

**FREE**

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



**Volume 10, Issue 88** **May 2016**

## A Complete Education



### Board of Education



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to learn more about our pediatricians  
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## Superintendent



### A Complete Education

In Redondo Beach, the “whole child” approach is a prescription for success. Not only do we strive for each child to attain academic excellence through rigorous curriculum, we desire deeply that they are socially, emotionally, and physically healthy.

**Dr. Steven Keller**

Emotional and social wellness enable children to arrive in the classroom prepared to put forth their best effort. We have implemented several student support systems within our schools, and our teachers continue to communicate clear expectations about student interaction and behavior. Students are praised for appropriate choices, including outstanding attendance, and our staff deeply desires safe and welcoming learning environments. This information is monitored through informal student surveys, student average daily attendance, and district-wide discipline data, as well as through the annual California Healthy Kids Survey.

Redondo Beach Unified School District has made a commitment to physical health in partnership with Beach Cities Health District through the Blue Zones movement and through improved facilities district-wide. Students are taught about nutritional choices and will be able to put these skills to use in elementary gardens and at the high school upon the completion of the new(er) student union/cafeteria. Our students perform well annually on the California Physical Fitness Test, monitored closely by both site and district personnel, and many students participate in national walk- and bike-to-school events throughout the year. Our families and community have responded well to the improved athletic facilities at our sites, and participation in extra- and co-curricular activities has increased as a result.

The complete education of each child in Redondo Beach is paramount. While we strive to “Reach for Greatness” in our district, we do so on behalf of our most important client—the student.

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

## Board of Education



### Dedicated to Our Most Important Investments

I have truly enjoyed and have been humbled to serve on the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) Board over the past three years. I have the privilege of working with some of the most incredible teachers, classified staff members, and administrators anywhere, and it is my honor to be entrusted with this responsibility. As we do every April, we have elected a new president of the Board. Anita Avrick has graciously accepted the challenge, again! A huge thank you to Mike Christensen for his incredible job as president this past year. The roles and responsibilities of the Board are in title only, as we each bring to the table a strong level of expertise and skill set. No one person's vote counts any more than the other. Being president or vice president just means a few more meetings and a bit more responsibility, so we rotate each year.

We have accomplished a lot over the past years and have much more to do! Our enrollment continues to rise and technology advancements are ongoing, but, most importantly, the safety and security of the students and staff are always first and foremost!

We are very proud that our schools continue to win awards! Congratulations to Beryl Heights, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Madison Elementary Schools, all of which were just designated California Gold Ribbon Schools, and to Alta Vista Elementary School for being recognized as a Blue Ribbon School during this past year!

Construction on the new classrooms continues at Perras Middle School, and we look forward to an unveiling in the fall. Overall, we have a great many things to be proud of in this city and our school district. I am proud to be a part of a Board that puts our staff and children's needs first and a volunteer base that is second to none! A big thank you to everyone for all of their hard work and dedication to our children, our most important investment. Your efforts continue to make our district and our community even greater!

## South Bay Hands On Art

### Our last workshop is here!

*By Co-Chairs Gina Clancy  
& Erika Snow Robinson*

We have had such an amazing run with all of this year's beautiful projects. It's hard to believe we are having our last workshop. We will be finishing of our SBHOA year with an amazing project brought to us by Robin Sarnier. Based on the artist ROTHKO we will be learning how to express our



feelings through color layers in this simple but very impressive technique. We will be layering colors with pastels in simple rectangle shapes. It promises to be an exciting way to express ourselves through art. Thank you to all for making this another great year for ART in the South Bay.

2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA 90277  
[www.southbayhandsonart.com](http://www.southbayhandsonart.com)



**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the

**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**FOUNDER/PUBLISHER:** Kay Coop

562/493-3193 • [kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com)

**ADVERTISING SALES:** Valerie Reid • 310/874-2716

[valerie.schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com)

**CONTENT COORDINATOR:** Barbra Longiny

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER:** Tim DeLacy

**COPY EDITORS:**

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia



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publication.



Superintendent Keller's article about educating the whole child is refreshing. When an entire school district understands and offers a support system for socially, emotionally, and physically healthy students, the success is measurable. It is exciting to realize that the students learn healthy lessons for a lifestyle beyond the walls of RBUSD. I attend many sports events for my grandchildren and sitting in the stands I observe parents offering their children snacks of all kinds. Each year it is encouraging to see more fruits and water bottles than chips and sodas. What is more encouraging is watching children

making their own healthy choices at the snack bar. Be sure and see the Beach Cities Health District's article on page 6 and sign up for their free yoga on the beach classes. And while you are bike riding remember to wear a helmet as the doctor writes about in the Miller Children's & Women's Hospital article on page 7.

