

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



**Volume 15, Issue 122**

**February–April 2021**

**RBUSD teachers, counselors, administrators, and staff arriving at RUHS  
the morning of January 26th to proctor the PSAT test.**



On Tuesday, January 26th, the Redondo Beach Unified School District welcomed 262 eleventh grade students back to RUHS for PSAT/NMSQT testing. Students arrived at one of three designated entrances, stopping at screening checkpoints for temperature checks by staff prior to entering. Students were excited to be back on campus, many not having been there since last March. Students did an amazing job of following health protocols; being prepared, as requested, for screenings; and moving to their assigned classrooms. Overall, it was an incredibly successful day back at RUHS.

## **Board of Education**



**Brad  
Serkin**  
*President*



**Raymur  
Flinn**  
*Vice President*



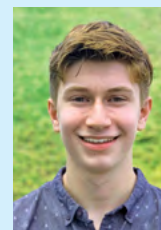
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*Member*



**Charles  
Steerman**  
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# REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION EVENTS

### SPRING 2021 - CLASS OF 2034

# KINDERGARTEN

School	Event	Event	
<b>Alta Vista</b> 815 Knob Hill (310) 798-8650	<b>Kindergarten Roundup</b> Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Kindergarten Lunch and Learn</b> Tuesday, May 11 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Alta Vista School Website</a>
<b>Beryl Heights</b> 920 Beryl Street (310) 798-8611	<b>Virtual Town Hall Meeting</b> Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. – Via Zoom	<b>Virtual Tours</b> Wednesday, February 17 <sup>th</sup> Email: <a href="mailto:kmohr@rbusd.org">kmohr@rbusd.org</a>	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Beryl School Website</a>
<b>Birney</b> 1600 Green Lane (310) 798-8626	<b>Kindergarten Information Session Q&amp;A</b> Tuesday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2:00 p.m.	<b>Kindergarten Information Session Q&amp;A</b> Thursday, February 25 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Birney School Website</a>
<b>Jefferson</b> 600 Harkness Lane (310) 798-8631	<b>Kindergarten Info Session and Q &amp; A for Perspective Parents</b> Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Kindergarten Info Session and Q&amp;A for Enrolled and Incoming Parents</b> Wednesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Jefferson School Website</a>
<b>Lincoln</b> 2223 Plant Avenue (310) 798-8646	<b>Kindergarten Information Session</b> Tuesday, February 23 <sup>rd</sup> 3:30 p.m.	<b>Kindergarten Information Session</b> Thursday, May 27 <sup>th</sup> 3:30 p.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Lincoln School Website</a>
<b>Madison</b> 2200 MacKay Lane (310) 798-8623	<b>Lunch &amp; Learn about TK/K</b> Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 12:00 p.m.	<b>Coffee w/Dr. Cash Q&amp;A for TK/K</b> Friday, March 26 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 a.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates</b> <a href="#">Madison School Website</a>
<b>Tulita</b> 1520 Prospect Avenue (310) 798-8628	<b>Kindergarten Q&amp;A</b> Wednesday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. – Via Zoom	<b>Kindergarten Q&amp;A</b> Wednesday, Wednesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m. – Via Zoom	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates:</b> <a href="#">Tulita School Website</a>
<b>Washington</b> 1100 Lilienthal Lane (310) 798-8641	<b>Parent Info Session</b> Wednesday, February 17 <sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.	<b>Kindergarten Q&amp;A</b> Wednesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup> 2:00 p.m.	<b>Additional Info &amp; Updates:</b> <a href="#">Washington School Website</a>
<b>Washington Dual Immersion Program</b> 1100 Lilienthal Lane (310) 798-8641	<b>Dual Immersion Group Tours</b> Wednesday, February 17 <sup>th</sup> 4:00 p.m.	<b>Dual Immersion Q&amp;A</b> Wednesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m.	

## Superintendent



**Dr. Steven Keller**

It's safe to say that 2020 will be forever remembered as a difficult year for most people. For someone who embraces calm and managing the hype and hyperbole, I too agree that 2020 was a difficult year both personally and professionally.

As the saying goes, "Never let a crisis go to waste." That being said, there are pieces of 2020 for which I am grateful. 2020 taught us to:

- Be more resilient, at home and at work.
- Enhance our focus on the power of empathy and compassion.
- Understand that we truly are part of a larger community—one's actions or inactions may impact others.
- See that race and equity issues continue. We must be and do better.
- Amplify time with family and loved ones.
- Increase ways to learn alternatively with technology and various web platforms.
- Improve camaraderie and connection with our neighbors and wider community.
- Strengthen the importance of total health and well-being, an ongoing RBUSD mantra.

