arts college with zero financial support from my parents—I earned scholarships and grants and secured several loans. Even with my debt-ridden personal experience, it's my own personal experience and a decision that my older brother and I made. I personally saw plenty of my friends decide to attend El Camino even if they had SAT scores and grade-point averages superior to mine. And yet almost anyone reading this who went away to college and experienced the four years—maybe even five—in a completely different context will likely share what valuable lessons they learned that have helped them become better people, citizens, employees and even parents.

My point is this: ROI should not be the only driving force involved in selecting a community college. The experience that comes from living on campus, meeting people from other states and countries, doing your own laundry, and a host of other examples hold a value—a form of ROI—that is beyond dollars and cents. RBUSD will keep all opportunities for all students wide open—because of this preparation, the choice is yours.

**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • (310) 379-5449 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

## Board of Education Meeting Dates

**2018**

**December 11\***

**2019**

**January 22 \***

**February 26**

**March 26**

**May 14**

**June 11**

**February 12**

**March 12**

**April 23\*\***

**May 28**

**June 25**

**\*Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in December, and April.  
(4/23/2019 – Organizational Meeting)**

# Board of Education



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## Blowing Smoke: What Parents Need to Know About Vaping



**Michael R.  
Christensen**  
*Member  
Board of  
Education*

**Our kids are under vicious attack by the E-Cigarette (vaping) industry, a.k.a. “Big Tobacco.”**

A few weeks ago I attended a Families Connected Speaker Series event at the Redondo Union High School auditorium called “Blowing Smoke: What Parents Need to Know About Vaping.” This program was sponsored by Southbay Families Connected along with the Beach Cities Health District and was attended by leaders and parents from not only Redondo Beach Unified School District but also our neighbors from the Hermosa Beach City School District and the Manhattan Beach Unified School District...all of whom care deeply for the health and well-being of our kids. We heard from healthcare professionals, administrators, and past and present students who gave us valuable information and perspective on this mushrooming health threat.

Wow, was I blown away! Our kids are under vicious attack by the E-Cigarette (vaping) industry, a.k.a. “Big Tobacco.” Here are some things I learned.

- Vaping is an epidemic! In 2011 about 2% of high school aged teens used E-Cigarettes. In 2015 that figure jumped to 16%. In 2018 over 38% of high-schoolers have vaped (along with 13% of middle-schoolers).
- It’s illegal for minors to buy vaping devices and the flavored nicotine-infused liquid they vaporize (E-Juice); however, they have no problem buying these products on-line or from friends.
- E-Cigarettes are unregulated nicotine delivery systems. One “charge” or “pod” of E-Juice typically contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

- Nicotine is one of the most addictive substances on the planet. It alters brain chemistry and poses special dangers to the adolescent brain resulting in overblown emotions, immature behavior, and is associated with development of a list of mental conditions (according to the U.S. Surgeon General).
- Marketers say don’t worry, vaping can be nicotine-free. The facts speak otherwise...99% of E-Cigs sold in U.S. stores in 2015 contained nicotine. The vaping industry is very good at concealing this fact as researchers have found that 63% of vaping teens are not aware they are ingesting nicotine.
- E-Juices contain over 8,000 different flavoring chemicals, many of which are cancer-causing, and most of which have unknown effects on the human body.
- There is absolutely no question that the vaping industry is marketing and advertising directly to youth, hoping the make them customers for life. With E-Juice flavors like cotton candy, cupcakes, tutti frutti, and pebbles donuts, who do you think they are targeting?
- The vaping market is growing exponentially. It’s presently exceeding \$8 billion and is expected to grow to over \$15 billion annually. Big Tobacco has their sights set on this profit at the expense of our kid’s health.
- Marketers have even developed lines of clothing designed to conceal vaping devices, allowing kids to vape almost anywhere undetected, including school.

Thanks to the Southbay Families Connected, Beach Cities Health District, our neighboring school districts, and all the presenters for sponsoring and participating in such an enlightening program. The RBUSD Board of Education, Superintendent, Cabinet, and Staff will do all we can to reverse the growth of this unhealthy behavior and hope you as parents will become informed and do the same.