Thank you for your contest entries and wonderful comments on your emails. The April contest is open until May 15...remember all ages may enter.

We are winding down another school year with one more issue to be published June 1.



## TORRANCE MEMORIAL PHYSICIAN NETWORK

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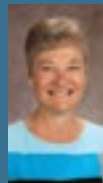
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# Redondo Beach Educational Foundation



## RBEF Impact

Your Redondo Beach Educational Foundation is working non-stop all year raising money for our school district. The programs RBEF supports reach across the entire District. Here is just an overview of the impact RBEF has made in the current school year:



**Ted Craddock**  
President

- Over 9000 students impacted District-wide.
- Nearly 500 students receiving counseling or lesson support
- Over 1000 students took college campus field trips
- Nearly 4000 students experienced arts and music education
- Nealy 4000 students are being impacted through science, technology and STEM programs.
- RBEF Teacher Grants reached over 7500 students.

Our mission is to raise the level of education throughout our School District. We need your help to continue this great work. RBEF raises funds throughout the year. Please go to [RBEF.org](http://RBEF.org) to learn more about the programs we support AND the many ways parents can donate.

Here's another example of the work RBEF does in our District:

Looking for ideas for your kids this summer? Register for RBEF Summer Sessions, a program designed in partnership between the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation and the Redondo Beach Unified School District to extend and enrich learning for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Invite your friends and neighbors to join too! RBEF Summer Sessions is open to Redondo Beach students as well as students from our neighboring communities. Go to [RBEF.org](http://RBEF.org) to learn more. Registration is open and filling up fast!

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



## So, you got lice!

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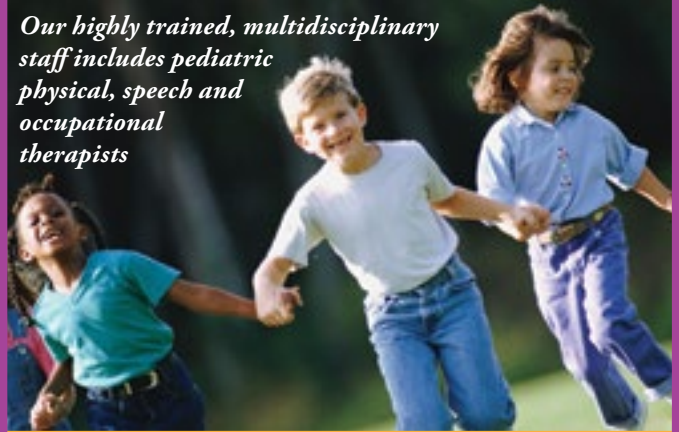
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IMPULSIVENESS ♦ FEEDING CHALLENGES

**JULY 11–15 & JULY 18–22**

### Write Ideas Camp!

*For successful handwriting*

### Buddy Boot Camp!

*For appropriate social interactions*



Pediatric Therapy Network

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**Dr. Denise Bevly**  
Youth Services  
Senior Manager

**BCHD to Host Free Yoga On the Beach**

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) will kick off a 12-week free fitness series on Monday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. on the Manhattan Beach sand (south of the pier) – marking the fifth consecutive year of free summer fitness for Beach Cities families.

Officially titled “Beach Cities Free Fitness Series,” the community exercise events will be held Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and include yoga on the beach in Manhattan Beach (June 6-27) and outdoor Zumba at a location to be named soon in Redondo Beach (July – August). All members of the public, regardless of age or ability, are encouraged to attend and, as BCHD CEO Susan Burden says, “have fun moving naturally and connecting socially.”

“We created the fitness series as a way for residents to experience the benefits of group exercise and natural movement in a pressure-free environment,” says Burden. “The workouts are designed so everyone can participate, even children and older adults.”

The community fitness events are completely free, however, participants must complete a personal waiver and registration form. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early and/or register online in advance. For more information and to pre-register for yoga on the beach, please visit [bchd.org/freefitness](http://bchd.org/freefitness) or call (310) 374-3426.

