

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*



**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**

**VOLUME 8, ISSUE 67**

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

**FEBRUARY 2014**

## SUPERINTENDENT



**Dr. Steven Keller**

Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) believes in and practices environmental integrity, as is highlighted in each of our school site's solar shade structures currently under construction. Thanks to the community's support of Measure Q, at each school site you will see solar shade structures that both minimize our carbon footprint while also saving our financial bottom-line. These structures will be completed prior to the start of summer (2014). RBUSD's focus on environmental integrity is modeled not only in our solar pursuit, but also by many smaller, although significant, contributions. We hope to teach real stewardship of self and planet, leading by example.

See **SUPERINTENDENT** • Page 15

## Caring Counselors



**Rachel Andrews and C.J. Conrad are counselors at Parras Middle School who work with the school's students and families to make sure their social and emotional needs are met.**

*By Dr. Lars Nygren, Principal  
Parras Middle School*

**February 4–8 is National School Counseling Week, a time when we celebrate the unique contribution of professional school counselors within our U.S. school systems.**

At Parras, we are thrilled to have a counseling department that has a tremendous impact on the success of its students. Our counselors follow the ASCA National Model, and focus on three main domains: academic, college and career planning, and social and emotional concerns.

In order to meet the needs of students in these three areas, our counselors work with students individually, in small groups, in the classroom, and in collaboration with teachers, support staff and parents.

See **PARRAS MIDDLE SCHOOL** • Page 9

## BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Brad Waller**  
Member

In today's modern world, change is a constant. When I was in school, there was "new math" and the passage of Proposition 13 and everything that came after that. Today the big changes are Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

I heard just about every teacher talk about Common Core when I toured campuses for back to School Night, and CCSS is one of the more popular questions I get asked about. The background behind CCSS goes back many years, with its origin coming from the National Governors association. Specific standards were developed over the last few years for mathematics and English language arts and forty-five states have adopted them, California included.

The idea behind these standards is to create a uniform standard for what all students across the country in each grade level are expected to learn. My daughter had a friend

who moved to Virginia. I had a chance to talk to her about what it was like in her new school. She thought that she was behind in some areas, and ahead in others. This illustrates one problem that CCSS is attempting to remedy. When students move between schools they should have all covered the same material and be able to continue their education without having to catch up or get bored in the new class.

There is far more to Common Core than this one issue, and both the California State PTA and our school district have created useful Web pages for your reference that you should visit for more information and resources. The RBUSD page (<http://www.rbUSD.org/CCSS>) includes the grade level specific "road maps," links to general Common Core resources, and California specific FAQs and resources. The State PTA page (<http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>) includes information and links aimed to help parents understand the changes and learn how to help their children succeed with the new curriculum.

## Mock Trials Competition



**A RUHS student artist competes in the Mock Trials sketch competition. (please see page 10)**

**Inside:** Schools pages 7–10 • RB Educational Foundation page 2 • Miller Children's Hosp. page 3 • BCHD–Blue Zones Project page 4 • RBUSD Alt. Ed. page 4  
RBUSD Education Svcs. page 4 • South Bay Adult page 5 • RBUSD Child Dev. page 6 • Beach Cities Health Dist. page 11 • RB Council PTA page 15 • AHA pages 11–14

## Show us Some Love



**Ted Craddock**  
President

Many individuals, corporations, and charitable organizations share our love for education and the students of Redondo Beach. Thanks to the generous support of RBEF donors, all of the following programs are well under way:

- **College-going culture programs** including teacher grants, college visits, college preparation exams, and parent education
- **Family science nights** to promote science, inquiry, and family involvement at elementary and middle schools
- **Intermural sports** to promote physical health, school involvement, and athletics at the middle schools
- **Vocal music enrichment programs** to promote school involvement through the performing arts at the middle schools
- **Credentialed science teachers** to provide weekly lab experiences for all 4th and 5th graders
- **Music Center Artists in Residency Program** to provide every 1st and 2nd grader with enriching performing arts experiences led by professional artists
- **Arts Education Field Trips** to LACMA
- **Peaceful Playgrounds Program** to promote positive experiences and peer interaction on elementary school playgrounds
- Supplemented other grants and district funds for **Credentialed music teachers** to provide high quality, vocal and instrumental music education for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders
- Supplemented other grants and district funds for **Elementary Counselors** who provide instruction and counseling to promote academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being

As this year's programs continue to enrich the education of Redondo Beach students, it comes time to raise funds to ensure these and other critical educational programs and opportunities continue. Please help us Raise the Tide in this year's Donor Drive. Drop off a check at any school office or donate online at [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org).



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This is our 8th Anniversary publishing the excellence from the RBUSD and it has been a privilege and pleasure. With Dr. Keller at the helm the news is always positive and contagious. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices. And thank you for supporting our advertisers who make it possible for us to publish.

RBUSD readers love contests! You'll find the winners of the three contests from December on page 12 on the Good Dental Health Word Search Contest for this issue.

Happy Valentines Day. Our next issue is March 26. It is hard to believe Spring is right around the corner.

## School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

**Covering the  
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop  
562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Fax: 562/430-8063

**ADVERTISING SALES:**  
Valerie Reid • 310/874-2716  
[valerie@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:valerie@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Meshel Negrete

**COPY EDITORS:**  
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia  
**CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:**  
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



You can now launch our Web APP to your SmartPhone from our web site

**SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC**  
P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740  
562/493-3193

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)  
Copyright © 2006, School News Roll Call, LLC  
Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited unless otherwise stated. Opinions expressed by contributing writers and guest columnists are their views and not necessarily those of *School News Roll Call*. This publication is privately owned and the right is reserved to select and edit content. The school district does not endorse the advertisers in this publication.



**UCLA** Extension

explore.  
experience.  
expand.

## Become a Parent Educator

### Motivate Parents to Get Involved

Our **Parent Education & Training Certificate**—*offered entirely online*—prepares you to motivate parents to get involved in your school's governance, fundraising, and social activities.

**The Certificate is ideal for:**

- School leaders and educators who oversee parent engagement & education
- Those wanting a career as a parent/community liaison
- Current parent educators

Learn more. Visit [uclaextension.edu/snParent](http://uclaextension.edu/snParent) or contact **Mary Abdulla** at (310) 825-2960.



14568-13

**It's A Great Time to Sell and Move Up!**



**Sam and Bindu Xavier**

BRE#: 01449986 & 01818247

Redondo house values are at their highest in 8 years  
& interest rates are still historically low.

Now is a great time to list and sell your home and move up or downsize.

**Call Us Today for a FREE Market Report!**

**We will donate \$1000 to RBEF in your honor for every buyer or seller we represent in the purchase or sale of real estate in the City of Redondo Beach!**

**For Details: [www.xavierandxavier.com/rbef](http://www.xavierandxavier.com/rbef)**

**(310) 866-7598**

**[samxavier@remax.net](mailto:samxavier@remax.net)**



**Benefits Of Teen Life Coaching Include:**

- Help With Decision Making
- School Stress And Academic Pressure
- Increase Self Esteem/Self Awareness
- Parent/Teen Communication
- Time And Self Management
- Peer Pressure And Self-Imposed Pressure
- Social Isolation And Bullying
- Friendship Challenges (Growing apart, betrayal, conflicts, negative competition, etc.)

A Life Coach provides the tools to effectively manage many of these challenges. Through a trusted and unique connection a Life Coach will listen, encourage, stimulate and support your teen to grow. Positive character development and open communication will help your teen to cope and overcome obstacles.

**Make today better and tomorrow amazing!**

**Al Camacho • (310) 413-8080**

**Life Coach for Teens and Young adults**  
[ourpromisingyouth@gmail.com](mailto:ourpromisingyouth@gmail.com)



# Congenital Heart Defects



**Dr. Shaun Setty**  
Medical Director,  
Pediatric & Adult  
Congenital Heart  
Surgery, Miller  
Children's Hospi-  
tal Long Beach

Each year, 34,000 children are diagnosed with congenital heart defects. From birth through adulthood, patients with congenital heart defects need highly specialized care not offered at most hospitals. The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach offers total prenatal, infant, pediatric, and adult heart care for patients with congenital or acquired heart disease.