**Ali Steward, MPH**  
Director  
Youth Services

## A Time for Presence, Not Just Presents

We interrupt the frenetic flurry of the holiday season and ask you to give a gift to yourself: five interrupted minutes of calm. Maybe it's deep breathing or meditation. Or personal reflection or a check-in.

Being mindful – or as conscious as possible of your surroundings – can boost productivity, curb anxiety and even improve relationships.

If your first thought is “I have absolutely no time for that!” then it's probably likely that you struggle to fall asleep because your mind is racing faster than the Polar Express with your to-do list of ‘I need to buy that person a present’ and ‘did I get enough stamps for the holiday cards’ and ‘what time do we need to be at the airport’ and poof! Just like that, it's 3 a.m. and you're staring at the clock (not at your phone, because of course you've put it to bed hours ago, away from your actually sleeping bed, so as not to distract yourself from sleep).

Whatever your reason for the season, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle. I know I've been guilty of stressing about gifts: either on the giving or receiving

end. Will they like it? Is it the right size? Where am I going to put this thing? This is not my color.

What if you challenged yourself and your family to make this holiday season more about presence than presents?

Instead of spending time scurrying around (or scrolling around) for the perfect gifts, why not spend a little more time with that friend or loved one? The only storage space you'll need to find is in your memory bank, not in that exploding toy bin.

Ask your family about their favorite gift they received last year, or their favorite holiday memory. Mine: a full-size pretend kitchen set, delivered by Santa, circa 1988, that included pots and pans to make miniature cakes in the real oven. Of course, I loved that heap of plastic, but I especially enjoyed the hours spent in the kitchen alongside my mom, measuring ingredients, mixing batter and learning how to carefully open the oven door to examine my pint-sized treats. I'd say the experience was what made that gift memorable, which lasted long after the excitement of the season wore off.

It's a busy time of year. Give yourself and everyone around you a present. Look up. Give presence.

For more tips to be mindful, go to [bchd.org](http://bchd.org).



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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

Covering the

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As we go to print with this issue, our thoughts and prayers are with the

many families who have lost their homes in the fires throughout the state from Southern to Northern CA. Our communities are always generous helping those less fortunate and during the holidays giving is always greater. Please remember there will be more people in need this year far beyond the holiday season.

This issue is full of valuable information and please spend some extra time reading and sharing the article on page 4 by Michael Christensen, Board of Education member, on the subject of Vaping.

I wish all of you Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Our next issue is February 6, 2019.

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# Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



**Hanh Archer**  
President

## Record-Breaking Year for RBEF

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation would like to thank all of our investors and business partners. 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.

To date, our Investor Drive has brought in over \$620,000. This has been our most successful annual appeal. We are truly grateful for the generous support RBEF receives every year.

If you haven't invested yet, make sure that you make your tax-deductible contribution before 2018 is over at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org). RBEF accepts stock donations! If you have appreciated stock, or bonds or mutual funds, that you've held for many years, consider donating that instead of cash.

RBEF and RBUSD families also participated in the October 28th Skechers Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk. RBEF had more than 3,030 registrations. That number is up from 2,482, walkers last year. Congratulations to Alta Vista, Tulita and Lincoln who reached their internal goals.



Finally, our 3rd Annual Mayors' Cup Golf Tournament was held on November 5th. All net proceeds go to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. It was a great partnership with City Leadership, and the event was a sell-out.

RBEF is accepting applications for collaborative teacher grants in the range of \$3,000 - \$5,000 at all grade-levels. Applications are due by November 16, 2018, and winners will be notified by December 21, 2018. A total of \$60,000 will be awarded to the winning grant applications that create innovative college-going experiences for RBUSD students.

We are hard at work planning our 2019 Spring Gala. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the Portofino Ballroom, overlooking the harbor.

It's a team effort and we thank everyone for their investment in our kids, our community and our legacy. Happy Holidays from all of us at RBEF!



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Photo courtesy of Class of 2016 - Unity Bell project gifted to RUHS

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# Redondo Beach Council PTA

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



**Patricia  
Harris DiLeva**  
*President*

## Reflection: Our Artistic Side

Every spring when I attend the California State PTA Convention, I am consistently blown away by the level of artistry showcased at the event by the California State Reflections winners. These state winners are given the opportunity to perform and present their body of work to

an appreciative audience of PTA parents and administrators prior to advancing to the next level of competition, which is National PTA.