**A SUMMER TO REMEMBER!**

**AdventureCamp**

**June 20–Aug. 26**  
**Ages 4-12**  
No camp July 4.

**Mondays: Arts & Crafts**  
**Tuesdays: Beach Day**  
**Wednesdays: Rock Wall & Ropes Course**  
**Thursdays: Field Trips**  
**Fridays: Theme Days**

**THEME DAYS**

- June 23: Knott’s Berry Farm
- June 30: Medieval Times
- July 8: Bowling
- July 14: Knott’s Berry Farm
- July 21: Pirates Adventure
- July 28: Soak City
- Aug. 4: Knott’s Berry Farm
- Aug. 11: Medieval Times
- Aug. 18: Soak City
- Aug. 25: Ice Skating

**FIELD TRIPS**

- June 24: Luau Day
- July 1: Decade Day
- July 7: Crazy Hat/Hair Day
- July 15: Western Day
- July 22: Pirate Day
- July 29: Superhero Day
- Aug. 5: Wacky Day
- Aug. 12: Halloween in August
- Aug. 19: Group Color Day
- Aug. 26: Pajama Day

**REGISTER ONLINE!**  
[AdventurePlex.org](http://AdventurePlex.org)

A Beach Cities Health District Program

### The Importance of Bike and Helmet Safety



**Aileen Imai**  
*Injury Prevention  
 Coordinator,  
 Kohl's Cares Injury  
 Prevention Program,  
 Miller Children's &  
 Women's Hospital  
 Long Beach*

At Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, pedestrian-automobile incidents are the number one reason kids are rushed into the trauma center. This ranking could be lowered, and accidents prevented, if individuals follow proper safety protocols when walking or riding their bike.

California law requires anyone under 18-years-old wear an approved helmet when riding a bicycle. Many children ride bicycles, skateboards or scooters without the appropriate helmet, and something as simple as a fall to the ground can be life changing.

The Kohl's Cares Injury Prevention Program at Miller Children's recommends important pedestrian, bike and helmet safety tips, including:

- Wear a helmet that is buckled and fits
- Helmets should bear a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) label certifying that it meets or exceeds the safety standards
- Ride on the sidewalk

- Obey all traffic signals
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street
- Wear bright colors and reflectors
- Check brakes and ensure your tires have air
- Cross streets only at traffic lights, stop signs or cross walks
- Stop, look both ways, and listen before crossing the street
- Avoid riding at night or in the rain

Although some tips might seem obvious to you as a parent, they may not be obvious to your child. Making sure your child knows proper helmet and bike safety is important, and can help prevent a major fatality in an accident.

Kohl's Cares and Miller Children's care about the children in our community. For more information on pedestrian, bike and helmet safety, visit [MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares).

2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 800-MEMORIAL  
[MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares)

# Teaching Kids to Stay Safe



**Bike & Helmet Safety**



**Pedestrian Safety**



**Car Seat Safety**



**Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach**  
MEMORIALCARE HEALTH SYSTEM



Join the Cause:  
[MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares](http://MillerChildrens.org/Kohls-Cares)

## RBUSD Alternative Education



**Sue Hall**  
Principal

### Ropes Course

At Redondo Shores we are always looking to extend learning beyond the classroom. Each year we partner with South Bay Children's Health Center and Fulcrum Adventures to provide the Wilderness Challenge Program. This unique program, led by Patrick Vaughan and Lissa Watts, focuses on team building, development of leadership skills and overcoming challenges and fears. The program begins early spring when ten students are selected to complete ten weekly group counseling sessions and a one day Ropes Course. The following week, students participate in a three day backpacking trip to Joshua Tree, where under the supervision of certified faculty and adult personnel, they practice rock climbing, rappelling, survival training, and team building skills. The program culminates with a pot-luck for the students, family and friends. Students develop a strong sense of camaraderie and unity as a result of this life-changing experience.



**Climbing the rock wall on the Ropes Course**

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

## RBUSD Child Development



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
Director

### Doing a Great Job with a "Good Job!"

*By Andrew Riggle, Site Supervisor –  
Jefferson and Madison  
Child Development Center*

It is easy for teachers to reward students with a simple "Good job!" or "Wonderful!" when they are excited about an achievement or have done something praiseworthy. This month, I am encouraging teachers and parents to be reflective about what these types of statements are telling students. Saying "Good job!" now and then is fine, but does it help children understand why what they did was good or what parts of their achievement make it praiseworthy? To make a "Good job!" more effective, we need to pair it with recognition of the specific action we are praising or the behavior we would like to reinforce. Below are a few examples of ways to heighten the effectiveness of praise.

Use sentence starters, such as "I saw you...", "I heard you...", or "I noticed you..." For example, you might say, "I noticed you were focused and engaged, so you finished your

homework in record time. Great work!"

Identify a goal to praise. Do you want to reinforce a positive behavior or an act of kindness? Recognize kindness with a statement like this: "You were so kind to your sister when you tied her shoes even though you wanted to go outside and play." Compliment positive behavior with a statement like this: "You were so helpful to your sister when you helped her to tie her shoes so you could both play together."