## Pediatric & Adult Congenital Cardiac Surgery Program

From birth through adulthood, patients with congenital heart defects need highly specialized care not offered at most hospitals. The Pediatric

Heart Center at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach is one of only a few programs in Southern California to offer comprehensive cardiac care to patients of all ages.

Our expert team of board certified specialists includes a congenital cardiac surgeon, critical care physicians, pediatric and adult cardiologists, advanced practice nurses, perfusionists, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, and

critical care nursing staff. We treat virtually every type of congenital heart defect, offering the latest interventional and treatment options – all under one roof, in one location, one heart at a time.

## Uniquely Suited to Care for All Ages

The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's is partnered with the renowned MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute (MHVI) at Long Beach Memorial, offering the latest in Congenital Cardiac Surgical techniques. Because the hospitals are connected, this powerful alliance has enabled us to assemble a uniquely specialized team of professionals to perform congenital heart operations on patients of all ages; from the tiniest newborn infant, to the transitioning adolescent, all the way to adulthood.



## Highly Personalized Care

We understand that caring for our patients means taking good care of their family as well. At Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach, our approach is simple: to provide personalized care that is tailored to meet the needs of the individual patient and their family. Our goal is to provide attentive and family centered care, and to make the overall hospital experience as seamless and pain-free as possible.



Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

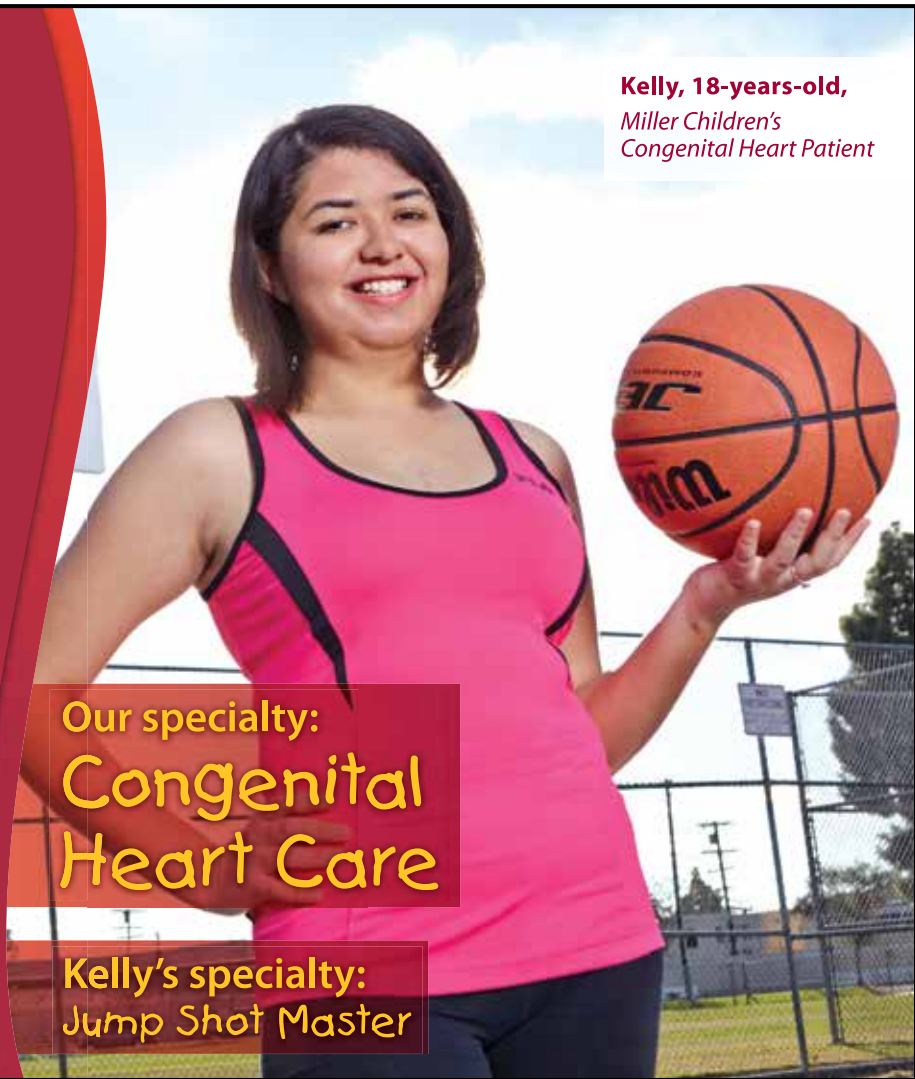
**Kelly, 17, was focused on mastering her jump shot. Then severe headaches, blurred vision and lost balance set her back. She was referred to Miller Children's — where a scan revealed an abscess in her brain caused by a hole in her heart... a condition she was born with! Because Kelly was 17 when physicians found the hole in her heart, she required the expertise of both a pediatric and adult congenital heart specialist. Now she doesn't skip a beat when it comes to a game.**

*From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.*

Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

[MillerChildrens.org/Heart](http://MillerChildrens.org/Heart)

(855) 999-6241



**Kelly, 18-years-old,**  
Miller Children's  
Congenital Heart Patient

Our specialty:  
**Congenital Heart Care**

Kelly's specialty:  
**Jump Shot Master**

# Make a Valentine’s Day Connection...



**Jens Brandt**  
RUHS Assistant  
Principal/  
Blue Zones  
Project Liaison



**Lauren Nakano**  
BCHD-  
Blue Zones  
Project Director

Valentine’s Day is right around the corner, but the most important reservation you make this month should be at the family dinner table. And, parents, you’ll fall madly in love with the benefits.

By connecting over a well-rounded meal at least three times a week, you’re not only strengthening your family bonds, chances are you’re also improving your child’s school performance and health.

According to The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, children who eat dinner with their families fewer than three times weekly score lower on tests than

kids who eat family dinners three or more times. What’s more, families who eat together have a higher intake of essential nutrients.

Blue Zones Project® Founder and National Geographic Explorer Dan Buettner experienced the benefits of a “Family First” mentality while studying Blue Zones™ – areas in the world where people live the longest. In fact, putting loved ones first was so ingrained in these cultures that he identified it as one of the nine keys to longevity (Power 9™) and determined that strengthening family ties can tack on six years of life expectancy.

Now that’s a relationship worth pursuing...

Need help instituting family dinner nights? Below are some tips to get you started.

- It’s a date. Setting regular times and days for family meals helps set a precedent and a routine.
- Cook quickly, eat slowly. While a nourishing meal can be prepared quickly, be sure to maximize your family’s mealtime experience by taking time to laugh, talk and savor your food.
- Shop and cook together. Children will get more enjoyment from meals they help prepare. Spending time together in the kitchen is a great way for families to connect.
- Stay off the grid. Make family dinners a tech-free zone. This means turning off TVs, cellphones, iPods, etc.

For more information on “Family First” or Blue Zones Project, visit [www.bchd.org/bzp](http://www.bchd.org/bzp).

# Dispelling the Myth



**Dr. Erin Simon**  
Principal

“Your Success Begins Today,” was not intended as an institutional mission. It was created to serve as a creed or mantra, defined as: no matter the student’s past circumstances, once enrolled into Redondo Shores High School (RSHS), they will embark into a new pathway of success. It’s also a reminder that you can restart your life everyday, and begin success whenever you want.

RSHS staff believes that ALL students can learn and therefore, emphatically state the notion that ALL students cannot learn is unequivocally false. This is evident in many students’ transformation from at-risk to of-promise, as they have attained academic stability. We understand the Redondo Shores mantra has become a cliché but staff has taken this statement literally, by pledging to ensure the success of every student by empowering them, rather than conforming to hyperbole.