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts-recognition and -achievement program for students. The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a preselected theme while increasing community awareness of the importance of the arts in education. The six arts categories are literature, music composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography and film production.

The Reflections Program was established in 1969 by National PTA board member Mary Lou Anderson.



**Reflections Winner, Chloe,  
with 33rd District PTA Representatives  
Michael Morgan and Martha Deutsch.**

Since that time, more than 10 million students have participated in the program. The program's longevity and participation figures attest to its strength. The excitement and enthusiasm that the program generates for children, parents, schools and communities is unmatched.

Participation and appreciation for the arts is the Reflections Program's goal. Although the program follows a "contest" format, winning isn't the emphasis. Participation is a great way

for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical-thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme.

So, if you're at a school site and Reflections submissions are on display, please take a few minutes to appreciate and enjoy the artistry and effort of our students here in Redondo Beach.

## RBUSD Child Development

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



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
*Director*

## CDC Has Leaders in Training

*By Elias Naser and Connie Battle,  
School-Age CDC Teachers*

At Lincoln CDC, our school-age teachers have implemented a peer-mentoring program that we call "The Leaders and Readers initiative." It was created with the intention of building strong social and academic growth, leadership skills, and lasting friendships among the children in grades two to five.

This endeavor will focus on enhancing our students' verbal and written literacy skills throughout the academic year. Mrs. Battle, Mr. Naser, and Ms. L. Williams, our CDC second- through fifth-grade teachers, will be teaming up with their students on a one-to-one basis. Mentor students from the fifth grade will also be helping the other students gain confidence in their homework and reading skills.

We pair at least three students between the classrooms on every Wednesday, changing the participants weekly so that each student will have an opportunity to mentor. This is a great opportunity to help grow our future mentors and leaders of tomorrow.





## Keeping Kids Safe This Holiday Season



**Aileen Imai**

*Injury Prevention Coordinators,  
Injury Prevention Program,  
MemorialCare Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital Long Beach*



**Danny Luna**

The holiday season is an exciting time. Unfortunately, it's also one of the busiest times of the year for emergency departments. There are steps families can take to protect their kids from common holiday dangers.

### **Choose the Right Toys for the Right Ages**

Choking on toys or ingesting something they shouldn't brings a lot of kids to the hospital during the holidays.

When choosing a gift for a child, it's important to know that it's appropriate for the child's age, has a secure battery hatch if batteries are required, and contains no small or moving parts that could be swallowed accidentally.

Even if the toy is safe for an older child, a toddler can swallow a part that's been left lying about. Older siblings should be taught that potentially dangerous items be kept out of reach of their younger siblings.

### **Decorate Safely**

Brightly colored decorations and live Christmas trees are big parts of holiday celebrations, but even they pose potential dangers to children.

Christmas trees cause many fires each year, so it's important that they are purchased fresh and are watered every day. In addition, parents should use lights designed for the proper outdoor and indoor use. Surge protectors and lighting cords should be unplugged completely at the end of the day, not just switched off.

### **Injury Prevention Experts**

The Injury Prevention Program at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach cares about keeping kids safe – not just during the holidays, but all year long. Learn more at [MillerChildrens.org/InjuryPrevention](http://MillerChildrens.org/InjuryPrevention).



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# RBUSD Alternative Education

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**Anthony Bridi**  
Principal

## Reflection and Expression

By *Unique Campa, Patricia Dreizler*  
Continuation School Art Teacher

Patricia Dreizler

Continuation High School art students are challenged with creating works of art that carry deeper meanings, at a high caliber that they sometimes believe is out of

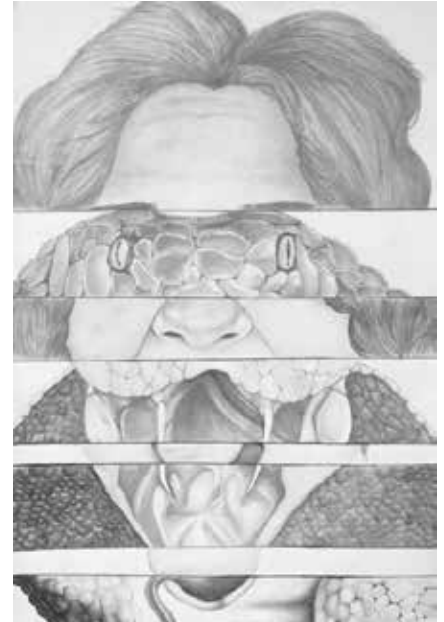
reach for them. Yet every single student who accepts this challenge is rewarded with a personal sense of accomplishment when he or she produces aesthetically pleasing and personally reflective art.