Encourage next steps. After a positive experience, let children know that the behavior or accomplishment has room for expansion. Use statement like this: "I saw that you drew an amazing picture of a car! Truly a masterpiece! What materials could you use to build it?"

There are many other ways to build on a "Good job!" For a more expansive list, check out Teaching Young

Children, published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which can be found at their website at [www.naeyc.org/tyc](http://www.naeyc.org/tyc).

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**CDC Students creating  
carnival games for Kindergarteners.**



## RBUSD Educational Services



### Welcome Back to Summer!

A decade ago, every public school district in California offered a summer school. Back then, summer school was a state-funded program that allowed struggling students, and/or students who were falling behind toward their high school graduation, the ability to catch up and get back on track.

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

Some lucky communities, like ours, even had summer enrichment programs offered by their local educational foundations. When the economy and public school funding hit a downturn, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation stepped up to offer summer school for those South Bay students who needed to catch-up, as well as students who wanted to get ahead in their studies. For five summers their offerings filled a huge student need in our community, as well as created a revenue source for the Foundation.

That was then, and this is now. With improved funding for public education, the Redondo Beach Unified School District felt that it was time to renew its financial and educational commitment to our neediest students. At the same time, our Redondo Beach Educational Foundation is equally committed to serving students in any and all ways possible.

Beginning this summer, the RBUSD will once again be offering a no-cost remedial or catch-up summer school program for students in grades one through 12. Eligible students have already been invited to attend this program. However, we encourage families and students looking for enrichment opportunities to enroll in the RBEF summer session program. Our students are so fortunate to have the variety of these summer course offerings made available. Information on both programs can be found at [www.rbud.org/summerschool](http://www.rbud.org/summerschool).

Regardless of which program the students attend, summer school provides numerous opportunities. Through summer school, students can meet and become acquainted with new people; expand their circle of friends; build self-esteem and self-confidence; develop and grow physically, socially, and intellectually; have fun while learning new skills and strategies; and earn credits toward high school graduation.

Welcome back, summer school!

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# South Bay Adult School



**Dr. Anthony Taranto**  
Director

## A High School Diploma is Important

For thousands of high school seniors across the country, graduation is just around the corner. However, due to life challenges or obstacles, some students will not be obtaining a high school diploma. Finishing high school is important to your future, and graduating is the first step to getting you where you want to be.

Here are a handful of reasons why getting your high school diploma is so important:

**Furthering Your Education:** Having a high school diploma, and then furthering your education in college, will help make you more marketable for jobs that carry higher salaries and benefits.

**Career Opportunities:** A high school diploma can help you land a job that you can call a career well into adulthood. It will allow you to apply for the jobs that you would not otherwise be able to perform without a diploma.

**Higher Salary:** High school graduates earn more than high school dropouts. College graduates earn more than high school graduates.

**Staying Employed:** Students who complete high school in four years are more likely to be employed than not.

**Additional Incentives:** Obtaining a high school diploma will give you a sense of pride in knowing that all of your hard work has paid off. Furthermore, you will serve as a role model to younger siblings, or your own children and grandchildren, which will encourage them to stay in school.

It's never too late to obtain your high school diploma. Through our Independent Study Program (ISP), individuals have the opportunity to complete the necessary coursework for graduation via online classes as well as class time. ISP classes are held at South Bay Adult School (SBAS) and at Redondo Shores High School (RSHS). Please see us at [www.rshs.rbusd.org/isp](http://www.rshs.rbusd.org/isp) for more information.

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2016

# Summer

classes

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**Qualified participants will receive:**

- All study medication and study care at no cost
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## Please call: (310) 727-3376

## Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



**Lisa Veal**  
Principal

### Digitally Speaking

As digital natives, it is important to have discussions with your children about the responsible use of technology. Chromebooks and other such devices can be effective instructional tools for learning, connecting, communicating, and collaborating on a daily basis. However, the integration of technology must be coupled with an understanding of what it means to be a digital citizen.

Today's parents and teachers are tasked with ensuring that children are prepared for a society full of technology.

This includes teaching them to be digitally responsible. Digital citizenship means determining the norms and expectations that are responsible for the appropriate use of technology. More often than not, misuse of technology occurs when children are unaware of what is considered to be appropriate. Education is the first step in ensuring that children are using technology correctly and honorably.

Another important aspect of digital citizenship is digital safety. Helping children create healthy online communities rooted in respect and trust can prevent cyber-bullying. The use of technology to embarrass or hurt or harass others can cause real and lasting harm. Unfortunately, hurtful information posted on the internet is viewable to millions,

and nearly impossible to remove. This is why it's imperative that children are taught the ramifications of their online actions before something damaging can occur.

