

FREE

School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 16, Issue 126

February 2022–April 2022



RUHS Marching Band and Dance Guard, Division 4A State Champions!

Board of Education



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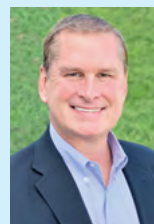
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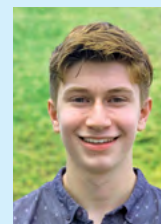
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REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION EVENTS

CLASS OF 2035

KINDERGARTEN

School	Event	Event	Event
Alta Vista Elementary 815 Knob Hill (310) 798-8650	Kindergarten Information Session Wednesday, February 23 th 2:00 p.m.	School & Classroom Tours Monday, February 28 th 9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 3 rd 9:00 a.m.	Kindergarten Info Session & Q&A for Enrolled & Incoming Parents (Parents Only) Wednesday, May 18 th 2:00 p.m.
Beryl Heights Elementary 920 Beryl Street (310) 798-8611	Kindergarten Tours Wednesday, February 9 th 2:30 p.m.	Kindergarten Tours Wednesday, February 23 rd 2:30 p.m.	Kindergarten Information Event Teacher Introduction & Tour Wednesday, May 18 th 2:30 p.m.
Birney Elementary 1600 Green Lane (310) 798-8626	Kindergarten Information Session for Parents Wednesday, February 16 th 2:00 p.m.	School & Classroom Tours Thursday, February 24 th 9:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.	School & Classroom Tours Monday, February 28 th 9:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.
Jefferson Elementary 600 Harkness Lane (310) 798-8631	Kindergarten Info Session & Q&A for Prospective Parents (Parents Only) Wednesday, February 16 th 2:00 p.m.	School & Classroom Tours (Parents Only) Thursday February 24 th 9:00 a.m.	Kindergarten Info Session & Q&A for Enrolled and Incoming Parents (Parents Only) Wednesday, May 18 th 2:00 p.m.
Lincoln Elementary 2223 Plant Avenue (310) 798-8646	Kindergarten Information Session Wednesday, February 23 rd 12:30 p.m.	Kindergarten & School Tour Tuesday, February 8 th 8:30 a.m.	Kindergarten & School Tour Thursday, February 10 th 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
Madison Elementary 2200 MacKay Lane (310) 798-8623	RBUSD TK Information Event with Principal for Incoming TK Parents Thursday, February 24 th 4:30 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Chat with Principal for TK & Kindergarten Friday, March 4 th 8:00 a.m.	School & Classroom Tours Friday, April 22 nd 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. (to be confirmed)
Tulita Elementary 1520 Prospect Avenue (310) 798-8628	TK/Kinder Round Up/Parent Information Session Wednesday, February 9 th 2:00 p.m. – in Cafeteria	Campus Tour Tuesday, February 15 th 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	Campus Tour Thursday, February 17 th 1:15 p.m.
Washington Elementary 1100 Lilienthal Lane (310) 798-8641	Virtual Kindergarten Information Session Wednesday, February 2 nd 1:00 p.m.	Kindergarten Tour (Call to reserve space week of January 24th) Friday, February 4 th Thursday, February 10 th 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	Kindergarten Round Up/Parent Information Session on School Programs Wednesday, May 11 th 2:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m.
Washington Dual Immersion Program 1100 Lilienthal Lane (310) 798-8641	Virtual Kindergarten Information Session Dual Immersion Wednesday, February 2 nd 2:15 p.m.	Dual Immersion Tour (Call to reserve space week of January 24th) Monday, February 7 th and Tuesday, February 15 th 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	

Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

Ethic of Care

At the end of the day, it is our deeds that matter most. As an example, we can talk about how much we love someone, but if our actions demonstrate otherwise, we will question the authenticity of that love.

In the Redondo Beach Unified School District, we often say that Team RBUSD has a strong ethic of care. In words, it sounds terrific. How do we ensure our actions match this commitment?

The holidays highlight this learning community's ethic of care. First, the Educational Services team, along with PTA and RBEF, collected 85 gift baskets for RBUSD families who were struggling financially over the holidays. These baskets were filled with gift certificates, food, clothes, shoes, and other items that provided holiday cheer to many of our families. Second, our management team collected cash for staff members who have fallen on tough times. This transaction was discrete and simply kind. Third, Team RBUSD reached out to local and other vendors to donate prizes and gift cards to our annual Staff Holiday Open House. We collected a significant amount of prizes this year and we distributed them at the RUHS Sea Hawk Bowl, in a light rain, in December. Many, many staff members were rewarded with electronics, gift cards, housewares, and other random gifts that brought great joy to our employees. Given how hard our employees have worked during the pandemic, they deserved nothing less, even in the rain!

The three holiday events described above demonstrate RBUSD's ethic of care for its families and employees. What is most impressive is we "do" all three of these experiences each and every year. This is in our RBUSD DNA. Although the holidays are behind us, Team RBUSD is already planning and preparing for next year's cheer, in action and spirit.

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

Board of Education



Dan Elder
Member


Moving Towards Brighter Days Ahead

To call these "challenging times" is a dramatic understatement. We're living through a global pandemic that has so far killed over 860,000 Americans, sickened millions, and upended our lives. Many have lost loved ones, lost businesses or jobs, or experienced some form of trauma. The recent surge revealed just how quickly things can change.