In *The Quality School*, author, Dr. William Glasser emphasized the human need to feel self-empowered. For that reason, student empowerment has become the centerpiece of Redondo Shores’ motto, mission and vision. At RSHS, our motto is expressed through symbolism. This is evident with the “Your Success Begins Today” banners that hang in the parking lot or the schoolwide learning outcomes (SLOs) recently adopted by staff members evident in every classroom. The aforementioned reminds students at RSHS that they have made a commitment to achieving success. A second form of empowerment is the commitment students make upon enrollment at RSHS. For instance, during intake orientation meetings, students make a pledge to succeed academically and personally. Their promise is spelled out in simple behavioral expectations, which are as follows:

- Maintain 95 percent or higher daily attendance;
- Stay clean and sober on campus and come to school drug and alcohol free;
- Reflect RSHS in a positive light at school and in the community;
- Resolve conflicts in a responsible manner; and
- Be prepared for, participate, and achieve in every class.

So far, this has been Redondo Shores’ recipe for helping students attain success. Staff members commend the successes of our students; we believe you should too.

# The Future of Math Education



**Dr. Annette Alpern**  
Deputy  
Superintendent,  
Educational  
Services

The implementation of the California Common Core State Standards in mathematics comes with many transitions over the next several years. These include new instructional approaches, new instructional materials for students, professional development for teachers, and technology integration in the classroom and at home. You may have already begun to see some of these changes in the classroom, but the acceleration of these changes will shift more dramatically beginning in the fall of 2014.

For kindergarten through grade 12, there are three primary design principles of the math standards. They include focus—narrowing the scope of the content in each grade so that students more deeply experience the material; coherence—referring to the idea of having math make sense, e.g., making connections between topics; and rigor—pursuit of all three: conceptual understanding of math, procedural skill/fluency and applications/modeling.

While all math curriculum and courses will include these design principles, the school districts, including ours, are engaged in the process of evaluating the content of future math courses in middle and high school. This will include math matriculation, or course-taking pathways, which will be available to students.

## Algebra Will Be a Factor

One of the more specific shifts educators need to address in California is the departure of the Algebra I course content we have come to know during the past 15 years. Replacing it will be a much more robust Algebra 1 course, with the majority of students enrolling in that course in grade nine. In RBUSD, we are going about this process with a thorough analysis of current enrollment and success patterns, making sure to pay attention to our students needing acceleration as well as those needing additional support. By working together across grade levels, we will examine the progressions in the newly adopted mathematics standards to see how content develops in each grade and to ensure that our students are receiving the most effective mathematics instruction in every classroom.

Stay tuned for more information this winter and spring coming out from your principal, teachers and RBUSD. And please consider attending one of the upcoming Common Core State Standards site-level meetings scheduled for this winter and spring. We look forward to sharing the latest developments around teaching, testing and curriculum planned for our classrooms. We look forward to meeting you and working together.



## Part 2—Our Journey Continues



**Vivian Ibarra**  
Director

South Bay Adult School has offered lifelong learning classes since 1918 and has continued to change to meet the needs of the community.

Students came back to school to learn new skills, take enrichment classes, or to finish their high school career. In 1960 classes focused on career skills for men and women. Courses included typing and shorthand, as well as a wide variety of engineering and shop classes. The school strived to help all students with their career and educational goals.

In the 1970s, many classes were added and South Bay Adult School now had a brochure that was mailed to residents in the beach cities. Classes continued to focus on education and career goals but also included homemaking, art, and music classes. The Parent Education program had become very popular. Many stay-at-home parents came to school with their children to learn and share parenting techniques. The cost for any class had increased to \$4 for unlimited classes in one term.

In 1993 the South Bay Union High School district dissolved and the South Bay Adult School became part of the Redondo Beach Unified School District. The school is run through a joint powers agreement with Manhattan Beach Unified School District and continues to offer classes to the entire community. We still have a large English-as-a-Second-Language program, a thriving Parent Education Program, a High School Diploma Program, vocational education, online learning, and many fun community education classes. Our classes are conveniently located near you, and enrollment can now be completed at [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org).

Since 1918 the South Bay Adult School has believed in lifelong learning. In 2014 classes continue for all adults in the South Bay community. We challenge you to continue the lifelong learning tradition at the South Bay Adult School.



**Woodworking class in 1970**



**An Early Parent Education class**



**Career Education class learning to type in 1971**



**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**Kindergarten Enrollment**  
**STARTS: MARCH 3, 2014**

Enrollment for children who plan to enter kindergarten for the 2014/2015 school year will be held at all district elementary schools starting Monday, March 3, 2014.

**For more information, please visit [www.rbUSD.org](http://www.rbUSD.org)**

### Special education programs are authorized by federal and state laws.

These laws require that a free and appropriate public education shall be offered in the least restrictive environment to all students identified as disabled. Through the District's Student Study Team process and other procedures, a continuous effort is made to locate and identify individuals who might qualify for special education services.



The law also provides that parents may initiate a request to have their child assessed to determine eligibility for special education and/or related services.

This request should be in writing and submitted to:

**The Office of Special Education**  
**1401 Inglewood Ave.**  
**Redondo Beach, CA 90278**



[www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org)  
**southbayadultschool**  
Classes for lifelong learning! [www.facebook.com/Parent Education](https://www.facebook.com/ParentEducation)

**Plan now!**  
Fall registration starts the week of March 10, 2014

**Adults only, please.**

Come and visit our award winning classes.

Great program for you and your child to learn together.

Parent participation.

Parents work with a credentialed teacher in the classroom once a week.

**Fun for everyone!**

**OPEN HOUSE**



**February 3-7, 2014 9:00-11:30 am**

TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN	INFANTS-TODDLER	TWO's-PREK SIBLINGS	TWO's-PREK SIBLINGS
<b>Knob Hill</b> 320 Knob Hill Redondo Beach	<b>Manhattan East</b> on Peck Ave. North of M.B. Blvd., Manhattan Beach	<b>North School</b> 417 25th Street Hermosa Beach	<b>Pacific School</b> 1600 Pacific Ave. Manhattan Beach

**More info? Call 310.376.6211 x11 or x12**



# THE ZONE

**at Adams and Parras Middle Schools**

**Fun Activities**

Open After School until 6:00pm  
Classrooms on the Middle School Campus  
School Days Only • Credentialed Teachers  
Limited Space~Call Now!

**Hang with Friends**

**Homework Help**

Call 798-8683 Ext. 1312 or 1322  
For Enrollment Information and to Reserve Your Space  
Please note: Registration for The Zone is separate from School Registration

## RBUSD Child Development

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



## LiveWell Tots



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

*By Roxanne Luce, Program Coordinator*

In October 2012, Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) launched LiveWell Tots, a nutrition education program designed for preschool children, in partnership with the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) Child Development Center (CDC). The program was created to address a startling problem discovered during 2010 obesity screenings in local elementary schools—more than 25 percent of RBUSD kindergartners were overweight or obese.

LiveWell Tots complements BCHD's LiveWell Kids obesity prevention program, which is delivered in elementary and middle schools throughout Redondo Beach. In the LiveWell Tots program, RBUSD CDC teachers and aides are trained to deliver experiential nutrition lessons to students through instruction and role modeling.

As part of the curriculum, children are encouraged to try new foods and are taught to appreciate fresh fare and where it comes from, as well as develop a deeper understanding of the connection between food and health. Additionally, parents receive newsletters following each lesson. These communications let parents know what their children are learning in class, promote family connectedness, and provide ideas for family activities, recipes, tips, and recommend reading materials.

For example, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, the LiveWell Tots lesson this month is "Sugar and Love." Children start the lesson with a quick, deep-breathing exercise. Deep breathing calms the body and increases self-awareness, opening the mind to new ideas. Next, children are encouraged to talk about what love means to them. Love is commonly associated with food, because family memories are often built around tables, sharing food that is often not healthy ("comfort food"). Finally,

the lesson concludes by exploring the differences between naturally occurring sugar and added sugar and by addressing the negative impact excess sugar has on health.