Children lack the maturity or benefit of experience to understand the consequences of their actions. Education at an early age is thus vital and necessary to make sure that our children are giving thought to the way in which they communicate digitally.

This begins with conversation. Have discussions with your children about your expectations regarding internet usage and safety. Talk about appropriate sites and what they cannot visit. The average teenager spends 458 minutes using media each day. Establish clear guidelines for time spent on technological devices, including personal ones. Help them recognize that they are educational and communication tools, which, as a parent, you have every right to control.

Lastly, take time to learn more about the social media accounts, apps, etc. that your children are accessing. You have to keep up with them as a parent. If you're not sure how to use it, research it!

You don't have to be an expert, but you should have an understanding of how these networks operate. Teaching your child to be a good digital citizen may seem like a daunting task, but the end result will be safe, well-respected teenagers.

## Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



**Susan Wildes**  
Principal

### Understanding Math in a Deeper Way

If you had to solve the problem of one divided by  $\frac{2}{3}$ , how would you go about doing it?

Most adults would utilize an algorithm to solve the equation to get an answer of  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . But if you were asked to take it a step further, could you draw a picture to represent your work? Could you explain your

method of solving the equation, and could you also explain why the answer is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ?

If you could do all of these things, you would have a much deeper understanding of what the original equation was asking. You could also most likely apply that understanding to future problems. This is called Common Core math.

Over the last few years, as the new California Core Standards in math have been rolled out, our students and teachers have embraced the challenge. They have demonstrated perseverance and grown their knowledge in a way that we could not have predicted. Students across classrooms are now engaging in meaningful dialogue, challenging their ideas and supporting each other's growth. Our teachers are encouraging students to think of math as not a subject that always has a right or wrong result, but as

one that requires risk-taking, rethinking, and collaboration.

Why are these new math expectations producing more confident math students? We now know that, historically, the lowest-achieving math students are the ones who memorize math procedures and algorithms. The highest achieving students are those who are able to visualize math problems and make connections with the big ideas. We know that students perform better when math is seen as a learning subject, and not as a performance subject with only right or wrong answers.

We also know that some of the most talented mathematicians in history are some of the slowest workers and thinkers. Therefore, we can be mindful to reinforce students who engage in critical thinking versus those who are just "fast," in order to change their perception of themselves as mathematicians. Lastly, we know that students are able to grow their brains by making mistakes in math versus solving problems quickly and accurately.

So under the new math standards, our teachers are working to present challenging problems that are more open ended. This work allows students to take risks and make mistakes. Teachers encourage the mistakes too, and thus create supportive classroom cultures that allow students to recognize their mistakes, and collaborate and persevere.

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

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

### Preparing for Testing

Why not start early to help students prepare for state testing in May? Every grade level stresses strong academics, and your support at home will help our students to be successful in all aspects of school.

Students prepare diligently throughout the year to become successful, lifelong learners. Kindergarten students experience reading and writing every day and work hard on social skills as little buddies to our fifth-grade students. First-grade students learn paragraph writing, increase their reading fluency and reading comprehension, and learn how to problem solve in math. Second-grade students write animal reports, study math facts and word problems, and learn about communities through hands-on experiences. Third-grade students learn their multiplication and division facts, read math stories, problem solve, and write on a daily basis while creating projects such as dioramas and solar systems. While learning how to write narratives, response to literature essays, and summaries, the fourth-grade students focus on writing, creating projects, collaboration, and many mathematical problems. The fifth-grade students create scientific learning while gathering facts and manipulating materials to learn more about science. They also had the privilege of attending Science Camp for a whole week, where they learned valuable information about animals, plants, and nature.

### Testing Tips for Success

In May, third- through fifth-grade students will be taking the state standardized testing on their netbooks. To help your child do well on their testing, please make sure he or she gets a good night's sleep before each testing day. Also, make sure that you provide a light, healthy breakfast and have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time. Most importantly, send your child off to school with confidence, building words of praise and support, such as "You'll do great! Believe in yourself! I love you!" A positive interaction before testing always helps to motivate students to do their best and gives them a feeling of self-worth and confidence. Suggest to your child that breathing deeply will help him or her to relax before and during the test. Also, remind your child to read directions carefully and be thoughtful when writing answers. Tell your child to go over his or her answers before submitting the test to take his or her time; it is not a timed test. Please do not schedule trips, dental or medical appointments, or early pickups on testing days. Please make sure your child's netbook is charged every night! Most of all, remember that this testing is just one indicator of how a child is doing. Communication throughout the year with your child's teacher is always the best way to determine your child's success.