We preach about being resilient but we're having to be more resilient than imaginable just 2 years ago. Our kids are struggling. Socially, emotionally, and academically, they need our help. There is no guide for how to navigate this, we do our best with what we have and stay flexible so we can quickly adapt.

Through it all there have been heroes among us and not just in healthcare on the front lines. With multiple new learning models, constantly shifting public health requirements, staff shortages, and so much more, there have been heroes out there all along helping our kids get through this. Whether it's a teacher juggling in-person and Zoom, a custodian sanitizing and reconfiguring classrooms, a technician setting up new programs, a parent learning "new math", an administrator juggling a dozen new roles, or any of the other critical but often overlooked tasks, we're all here for our kids. Recognition with even a simple thank you goes a long way.

Our students and their families are of course the most important members of this team, thank you for everything you do! It takes all of us working together to support our children on their journey. There is no better path to success than through education and it's an awesome responsibility to bear that we must all commit to, together. This was never easy but with a little grace for ourselves and others, we will recover and move towards brighter days ahead.



Redondo Beach Unified School District
Kindergarten Enrollment
Starts: March 1, 2022

Enrollment forms for children who plan to enter Kindergarten/Transitional Kindergarten for the 2022/2023 year can be found at www.rbusd.org starting Tuesday, March 1, 2022

Board of Education Meeting Dates

2022

February 8
February 22
March 8

March 22,
April 26*
May 10

May 24
June 14
June 28

(*4/26/22 – Organizational Meeting)
*** Due to holiday/local holiday schedule,**
only one Board meeting in April.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Netragrednik

By now the new year is well underway. Here's to a healthier year for everyone.

Dr. Keller begins this issue on page 3 with his message of the RBUSD's acts of caring.

This is our 16th year publishing the RBUSD *School News*. From the first day I met Dr. Keller his positive leadership was evident. Rather than have our introductory meeting in an office he invited me to attend a PTA meeting. I was delighted having been a PTA member throughout my own children's school years. It is not surprising that each year at this time the theme for the *School News* issue

is highlighting the PTA and Redondo Beach Education Foundation. Being a PTA member and supporting the Foundation is important for the work they do, but it also demonstrates to the students that you care.

We have included student book reviews on pages 19-23 and a word search on page 17!

Since our next issue is May 4, I don't want to miss wishing Dr. Seuss Happy Birthday! Enjoy Read Across America Day March 2!



School News

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**Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

Happy Birthday PTA

By Kimberly Quihuis, President

On February 17th we will be celebrating 125 years of working on behalf of children and families. That is our Founders Day where we celebrate the legacy and work of our founders, Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler — to improve the lives of all children and families.



Founders' Day is a time to reflect and take pride in our achievements, and renew our commitment to be:

- a powerful voice for all children;
- a relevant resource for parents; and
- a strong advocate for public education.

Our history informs our work. But Today's PTA is vibrant and active and includes a network of millions of families, students, teachers and community members advocating for all children, youth and families.

PTA is the premier legacy association for children, families, and education. PTA is invested in the whole child and advocates on their behalf. California State PTA reaches millions of parents and families through members, coalitions and partnerships and has a history of landmark advocacy. PTA focuses on social and educational programs that inspire an importance on family engagement in all schools and communities.

Recently, California State PTA has been a force for change in bringing light to funding issues and ensuring that family engagement and community voice have a place at the table where funding decisions are made. PTA is building ways to ensure that family engagement is never overlooked and is providing training on its importance in and out of the classroom.

Thank you Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler for your dedication to improve the lives of all children and families. Today we celebrate you!

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



Doris Donlou-Richmond
President

Partnerships

As we embark on a new year, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation reflects on what truly makes our organization so successful and the answer is partnership.

RBEF is only as strong as its' partnerships in our community. Our partnership with the Redondo Beach Unified School District. Our Partnership with PTA. Our Partnership with our parents. Our Partnership with our community. Our Partnership with our Business Partners.



Kimberly Quihuis PTA Council President and Doris Donlou-Richmond RBEF President

The collaboration between us and our partners allows our foundation to work towards a common goal – to help plant seeds of opportunity for our RBUSD students through the various programs we are able to fund. Igniting a students passion through RBEF funded programs like 5th Grade Band, Vocal Music, Robotics or E-Sports can lead to lifelong passions and careers for our future leaders.

When we come together, anything is possible for Our Kids. Our Community. Our Legacy.

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

CALLING ALL 3RD-12TH GRADE STUDENTS ART CONTEST

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Artwork by Ashley Benitez, 153rd St. Elementary (2019)

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RBUSD Educational Services

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



Dr. Susan Wildes
Assistant
Superintendent

The Power of Community Partners

There is an old African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child." In the Redondo Beach Unified School District and community, that saying is especially true, and it is put into practice through the strong relationship that the RBUSD maintains with parents, staff, community, and in particular, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF).

These relationships reflect the social reality of one group alone, and cannot fully provide all of the experiences and support that is required to meet the needs of the "whole child." Through a long-standing partnership with the RBEF, the students in our district have access to high-quality physical education teachers and programming, vocal and instrumental music instruction, and greater access to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs such as robotics and eSports. The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation also supports the mental health of our students by providing increased access to counseling services across the K-12 continuum.

Over the past two years, the relationship between the RBUSD and its community partners has been integral in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic and campus closures. Both the PTA and RBEF were able to seamlessly pivot to online programming and support, which allowed our families to stay connected as a district.