LiveWell Tots lessons like "Sugar and Love" are integral building blocks to a life of healthy habits, and the program's teachings support CDC's mission to provide a safe, nurturing and enriching environment that promotes educational and social growth.



**A savory reward!**



**Trying something new.**



**Little chefs at work.**



**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**Child Development Center**  
1401 Inglewood Ave, Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
**We Care For Kids**

**Join The Fun at CDC**

**Sign Up In March For Before and After Kindergarten Care For Fall 2014**

- A 1:14 adult to child ratio
- Caring teachers licensed by the State of California
- A safe enriching atmosphere for your child
- Full days on some holidays and vacations
- Field trips on most non-school days
- Developmentally appropriate activities
- Both school year and year round contracts available




**Open 6:30 am—6:00 pm**

CDC Registration Forms are Included in the Kindergarten Registration Packets at your Child's Elementary School  
Call 310-798-8683 ext. 1312 or 1322 for more information

**Important**

Registration for the CDC Program is separate from Elementary School Registration.  
**Low and No Cost Care Available for Qualifying Families**

**Open Registration Begins March 3, 2014 and Ends March 31, 2014**



# Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Susan Wildes**  
*Principal*

## Promoting Effective Conversations

The shift to the Common Core Standards requires an increase in rigor and expectations for our students and also a shift in instructional practices for our teachers. Of all the standards, one in particular drew our teachers' attention almost immediately upon study: Speaking and Listening Anchor Standard #1: Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. We knew that this standard would allow our students to engage in sophisticated learning opportunities previously not encountered.

Former listening and speaking standards solely dealt with the skills of listening comprehension and delivering presentations. This new standard focuses on collaboration and interaction, which are pivotal skills for our students to be successful in college. Over the past few months, Alta Vista teachers have been developing learning opportunities to explicitly teach this standard.

But conversations don't just occur at school. Meaningful conversations also happen outside school hours. How can parents reinforce these skills? During family dinners or in the car, reinforce your child when he or she stays on topic and uses any of the following stems: I hear you say that..., and I want to add....; Can you explain how you got that answer? Why? Can you tell me more? I don't understand....; and I agree/disagree because....

Using language stems helps children successfully adopt effective listening and speaking skills. Practicing in a variety of settings will help children develop into effective, collaborative communicators and learners.

# Birney *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Lisa Johnson**  
*Principal*

## Educational Shifts

Like all California educators, Birney's teachers are focusing on implementing the Common Core State Standards. The standards provide a clear understanding of what students are expected to learn from kindergarten to the twelfth grade in English language arts and mathematics. They have also been aligned to college and career readiness expectations, with the goal to ensure that students are properly prepared for college and beyond.

Birney's work began with identifying six major areas of focus within English language arts, and the instructional strategies that will help guide learning. As students meet these standards they will possess competencies to make sure that they can read and analyze literature in depth. They will also be expected to effectively write to narrate, explain, and support an argument; effectively collaborate; read to learn and deepen their knowledge; use technology to study and learn; and acquire and use academic vocabulary.

Teachers have been asked to view these focus areas as a progression of incremental changes. The goal is to implement instructional practices to ensure that students are gaining proficiencies in these targeted areas.

As partners in your child's education, we encourage parents to stay informed during this process. Have ongoing conversations with your child's teacher about what they will be learning this year. Additionally, take a moment to peruse the many resources that are available online and in print, including sample tests that have been made available to the public through the California Department of Education.

As we move towards full implementation of the CCSS during the 2014–2015 school year, we welcome you to help share in the learning and discovery that will be taking place in the classroom.

# Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Anthony Taranto**  
*Principal*

## Six-Year Planning for Seventh-Graders

*By Linsey Gotanda, Assistant Principal*

In November, the Adams Middle School counseling team visited the seventh-grade social studies classes to educate students on the A–G college eligibility requirements as well as engaging students in planning for high school. As you may or may not know, much of what students do at the middle school level can determine high school placement as well as their ability to “get ahead” on their college eligibility requirements.

The thinking behind this early education model is to ensure that students fully understand the expectations for them to attend a four-year university directly after high school graduation even before they set foot on the high school campus. Students created tentative plans for their high school curriculum, which can be changed at any time. This planning was solely to educate our students early. The high school counselors will have access this information once students enroll at Redondo Union High School, and their curricular paths are completely up to them.



We hope that you take this opportunity to talk to your child about the importance of being prepared and knowledgeable about high school and college eligibility requirements.



**Seventh graders working on their six-year plans.**

# Washington *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Jacqueline O'Sullivan**  
*Principal*

## The Common Core

You are probably hearing more and more about the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The dedicated staff at Washington is ready to help their students master these new national standards and prepare them for the demands of college and career in the 21st century.

To get ready for next year's implementation of CCSS, our teachers are meeting weekly in their grade levels, and monthly as a staff, to study the standards and work on lesson plans. For the past three years they have also been receiving training in the Readers and Writers Workshop model, which is aligned with the CCSS. Our student reading levels are assessed often by using a school-wide program.

Students in grades K–2 also have access to RAZ-Kids, a leveled reading program that can be done from home. Those in grades 3–5 have access to Accelerated Reader, and are able to check their reading comprehension often.

To support their children, parents should know that CCSS includes more nonfiction texts, as well as the integration of content areas into reading and writing in subjects like social studies and science. Students read challenging texts, and are asked questions that require them to refer back to what they have read and synthesize their learning. There is also an increased emphasis on academic language and vocabulary, so that they can read and understand more challenging and complex material.

This is an exciting time to be a student, a parent, and an educator. We'll be learning the Common Core State Standards together on this journey!

# Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

## Keeping Fit

Childhood obesity rates are at an all-time high. Today nearly one in three children and teens in the United States is obese or overweight. We know that physical activity produces overall physical, psychological, and social benefits and that inactive children are likely to become inactive adults.

Over the last four years, our staff discovered that our students' Body Mass Indexes (BMI) were prohibiting us from reaching high achievement on our fifth-grade physical fitness tests, and we also knew that our children were sitting in front of their computers and game stations more than they were participating in physical activity and outdoor events. Beryl Heights' staff wanted our school to become a place that encouraged physically active lifestyles. It is our school mission to get our student up and moving and educated about their physical, mental, and emotional well-being in order to change these detrimental statistics.



**Healthy eating at Beryl.**

Five years ago we started our eight-minute exercises in the morning before our instruction began, and two years ago we studied the criteria of the Healthy Schools Program through the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and decided to change some of our practices so that we follow healthier guidelines. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation is a nationwide non-profit organization. The Healthy Schools program was founded by President Bill Clinton and the American Heart Association to help prevent and treat childhood obesity so that the current generation would not become the first in American history to live shorter lives than their parents. The program recognizes schools who meet the criteria established in the seven content areas that address school health improvement. The Healthy Schools Program was introduced to all schools in the district, and Beryl Heights took this challenge very seriously and exceeded the district's expectation by receiving bronze recognition two years ago and then silver status this past year from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

We looked at our policies and procedures in our parent handbook and our district wellness policy and made changes to our daily operation to help us achieve our goal of teaching students how to become more mentally and physically fit. We targeted all of our 465 students and routinely we stuck to our goal to get more students involved in exercise and healthier choices. We believe that incorporating these practices into our daily routines will help our students become more active and will encourage them to participate in their own nutrition and healthy living.

# Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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



**Kara Heinrich**  
*Principal*

## Incorporating the Arts

STEM education refers to the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. But "STEAM" education incorporates an extra "A" for the arts. We recognize that to be successful in technical fields, our students must also be creative, and have the ability to use the kind of critical thinking skills which are best developed through exposure to the arts.

The STEAM initiatives are meant to encourage, educate and prepare students to investigate and pursue careers in STEAM-related fields. This concept is crucial to the implementation of the Common Core Standards, where project-based learning and critical thinking skills are essential. Children are natural scientists, engineers and problem-solvers, and so why not build on these inherent curiosities? Children innately contemplate and navigate the world around them when trying to make sense of things.