The art curriculum is constantly changing to meet the needs of students at Shores and pushes them to explore areas of art criticism, theories of aesthetics, formal art criticism, and a variety of production methods and mediums. This year started off with a new project that sought to reflect the artists' personal strengths. Students used information from StrengthsFinder, Myers Briggs and Enneagram tests to select

an animal that represented their strengths, personality and character traits. These pieces are 12-inch-by-18-inch graphite drawings titled "Animal Splice—Who Am I?"



**Artist Stella Hawley – Gorilla Biscuit**



**Artist Max Biggs**  
**Animal Splice Portrait, Snake**



## Free College Classes for South Bay High School Graduates!

Enrollment fees for the first year will be paid for full-time students who are enrolled in the El Camino College **SOUTH BAY PROMISE**.

To be eligible, in-district high school students must complete the Steps to Enrollment and complete a South Bay Promise form by **April 30, 2019**.

**SOUTH BAY PROMISE** students receive priority registration, access to in-demand English and math courses, and additional support to connect with student success programs and services.



**El Camino College**

For more information, go online:  
[www.elcamino.edu/southbaypromise](http://www.elcamino.edu/southbaypromise)

# South Bay Adult School

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



**Dr. Anthony Taranto**  
Director

## Career Pathways

As members of the South Bay Adult Education Consortium (SBAEC), the South Bay Adult School (SBAS) and El Camino College (ECC) work closely together to create pathways for adult education learners so that they can successfully transition from adult school

to post-secondary learning.

Recently, SBAS and ECC partnered together to provide students enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), and Adult Secondary Education (ASE) with a Career Pathways Workshop that focuses on careers in high-demand fields. Career Pathways provides post-secondary education and training organized in a series of manageable steps, with multiple entry and exit points leading to successively higher credentials and employment opportunities in growing occupations.

During our Career Pathways Workshop at SBAS, students learned about the following classes and training opportunities:



**Students in the Construction and Machine Tool Technology Career Pathways Program.**

The MTT program prepares students for employment in machine shops, tool rooms, and instrument and experimental laboratories, and provides upgrade opportunities for employed industrial personnel. In the Construction Technology program, students acquire proficiency in basic residential construction techniques and in analyzing, evaluating, and providing solutions for a variety of job site situations while completing the degree or certificate requirements.

In the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Health Careers, students study through lecture, role play, simulations, field work, and hands-on practical training to gain the basic skills they need for the assessment, rescue, immediate treatment, and the transport of the urgently ill or injured person.

The Early Childhood Education program emphasizes the interaction between the maturational processes and environmental factors relating to physical, cognitive, and psychosocial growth.

If you are interested in these Career Pathways, please plan on attending an application workshop on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, here at SBAS from 9 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Room No. 7.

**GERALD VILLALIZ PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN**

**PROMOTIONAL & EVENT PHOTOGRAPHY**

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## Contest!

This student is in this issue. When you find her, email the **page number** to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put RBUSD in the subject line.



Your entry must be received January 15, 2019. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a GAZUMP card/dice game.

**southbayadultschool**

Classes for lifelong learning!

## Lifelong learning begins with you!

Are you interested in teaching? Do you have a special talent or skill you would like to share with the community?

South Bay Adult School is always looking for new and interesting classes for our Community Education program.

For information on how to submit a New Course Proposal please visit [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org) and click on About Us/Teaching Opportunities or email Cindy at [ckrick@southbayadult.org](mailto:ckrick@southbayadult.org).

**www.southbayadult.org**

## Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



**Lisa Veal**  
Principal

### Realizing Greatness through AVID

At Adams, we strive to ensure that our students are equipped with the skills and study habits they need to succeed in their classes and across all content

areas in order to realize their personal greatness. The AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program plays a key role in helping us achieve this goal.