The RBUSD relationship with the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD), also a strong community partner, has provided wraparound services to address the health and safety concerns of not only the community but our schools as well. The guidance that the BCHD has provided, and continues to provide to the Redondo Beach community, has been unparalleled during this pandemic. They have served a role in our community and the schools that could never have been anticipated.

Educating the "whole child" is the highest priority for the Redondo Beach Unified School District, one that we could not accomplish without our strong community partners.



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



Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

COVID-19 Vaccines and Testing Outcomes for Beach Cities Schools in 2021

As we start 2022, we look back on the whirlwind of 2021. During this year, Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) partnered with local school districts –

Hermosa Beach City School District (HBCSD), Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) and Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) – to support student, staff and family health and well-being, including COVID-19 vaccines and testing.

Vaccines: On Monday, March 1, 2021, all education staff who live or work in Los Angeles County became eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. BCHD coordinated with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health regarding vaccination efforts for the school community. As an authorized vaccine provider, BCHD hosted vaccination efforts for 11 South Bay school districts in the South Bay Consortium for School Vaccines.



From March through December 2021, BCHD hosted 74 vaccination clinics, 33 of which were pop-up clinics at schools. More than 23,100 total doses of Pfizer vaccine were administered. More than 5,000 doses were administered to school staff, more than 16,800 to 12+ and more than 6,200 to 5-11 year olds.

Testing: When BCHD's community COVID-19 testing site closed in June 2021, BCHD worked with the three Beach Cities school

districts to provide ongoing testing for students and school employees. BCHD worked collaboratively with the school districts to establish on-site testing within all three school districts and daily testing at BCHD facilities. Ongoing, free testing is available at BCHD, 514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach on school days between 2 – 5 p.m. Since June 2021, more than 7,000 COVID-19 tests have been provided to students and school staff.

For questions related to health and safety at school including vaccines and testing, call BCHD's School Well-Being Line at 310-374-3426 and press option 2 Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

RBUSD Child Development

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



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Fundraising and Celebrating

*By Socorro Stephens-Wallace
Birney & Lincoln
Child Development Center
Site Supervisor*

Throughout our district, the PTA offers a plethora of programs from BOB's (Battle Of the Books), Running club to Jog-A-Thons, Jump rope for Heart, Spirit wear and night out restaurant fundraising events, to name a few of the activities PTA has that are working to offer our students, school side teachers, CDC staff at various sites and families; great fun-filled endeavors that has everyone gearing up for that next PTA event!

Pre-Covid; our Child Development Centers Pre-K programs participated in the Jump rope for Heart yearly. It was an awesome way to engage the students and staff as well as introduce the Pre-K students to some of the things they would be involved and participate in once they move on to Kindergarten.

The CDC staff truly appreciates the inclusivity from PTA at their sites. As always we are all in this together for the greater good of our students.



Pre-Covid photo capturing Ella Horta watching Fancy jump roping tricks.

South Bay Adult School

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



Drew Gamet
Director

Adult Student Leadership Program

One of the most important things that we can do to support one another as a community during a pandemic is to give back to those that are less fortunate in our community. The South Bay Adult School has done exactly that with the founding of its Adult Student Leadership Program. To inaugurate this program, the student leaders at SBAS, including students from the English as a Second Language Program, Adult High School Diploma, GED and Adult Transition Program, got together during the month of December and collected material donations to help those in our community that are

homeless. The generosity of our students helped make sure that those that had to live in the harsh weather during the holiday break had a little more help during those difficult days.

But that is just the beginning. Our students are planning to continue their work of developing their own skills as community leaders to help solve and bring a broader focus to issues affecting adult students. This includes spreading the word about the opportunity to get community college classes paid for to help people retrain for new careers as our economy changes. They will also be learning how to effectively advocate public officials to support their educational needs as they integrate into their communities and seek new training and employment opportunities.



Students & teachers from South Bay Adult School, Adult Leadership Program. December 2021.

RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • <https://pdhs.rbusd.org/>



Jens Brandt
Principal

RBEF and Esports

This spring, in partnership with RBEF, we are thrilled to announce the official introduction of esports in RBUSD. While the teamwork and competitive aspects of esports tournaments likely speak for themselves, we are as excited about the career pathways available to our students. The

“behind the screens” opportunities in game design, coding, programming and other tech-related fields are as close as Silicon Beach. Students who identify themselves as gamers are as much as three times more likely to major in science, technology, engineering, the arts or math (STEAM).

Our partnership will bring opportunities for our students to compete with both peers and rivals as well as the chance to speak and meet with industry professionals over the coming months. These gaming-industry experts will share their STEAM-inspired stories and experiences with our middle school and high school students.



We are looking forward to our very own RBEF-RBUSD Esports champions this spring.

Our esports are gender and ADA neutral, allowing for open competition and the benefits of social-emotional growth. Working with their esports coaches at each school site, students will have access to technology, reminders to balance schoolwork with match play, and learning responsible gameplay.



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THC Overdosing from Edibles on the Rise in School-Aged Children



Babak Rahimi, M.D.,
*pediatric cardiologist,
Children's
Heart Institute,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach*

With the legalization of marijuana, it's important for parents to be mindful how accessible marijuana can be for kids. While it's important to watch our teenagers with marijuana use – an alarming new trend is occurring in children much younger.

There has been an uptick in younger children who are suffering from THC overdose, from consuming THC-infused edibles that look like candy. THC edibles such as – gummies, brownies, lollipops, and even lemonade and soda – are growing in popularity. The packaging can appeal to younger kids, who may not even know what THC is.