Thanks to strong community and local business support, Jefferson is now "full STEAM ahead" in building student competencies. We offer students an enriching science lab, STEAM-focused assemblies, special field trips through PTA support, and various after-school STEAM enrichment classes. Through the support of our RBEF, we are also fortunate to have a first- through fifth-grade visual performing arts program that incorporates a fourth/fifth science lab teacher.

Additionally, grants from a local aerospace company have continued to assist our competitive robotics team. Robotics inspires students to both explore their interests in science and technology and engage in a motivating, mentor-based instructional model. Such STEAM offerings actively involve students in science and technological activities, and can invoke innovative skills through comprehensive effort that stresses teamwork, self-confidence, and leadership.

Reaching beyond the traditional classroom day, Jefferson also offers annual Family Science and Math Nights, in addition to a science fair. Our school is clearly molding a future full of problem-solvers, innovators and inventors; critical thinkers who are creative, technically literate and "full STEAM ahead" in their approach to education.

# Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Drew Gamet**  
*Principal*

## Inspiring Greatness

As your students move through their education, you can find many modern tools that are available to support your learning. By simply logging on to iTunes or Google Play, you can find a plethora of technological tools that can support your student learning. More and more apps become available on a daily basis, in a wide range of prices from free to nominal monthly fees.

These apps can provide an interactive learning experience that was not available to students even 10 years ago. However, even with such tools available, it is important to remember that your child's teacher is a timeless resource for your student's educational success.

Your child's teacher has been working tirelessly this year to learn the latest instructional techniques and align instruction to the new Common Core State Standards. Teachers are spending countless hours with your students, and there are no better experts on how to help. If you have questions on how to provide additional support for your student in the learning process, your first call or e-mail should be to your child's dedicated teacher. Remember, while apps can provide additional academic support for students, a great teacher can inspire greatness!





# Lincoln *Elementary (K–5)*

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

## Sign Us Up for Science

This year, Lincoln is proud to provide all of its students with multiple opportunities to participate in a variety of supplemental school-based science programs. These are excellent examples of how our RBEF and PTA partnerships provide an ongoing, value-added educational experience for our students.

At the start of the school year, our Lincoln fourth- and fifth-grade students began a year-long lab science program. This meets on a weekly basis, and is led by a credentialed instructor provided by the RBEF. Class time is focused on experimentation and real-life application in the physical, earth or life sciences.

In October, Lincoln students in grades K–3 began participating in the PTA-provided Hands-On Science program. This was the first of three sessions that will be taking place throughout the year. During each session, experiment stations are set up that the students can rotate into and perform each experiment themselves.



**Lincoln students use a microscope during Lab Science.**



**Lincoln 4th grade students in the RBEF provided Lab Science Program.**

As we move into 2014, there are two exciting science-based events scheduled for the spring. On Tuesday, March 11, Lincoln will hold a family science night led by an organization called Mad Science. This RBEF-supported event will include a presentation entitled *Fire and Ice*, and will also include experiments and make-it-and-take-it activities. Also, on March 26 and 27, Lincoln will hold its annual science fair that features student-designed experiments.

We are very pleased to have all of these science experiences at Lincoln this year. Collectively, they allow even greater student access into the core subject matter, and wonderful world, of science.

# Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
*Principal*

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our counselors are Rachel Andrews, who works with students whose last names start with the letters A–K, and C.J. Conrad, who works with students whose last names start with the letters L–Z.

School-wide programs include Safe School Ambassadors, Red Ribbon Week guidance activities, Yellow Ribbon Week guidance activities, Career Day, and Yourspace. Yourspace is a weekly lunchtime program offered to all students who are interested in joining the counselors for a fun-filled lunch time experience. It gives them the opportunity to make new friends in a supported environment.

Parras also has a zero tolerance policy for bullying, therefore, our counselors work closely with students trained through the Safe School Ambassadors Program to prevent and address mistreatment, and to improve the school climate.



**Parras counselors have students participate in team building activities.**

In the classroom, counselors teach a guidance curriculum that focuses on active listening skills, strategies for achieving academic success, college and career planning, and the transition into and out of Parras Middle School. Counselors teach all students how to use Naviance. In the sixth grade, the counselors walk students through a Career Interest Inventory. In the seventh grade, students use Naviance to create a five-year academic plan; and in the eighth grade, students update their plan and research colleges.

Counselors also support students in the AVID program (Advancement via Individual Determination) by providing both academic and social/emotional counseling services to ensure success.

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

In addition to providing services to all students, our counselors also work closely with those who are at-risk academically and emotionally. Students are given targeted support through referrals, coordinated collaboration between school and home, and through academic program planning.

In order to expand services, Parras is also a training site for interns who are attending local area graduate programs in the field of school counseling. Due to the presence of counseling interns, our counseling team is able to offer an annual organizational boot camp where hand-picked students are given the



# Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Christina Giguere**  
*Principal*

## Connect with the Common Core

At Tulita we are making great gains in understanding and implementing the Common Core State standards and realigning our planning, curriculum, and assessments. As a staff we are engaging in weekly and monthly professional development centered around planning lessons, analyzing student work, reflecting on our practice, and going through a continuous cycle of inquiry to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. We are keeping parents informed through parent-teacher conferences, weekly emails, and will be hosting parent education events in 2014.

The section below provides parents with details about the curricular and instructional shifts in English Language Arts. To summarize: Students will read more texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies. They will read more challenging texts and be asked more questions that will require them to refer back to what they have read. There will also be an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

What are the shifts? Students will:

- Read as much fiction as non-fiction
- Learn about the world by reading
- Read more challenging material
- Talk about reading using evidence
- Know more vocabulary words
- Write about text using evidence

What can parents do at home to help?

- Supply more non-fiction texts; Read non-fiction books aloud or with your child; Have fun with non-fiction in front of your child
- Supply series of texts on topics that interest your child; Find books that explain how things work and why; Discuss non-fiction texts and their ideas
- Know what is grade level appropriate; Provide challenging texts as well as books they can read easily; Read challenging books with your child; Show that challenging books are worth reading
- Talk about texts; Demand evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements; Read aloud or read the same book as your child and discuss; Discuss predictions
- Encourage writing at home; Write “books” together using evidence and detail; Review samples of exemplar student writing
- Read often and constantly; Read multiple books on the same topic; Talk, read, listen, sing, and make up rhymes/word games

Please don't hesitate to contact the school principal or teacher if you have questions about the new standards. Thank you for taking the time to support your children at home!

Resources compiled from: <http://www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources>

# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
*Principal*

## Not Guilty!

*By Lindsey Corcoran, Assistant Principal*

As RUHS students filed into the Los Angeles Superior Court this past November, their feelings turned to excitement, as they were minutes away from arguing their first case in the Los Angeles County Mock Trial competition. In the case of People vs. Rae Concha, students presented arguments defending the Fourth Amendment right to search and seizure with a warrant while trying to prove the defendant's innocence. In this year's Mock Trial, Rae Concha was put on trial for the illegal distribution of drugs on campus, leading to a student's death.



**The RUHS defense attorneys prepare to make their argument from a L.A. Superior Court room.**



**The RUHS Mock Trials team reviews their arguments as they make their debut.**

In the first round of the competition, the Sea Hawk defense team won the pretrial motion and argued a compelling case defending the young Rae Concha. The defendant and expert witnesses performed perfect scores, and the closing argument was a strongly argued wrap-up for the evening. In the second round of the competition, the Sea Hawk prosecution team challenged a school's experienced defense team in the conviction of Concha. Both defense and prosecution teams had a strong showing as first-year Mock Trials participants.

Retired Honorary Justice Gary Hastings donated his time to help our Mock Trials team interpret case law more clearly. Along with Justice Hastings, students practiced three days a week with two teacher coaches, Michael Henges and James Costello. As a first-year team, their strong performance shows that the RU Sea Hawks are a team to look out for in the Mock Trial world!