As always, at Beryl Heights Elementary School, we strive to be the best we can be. With your help and support, our students will be successful in all they do.

## Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Mira Baskaron**  
*Principal*

### Birney Bobcats are Write-On!

Birney students and staff members have embraced a Writer's Workshop practice that allows students to take their writing to a whole new level!

Writer's Workshop is a model that perceives writing as an ongoing process in which the students follow a given set of procedures for planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Students meet the Common Core standards by writing narratives, opinion pieces, non-fiction pieces, and poetry. The teachers provide clear sequenced instruction along with daily opportunities to write purposefully.

Writer's Workshop is a dynamic,

energetic, and interactive environment. It is designed to prioritize the act of writing itself. Teachers provide brief mini-lessons and support, while the students spend the majority of their writing time with a pencil in hand. They learn to choose their own topics and manage their own development as they work.

Writer's Workshop also builds a community of writers as it engages students in collaborative conversations about utilizing partnerships and teacher conferences.

We are so proud of our Birney Bobcat students and teachers for embracing a workshop culture that truly believes in building a community of writers. "It is terribly important for kids to read and write for the reasons that people all over the world read and write, which is to communicate, to be delighted, to laugh," said Lucy Calkins.



**Second grade students in Miss Minkes' class engaged in writer's workshop**

## Jefferson *Elementary (K-5)*

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



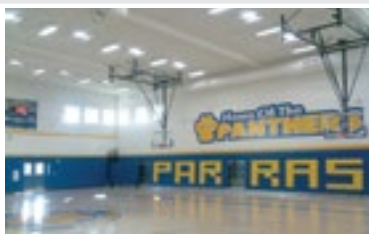
**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

### Preparing Panthers

As we progress through the school year and head into spring, many fifth-grade students and their families begin to focus on life after Jefferson Elementary School. At this time in the children's school experience, the

years in the elementary setting are all they have come to know. With middle school as the next step, this can be a period of excitement, possibly some anxiety, and certainly a number of questions. Jefferson is very proud of the proactive approach we take in partnering with Parras Middle School to facilitate the transition from elementary school to middle school for students and families.

Beginning in the fall, dates are set and plans are made between Jefferson and Parras to communicate essential, need-to-know steps and valuable school information about the transition process. There are several events that are coordinated throughout the year which allow the transition process to occur smoothly, so that children and parents are at ease. One of the first events to take place in the



**The new gym at Parras Middle School awaits incoming 6th graders.**

year is Incoming Parent Night. This event happens in late April on the Parras campus. This event provides key school information, including registration information. It is an excellent first experience at Parras.

Later, in April, all fifth-graders are visited at Jefferson by the Parras counselors for an orientation meeting. This meeting covers what students can expect as they begin sixth grade, as well as how class scheduling

happens. This visit is then followed up in early June with a walking field trip down to Parras for the Jefferson fifth-grade students and teachers. During this visit, students see firsthand how Parras operates during the day and begin to feel more comfortable in their soon-to-be new school.

In sum, the combination of these events and interactions allows for students to prepare for a successful middle school experience. It also gives their families the information they need to be comfortable with this transition.

While we are sad to see our fifth-graders depart each year, we are confident that they are heading into a well-organized and supportive environment at Parras, and we are grateful for the relationship building that takes place before sixth grade begins.

## Lincoln *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Jane Tasker**  
*Principal*

### Tasty, Healthy Options

The Lincoln School Wellness Council (SWC) is an advisory group concerned with the health and well-being of students and staff. Our council includes school staff, students, family members, and community members. The focus is on implementation of programs and activities to meet the needs of Lincoln students and staff.

One of the goals of the Lincoln SWC this school year is to involve families in the school meals program. During regular meetings this year, our council members, including Lincoln fifth-grade students, expressed a need to offer more healthy choices as part of



**Lincoln students and parents participate in a healthy food tasting.**

school-provided breakfast and lunch. A sub-committee was formed, and they worked with the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) Nutrition Services Department to coordinate a tasting panel, which provided feedback on healthy options to potentially be added to school menus.

This spring, five Lincoln students participated in a food tasting after school. Nutrition Services provided samples of four different types of hummus and three different flavors of oatmeal. The panel members then provided written feedback on response forms. "We had to write about not just the taste but the temperature, texture and smell of all the samples," said one panel member. The tasters were happy to have a variety of items, including pita bread, vegetables, and crackers, to dip into the hummus. The response was positive, with most students preferring the spicy hummus and the oatmeal with fresh apples.