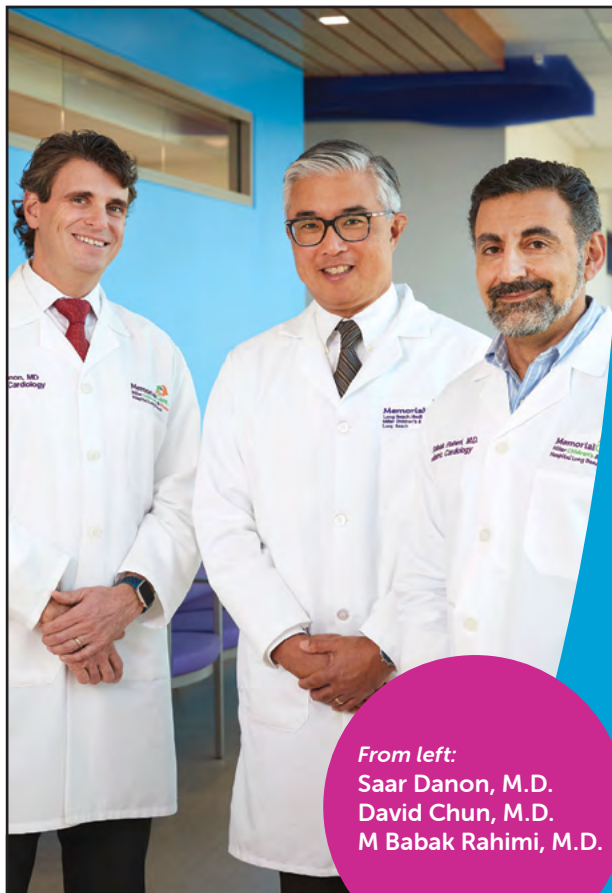
A little over a year ago, THC-infused candy that looked very similar to Nerds Rope® caused several kids to die from a THC overdose. Despite an edible's welcoming appearance, a single THC-infused candy bar can contain several times the recommended adult dose of THC. This creates a significant issue for toddlers and school-aged children. In addition, since THC is digested the "side effects" could take hours to develop, causing kids to eat more since they won't feel any initial reaction.

Anyone can overdose from the effects from edibles – but children especially can experience altered perception, anxiety, paranoia, dizziness, weakness, slurred speech, poor coordination, apnea and heart problems. It's not well known yet what the long-term effects of edibles have on your child's heart, but some children complain of a tightened chest and pain similar to a heart attack.

If you see your child experience any of these signs call 9-1-1 immediately. Learn more about children's heart care at millerchildrens.org/EliteHearts.



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



From left:
Saar Danon, M.D.
David Chun, M.D.
M Babak Rahimi, M.D.

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Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Teaming Up

With a new year upon us, Adams would like to recognize two very important groups that help make our school the diverse learning community that it is. We would not be able to provide our students with the educational experience they receive without the support of our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF).

Our PTSA provides students and teachers with learning material, guest speakers, field trips, newsletters, Hands-on Art, and grade-level events like Greek Fest, not to mention their countless volunteer hours. Recently, on January 20th, our PTSA held its first annual Adams Scripps Spelling Bee. Congratulations to first-place winner Caroline Huang! Students of all grades were invited to participate, and a mock bee was held in December to prepare for the big event. Thank you to the PTSA for bringing this event to our campus.



Adams Middle School's Spelling Bee hosted by PTSA.



Intramural sports game supported by RBEF.

We are also thankful for the RBEF. The foundation supports district-wide programs such as teacher mini-grants, music education, STEM-related programs, and at our middle school, intramural athletics. Because of the RBEF's support, we are able to host three athletic seasons, which provide our students with the opportunity to be part of a team, learn about sportsmanship, and have some friendly competition with the other middle schools in the South Bay.

We thank our community for supporting both of these organizations. Parent volunteers who are dedicated to our school run both groups. At Adams, we all feel a deep sense of gratitude for these two organizations that go above and beyond to help support our school. Thank you to the PTA and RBEF; we appreciate all that you do for our students, teachers, and communities!

Alta Vista Elementary School (K–5)

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



Karin Sato
Principal

Together: A Wonderful Place!

At Alta Vista, we have a sense of shared purpose in our vision of developing leaders who are innovators and good humans. We foster an enthusiastic, creative community of learners prepared to continue their intellectual, emotional and physical development.

Educating the whole child is only possible through the incredible commitment and passion of our PTA and RBEF. Because of PTA, we are able to provide students with assemblies that bring the curriculum to life, which include Walk through California and Walk through the Revolution. PTA enriches students'

art education with Hands on Art. Last month, students were led by their docent to create the art project titled "Cacti." Most recently, PTA provided an opportunity for students to spotlight their innovations at Kid's Marketplace. Students created goods to sell, and some used the revenue to donate to charities.

RBEF provides many of our students' classroom experiences, from teacher educational grants to supplementary programs such as music, PE and band. Our parent and community groups create opportunities for each child to be nurtured, supported, and developed holistically. At Alta Vista, I am incredibly inspired by the tapestry of diverse perspectives, strengths and interests that we are able to cultivate through our deep partnerships with PTA and RBEF.