**Anthony (Frank) Kelly II**  
(310) 980-4813  
[anthonyfkelly@yahoo.com](mailto:anthonyfkelly@yahoo.com)  
DRE# 01450642

Proud supporter of RBUSD and  
Redondo Union HS Athletics



## What Could Be SWEETER Than A New Home? Happy Valentines Day!

Here are just some of the amazing things  
I do to market your home...

- Professionally taken photos
- Web video tour
- Featured on over 140 websites
- Email to buyers who are interested in a home like yours
- Marketing flyers sent to the community advertising your home
- Much, much, more....

I can help you get more for your home  
in a shorter time frame than others!

**Experience • Quality • Knowledge • Results**





## Beach Cities Health District

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

# A Steady Diet of Nutrition Education



**Dr. Lisa Santora**  
Chief Medical Officer

Today, I'm focusing my column on childhood obesity and what RBUSD and Beach Cities Health District are doing to fight it, specifically through a program called LiveWell Tots.

Obesity is a major health issue that frequently begins during the developmental years. And due to its recent proliferation in young people, children are projected to live shorter lives than their parents for the first time in history.

LiveWell Tots was created in response to a startling 2010 trend – 25 percent of students entering RBUSD kindergartens were statistically overweight or obese. Through the program's evidence-based curriculum, which includes nutrition education lessons, mindful learning techniques and healthy activities, hundreds of Beach Cities preschoolers are improving their health daily.

Yet, while nutrition education in school is an important step in curbing childhood obesity, parents, you are the key!

Our children learn from what we *do* more than what we *say*, and they've been imitating us since birth. In fact, research shows if you are physically active, your children are much more likely to follow suit. Coincidentally, the healthier you eat, the healthier your children will eat.

A great tool to prompt and motivate you to model healthy behaviors is the Daily Challenge (<https://challenge.meyouhealth.com/>). Sign up and each day you will receive one small, positive health challenge to complete.

What's more, February is both National Children's Dental Health Month and American Heart Month. While heart disease is the leading chronic disease among adults, dental caries (tooth decay) is the most common chronic disease in children. Startlingly, research shows a correlation between poor oral health and the development of cardiovascular disease. So, be sure to floss tonight and make an appointment with your family's dentist tomorrow!



Inspiring  
**SUCCESS**  
IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND

### MOVE AHEAD OF THE CLASS WITH SYLVAN

Whether your child needs an advanced challenge to stay engaged, has a big entrance exam for private school or college, or has bigger academic goals, Sylvan will make the difference. Our personal learning approach will propel your child to the head of the class.

Sylvan Learning of  
Gardena  
310-329-1866

Sylvan Learning of  
Torrance  
310-373-0073

SYLVANLEARNING.COM

## Improved grades... and so much more.

Every session is taught with one dedicated teacher and one student in their own private classroom. Fusion Learning Center offers:

- Summer Programs
- Subject Tutoring
- Test Prep
- Skill-Building
- Classes for Credit
- Enrichment Classes
- Homework Cafe®



NCAA & UC  
Approved

**fusion**  
learning center

[fusionlearningcenter.com](http://fusionlearningcenter.com)

1601 Pacific Coast Hwy, Suite 260  
South Bay  
310.376.5139



### Pre-K through 12th Grade Private Tutoring for:

- Math
- Reading
- Writing
- Science
- History

101 N. Pacific Coast Hwy  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
[www.SeasideLC.com](http://www.SeasideLC.com)



## FRAM Soccer Club 2014 – 2015 Season Tryouts

**Ages U8 – U14**

(born between 7/31/07 – 8/1/00)

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

**All tryouts will be held at Miraleste Intermediate School**

U8 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th, 11th & 17th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U9 Boys & Girls.....**March 12th, 13th & 18th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U10 Boys & Girls.....**March 13th, 19th & 20th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U11 Boys.....**March 11th, 17th & 18th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U11 Girls.....**March 12th, 19th & 20th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
U12 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th – 4:30-6:00PM**  
**& March 11th & 20th- 6:00-7:30PM**  
U13 Boys & Girls.....**March 12th, 13th & 19th – 6:00-7:30PM**  
U14 Boys & Girls.....**March 10th, 17th & 18th – 6:00-7:30PM**

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

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

**The Winter 2014 Session will start the week of  
January 13th, 2014 and finish the week of March 17th, 2014**

- The cost of the ten (10) week session is \$155 per child (sibling discount)
- Players attend once a week.
- Session are held 4:00PM – 5:00PM at Palos Verdes Intermediate School – session days not yet finalized
- Register online at [www.framsoccer.com](http://www.framsoccer.com)

For additional information email [karenc@framsoccer.com](mailto:karenc@framsoccer.com) or (310) 963-7101.  
[www.framsoccer.com](http://www.framsoccer.com)



# South Bay Batting Cages

(310) 370-9700

## Peaceland Music & Repair GUITAR LESSONS

Guitar, Piano, Voice,  
Bass, Drums

Also: Ukulele, Banjo, Mandolin

**James Musser**

Nominated Best LA Band '96  
Best Guitar '97 LA Music Awards

**All Ages, Levels & Styles**  
Days, Evening & Weekends



(310) 650-4021

www.peacelandmusic.com

peaceland@peacelandmusic.com

23706 Crenshaw #105 A&B, Torrance, CA  
(across from Hof's Hut)

Visit us on: MySpace.com/PeacelandMusic • YouTube.com/PeacelandMusic

## South Bay Hands On Art

2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • www.southbayhandsonart.com

## Golden Icons Egyptian Hieroglyphs

By Co-Chairs Alicia Rubio & Sue-Anne Silkes

Redondo Beach students could be seen sculpting snakes, owls, letter symbols and much more over the past month while they were participating in the Hands on Art Lesson "Golden Icons". Students were inspired to create a replica of an ancient hieroglyph by using clay, black and gold paint, and tile. A brief history of Egypt and its' ancient writing system of hieroglyphs was presented by trained art docents. Students were then given the opportunity to create a low-relief sculpture using depth and texture while also learning about balance and composition of their work. The results were outstanding and the finished projects were truly a work of art!

The next project will introduce students to a classic piece by Claude Monet and will create their own impressionistic painting.



Birney Elementary students are proud to display their finished masterpieces.

# Good Dental Health

## Word Search Contest

Entries must be received by March 15, 2014  
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Breads	Eggs	Milk
Brushing	Examination	Nutrition
Cereals	Fish	Orthodontist
Checkup	Flossing	Pediatric
Daily	Fluoride	Sugar
Dairy	Fruits	Tooth
Dentist	Guidelines	Vegetables
Development	Healthy	Water
Diet	Meat	Whole grains

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:  
**Rules!!!** Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com  
(Please put RBUSD in subject line)

T	U	S	K	S	R	M	L	E	G	G	S	D	N	W
E	S	N	E	V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	A
I	X	I	O	A	P	N	F	O	S	N	A	D	B	T
D	Y	A	T	I	Y	L	I	A	D	R	E	C	R	E
S	H	R	M	N	T	J	R	L	A	V	R	H	U	R
B	E	G	I	I	O	I	P	D	E	S	E	E	S	A
H	A	E	N	A	N	D	R	L	R	D	C	C	H	M
S	L	L	R	I	D	A	O	T	B	S	I	K	I	D
I	T	O	A	L	S	P	T	H	U	R	H	U	N	R
F	H	H	U	N	M	S	K	I	T	N	T	P	G	O
R	Y	W	W	E	C	V	O	A	O	R	O	E	L	J
U	S	Z	N	E	A	E	I	L	X	N	O	Z	M	T
I	J	T	R	L	T	D	D	E	F	B	T	I	A	Y
T	S	I	T	N	E	D	I	R	O	U	L	F	S	Q
S	I	W	N	P	Y	Q	L	B	S	K	E	V	F	I

Congratulations to Contest Winners:

**Chandra Nguyen & Julijona Venckute** Sophie Word Search  
**Marcus Moreno** Car Parts Word Search, **Chidinma Nwokorie** Cats Word Search  
**Charisse Eickhoff** Common Core Seek n' Find



Belasco Theatre Company presents "OLIVER"  
3 WEEKENDS  
**FEBRUARY 7-23**  
HERMOSA BEACH PLAYHOUSE

**DO YOU HAVE THE ACTING BUG?**  
Join our June performance of **SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE!**  
Ages 7-18. Auditions Feb 26th & 28th.  
(No prior experience necessary)

**NEW! MUSICAL THEATRE CLASSES**  
Ages 5+. Check out what we offer thru the City of Hermosa Beach. Details on our website.