AVID is a college-readiness program whose mission it is to close the achievement gap and prepare each student for college and success in a global society. AVID is based on the premise that teachers are facilitators of learning. It encourages educators to create environments that are inquiry-based and student-centered rather than teacher-focused.

AVID utilizes WICOR (Writing to Learn, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to Learn), a support structure that incorporates teaching and learning methodologies in the five key areas. Through WICOR



**Eighth grade AVID students participate in an AVID tutorial session**

strategies, our students are able to comprehend concepts and articulate ideas in increasingly complex ways and within all educational settings. There is a strong emphasis on critical thinking, writing, collaboration/ teamwork, and organization.

Adams offers AVID as a quarter-long sixth-grade course as an introduction to the program's strategies and methodologies. Students in this class

learn to take focused notes, set up and maintain organized binders, and strengthen their writing and reading abilities. These skills are further developed over the course of the year by AVID-trained content area teachers.

We also offer the AVID class as a year-long course in grades six to eight. In addition to the aforementioned skills, students in these classes engage in strategies such as philosophical chairs, Socratic seminars, and tutorials with college tutors to help deepen conceptual knowledge and strengthen communication skills.

Don't worry if your child is not in an AVID class. Fortunately, our Adams teachers are AVID trained, and they participate in ongoing professional development to help each and every child realize their greatness!

## Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



**Susan Wildes**  
Principal

### Walking for Greatness

Every October, Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and Alta Vista Elementary are energetic participants in the Pier to Pier Friendship Walk, sponsored by a shoe corporation. This unique event brings together foundations and community members from around the South Bay to not only raise funds for local schools but also to support the

Friendship Foundation that actively supports students with special needs. Their mission is near and



**Principal Wildes celebrates a kindergartener's first Friendship Walk**

dear to Alta Vista Elementary, and over the last six years, our school has continued to break records for the number of walkers on Team Alta Vista.

2018 is no exception, with Alta Vista realizing a team of more than 730 walkers in support of the Friendship Foundation and RBEF. The generosity of our families and friends, as evidenced in yearly increases in team members, demonstrates our community's dedication to students, schools, compassion and the power of friendships.



**Celebrating a family outing at the Friendship Walk.**

## Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

### Putting the “Fun” in Fundraiser

At Beryl, we challenge our students academically and physically. Entering our fifth year and replacing our Jog-a-thon with a wild and fun obstacle course event, this year’s “Race to the Finish Superhero Style” will take place on Friday, December 7th. It is one of the PTA’s biggest fundraisers!

This event showcases a boot camp obstacle, Xtreme rush obstacle, a fun zone with football, soccer, and basketball, a dual zip-slide, pony races, and a hamster smash ball for selected staff and students to race and compete in. Without this event many of our other events would not happen!



**Pony Races at Beryl**

The Beach Cities Health District and our Beryl families donate water, bagels, bananas, and oranges to help rejuvenate our students after 30 minutes of running the course. Our staff members also participate in several of the obstacles, and challenge the students to do their best when moving through the course. Beryl parents also come and supervise each obstacle and encourage the students to climb, jump, and slide as they explore the challenge.

Our Beryl students are learning how lifelong fitness and physical activity can be challenging and yet rewarding. At the end of the day they have completed their goal of participating and enjoying good physical fitness.



**Hamster Ball Teachers Race**

## Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mira Baskaron**  
*Principal*

### Art and Music Make Us Smile

Having a well-articulated arts program for all students is a significant part of the RBUSD’s commitment to whole-child development. Birney students have a variety of opportunities to increase their knowledge and develop skills in all areas of arts education.

Starting in kindergarten, our students receive ongoing art instruction in a classroom setting by participating in Hands-On Art.



**Ms. Zoetewey and Mr. Buchen teaching music to students during 5th grade band.**

In-class instruction continues in all classrooms through the fifth grade, and is led by parent docents. Our PTA leads the Hands-On Art program.

Thanks goes to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation.

They provide all students in grades one to four with a district-wide 18-week-long vocal music program, while the fifth-graders have the option to participate in beginning band, which runs all year.

There is no question that arts education is valued at Birney. The strength of the programs that we provide to our students is a credit to the combined commitment that our teachers, parent volunteers, PTA, and Educational Foundation have made to enrich the lives of our children.