Next steps will include analyzing the response forms and collecting feedback from other sources. Hopefully by next school year we can see one or two new items on our lunch menus!

I'm so proud of our SWC for achieving this goal. Opportunities such as this provide valuable experiences that empower students to give input and make a difference for all RBUSD students.

## Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Drew Gamet**  
*Principal*

### Wrapping Up the Year

As we are coming to the end of the school year, there will be a host of activities for students. From after school classes in art and sport to our rousing final Madison Field Day, which is graciously hosted by our PTA, Madison Elementary School students have some fun days ahead of them. Our fifth-grade students will be heading to the Pali Institute for Outdoor Science School, and many

other grade levels still have fun and educational field trip experiences upcoming.

Students also have much work in front of them. Our Readers and Writers Workshop project continues forward, developing our students every day to be not just great writers, but independent thinkers. Fifth-grade students will be taking the final California Standards Test (CST) in science, and third- through fifth-grades will be taking

the online state assessment known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASP).

Given everything that it is going on, it is important to remember that your child's attendance at school is an important and legally mandated part of his or her education. Students who arrive consistently late to school are deprived of the essential beginning of the day; where the teacher sets the tone for everything that will occur during that school day. Students who miss school, especially close to the end of the year, are not just deprived of opportunities to socialize with their fellow student prior to the long summer break, but they miss out on instruction that is vital to bridging the learning content from the end of their current grade to the beginning of the next grade. So please remember, as the sunny, summer California days are ever more beautiful, make sure your child comes to school and arrives on time.

## Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
*Principal*

### Focus on STEM

*By Jessica Williams and Melanie Sullivan*

For the last few years, Parras Middle School has been expanding their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and starting their first Robotics Team. We now offer two engineering electives for seventh- and eighth-graders through Project Lead the Way (PLTW).

Students have a choice of design and modeling or automation and robotics. Design and modeling students learn about the design process and how to draw their own designs using a 3-D modeling program. Automation and Robotics students focus on building with mechanical gears and programming. The PLTW classes focus on collaborative project-based real-world solutions, learning teamwork as they go through the design process. They develop several skills in organizing, time management, research, critical thinking, innovation, self-assessment and reflection. These courses help to prepare students for future majors and careers that don't even exist yet!

### Go Team Robotics!

Our Robotics team was established three years ago by a group of students who wanted to start a robotics club. The club is now an after-school program that includes three seventh- and eighth-grade VEX Robotics Teams

and one sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade FIRST LEGO (FLL) Team. Two more teams will be added in the fall. The teams participate in a yearly game-based competition that promotes Gracious Professionalism, a FIRST Values concept. This encourages students to build and program robots for competition and to work with alliances to build a collaborative community of engineers. Students learn lifelong skills in teamwork, leadership, communications and problem solving. Tournaments are held year-round at the regional, state and national levels; local champions go on to compete against global winners at VEX Worlds each April!

Our FLL teams research a real-world problem and develop an innovative solution. They must also design, build, and program a robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology, which will then be used to compete locally, regionally and, if they qualify, nationally and globally on a themed playing field. Along their journey, they develop all the aforementioned skills, STEM applications, and communication and presentation skills. Students share their findings with engineering professionals in addition to being watched and judged throughout the competitions for displaying core values. Students are also encouraged to display Gracious Professionalism and Cooperation, another FIRST Values concept, in everything they do.

The Parras STEM programs continue to give more students the opportunity to share their knowledge and improve their engineering skills as they prepare for the jobs of the future!

# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Dr. Nicole Wesley**  
*Principal*

## Ven al Mercado

*By Cynthia Fronda, World Languages and Cultures Department Chair*

One of the most memorable experiences for our RUHS students studying Spanish is the yearly “Mercado” that occurs at the end of Spanish 2B in the spring.

Over a period of several weeks, students earn “dollars” in their Spanish class through participation, excelling at review games, volunteering to read, etc. The day before the Mercado, the students visit the “Casa de Cambio” and exchange their dollars for euros. On the day of the Mercado, the students are transported to the famous El Rastro open air market in Madrid, Spain.

Each student sets up a store containing their own unique products that range from small toys to handmade jewelry and stickers and snacks. Each year they are coming up with more creative ideas to entice their customers! The students use the money they’ve earned in class to buy and sell the products among their classmates.

The entire bartering process occurs in Spanish, and the students are encouraged to use attention-getting advertising strategies to win over their customers. After the Mercado closes, the students reflect upon their favorite

stores and salespeople, discuss what they have learned or would improve, and enjoy their purchases.