Beryl Heights *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

PTA and RBEF Go Above and Beyond

We are extremely fortunate to have such a supportive PTA at Beryl Heights Elementary School. Throughout these challenging times, our PTA hosted a wonderful trunk or treat for the families and in the new year, they provided our staff with a delicious lunch. Our PTA also gives generously to each teacher a budget to purchase things for their classroom. Their generosity is much appreciated!

Our Redondo Beach Education Foundation has had a positive impact on Beryl.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation has been able to fund the following programs and projects at Beryl Heights Elementary School this year:

- A credentialed vocal music teacher to provide high quality, vocal music education for every first, second, third, and fourth grade student.



- A credentialed instrumental music teacher to provide high quality, music education for 5th grade band students.

Please donate to the Education Foundation this year. As always, thank you very much for your support.

Birney *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Enriching the Lives of Birney Students

What would we do without these wonderful organizations that fund so many of the enriching programs on the Birney campus? Although the last couple of years have allowed us to think outside of the box, our wonderful partners continue to support our efforts, even in the middle of a pandemic! The PTA continues to provide students with enriching opportunities by providing on-site assemblies. Additionally, the PTA has supported the following student programs during this unique school year: virtual and outdoor family nights, classroom enrichment grants for teachers, Walk Through the American Revolution, professional development for teachers, and so much more.

The PTA is continuously looking for new ways to enrich our students' lives. These enriching opportunities come through the PTA's hard work to make it all a reality for Birney students. If you have not done so already, please become a PTA member in support of our Birney students.

The RBEF is yet another wonderful organization that is hard at work providing our Birney students with many enriching opportunities. RBEF's continued support has allowed students in multiple grades to participate in a weekly music program, a band teacher for students in the fifth grade, physical education teachers, and so much more.

The teachers who provide music to our students are also allowing them an opportunity to enter a world that might not have existed for them but for the RBEF. The support of the physical education program allows our other teachers the continued professional development they need while their students are with the physical education teachers. If you have not done so already, please contribute to this wonderful organization so that they can continue to provide these vital opportunities to our Birney students.

Our students are so fortunate to have these two organizations working hard to help them benefit from so many wonderful and enriching opportunities. Thank you, PTA and RBEF!

Jefferson Elementary School (K-5)

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Continuing to Come Though

The PTA and RBEF's ongoing partnerships with Jefferson continue to be important ingredients to the success of our school. While the ways in which their support looks like have somewhat changed over the past two years due to the pandemic, their collective advocacy has been essential in navigating through these challenging times.

Throughout the school year, both PTA and RBEF play significant roles in providing valuable educational experiences for Jefferson students. The "people" such as PE and music teachers come to us through RBEF, while "things" and programs, such as Hands On Art and teacher grants, come to us through the PTA. When combined, our two key partners allow Jefferson students to have opportunities above and beyond what many other schools provide in their total offering.



Jefferson Students with Mr. Winckler, RBEF, and PTA Leadership.

We thank each organization for their partnership with our school. Their help keeps us more connected and together as a community, and because of this our kids can grow more than they might otherwise and be more.

Lincoln Elementary School (K-5)

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8646 • lincoln.rbusd.org



Brianne Nakayama
Principal

Partners in Student Success

Together the Lincoln PTA and RBEF provide enriching educational experiences for our students.

The Lincoln PTA is responsible for many events such as our assemblies and community engagement opportunities. They are instrumental in planning community events like our Drive in Movie Night and Ice Skating Night. Our amazing PTA volunteers even donated hours to support our community by distributing COVID test kits to each student.

The RBEF supports student enrichment at Lincoln through their programs. We are thankful RBEF supports our schools by providing PE coaches for students in grades one through five, instrumental band for our fifth grade students, and vocal music programs for grades one through four. Lincoln even received an RBEF grant this year to provide our students with enrichment from the Culinary Kids Academy.



The PTA membership drive achieves 100% and the Principal's Dress Like a Banana Challenge.

Together the Lincoln PTA and RBEF make a significant difference in the lives of Lincoln students every day. Their successful partnerships make our school and Lincoln community the best place to live.

Madison *Elementary School (K–5)*

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



Dr. Heather Cash
Principal

Who are You Going to Call? PTA and RBEF!

When it comes to meaningful support of our local schools, nothing beats our

Madison PTA and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation. Selflessly, these partners stand beside us in meeting the physical, emotional, and educational needs of our

students and staff, even in times of crisis. If it's distributing materials to families or re-inventing ways to enrich our students' experiences, the PTA will make it happen on a moment's notice. RBEF provides large, impactful support such as music and PE instruction with credentialed teachers, but also funds teacher innovator grants which support teachers in responding to the needs of our students and a rapidly changing set of skills with which students need to be prepared. One example of a grant funded for Madison School this year was entitled, "Kindness Rules!" This grant

furnished a teacher resource library of hundreds of books that can be used to teach prosocial behavior, tolerance and understanding.



Kindness Rules Teacher Library Grant funded by RBEF

Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Jonathan Erickson
Principal

Thank You, PTSA and RBEF!

At Parras, just like other RBUSD schools, we are fortunate to have the support of two wonderful organizations: the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), and Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

At Parras, RBEF support music, sports, and robotics programs, a

teacher coach, and so much more. This year, we have the exciting addition of eSports, with our first tournament underway as this article is being published!

Also, our amazing PTSA help organize all sort of educational and enriching events for our students, families and staff. There is everything from Hands on Art, to Greek Day and Renaissance Day that add

so much to our programs here. And this year, in the midst of the pandemic, they have stepped-up more than ever to support us with things like helping to hand out free rapid tests to our families. A big thank you to our PTSA President, Karen Cull, the executive board, and all of our members at large!