For more info on our current show, auditions, or classes, visit us at  
**www.belasco.org** Email: **info@belasco.org** Call: **310-379-4208**

**BELASCO THEATRE COMPANY**

**Rolling Hills Montessori School**  
In a beautiful rural setting, offering 3 programs:  
Toddler, Pre-Primary and Transition (18 months - 7 years)

- Full day and half day
- Chinese/Spanish and Music inclusive
- 10 Extra curricular classes available
- Field trips
- Community atmosphere
- Fully credentialed staff

Spaces are limited.  
For more info please call: (310) 377-5722

*Rolling Hills Montessori*  
26825 Rolling Hills Road  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
www.rollinghillsmontessori.com

## College 4 Less

# Inspire Your Kids to Achieve Greatness!



**Susan D. Marshall**

This past month I had the privilege to be on the campuses of both UCLA and UCI for some advanced coursework. I loved it! Just being there made me want to be a part of it. It also made me remember and realize just how important it is to start talking to our children about college by the time they are 5 years old.

Everywhere I looked people were engaged. There were some young scholars in middle school taking summer courses. Other students were studying with laptops, some sitting in groups and working on projects. I laughed when I watched a student walking backwards on a campus tour telling jokes to the incoming freshman and their parents.

Young children were following their parents. Each had books and their own work to do. It made me remember just how important it is to have our children begin experiencing the "college life."

It used to be a few decades ago that a high school degree was essential. Now a college degree is the norm in the workforce. Many times a master's or advanced designations are required.

It may seem like college is a long way off. Unfortunately, it will be here faster that you can imagine. Most parents can't believe how fast the years have passed and they are not emotionally or financially prepared to send their children off to college. Spending time on campus will make it a reality for everyone. The most important thing you can do is to weave college into the fabric of your lives. If you have children in grade school; go see competitions, a play, a game. Spend time on the campus playing softball or hanging out. Just being there will give your child a vision. College will become a part of their vocabulary. Your children will become inspired. Give them a vision of going to college someday. It isn't if you go to college, but when you go to college.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com



**We Can Help Improve Your Test Scores**

**SAVOIR FAIRE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE**

ALL CLASSES AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

<b>FRENCH</b>	<b>ITALIAN</b>	<b>GERMAN</b>	<b>ENGLISH</b>
<b>JAPANESE</b>	<b>SPANISH</b>	<b>MANDARIN</b>	<b>ARABIC</b>

\*\*\* **Call Now!** \*\*\*  
**310.378.1086**

**PRESCHOOL • TUTORING • AFTERSCHOOL**

**www.sfli-ca.com**

## Note-ables

# iFantastico!



**Kate Karp**

Whether you're teaching a dual-immersion or a bilingual primary class in English and Spanish or if you just want to introduce English-only children to Spanish, Lucky Diaz and the Family Jam Band's *iFantastico!* fits its title (that's *fantastic*, natch).

The kindie-rock band is a combo of accordions, harmonicas, percussion, guitars and vocalists, including Diaz's wife, Alisha Gaddis. The Jam Band's music has been featured on a major soft-drink commercial, and their previous albums have won praise, including being named Best New Children's Artist by *USA Today*. Their latest collection, sung entirely in Spanish, will

have children and parents latching on to the music like a grab bar in a train and joyfully riding it all the way to the last stop.



Some of the songs on the CD were translations of previously recorded Jam Band tunes; the others were written for the CD. "Los números" ("The Numbers") will teach number names in Spanish, and "El gato astronauta," ("The Astronaut Cat"), charming in its own right, will extend the knowledge to simple addition. "A bailar" ("Let's Dance") involves directionality and body awareness through movement and a very catchy tune. "Tres ratones" ("Three Mice")

is a charmer of a repetitive tale: the title characters try to hold on to their own tales in a garden as they hide from a cat. The song's lyrics are simple and a natural fit for the rhythm and the accompanying Dylanesque harmonica played by Joe Harpcat.

The Spanish can be easily translated by anyone with a working knowledge of Spanish. They're available for free download at [www.luckydiazmusic.com](http://www.luckydiazmusic.com).

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



**South Bay** Driving School  
Proud Sponsor of  
Your School for  
Over 20 Years!

**\$20 Off**  
One coupon per student

Online and Classroom  
Available

**(310) 791-1111**

3614 Pacific Coast Hwy. • Torrance, CA 90505  
Southbaydriving.com

## Parent To Parent

# Confidence for Beginning Drivers



Jodie Lynn

**Question:** Our son is planning on getting his driving permit this summer. This means he will be able to drive on his own without supervision. What are some easy guidelines to make him feel more comfortable about driving that we could set up for him so we don't constantly nag him or make him feel uncomfortable?

**From Jodie:** When our teenagers got their license, we had already let them drive around our neighborhood high school parking lot when there were no other cars. We practiced parallel parking, backing up, going around soccer cones, and in and out of them, while they were still new drivers. However, when it came time for driving in real traffic, even though they knew most of the traffic signs and procedures, it was clear that they simply needed more experience with real-life driving situations. They needed to understand what was required of them while driving in rain, sleet, snow and ice. They also needed to become comfortable with busy streets, highways, overpasses, etc. Driving schools, pretty much meet the requirements needed to give them the confidence that they lacked in these specific areas. The one-on-one attention with an adult who wasn't going to be grading or nagging them was exactly what was missing. Of course, in today's society, making sure that teens do not text and drive, is also one of the missing elements. SnapSecure created an infographic to illustrate the dangers of texting and driving and offer a driver's safety app which disables texting, calling and internet functions of a phone when you are driving over 15mph. Helpful for parents who are worried about the safety of their teens, the motion activated technology also alerts parents if the block is removed.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com) for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

## Distracted Driving Kills



Karley Cable



Karley Cable, (16) has formed a new non-profit organization: The M.A.D. Movement=Making A/Difference. "It's a group of socially-conscious artists using their talents to make the world a better place." She created a website: <http://themadmovement.weebly.com> and is working on her first big project: A 'Don't Text and Drive/It Can Wait' awareness campaign being sponsored by Verizon, AT&T and several local businesses.

## Ask Dr. Shari

# IS TXTNG KILLNG SPELNG?

Dear Dr. Shari,



Dr. Shari  
Sweetnam

I heard that the habit of texting is destroying our ability to spell. That terrified me. My kids are constantly texting and online. They are constantly using things like "lol" and shortening words. Do you really think texting is that bad? I don't know how to view this or what to do!

—Mari - NY

**Hello Mari!**

Think about this: one of the ways you learn to spell is viewing and writing the word -correctly. You learned the words of our language by seeing them, reading them, and writing them, correctly, over and over again.

Now, let's say you are seeing horrific simplifications, even "made-up" words... over and over again. The question is, are we subconsciously "re-learning" to improperly spell words by "short cutting" and abbreviating so frequently as in texts, tweets and emails? Hmmm. Logic tells us, "Of course."

In the old days, anyone over the age of ten, when seeing a misspelled word, would view it as something to be corrected. The non-word "thot" or "laf" would elicit a giggle and a quick correction. No longer! Now, it is expected.

Our brain is constantly at war between what we know is a proper spelling: T-H-O-U-G-H-T and our desire to communicate more expeditiously: thot. The average adult might have a stronger sense of differentiation between correct and incorrect spelling....but what happens to a child who experiences the shortcuts as the norm?