The Mercado activity has been developed by the World Languages and Cultures Department to reflect authentic situations throughout the Spanish-speaking world, where asking questions and negotiating are crucial to communication. A successful activity involves a lot of preparation by both the students and teachers, as there are many different communication skills involved.

The students have a chance to show off the language they have acquired over two years of studying Spanish, and they are also motivated to keep studying the language in order to enhance their vocabulary and conversation skills.

This project-based learning activity, along with the Dia de los Muertos in the fall, brings Spanish to life at RUHS.



**Dia de los Muertos is celebrated by all Spanish students in the fall.**

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## Tulita Elementary (K-5)

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



**Dr. Tanaz Farzad**  
Principal

### Saving Lives While Having Fun!

Did you know your heart is the strongest and most important muscle in your body? Your heart is sort of like a pump—or two pumps in one. The right side of your heart receives blood from the body and pumps it to the lungs. The left side of the heart does the exact opposite: It receives blood from the lungs and pumps it out to the body. Tulita

Elementary School shared this message and more as part of our Jump Rope for Heart event.

On April 19, Tulita proudly partnered with the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart! This community service project teaches our students the importance of heart health (exercise, nutrition and living tobacco free) while having a great time jumping rope. Students also have the opportunity to raise funds for the American Heart Association to fund research and educational materials to lower the risks of America's No.1 and No. 5 killers—heart disease and stroke.

The American Heart Association's mission

is to build healthier lives free from cardiovascular disease and stroke. When children talk about their reasons for participating in Jump Rope for Heart (such as a lost loved one or a family history of heart disease), it helps them to connect the dots to a healthier life and might even inspire a few other family members to live heart healthy, too!



**Students and staff jumping away at Jump Rope for Heart!**

## Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



**Kristen Holm**  
Principal

### More Than a Librarian

Mrs. Dee Dee Pearson is more than a librarian, she is family! After spending 28 years as Washington's librarian, Mrs. P., as her students call her, will be retiring in June.

Mrs. P. had no idea when she started kindergarten in 1953 (at Washington Elementary in Redondo Beach) that she would return in 1978 and work for 10 more years as a parent volunteer. That is until

one day when she was asked to apply for the library clerk position! Never really thinking that she would get the job, she applied for it. Lucky for us, she was hired.

According to Dee Dee, she has had 28 wonderful years in the RBUSD. She loves her job and her Washington family. But more than that, she especially loves her Washington students!

She also has a special message for her Washington family: "If you are an Explorer (past or present), I want to thank you for making my life so full. I have been so blessed knowing and loving so many of you for so many years. I can't imagine my life any other way, so saying good-bye is a bit tough for me.

"Wherever you go, whatever you do, please know you have

touched my heart, and will always be a part of who I am. From the bottom of my heart I love and will miss you all."

As Bob Hope once said, "Thanks for the memories." And as Mrs. P. says, "Go out there and make me proud!"



**Mrs. P. sharing her favorite Dr. Seuss book with 5th graders during Read Across America Week.**



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## Lucy's Book Review

### The Green Bicycle



**Lucy Davis**

Author: Haifaa Al Mansour

Wadjda lives in Saudi Arabia, where women don't have equal rights. Her parents seem to always be in an argument, and Wadjda constantly getting into trouble doesn't help. Wadjda



has a secret business of selling mix-tapes, snacks, and bracelets, all which is forbidden at her all-girls school. On her way home from school one day, she sees something outstanding—a green bicycle. Even though girls aren't supposed to ride bikes, she is determined to save money for it. She joins the religious club, which has a competition at the end of the school year, with a grand prize of \$1,000.

This is a story about one girl's determination to focus her energy on earning money to buy a bicycle instead of causing trouble.

I give this book three and a half bookworms. I didn't enjoy it as much as other books that I have reviewed, but it was still fun to read.

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar. Lucy will rate the books 1 to 5 bookworms with 5 being the best.



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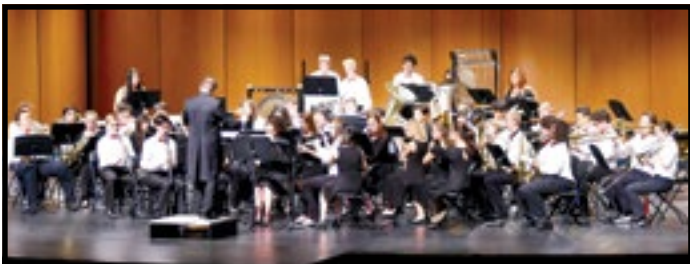
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