PTSA parents help handout over 1000 free rapid tests to families.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Anthony Bridi
Principal

Kindness and Generosity in Action

Through our Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF), and the efforts of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), Redondo Union High School continues to succeed in providing the kind of experiences that influence engagement, enhance academic interest, and promote safety, all of which contribute to building our positive Sea Hawk culture.

Have you heard? Esports is here! Thanks to the support of the RBEF, RUHS is on track to begin Esports competitions this February. This highly competitive team sport has been gaining ground worldwide, and RUHS is excited and ready to become an Esports presence in the South Bay. This six-week round robin competition will include multiple RUHS teams contending against each other and with neighboring schools in the area. We look forward to hosting the local championship in April in our very own RUHS auditorium.

Have you also heard that our RUHS Marching Band and Dance Guard are state champions? Yes, the hard work and extraordinary dedication of our students, parents, and staff have led this successful charge. But did you know that the RBEF also was present? In order for our Sea Hawks to

compete and win this title, their individual instruments have to be functioning at the highest level. Thanks to RBEF grant funding, instrument repairs are frequent, and this much needed help greatly assists our championship program.

Not to beat the same drum, but the RBEF has also been instrumental in supporting all of the students who have been absent from school due to Covid-19. I am sure that you are asking, how is this possible? Well, RUHS is fortunate to have a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), Mr. Rosadini, who is supported by RBEF grant funding. His individualized academic interventions have been pivotal in keeping our students focused, organized, and prepared as they return to campus.

Perhaps you may have heard that there is another equally mighty force supporting our Sea Hawk Community, the RUHS PTSA? Most recently, the RUHS PTSA distributed by hand 2,900 COVID-19 test kits to our Sea Hawk families. This drive-up distribution event was a success not only in the sheer number of kits provided to our community, but also by the positive spirit and care that came with each interaction.

RUHS welcomes you to not only be a recipient of the kindness and generosity exhibited by the RBEF and our RUHS PTSA, but to also become an active participant. We are Redondo! Go, Sea Hawks!



PTSA COVID-19 test kit distribution on One Sea Hawk Way, with a smile!

Tulita Elementary School (K-5)

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



Andrew Estrada
Principal

Supporting All Students

Throughout the school year, both PTA and RBEF play significant roles in providing educational experiences for Tulita students. These experiences ultimately help Tulita and RBUSD go above and beyond for our students.

The Tulita PTA is responsible for numerous events, such as schoolwide assemblies and field trips. They are instrumental in planning our Family Art Night and Science Fair. Programs and events such as these provide unique opportunities that enrich the lives of students and enhance our school community.

Like PTA, RBEF plays an integral part in helping support student success across all eight elementary schools. RBEF supports our schools by contributing to such programs as physical education for grades one through five, vocal music for grades one through four, and the instrumental band for fifth-grade students. In turn, our school community consistently supports RBEF through its annual donor drive and by participating in RBEF events such as the Pier-to-Pier Friendship Walk.

Together, the PTA and RBEF make a significant difference in the lives of Tulita students each day. Their contributions are examples of successful partnerships that make our school and community a great place to be. As a school, we are grateful to have the support of each organization here at Tulita!



Tulita families support RBEF at the Friendship Walk!



Washington Elementary School (K-5)

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



Andrea Bittick
Principal

Read Around the World

Our Washington Library program has been able to upgrade significantly over the past few years due to generous donations from PTA and RBEF. With the funds allocated to the library, we have been able to purchase literature representing diverse authors and stories from around

the world. Our Librarian, Mrs. Christine Campisi, highlights different authors monthly and she uses visuals in the library to draw student interest to new literature. Our PTA has used money from book fair fundraisers to support the library, and RBEF made donations to each school site last year to purchase culturally diverse books. Prior to these donations, our library had many worn and outdated books. We were also able to purchase more books that are part of popular children's book series, and this also increase students' motivation and interest in reading. We are grateful for these donations and the lens they provide our young readers.



Library Bulletin Board showcasing literature by diverse authors.

Constellations 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 subject line)

Entries must be received March 15, 2022

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

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AQUILA	HERCULES	SCORPIUS
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CANCER	ORION	VIRGO
CANIS MAJOR	PEGASUS	ZODIAC
CAPRICORNUS	PERSEUS	
CASSIOPEIA	PISCES	

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

Moonlit Fox and Beyond

By Co-Chairs Buffy Soule and Caasi Copp

January was going to be "Moonlit
Fox" month, but things change! Many
schools have paused Hands on Art for a
bit. Please don't worry. The fox models
have been very patient and understand!

In order adjust for this pause Hands on Art is going to be
more flexible. We have created different paths schools can
use to start back up as they need.



You may see projects schedules being adjusted a bit.
We are all excited to bring projects back to the students.
Creating art is one way people can relieve some stress and
anxiety during these times. So even if you don't get the
joy of doing an official project, doodle away! It's known to
brighten one's day!

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David's Review



David H.