If you see a "non-word" like "thot" one hundred times, does it register in your brain as the correct spelling? Eventually, the brain has to pick one, right?!

I suppose that depends on a few factors. Let's consider these:

**Age:** I, for example, am a classic offender.

I text and tweet daily. I rarely bother to punctuate a quick text. Then again, I was deep into adulthood before texting, tweeting and emailing. Does my core knowledge of spelling and grammar remain dominant? Let's hope so (I'm afraid to ask my editors).

What about an eight year old who is learning (and feverishly using) text spelling on a daily basis, before a solid framework of spelling and grammar is developed?

**Comparative Frequency:** If a child is texting and tweeting more often than "real" reading and writing, is he destined to become a terrible speller?

Mari, we both know that texting, tweeting and punctuation shortcuts are here to stay, given how many machines we use to communicate these days. And with the desire to communicate IMMEDIATELY, we can probably expect to move into symbols and even more non-words. That doesn't mean you should give up!

Here are the best three suggestions I can offer as a response to your heartfelt question.

Fortunately most teachers won't allow the shortcuts and are just as diligent about taking a red pen to a misspelled word. This should keep us in line, for a while!

More reading, results in improved spelling ability and improved grammar. Read to your kids, (have them follow along) read with them.

Writing real letters and making use of the rules of grammar is an important skill to develop if you expect to be taken seriously in the professional world. Practice it!

in shrt, i thnk U R rite. its bad, We R rsing kds who wnt be abl to spll.  
Good luck Mari!

**TEACHERS! Tell us YOUR experience with this topic! Are we becoming terrible spellers because of texting?**

Write to: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com) with I'M A TEACHER! in the subject line, and share your thoughts!

Motivational Speaker, Founder of *The Brainpower Programs for Schools*, Author, Consultant, Radio Host contact: [info@doctorshari.com](mailto:info@doctorshari.com), [www.doctorshari.com](http://www.doctorshari.com), twitter: DrShariS, Youtube: Dr. ShariS, LinkedIN: Dr. Shari Sweetnam



Here is what we mean:

- We use low-VOC paints (a safer chemical than found in regular paint) on all of our projects, modernization and in-house work.
- In all available areas, R-30 roofing insulation is installed. This has reduced costs to maintain internal classroom environments.
- All roofs are painted with reflective roof coatings to reflect UV rays.
- There is a solar water heater used at the RUHS pool.
- All flooring is made of partially recycled materials and is 100% recyclable.
- There is a storm water retention system installed on the Sea Hawk Bowl, Student Services, Parras, and Washington synthetic fields. This system keeps storm water run-off from being directly discharged into the ocean by holding and percolating the storm water into the local water table.
- All synthetic sports fields in the district save water and energy by virtually eliminating the need to water, feed, mow, and stripe. The turf is also 100% recyclable.
- All classrooms have high efficiency gas fire heaters with programmable thermostats.
- All package heating/cooling units are controlled by an Energy Management System (I-Vu by Carrier) that is a web-based system and is controlled and monitored.
- All sites have separate trash containers for waste or comingled recycling managed by the trash company.
- Waterless urinals and low-flow toilets are installed throughout the district to minimize water consumption and waste water discharge.
- Drought tolerant planting and ocean friendly gardens continue to be planted district-wide saving drinking water and reduce run-off.
- The entire district has T-8 lighting (which uses less energy).
- Musco lighting on the RUHS sports complex uses 40% less energy than traditional sports field lighting and is focused to reduce light bleed-off into the neighborhood and night sky.
- Solar Grey window tints throughout the district reduce UV rays into the classrooms and offices, reducing heat load.
- Solar Tube lighting is used at many sites, which requires no energy to light rooms thoroughly.
- As maintenance trucks age, they are replaced by more fuel efficient vehicles.

As you can see by the above, environmental integrity is not just a phrase; it is a way of life in RBUSD. We will continue to lead in this green movement, even if green is not our favorite color!

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

Redondo Beach Unified School District Board of Education



Laura Emdee  
President



Brad Serkin  
Vice President



Anita Avrick  
Presiding Officer



Michael R. Christensen  
Member



Brad Waller  
Member

Board of Education  
2014 Regular Meeting Schedule

Feb. 11  
Feb. 25  
Mar. 11

Mar. 25  
April 22  
May 13

May 27  
June 10  
June 24

(3/25/2014 – Organizational Meeting  
Effective 4/22/14)

Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

A Century of Commitment



Lisa Christensen  
President

For more than a century, PTA has reminded our nation of its obligation to children. Whenever young people’s education, health, safety, or well-being was threatened, PTA members were on the forefront of working to resolve those challenges. PTA has been instrumental in the passage of important laws and guidelines that we sometimes take for granted today. Our commitment to children’s issues started with Child Labor Laws in the 1900s, Salk Polio Vaccine Trials in 1950s, Television Ratings in 1990s, to Parent Involvement Standards defined in Federal Law in 2000s.

Times and issues may have changed, but advocating for children still requires steadfast parent involvement. That’s why parent involvement remains at the core of all PTA’s efforts. Today, more than 5 million PTA members actively work in schools and communities to make every child’s potential a reality.

Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

Steering Students On the Road to Success



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Since I joined the Los Angeles County Office of Education in 2011, I’ve made improving instruction in Juvenile Court Schools a top priority. Our staff worked tirelessly on a research project to find the right formula to motivate and engage our students and give them the skills to succeed in school, in the workforce and in their communities.

I’m glad to announce that we have found this formula, and our schools are now steering students on the road to success with a new approach showing promise as a model instructional and intervention program for incarcerated youth.

Called the “Road to Success Academies,” this program is based on successful practices piloted at two sites previously targeted for improvement. They include Camp Scott-Scudder in Saugus, the county’s only probation camp for girls, and the Challenger Memorial Youth Center in Lancaster.

We have seen a huge turnaround at these schools and improved outcomes for the students they serve. We combined their successful approaches and other key elements to develop a model of instruction we hope to implement throughout our court school system.

At Camp Scott-Scudder, the program was designed to address the many special needs and unique circumstances of girls in the juvenile justice system. The curriculum uses a project-based approach, which engages students in thematic, interdisciplinary learning framed by essential questions that invite them to delve into content in more direct and meaningful ways. The school program involves daily and special activities to promote self-esteem and empower young women to make positive choices and behavioral changes.

For example, the students built solar cookers to learn about scientific and mathematical concepts. While learning, they also aimed to help women in Darfur who would benefit from their project. They also learned about genocide facing those women and held a walkathon to help benefit refugees.

The program demonstrated measurable gains in student learning: the students’ reading and math scores went up and more students passed the GED and CAHSEE.

We are honored that the Road to Success Academy has been recognized as an exemplary program. On Dec. 7, the program received the prestigious Golden Bell Award from the California School Boards Association. This award validates our approach as a promising model of instruction and intervention for our students.

We’re excited as we plan to implement this successful approach throughout LACOE’s Juvenile Court Schools, which serve at least 1,800 incarcerated and at-risk youth daily at 13 sites countywide.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county’s 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.



# eGIFTING MAKES IT EASY TO SHARE.

Share a brighter future with the child in your life.  
Do it easily—by e-gifting with ScholarShare, California's 529 college savings plan. You can open a new account or contribute to an existing one; the reasons are as simple as 1, 2, 3:

- Tax-advantaged contributions
- Account owner retains control of the assets
- Age-based portfolios

Go to **[scholarshare.com](http://scholarshare.com)** to share your eGift today.



**SCHOLARSHARE**

CALIFORNIA'S 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLAN

**[scholarshare.com](http://scholarshare.com) | 800.544.5248**



Consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing in the ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Visit [ScholarShare.com](http://ScholarShare.com) for a Plan Disclosure Booklet containing this and other information. Read it carefully. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed, and there is a risk of investment loss. TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Program Manager. The ScholarShare 529 Twitter and Facebook pages are managed by the State of California. C12797