The new year does not promise all will be new again, but there are certainly ways to take the "good" from 2020 and make it "greater" in the 2021 year. Quite simply, we are what we create. In RBUSD, we took action to bring back students safely to campuses and are committed to continuing to reopen with LADPH protocols firmly in place. We thank our fearless teachers and staff for their commitment to serve and educate (y)our students. We continue to be a forward-thinking organization committed to educating the whole child despite learning virtually or in-person. RBUSD strives to creatively approach adversity and aims to support our students in tackling challenges in the same manner. As we move through 2021 together, we are thankful and proud to be a part of such a committed school district and community.

### Board of Education 2021 Meeting Dates

#### 2021

<b>February 23</b>	<b>April 27*</b>	<b>June 8</b>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>June 22</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>May 25</b>	

**\*Due to holiday only one Board meeting in April  
(4/27/2021 – Organizational Meeting)**

## Board of Education

*By Brad Serkin*

*President, Board of Education*

It's hard to believe that this is my last *School News* on the school board! Eight years—wow, what has changed during this time! When I was elected back in 2013, our district was on the cusp of becoming a destination district with just over 8,000 students in our ranks and a community that supported and continues to support us! Measure Q had just passed, and our prospects looked bright. During our tenure, we have seen the addition of solar at campuses, becoming green and more energy independent, classroom cooling for all of our classrooms, one-to-one technology for all of our students, new and upgraded buildings to recognize our growth, an expanded budget reserve for stability during hard times, expanded curriculum opportunities and many other positive changes. As of today, our enrollment has grown to just under 10,000 students. Wow!

The past year has seen a global pandemic take over our community, requiring us to have our students and staff to adapt to a new online learning environment and a new way of life. In my wildest imagination, this is not how I saw my last year on the board playing out. With my high school senior last year having an online graduation and my high school freshman not stepping onto campus this past fall, things are definitely different.

What hasn't changed is our amazing staff and their commitment to your children! What hasn't changed is this community wanting the best for our children, and what hasn't changed is our commitment to returning your children back to our campuses and a return to normalcy. As I am termed out, many have said that I must be relieved to be leaving the board. The answer is no! I would welcome the opportunity to serve another four years and continue the great things that this district stands for.

Changes occur in life, and like this pandemic, we know that things can change in an instant. The one thing that hasn't and will never change is how dedicated each and every staff member at RBUSD is to ensure the best education for your children. I want to personally thank all of our staff at RBUSD because without you, we are just another school district. It has been an honor to work with you over these great eight years. To my fellow board members—Mike and Brad for the past eight years, David for six and Raymur for two; and former board members Anita for six and Laura for two—I am proud to call each of you my friend and to thank you for your selflessness and dedication to this community. We all have regrets in life, but working together with this amazing team will not be one of them.

Thank you for allowing me to serve RBUSD and this community; it has been an honor of a lifetime.

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





**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



*Netragrednik*

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the

**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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endorse the advertisers in this publication.

Happy New Year! It is often difficult to consider this a happy new year as we continue to live with the challenges of this pandemic. However, when you read the articles in this issue you will see there is lots to be happy about — educators are innovators.

This issue begins with Dr. Keller's positive message on page 3. This is our 15th year publishing the RBUSD School News. There have been many changes, but one constant is Dr. Keller's leadership focused on the positive. Whether it be budget cuts or a pandemic, he shines a light on moving forward with purpose.

Another trait that Dr. Keller exemplifies is acknowledging others. In his messages he always thanks the teachers, staff, students, parents and community.

In this issue you will read how the teachers are using creativity to engage and motivate students. You can't help but be encouraged and optimistic for a bright future...it is a Happy New Year!

We have converted all of our publications to digital and the response has been excellent. Thank you for being loyal readers and supporters of public education.

Our next issue is May 12, 2021.



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***kirari west***  
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**707 N PCH, Redondo Beach**



**Redondo Beach Unified School District**  
**Kindergarten Enrollment**  
**Starts: March 1, 2021**

Enrollment forms for children who plan to enter Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten for the 2021/2022 year can be found at [www.rbud.org](http://www.rbud.org) starting Monday, March 1, 2021

**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**

# Beach Cities Health District

514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/374-3426 • [www.bchd.org](http://www.bchd.org)



**Ali Steward, MPH**

*Director  
Youth Services*

## This is Public Health

What do seat belts, tobacco control policies, clean drinking water, reduced infant mortality and vaccines have in common?

If you answered “things that make you healthier” you’d be right. But these policy or system-level changes are also considered some of the greatest advances in public health during the past 100 years. More recently, as COVID-19 permeates all aspects of our lives, the role of public health to protect and promote the well-being of all has been thrust into the spotlight. Public health has been celebrated, but also castigated, as the sheer immensity of the current pandemic burdens our healthcare systems, our economic certainty, our mortality, and closer to home, our patience.