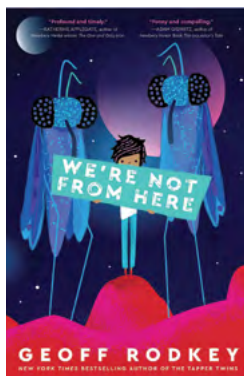
The Aliens

Title: *We're Not From Here*

Author: Geoff Rodkey

We're Not From

Here is about a kid named Lan and his family who travel from their human colony on Mars to a faraway planet Choom to start a new human population. Unfortunately, once they get there, the aliens on Choom tell them to leave immediately. Now they have a big problem that they have to figure out because they don't have enough fuel in their spaceship to go back to Mars. What do they do? Read and find out! I really liked this book and I recommend that you should read this book too if you like action, suspense, and humor.



David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

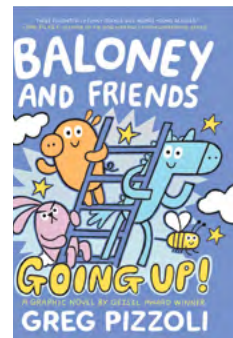
Funny Friends!

Title: *Baloney and Friends: Going Up!*

Author: Greg Pizzoli

Baloney the pig and his friends Peanut the horse, Bizz the bee, and Krabbit the crabby rabbit do funny things and have fun in the

many short stories of this second book of the Baloney and Friends series! You'll laugh about the things they do, like finding a lost sneeze, using a ladder, and appreciating trees. My favorite story is when Baloney and his friends make up a silly theme song for their group and everyone helps out in their own way. Baloney is my favorite character because he is a good friend. I felt happy when I read this book and I think you should read it too!



Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.



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Jenna's Review



Jenna C.

Carry Us Away

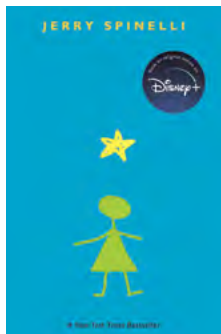
Book Title: *Stargirl*

Author: Jerry Spinelli

Change is a big word and is something a lot of people do so that others will like

them. Stargirl is a character that differs from everybody else. Leo the narrator always tells himself that Stargirl is weird, but do you think that? Your opinion may change throughout the book because of Stargirl's choices. Stargirl is new to the school and catches attention quickly for being unique such as singing with her ukulele in the cafeteria. She becomes the good luck charm at the football game because she starts singing which motivates the players to try harder. She becomes the Queen of the school, but does she maintain her popularity with her quirkiness? Read to find out!

Jenna is a 6th grader. She enjoys playing soccer and drawing. She likes to read fiction novels. Someday she wants to publish a book.



Tegan's Book Review



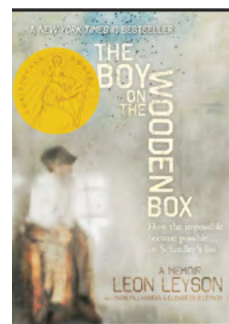
Tegan

Moments of Hope

In this tragic but wonderful story, *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, author Leon Leyson shares his emotions of fear, confusion, and anger. With his early

childhood shattering into pieces as he is taken away and transported to a fatal concentration camp, separated from his friends and relatives. However, even as depression and pain surrounds his life, Leyson experiences unforgettable moments of hope that are unexpectedly injected, reminding me that through this pandemic that I am fortunate to have friends, family, and freedom. A bonus was reading that Leyson had lived his last few years in Fullerton, making me feel connected to his story more.

Tegan Y. is a fourth grader who enjoys art, mountain biking, tap, writing and reading.



Katie's Review



Katie C.

Witch is Which?

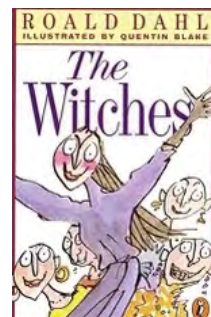
Book Title: *The Witches*

Author: Roald Dahl

Think of a group of women, gathering to speak at a convention in a hotel. Nothing out of the ordinary—except they wear wigs

and gloves, don't have toes, and turn children into rats. That is the premise of "*The Witches*," by Roald Dahl. In this fantastical story about witches who hate children, there is no end to your imagination. From the drawn out, shrill voices of the vicious women to the very magical potions they concoct, there is no doubt that you will find the missing piece to all the supernatural myths of the world. A grandson is warned from a very young age about these mystical, mysterious women—but can he face the dangers that creep upon him? If you like a suspenseful story, "*The Witches*" is a perfect book for you.

Katie is a senior in high school. She likes reading and writing. She loves to read to younger kids. She provides book reviews to kids who want to find more good books.



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Kate Karp

Little Stories of Great Composers Series

What better way to introduce children to great composers than with beautifully illustrated storybooks coupled with recordings of read-alouds and enhanced by tidbits of Tchaikovsky, morsels of Mozart and little Vivaldi victuals? Even better, a cheese-and-music-loving mouse narrates the tales!

Minim is the fly on the wall—rather, the mouse in the house—who gives young listeners slices of the composers’ lives as he scrounges for slices of cheddar. In “A Delicious Taste of Mozzarella!,” Minim slips out of a crack in the wall to eavesdrop on “Uncle Petya” surprising his niece and nephew with a gift: a musical score. The children are at first disappointed; then, their uncle teaches them how to play the composition on the piano. They realize how music can bestow magic on the spirit. Uncle Peta is, of course, Pyotr Ilyitch Tchaikovsky.