## Jefferson *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

### Are you the same person on the internet?

Educating students on being good 'cyber citizens' has become a core part of our technology instruction program at Jefferson. The guidelines and practices of appropriate digital communication are not only beneficial for students, but adults as well. In the fall, our teachers lead specific lessons on Digital Citizenship. Additionally, throughout the year, students engage in activities and lessons that have them consider who, how and what they post, send or e-mail. To this end, the following "Top 10 List" has been created:



**Jefferson students pose with the "Top 10 Things to Think About Before You Post, Send, or Email."**

### Top 10 Things to Think About Before You Post, Send or E-mail

1. Remember the golden rule
  2. Don't brag
  3. Avoid TMI
  4. Think about the reader
  5. Keep relationship details to yourself
  6. Don't be cryptic
  7. Quit complaining
  8. Curate your photos
  9. Change your settings
  10. Post smart
- With these helpful considerations in mind, we hope that all members of our community, children and adults alike, will do their part to be responsible digital citizens.

## Lincoln *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Jason Johnson**  
*Principal*

### Our Safety is More than a Saying

Last year, as a new principal, I was often asked what my priorities were. For those who have asked, they would know what my first is: safety.

Safety as a No.1 priority is not a cliché saying. It weighs heavily on educators. My first job is making sure that we return your children safely every day. So, to go beyond the words, let's inventory where we have made safety a priority.

We have established a staff safety team. This team meets each trimester in order to review our safety plan, make recommendations, and follow through with action. For example, we have increased our drill practice this year, doubling the disaster, intruder, and lockdown drills. Success with safety requires routine drill practice, not singular drill performance. We have also restocked and modernized our safety equipment.

Thank you PTA for purchasing five-year food and water storage. Thank you RBPD (and the Los Angeles Kings) for purchasing Trauma Kits and providing our staff with the training to use them. We have also invested in safety communication, repairing our intercom system and purchasing hardware such as high-power bullhorns and more walkie-talkies.

We have also updated our safety procedures. We have spent the past year rewriting our safety plan in order to simplify and clarify. For example, we had an alternative evacuation plan to Anderson Park, yet there was no specific location within the park. Now it is located north of the parking lot on the open grass field. We have also established daily procedures to protect our students. Perimeter checks are conducted each morning to ensure that our gates are secured and locked. Access to campus requires check-in through a Megan's Law verification system.

We have also invested in Social-Emotional Learning. Safety begins with investing in our students' well-being. This year our school team has created a Social-Emotional Learning Committee re-prioritizing our students' emotional health. Every two weeks our teachers provide instruction about mindfulness through our MindUp curriculum. We have also developed a strategic plan in order to guide our efforts. For example, we are attempting to align assemblies with social-emotional priorities. Thank you, PTA.

Finally, we are working to connect our families with resources, including the provision of on-site counseling provided by the South Bay Children's Family Health Center. Through these combined efforts we hope to demonstrate that our first priority is more than just a saying.

## Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



**Drew Gamet**  
Principal

### Homework Moves Forward

When I was young, I was fortunate enough to have parents that always checked to make sure that I was completing my homework. Regardless of the topic, my parents wanted to make sure that everything was done, that every question was answered correctly, and that every piece of written work was as good as it needed to be for a final draft.

There was no way that I was going to get away with turning in work that didn't demonstrate absolute perfection. My parents did this because they loved me and they wanted me to produce work that was of the highest quality. Thanks, Mom and Dad!

That was over 35 years ago, and for where we were then in our understanding of teaching and learning, that was fine. However, now homework provides teachers with valuable information about a student's individual progress. Whether it is with written homework like a math sheet, a written essay, or homework that is done on one of our digital platforms such as TenMarks and Reading Eggs, it all provides your children's teacher and educational support staff with critical data on how they learn, what they have

learned and what additional instruction they may need to achieve mastery on a given academic standard.

Once a teacher receives the data from either written homework or a data report from a program, his or her grade-level team sits down together and analyzes how their students are learning. They look for deficits and strengths and determine what additional supports students may need or if they know the content and need to be pushed toward deeper levels of understanding. When teachers look at work that parents have helped their children with, assumptions are made that the student has achieved mastery and that they can move on to instruct students on new standards. This creates extreme difficulty for any student when he or she has failed to master the previous content as the class moves on to new material.