And yet – there is hope on the horizon. Once again, vaccines have the potential to prevent the rapid spread of an infectious disease. Questions and uncertainties remain, as the public health community simultaneously manages the ongoing pandemic and mounts an unprecedented vaccination effort.



As I write this in mid-January, there are still half-a-million healthcare workers in Los Angeles County who need to receive their first dose of the vaccine before the next phase of vaccinations will begin for educators, those 65+ and other priority populations. Hopefully, by the time you read this in early February, these efforts will be well underway.

As your local health agency, Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) is here to answer your questions about COVID-19 and the vaccine. We are updating our website ([www.bchd.org](http://www.bchd.org)) daily with the latest information, including distribution plans for priority populations and how that collaborative planning process will get more shots in the arms of Beach Cities residents.

Have other questions? Give our School Well-Being Line a call. Our BCHD team will answer your questions about health and safety during COVID-19, as well as provide information about mental health support available in the Beach Cities. Call us at 310-374-3426 and select option 2 on school days between 7:30 a.m.- 4 p.m.

## BEACH CITIES SCHOOL WELL-BEING LINE

### Information, Support and Referrals for Families and School Staff

Call Beach Cities Health District’s School Well-Being Line for School Families at **310-374-3426 and press option 2** on school days between 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For more information visit [bchd.org/schoolwellbeingline](http://bchd.org/schoolwellbeingline)



# Redondo Beach Council PTA

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)

## We Shine Bright!

By Kimberly Quihuis, President

As we close—or should I say slam—the door on 2020, we must take time to reflect on the brightness!

Your PTA leaders have been hard at work reinventing programs to bring to the children and families of our community. They have learned to successfully navigate Zoom meetings in order to complete the business of the PTA, sometimes with the help of their own children. They continue to support the amazing teachers and administrators from afar and continue to work together with RBEF. This partnership helped donate a face covering for each child in RBUSD.

At the elementary units, we have seen pumpkin-carving competitions, virtual dances, art nights, virtual game nights, multicultural nights, family cooking classes and so much more. At the middle school, virtual dances with ASB, virtual movie night and grade-level programs are being planned for the spring. RUHS successfully brought Academic Letter Night to 667 juniors and seniors, spotlighting a 3.5 GPA or higher, and is planning Student Recognition Night for the spring. RB Council PTA in partnership with League of Women Voters hosted a virtual RBUSD Election Forum in February. Finally, 33rd District PTA continues its monthly Parent Engagement Speaker Series free of charge to everyone.

We hope PTA has risen to the challenge and exceeded your expectation in making sure every child, family and staff member feels fully supported. We are thankful for you and your continued support of PTA through your membership and donations. We are blessed to live in this amazing community.

We now open the door to 2021 and all of its brightness. Bring it on!



# Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

409 N. P.C.H., #310, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/954-2004 • [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org)



**Hanh Archer**  
President

## The Future is Bright

The start of every new year is a chance to reflect on the year past, learn some lessons, and commit to doing better in the coming year. 2020 forced all of us to pivot from our norms and routines, to question our values and practices. We've been challenged, we're continuing to be challenged, and we continue to meet these challenges.

Here at the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation, we've adapted to the challenges of not having face-to-face opportunities to connect with our families during our fund-raising efforts and events. We're relying on technology creativity to build relationships. Our efforts are rewarded by the dollars that continue to pour in from our parents and our community. These dollars directly impact our students both in the current learning model and when we safely return our students and staff to campus.

While you may be tempted to delete our emails or bypass our social-media posts, we implore you take a moment and read them, as they provide valuable information about what and how RBUSD, RBEF and PTA are working together for your children.

In all of this, the greatest lesson we can take away from this past year is that we are all in this together, and together, we will make the future bright in 2021!



## RBUSD Child Development

1401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
310/798-8683x1312, 1321 • [www.rbusd.org](http://www.rbusd.org)



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

## Welcome 2021

I know that most of us are thrilled to have 2020 in our rearview mirrors! As we welcome 2021 and all the possibilities it will bring, CDC is looking forward to adjusting our schedules to align with the return of students to in-person learning. Since opening last June with 167 students and then expanding to 450 students in the fall, we have been diligent in keeping our centers open safely

and have dreamed about the return to our "normal operations" of over 1,600 students! With the vaccine on the horizon and a community that has worked together to ensure our students' safety, these "normal operations" seem within reach. Nothing is more inspiring and fills our hearts like seeing students at school with their friends. Although for now, we can only see their smile in their eyes, we are hopeful to see their full bright smiles in 2021.

## Contest!

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



Your entry must be received by March 30, 2021  
From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive  
a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.