In “That’s My Piano, Sir!” Minim is hoping for leftover goodies after voyagers leave a boat on a busy dock. A sudden crash shatters the briny air. An exhausted dockworker has dropped a huge crate, which turns out to be a folded piano. The customs officer is cranky and not in the mood for any tomfoolery until a nicely dressed, polite child says, “That’s my piano, sir!” The lad sits down, plays, and charms away everyone’s ill humor with “A Little Night Music.” Minim finds his cheese, and we discover Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart!

Concert pianist Ana Gerhard authored the books, and Marie Lafrance illustrated them. Canadian stage actor Colm Feore was the cultured voice of Minim, and Canadian chamber music orchestra I Musici de Montreal played the score. A wonderful introduction to great composers and, as Minim shows, just what the spirit needs today!

Young Maestros

Tracy Bonham’s Grammy-nominated compositions might be familiar to some—Google “Mother Mother” if you’ve never heard it—but her gifts extend on beyond “Billboard.” Her classical training and devotion to developing a passion for music in very young children created the [Melodeon Music House Curriculum](#), which teaches music fundamentals to preschool youngsters.

You don’t need a spoonful of sugar to get children interested in music, but Bonham knows a most delightful way anyhow. “Young Maestros,” a collection of songs and games from Melodeon, opens with “Me Symphony,” in which Bonham laments how she misplaced her instruments everywhere—her tuba in Aruba, her shaker in Jamaica. But hey, she has her fingers, mouth, nose, feet and a beat as substitutes! Take heed, teachers and parents—there’s a great maps lesson in there.



Bonham puts the “fun” in “fundamentals” with “Beats to a Measure,” a pleasant, rapid-fire lesson in rhythm. “All the Blackbirds” gives flight to the black keys, and “Feelin’ Pretty Major” explains major and minor keys and how the upbeat feel of the former and the mournfulness of the latter comprise the music of life.

“Background Singers” is my personal favorite. Like the documentary “Twenty Feet from Stardom,” it pays homage to the unsung singers who provide the bones and body of a song. “Background Singers” tells what happens when a lead singer is unkind and unappreciative to them. Let’s say that she learns about harmony the hard way!

The final track on the collection is “A Song Without an Ending,” only 32 seconds long with an abrupt stop, but no satisfactory end. Bonham seems to be telling the Young Maestros, “You pick up from here!”

Finding Friends

Oran Etkin’s latest collection is more than a trip around the world in music. With “Finding Friends,” listeners take an actual journey to six countries—the Czech Republic, Zimbabwe, China, Turkey, Russia and Japan—where Etkin and his instruments actually visited for this project. There, they’ll hear unspeakably beautiful and catchy, upbeat songs performed in both English and the native languages.

The collection was originally recorded with an adult audience in mind, but Etkin soon realized that the music would appeal to children as well. He and the musicians in each country overdubbed conversational introductions to the songs and taught a few words of the native languages—another attraction for parents and educators.



If you find learning words in other languages fascinating, wait until you meet all the instruments. Etkin’s clarinet, the feature character, bears the name—what else—Clara Net. You’re likely familiar with accordions, drums and bass clarinets, one of which is Clara’s big brother. But what’s a cimbalom, or an mbira? Can an erhu—a two-stringed Chinese fiddle—pack the same resonance as its four-stringed U.S. cousin? Listen and engage.

Depending on your national origin or culture, you may recognize a few of the songs and appreciate the arrangements, like the surprising Latin beat of the Czech song “Chaye Shukariye” or the jazz flavor that Clara Net added to the Yiddish chicken soup of “Tumbalalaika.” The big takeaway is, however, the appreciation of diversity in our common language: music.

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

Taegyong's Book Review



Taegyong K.

A Secret Society

Title: *The Mysterious Benedict Society*

Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Reynie Muldoon is a very intelligent boy. He is an eleven-year-old boy and lives at an orphanage. One day, he finds an advertisement in the newspaper. It says



that if you pass the test, it will let you into a school. Reynie finds the test asking strange questions. He passes the test and meets three other children, Sticky (George) Washington, Kate Wetherall, and Constance Contraire who pass the test like him. Then, they meet Mr. Benedict. He tells them that "The Emergency" is coming from a secret institute that makes the world in danger. Now, they are on the mission to stop it. Will the four be able find the secret of "The Emergency" with Mr. Benedict? This book is written in third person perspective. I feel intrigued in the story more as it progresses. I recommend this book to those who have a thirst for adventure.

Taegyong K. is a 6th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.

Kailani's Review



Kailani T.

Favorite Tree House Adventure

Monday with a Mad Genius

by Mary Pope Osborne is the 10th book in the series Magic Tree House. It is about two siblings of Frog Creek, Pennsylvania (Jack and Annie) who go back in time by the magic tree



house. Their mission is to help a magician named Merlin of Camelot find the secret of happiness. During the journey, the siblings travel to Florence, Italy and meet Leonardo DaVinci in the 1500s. Jack and Annie watch DaVinci fly the Great Bird and finish the Mona Lisa painting.

This was a fun book to read. The story is full of excitement and interesting information. I learned about Mona Lisa and Leonardo DaVinci. Reading that DaVinci was also an inventor, architect, stage and costume designer, horseman, chef, geologist, and botanist was fascinating. My favorite parts are when Jack and Annie figured out the secret of happiness and that DaVinci was also a horseman. I highly recommend this book for anyone who loves adventures.

Kailani is a 4th grader who loves to read. When not playing with her brother, Kailani likes to listen to music, ride horses, and play board games. Hope everyone stays well and healthy.

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Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?

By Kay Coop
Illustrated by Melanie Florio



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