So, how should you help your children? Make sure they have a regular time and place to do homework. Let them struggle with the work that they do, which will teach them resilience. If they reach a point where struggle turns into frustration, have them stop. Then, let the teacher know. This will allow your children's teachers to better plan for your children's need and academic success.

## Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



**Jonathan Erickson**  
Principal

### Día de los Muertos

By Mr. Erickson, Principal  
and Mrs. Moreno, Teacher – Spanish

Students in Ms. Moreno's Spanish classes did a lot to celebrate Día de los Muertos at Parras Middle School this year! The *ofrenda* project gave students a chance to experience, in a very personal way, a lovely Mexican custom for remembering friends or family members who are no longer with us.

The custom of making *ofrendas* is a creative process that incorporates many different traditional art forms. In this project, each student in Spanish 1 created a mini-*ofrenda*, a cultural product of Mexico, honoring the life and history of a person or pet who is no longer with us.

*Calacas* are a form of art done in the shape of a skeleton. In Mexico, this popular art form is used year round, but especially for Day of the Dead. A *calaca* can be made to honor a friend or to poke fun at a person in power. Political cartoons often use *calacas* to represent those in charge. Spanish 2 students each chose a famous Spanish speaker to honor with their art. They chose living celebrities and people who had passed on. This art form demonstrates the lighter side of Día de

los Muertos and reminds us that no matter how rich or how famous a person might be, underneath, he or she is just a collection of bones, no different than any of us.

For the last week in October, the Parras library was converted to a museum-like space to display all of the *ofrendas* and *calacas* that the student created. Great job, Parras students and Ms. Moreno!



**Saamant, Mrs. Moreno, Melinda, and Leila pose with the amazing art they created for the Día de los Muertos project and celebration.**

# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Jens Brandt**  
Principal

## Student Masterpieces and Performances

Art shows, festival awards and solo nights are just some of the amazing experiences that the RUHS Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) pathways have to offer.

The Fine Arts Pathway teaches professional drawing and design technique,

and allows students to display their work in the school's entrance and at community galleries.

Students also thrive in the Performing Arts Pathway with acting, singing and playing in an ensemble. This fall, our first production of the year was *Little Shop of Horrors*. It was a sold-out run in the newly remodeled Blackbox and featured 100 percent student-created designs and a small intimate cast and setting.

Our choir, drum line, jazz band, wind ensemble, marching and pep band perform to audiences around the state. Student performances and gallery displays do more than assess skill; they prepare our students for careers in the arts.



**RUHS Theatre Arts cast and crew for Little Shop of Horrors.**

## CAMPING—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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put **RBUSD** in the subject line.

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| MAP      | FOOD       |
| BOOTS    | SNACK      |
| JACKETS  | BEDROLL    |
| COMPASS  | MATCHES    |
| GPS      | FLASHLIGHT |
| BACKPACK | FLARES     |
| THERMOS  | CELLPHONE  |
| KNIFE    | CAMERA     |
| TENT     | BUGSPRAY   |
| BLANKET  | COT        |
| WATER    |            |

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2019**  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!



**Congratulations to Connor B.**

**Winner of our October Word Search Contest!**



## Tulita Elementary (K-5)

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



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna**  
Principal

### Sidewalks and Steps!

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning you will see students from Tulita gathering at four different starting points in the south Redondo Beach neighborhoods, walking to school. Studies indicate that fewer children are walking and biking to school and that more children are at risk of becoming overweight. Encouraging changing behaviors of children and parents was the catalyst for beginning the Tulita Walking School Bus.

A walking school bus is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults. Sounds simple, right? It is! With the help of the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) and an amazing lead parent coordinator, Rachel Lonsdale, Tulita students have four designated Walking School Bus routes where trained volunteers meet our students and help walk them to school. Each year, our walking school bus has been steadily growing to the point where Tulita School has the largest Walking School Bus in Redondo Beach.

This year, the Walking School Bus kicked off with our annual International Walk to School Day in October. Our kickoff event was a huge success, and Tulita was honored

to have several key stakeholders from RBUSD, BCHD and even the Redondo Beach Police Department walking with us. Because of programs like Walking School Bus, RBUSD has been nationally recognized for the plummeting obesity rates among our students, and Tulita is proud to be a part of this movement.