## The Effects of COVID-19 on Tiny Hearts



**Saar Danon, M.D.,**  
medical director,  
Pediatric Cardiology  
and Congenital  
Cardiac  
Catheterization,  
MemorialCare  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Although COVID-19 does not impact children as much as adults, there are some risks. Researchers have learned that children who have been infected with COVID-19 can later experience cardiac effects due to Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-C), which can occur weeks after exposure to COVID-19, and in some cases without symptoms during the initial infection. MIS-C is a condition where multiple organ systems become inflamed, including the heart, which can cause damage to heart's cells. This predominantly occurs in children younger than 14 but has been seen in up to 20 years of age.

Symptoms of MIS-C may include:

- Fever
- Rash
- Bloodshot eyes
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain, vomiting or diarrhea

MIS-C is rare, and most children eventually get better with proper diagnosis and treatment.

If you suspect your child has MIS-C, seek medical attention so your child's doctor can order the appropriate studies to identify inflammation in his or her body. It is especially important to rule out cardiac inflammation by performing appropriate lab work, an electrocardiograph and/or an echocardiogram. Should MIS-C be diagnosed or suspected, your child's care team will treat it appropriately to help avoid or reduce any long-term effects. It is important that this includes specialized, pediatric cardiac care.

The Children's Heart Institute at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach includes a comprehensive care team that can diagnose and treat virtually any heart condition for children of all ages, including the effects of MIS-C.

Learn more about the Children's Heart Institute at [millerchildrens.org/EliteHearts](https://millerchildrens.org/EliteHearts).

**2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806**  
**800-MEMORIAL (636-6742) • [millerchildrens.org/EliteHearts](https://millerchildrens.org/EliteHearts)**



## Experts in Pediatric Heart Care for Growing Hearts

You have enough to worry about, let us focus on your child's heart health. From diagnosis using bi-plane imaging technology, to highly specialized cardiac surgical care, and recovery in a dedicated cardiothoracic intensive care unit, our Children's Heart Institute can diagnose and treat virtually any congenital or acquired heart condition. Our talented team of heart specialists treat children of all ages, even as early as in utero, through young adulthood.

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**800-MEMORIAL (636-6742)**  
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Strength in medical director leadership (from left):  
Shaun Setty, M.D.,  
pediatric cardiac surgeon,  
Saar Danon, M.D.,  
interventional cardiologist; and  
Constantinos Chrysostomou, M.D.,  
pediatric cardiac intensivist.

## RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • [rshs.rbused.org](https://rshs.rbused.org)

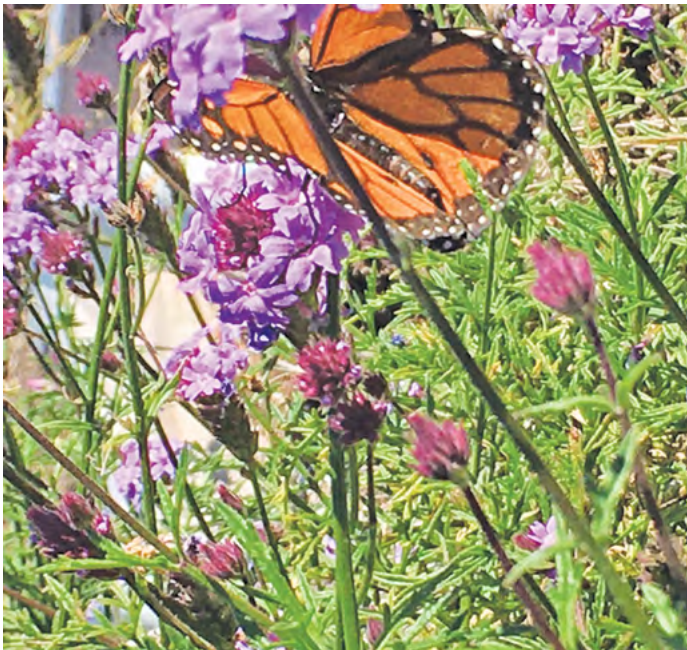


**Anthony Bridi**  
*Principal*

### The Future Looks Bright!

At Patricia Dreizler High School (PDHS), past programs continue to invoke vibrant life and opportunities for mindful reflection. In 2019, PDHS became a California Green Ribbon School Bronze Designation, which was initially intended to support and provide effective environmental and sustainable education to students when in-person learning was the norm. Under the guidance

of science teacher Rose Vadakan, a collective space was designated specifically for teaching green practices, such as sorting stations for campus trash reduction, daily composting, a vibrant vegetable plot, and a thriving hummingbird/butterfly garden.



**PDHS staff member, Angela Zeller capturing "a moment," in the thriving butterfly garden.**

Fast forward to 2021, and the physical green space continues to brighten the PDHS campus. It hosts a variety of thriving native species, provoking thought for those willing to take a moment to witness the delicate balance of life. Ironically, the peaceful space is connected to the much larger world, which some would say is filled with uncertainty. I, on the other hand, believe that the future is full of promise and new opportunities, specifically for those willing to "take a moment."

At PDHS, we "Break Ground, Break Molds, Break Cycles."

## RBUSD Educational Services

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



**Dr. Susan Wildes**  
*Assistant  
Superintendent*

### Looking Forward to 2021

*By Jessica Lubs; Interim Coordinator,  
Educational Services*

While 2020 was a challenging year for all of us, the obstacles that were thrown in our path provided many opportunities to reexamine and inform our approach to teaching and learning. It forced us to creatively develop methodologies to better understand our children's needs.

The pandemic forced us to look deeply at our practice specifically, and at our mission more broadly. We have necessarily explored our approach to working with our "digital native" students, utilizing new programs and platforms that invite them to interact and showcase their learning in unique and innovative ways. Above all else, we learned the power of meaningful student-student and student-teacher connections on learning.

Because our families have become increasingly able to engage with each other and their children's learning processes, we can move into the year 2021 with confidence and a heightened spirit of collaboration. In connecting with our children, we have been able to see their skills, preferences, and needs.

But being online is not enough. We anxiously await to greet our students in the classroom and deepen our connections.

## South Bay Adult School

3401 Inglewood Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278  
310/937-3340 • [www.southbayadult.org](https://www.southbayadult.org)



**Drew Gamet**  
*Director*

### Talk to Us

As we move toward what we hope are the end stages of this horrible pandemic, we wanted to reflect on one of the most important practices that have led to student success at SBAS. We know that students at SBAS have been sacrificing to attend class either by working around their children's online school schedules or studying in addition to their own work schedules.

Combine that with the ever-present danger of getting sick or people at work getting sick and having to change their own schedules to accommodate, studies might sometimes have to take a backseat to the other demands of life.

So, the number-one recommendation for success for our students is "Talk to us." Our staff is available to talk with you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We know the difficulties that you are facing, and we can help you put a plan together to get you through whatever difficulties you are facing and get your academic goals back on track! Call us at our office for assistance.



## Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

2600 Ripley Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8636 • [www.adamsmiddle.org](http://www.adamsmiddle.org)



**Lisa Veal**  
*Principal*

### **Cheers to 2021!**

*By Andrew Estrada, Assistant Principal*

Unprecedented. Remote Learning. Contact Tracing. Flatten the Curve. These words and phrases cause many to clench their jaw upon hearing them. But as we begin the new year, we should be happy and thankful that we have built a more resilient community that when faced with adversity, has risen to meet many challenges. Not

everything went sideways in 2020, but there were enough obstacles we overcame that we can confidently say that 2021 is going to be a year to celebrate a return to a sense of normalcy.

What do we have to look forward to in 2021?

**Welcoming our kids to school:** While we aren't where we all would like to be with a full return to in-person instruction, we have grown to value our teachers and support staff even more during this difficult time and look forward to the time when all of our students can be on campuses once again.

**Visiting with loved ones:** It was difficult to be separated from our neighbors, friends, and especially our family, but with the availability of vaccines on the horizon, we can anticipate more time spent with our loved ones outside of our home. Speaking of vaccines...

**Vaccines:** Researchers and members of the medical field have tirelessly worked to bring safe vaccines to the public and we can look forward to a return to a sense of normalcy once the general public have received the vaccines.

**Planning a trip and expecting it to happen:** While this may be the optimist in me, the later part of 2021 may be the time where we can book a trip with no concerns about extensive travel restrictions or safety.

**Renewed sense of self:** 2020 brought us much more time to reflect on ourselves, and hopefully, give ourselves permission to focus on self-care as well. With a better sense of who we are, we are optimistic that we will capitalize on what we have to offer to our community in 2021.

### **Cheers to 2021!**

## Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

815 Knob Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8650 • [altavista.rbusd.org](http://altavista.rbusd.org)

**Karin Sato, Principal**

### **The Future Sounds Bright**

A school has its own unique mixture of sounds. Our office has the chorus of voices of our support staff, many of whom have been on campus for months now to support virtual learning and to pave the path towards a hybrid classroom. One needs to walk only a short bit away to our Learning Is Fun Together (LIFT)/Special Day Class (SDC) and Child Development Center (CDC) classrooms to hear the sounds of children laughing and playing, asking inquisitive questions, and sharing the wisdom that so often comes from the mouth of babes. As we welcome our kindergarten through second-grade students back on campus, we eagerly anticipate the sounds of our school getting closer to the normal volume. The future looks bright, and it sounds bright too.

Our vocabulary has broadened this school year—not just from the beautiful words in the stories our students read, but in the vocabulary we use to describe our new normal. A is for Asynchronous, and Z is for Zoom session. R is for resiliency, the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties—and no one demonstrates it more than the students, families, and teachers of

Alta Vista Elementary School, who work in tandem each day delivering and supporting best practices virtually and in –person. The language that we use to describe school sounds different. But as we bring our youngest learners back, our classrooms and playgrounds may look and sound different this year, but they remain as bright as ever due to the resiliency of our community.