**Tulita's successful Walking School Bus on International Walk to School Day.**

## Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



**Andrea Bittick**  
Principal

### Dads of Great Students

By Andrew Estrada, Assistant Principal

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is back once again at Washington! This innovative program calls on all dads, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures to volunteer at least one day on our campus. While on campus, our dads will demonstrate positive male role modeling for our students.

A typical Watch D.O.G.S.' day includes being a valet during morning drop-off, getting their blood flowing during morning exercises, supporting their student's teacher in the classroom, playing handball with students at recess, reading to students during library time, and ensuring student safety by being an extra set of eyes at school.

Research has shown that when fathers are engaged in their student's life there is a reduction in crime, health issues (such as obesity), and poverty. There are currently over 25 million children across the nation who are affected by fatherlessness. This includes emotional fatherless, where the father lives in the home but is not actively engaged in their child's life.

As a dad with two young sons, I understand the difficult balance of being an engaged father while also meeting

the demands of work. Watch D.O.G.S. is a structured and rewarding opportunity for fathers and father-figures to demonstrate their dedication to their children's education.

Earlier this fall our dads brought their students to the annual Pizza with Pops Night to learn more about the program and commit to their day (or two) of service at Washington. This annual dinner is not only a reminder of why Washington is a special community, but also how we continue to reach for greatness.



**Pizza with Pops Night at Washington.**

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## Lucy's Book Review

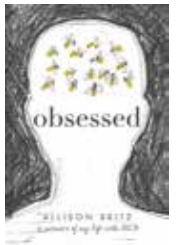


**Lucy Davis**

### Intense

*Obsessed* by Allison Britz

After a cancer-related nightmare, sophomore Allison prepares for another day: pass class and run track. Her brain, though, is traumatized. Suddenly everyday sights are dangerous - threatening to enlarge the tumor that may or may not be in her brain. Blue pens. Sidewalk cracks. The color green. Allison develops rituals. Everywhere she goes, there is a safe number of steps. Her Protector keeps her safe from cancer, and she does as he says. Soon, Allison's grades drop. She pushes away her friends, and fights with her family. She is alone - until she finds the pamphlet in her doctor's office titled OCD. From that point on, it is all about the uphill climb.



Allison Britz's memoir is raw, honest, and touching. A glimpse at the struggle of mental illness, she explains her journey with OCD and her ascent from the dark room that is obsessive-compulsive disorder. Five out of five bookworms.

Lucy is a 7th grade student. When she isn't immersed in a book, she loves musical theater, ballet, and singing. She enjoys stretching her imagination by writing short stories of her own. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.

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# South Bay Hands On Art

## Brushing Up on Perspectives

By Co-Chairs Sandi Arthur and Karen Ford Cull

Pencils in hand, Hands on Art docents from all schools participated in a first-ever optional skill-building workshop recently. Docents tried various drawing exercises, brushing up on perspective and even turning an image upside down before drawing a copy of it. "Turning it upside down helps us to see the actual lines in an image, separate from the lines and shapes we think we know," said art educator Lee-Jean Lin. (For example, we know that a table top is a rectangle, but viewed from different angles, the shape changes significantly.)



This workshop aims to give docents more confidence and put more "tools in their toolkit" that they can incorporate into their lessons with children.

**BOYS** 20
19 **GIRLS**

# TRYOUTS

**Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> | 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Toyota Sports Complex**

<b>2012 &amp; 2011s</b>	<b>2010-2008s</b>
<b>4:30-6:00PM</b>	<b>6:00-7:30PM</b>

**Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Miraleste Intermediate School**

<b>2012 &amp; 2011s</b>	<b>2010-2008s</b>
<b>4:30-6:15PM</b>	<b>6:15-7:30PM</b>

**GIRLS**

Mon 1/28 | Wed 1/30

**BOYS**

Wed 2/13 | Wed 2/20

**Toyota Sports Complex**

<b>2007s</b>	<b>2006s</b>	<b>2005s</b>
<b>4:30-6:00PM</b>	<b>6:00-7:30PM</b>	<b>7:30-9:00PM</b>

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