Socrates said, “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” At Alta Vista, we have been hard at work on building the new for our students. We can't wait to hear the sounds of our bright future back on campus.



**Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Dillon in her socially distanced classroom.**

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

920 Beryl St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8611 • [beryl.rbusd.org](http://beryl.rbusd.org)



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

### Our Future Looks Bright

Happy New Year, Beryl families! We are excited for 2021, and are looking forward to soon being together again in person.

As we look forward to this upcoming year, we want to recognize the outstanding efforts of our staff members

and how they have maintained their stamina every day since we first began distance learning. Our teachers, special education staff members, office staff, custodian, and CDC staff members all appreciate your communication and collaborative efforts. We know that our future looks bright because we have the right people in place to teach your children.

As we have been saying, our future looks bright in 2021, and we are all working hard to get everything done. We are keeping a positive attitude, and are ready to go because the more we learn the more we know. Working together will get us all through, and with Buddy our Bulldog we know just what to do!

Our future looks bright, so we have to wear shades; so get yourself going to make those wonderful grades!



**The future is so bright, we have to wear shades!**

## Birney *Elementary* (K-5)

1600 Green Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8626 • [birney.rbusd.org](http://birney.rbusd.org)



**Mira Baskaron**  
*Principal*

### Moving Forward in 2021

WOW! What a year! I think we can all agree that we were ready for 2020 to end and are looking forward to a brighter and more positive year in 2021. Perspective can make the worst situation bearable. You choose how to move forward. Will you take the events of 2020 as lessons learned on your journey and improve from there? Or will you dwell on the negatives and stay in that place of self-pity and anger?

I choose to take the lessons learned and embrace a more positive journey, not only for myself, but for my family.

Undoubtedly this will be a process, but it begins with the positive thought of wanting a better 2021 coupled with actionable items that include short- and long-term goals. Perhaps you can select just one area in your life to tackle at one time. Start off by writing it down, along with the identified actionable items. Be intentional in your efforts to move forward in this new year. I tend to hold myself more accountable when I put my thoughts on paper. This is also a good way to see your growth on your journey.

I wish you an amazing start to the new year with a fresh perspective and a deep desire to not be defeated based on what happened in 2020. Set your goals and move forward, ensuring you check in with yourself and others often.



## Jefferson *Elementary* (K-5)

600 Harkness Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • [jefferson.rbusd.org](http://jefferson.rbusd.org)



**Jeff Winckler**  
Principal

### 2021 is Here!

The New Year is here, and with its arrival comes the hope of a departure from what made much of last year so difficult. At Jefferson, and at every school across the district, our biggest wish in this new calendar year is for the eventual return of our students for in-person instruction and the re-opening of our campuses.

When this occurs at Jefferson, it is our aim to maintain and learn from some of the lasting lessons that the past year has brought us, and to achieve that “return to normal.” However, as we proceed, we must be cognizant that our new normal will not be quite the same as it was.

For our students and our community, we have much to look forward to in 2021 and the second half of the school year. Whether engaged in-person or with our hybrid,

at-home model, we want to focus on being together as a class, grade level, and whole school unit. To this end, we have a number of activities and events planned for the time ahead, such as a school-wide at-home garden activity from the Beach Cities Health District, as well as a virtual science assembly from our PTA.

Additionally, our CDC child care program will continue as it has since the early summer. We also have themed weeks planned for all students, such as The Great Kindness Challenge and our RBUSD Spirit Week.

It is with optimism and hope that we look forward to all of these activities and events. There will be many more occurring in the time ahead as well. So let us approach this year with positivity, as well as the new perspective that we have gained over the past year. Be well Dolphins, and here's to 2021.



Jefferson CDC students working on projects while staying safe.





## Lincoln *Elementary* (K-5)

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8646 • [lincoln.rbusd.org](http://lincoln.rbusd.org)



**Brianne Nakayama**  
*Principal*

### Look Out for Leo!

At Lincoln we are continuing to find ways to keep the Lincoln community connected and make this unique school year memorable. One amazing addition to our community has been the introduction of Leo the Lion. Leo is our new school mascot and he was recently named by the kindergarten

students in Ms. Collingwood's class who reached 100% PTA membership.

Leo is often invited by our teachers to drop into classes to talk with the students and answer their questions. He has even been known to Zoom Bomb our classes a time or two! Leo is a bright addition to our Lincoln community.

Leo is a very busy lion and you can often see him in the Lincoln neighborhood. Leo was recently sighted in a car parade during the winter break, he is often prowling around the neighborhood on walks, and he always can be seen participating in our school events.



**Leo and Mrs. Nakayama on a walk to spread some holiday cheer.**

## Madison *Elementary* (K-5)

2200 MacKay Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8623 • [madison.rbusd.org](http://madison.rbusd.org)



**Dr. Heather Cash**  
*Principal*

### Shine Your Light!

"Nothing can dim the light that shines from within." Maya Angelou reminds us that our school community is remarkable because of the people who make it brilliant. Ms. Vega greets staff each morning with a genuine, wide smile behind her mask as she checks symptom screeners. Mrs. Binder's laugh rings throughout the office. Mr. Tom dishes up delicious posole and the Pagone

family welcomes staff back with boxes of warm, fresh donuts and hot coffee. Mrs. Replogle treats all students and families with compassion and unending encouragement. From TK to 5th grade, Madison teachers model innovation, flexibility, courage and grace. Our parent community pivots as what we can do evolves. The Madison PTA's Art Fence titled "Spreading Joy in our Community" connects families through creativity and kindness, our Jog-a-thon will be re-imagined and our drive-thru events bring smiles and laughter. Shining our light towards each other and focusing on the possible, means Madison Comets SOAR!



**Shine your light!**

## Parras *Middle School* (6–8)

200 N. Lucia Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8616 • [www.parrasmiddle.org](http://www.parrasmiddle.org)



**Dr. Jonathan Erickson**  
*Principal*

### A More “Fun” Challenge for 2021

Much has been said about the challenges of 2020, and even now, in 2021, we are not quite clear of them yet. However, challenges do not always have to be a bad thing. In college, I had some trouble deciding between majoring in English or mathematics. I loved them both, but in the end chose math mainly because I was pretty sure that I could not learn it as well on my own, especially at a high level.

One thing that frustrated me about math was how some of the most beautiful and astonishing results are only seen by those who take advanced math classes. Maybe, if more of the aesthetics of math were seen earlier, more people would appreciate math, and be more excited to take those advanced classes in the first place.

In this article I am going to present a classic problem—easy to understand, but not quite so easy to find a solution. Yet at least one of the approaches requires no more than what is learned in Algebra 1.

*If a line segment is randomly broken twice, what is the probability that you can form a triangle from the 3 pieces?*

If you experiment with actually breaking a stick, you may be misled into thinking that the answer is 100%. This is because it is easier to break bigger pieces of the stick, so your breaking may not be as “random” as you think. But as you can imagine (or draw on paper), a line segment could be broken twice such that two of the pieces are very small, while one piece is very big, and then a triangle could not be formed.

If you have a solution that you can explain (and not just a number-answer), please submit it using this Google Form, by February 16th, 2021: <https://forms.gle/aEonU2QkArAcHwz26>. There is also a hint there, if interested.

And if this challenge fascinates you, consider the natural extension: If a line segment is broken into 4 pieces, what is the probability of being able to form a quadrilateral?

## Redondo Union *High School*

One Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8665 • [www.redondounion.org](http://www.redondounion.org)



**Jens Brandt**  
*Principal*

### RU Purposeful?

Sea Hawks, when the school year began, did you have a list of goals you wanted to accomplish? Achieve a certain GPA? Join a new club? Try out for a new sport or extracurricular activity? Take an AP class? Take a moment to reflect on the first semester and your endeavors.

Now, let's talk about your second semester. What are your objectives? Are you applying to your target colleges? Are you staying active and healthy? Did you apply for a job? Do you have any personal goals, such as arriving to all classes on time, being focused in class, or completing and turning in your virtual assignments in a timely manner?

Students, take a moment to write down at least one or two goals you plan on completing by June. Now, as you pursue your goals, realize that the most important trait of your journey is grit. Grit is the unwavering pursuit of

success no matter what obstacles may attempt to interrupt your path. Abraham Lincoln once said, “You can have anything you want, if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, do anything you set out to accomplish if you hold to that desire with singleness of purpose.”

As you pursue your goals with great purpose, relish those moments when you can pause and reflect on your journey thus far. Never fail to be conscious of your actions and opportunities to refine your practices and habits. Your future is bright when you are aiming at a specific target.

Finally, Sea Hawks, always be aware of your strengths and sense of courage when it comes to self-advocacy. As young adults, the high school setting provides many opportunities for you to communicate with your peers, teachers, counselors and administrators. The ability to speak up for yourself without the involvement of your family is a skill you will certainly use and appreciate all your life!





## Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

1520 Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8628 • [tulita.rbusd.org](http://tulita.rbusd.org)



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna**  
*Principal*

### Looking Forward to a Bright Future in 2021

While the year 2020 brought significant challenges to our world, our nation, and our local communities, Tulita Elementary School is looking forward to making 2021 a bright and prosperous year. As our community navigates through a change in the way we teach and learn, our teachers continue to find ways to keep our students engaged in learning. Through the use of various technology platforms, teachers and staff diligently plan and put together lessons to ensure students are learning grade-level content effectively.

One of the greatest outcomes of digital learning has been the opportunity to expand experiences for our students. Through the use of video conferencing, Tulita fourth-graders, who study California missions as part of their social studies program, recently got to enjoy a virtual visit to Mission La Purisima Concepcion, which is located in Lompoc, over 160 miles away from Redondo Beach. Mission tour guides virtually guided students through the mission, speaking of its history and showing students different parts of the mission and church. This hands-on virtual experience brought the mission to life for students—so much so that it's an experience that teachers hope to continue in the future.

Another recent virtual experience for students was our fifth-grade Walk Through the American Revolution assembly. Typically held in person, this dynamic program is popular among students each year. This year, through



**Tulita 5th grader dressed as General Cornwallis for the Walk Through American Revolution virtual experience.**

video conferencing, students explored the famous events, historical figures, and relevant vocabulary of this pivotal point in America's history.

While nothing will ever beat learning together in person, we hope that these new experiences will continue in the future as we continue to explore and strengthen the digital learning experience for our students.

## Washington *Elementary (K-5)*

1100 Lilienthal Ln., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8641 • [washington.rbusd.org](http://washington.rbusd.org)



**Andrea Bittick**  
*Principal*

### Make the Positive Loud

*By Sara McMaster, Assistant Principal*

The year 2020 was one to remember. This year challenged all humanity to step outside its comfort zones and navigate within our society in ways we never have before. Education has changed around the globe, and we have been taught many important lessons.

Our teachers have responded creatively to the needs of their students. Now, more than ever, our parents and teachers are actively collaborating with one another to focus on student needs. Our community has also responded to the events of the past year with empathy and kindness. We have remained connected despite all of the bumps along the way.

In 2021, Washington Elementary plans to make the positive loud. What this means to our community is that

we are going to focus on finding silver linings and look for the good in all that comes across our path. To help send this message, during the week of January 19-22 our school participated in the "Gratitude Campaign." Students sent messages to themselves and others that focused on gratitude.

The fourth- and fifth-graders in student leadership led this initiative by being featured in daily video messages for our community to watch. Our entire school community also helped to create a virtual Gratitude Wall. Our week aligned with RBUSD's Yellow Ribbon Week, which also helped to remind the community about the power of kindness.

With all that is on the horizon for 2021, we have asked our staff to focus on one word that will move them forward. Balance, determination, teamwork, flexibility, self-care, and positivity are some of the words that have appeared on our list. Our students, staff, and community plan to make the positive "loud" in 2021, and our future is bright!



# South Bay Hands On Art

## Elephants

By Co-Chairs

Caasi Copp and Buffy Soule

Elephants made their appearance in our seaside town! The January HOA project was inspired by surrealist Salvador Dalí and his artwork titled "The Elephants." Dalí's art was inspired by dreams and imagination, and his elephants have long, spindly legs that seem out of this world. Students could draw elephants in Dalí's style or other variations that they may invent! For kids, this invites them to be creative and takes the pressure off for their drawings to be perfect. Ask them to tell you a story about their picture or any other artwork they create. It's a great way to encourage imagination and extend any project. If your child's class missed out on any HOA project, they are available on [www.southbayhandsonart.com](http://www.southbayhandsonart.com). Enjoy!



2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA

Students from Beryl Heights, Logan (K) and Trent (3)

## Lacrosse—Word Search Contest

### Rules!

One word in the list is Not in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to:

**Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com**

(Please put RBUSD in the subject line)

ATTACK	MOUTH GUARD
CLEATS	NET
COACH	PLAYERS
CREASE	RULES
DEFENSE	SCORE
FIELD	SHAFT
GOAL KEEPER	SIDE LINES
HEAD	STICK
HELMETS	TEAMS
MIDDIES	UNIFORMS

Congratulations

**David & Daniel Hernandez**

winners of our November contests

Entries must be received by March 30, 2021

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

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

Word Search by Kai Coop

## Kailani's Review



**Kailani T.**

### Positive Outlook

*Ways to Make Sunshine* is written by Renée Watson, a Coretta Scott King Award and Newbery Medal winner. The story is about a 10-year-old Ryan Hart who had to adjust to many changes in her life after her father had



lost his job. Her dad's new job did not pay as much as his old job, so her family had to move into a smaller house and must limit their spending. Ryan faced many challenges at this point of her life. With the help from her loving family and friends, she was able to see the positive sides of the changes. Ryan brought sunshine to her family and anyone around her by trying to be a good daughter, good sister, and a good friend.

Reading this book taught me to think positive. If we look at things positively, we can always find some good things even in the worst situation. I give this book 5 stars out of 5.

Kailani is a 3rd grader who loves to read. When not playing with her baby brother, Kailani likes to color and draw. She started taking Spanish lessons while sheltering-in-place. Horseback riding and skate boarding are the new activities she enjoys. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

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