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School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



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May 2019



Lincoln's Wax Museum. (please see page 11)

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Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

Last year, I shared that this year's graduating class ('19) was special. I, like about 260 other graduating seniors, began my RBUSD pursuit in 2006 and here we are 13 years later, celebrating together. Here's the letter that I am sending to each one of them. I'm also sending a special letter to three of these students who have maintained perfect attendance during their 13 years here in RBUSD.

Congratulations! You and I have something in common. You began your schooling in the Redondo Beach Unified School District in 2006. I, too, arrived to RBUSD in 2006. Honestly, I never imagined that I would still be the proud RBUSD Superintendent of Schools when you graduate in June of this year. Wow, how time flies.

A lot has changed in the thirteen years we have been together. Redondo Union High School, as an example, has seen a rebirth of its campus. In the South Bay and beyond, RUHS's facilities are considered the very best. Also, nearly two-thirds of the staff members at RUHS, Dreizler, and Independent Study are new since you started as a kindergartener. I am certain that you will agree that our collective high school staff members are second-to-none.

Interestingly, of the nearly 750 high school graduates this year (which includes Dreizler Continuation High School, Independent Study, and RUHS), only about 260 of you started and are now ending your schooling exclusively in RBUSD. With this in mind, I am very confident that you are destined for further greatness. Team RBUSD has worked diligently to provide you a model education so that you will succeed in the next chapter of your life—whether it's college or career.

In short, I want to sincerely thank you and your parent(s) or guardian(s) for committing to our RBUSD schools. The 1,400+ employees of this thriving school district work hard to provide the best schools in the South Bay and beyond. I hope you will consider continuing the great RBUSD tradition by working with us one day.

Congratulations on your achievement. Yes, that's a dollar bill provided to you from me. It may not provide you much monetary value in today's economy; however, it's meant to symbolize the first dollar in your future financial success, post-RBUSD.

I am proud of you and so is the entire RBUSD family. Peace and care to you and your family.

Redondo Beach Unified School District
1401 Inglewood Avenue, Redondo Beach, CA 90278
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Board of Education

The Power of Listening

By Sergio Godinez, Student Member

Going into this position I knew what my job entailed, but I never could have imagined the life lessons I would learn. While the title of Student School Board Member may seem rather impressive (something that might stand out on a college application), it's really the purpose of the position that truly matters. The position requires me to identify with a wide range of ideas and opinions while at the same time representing a collective voice; from the first graders at Washington Elementary School to the seniors here at Redondo Union High School, each voice is unique and deserving of being heard. I have come to the understanding that the ability to listen is an invaluable skill for a leader. It may seem simple, but learning to truly listen means setting aside preconceptions and judgment. It is, by far, the most important quality that a leader must have, yet one of the hardest to put to practice.

My ability was challenged recently during a School Board meeting, when we were presented with the idea of changing the qualifications for the prestigious honor of RUHS valedictorian and salutatorian. The standing requirement was that students must have attended all four years at RUHS to be considered for the recognition. But, after a convincing argument made by a current senior explaining that students should not be punished because of a family's need to move for work purposes or other family-related reasons, I was compelled to support the change in our policy. Initially, I wanted to protect the native Sea Hawks' right to earn that honor, but after listening to the reasoning, I put my preconceptions aside to make a decision that encourages fairness for deserving members of the entire RUHS family, regardless of when they became Sea Hawks. After much discussion, the School Board members agreed to change the policy.

This experience taught me to respect the courage needed to initiate change and to find compromise in order to use my voice to benefit all students who make our school community the finest in the South Bay.

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LiveWell for the Entire Family



Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

Redondo Beach students in preschool-5th grade participate in Beach Cities Health District's LiveWell Kids nutrition program, and the lessons learned in school can benefit the entire family. Try these healthy tips at home:

Serve up some "zen" for dinner: While enjoying a screen-free dinner, encourage your family to slow down and use their senses while eating. On a scale of 1-10, how hungry are they? Closely look at the food on the plate. Lean in and take a whiff. Then, take a bite.

What flavors do you taste? Maybe make it a summer thing – Mindful Meatless Mondays, anyone?

Taste the Rainbow: In LiveWell Kids, students learn the importance of making half their plate fruits and veggies. Incorporate this into mealtimes by asking about the five food groups. Is there a new fruit or veggie your student would like to try? Try some different fruits in the grocery store instead of choosing the usual apples and bananas. And when tasting a new food item, remember "don't yuck my yum!" – give everyone a chance to decide if they like it or not.

What's really in that bag of Cheetos? Ask your student to read the label the next time you're preparing a meal together or having a snack. Can they identify the sodium and sugar in packaged foods? When watching tv, have a conversation about advertisements for junk food.

Hydration for the win: With an abundance of reusable water bottles out there, there's no excuse to skimp on the recommended 5-8 glasses of water every day. Talk to your student about other opportunities for hydration, including cantaloupe, watermelon and other high-water content foods.

Let's move! Physical activity is about more than playing soccer or running laps. It can include any movement that gets your heart rate pumping. As a family, try a walk around the block after dinner, or set a timer for 20 minutes and tidy up the house. Better yet, turn up the music and let the entire family "Shake It Off."

To learn more about nutrition programs in RBUSD schools, go to bchd.org.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



The end of the school year is in sight and students are focused on

their academic goals. Several of the articles in this issue offer testing tips and encouragement for parents and students to stay focused during these final weeks and make every day count.

If you are considering activities for the summer, we have our AHA section on pages 15-20 and student book reviews.

Our next issue is June 5.

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FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES: Valerie Reid • 310/874-2716
valerie.schoolnewsrollcall@gmail.com

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbrea Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PRODUCTION:
Gerald Villaluz and Emily Ung

COPY EDITORS:
Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

SOCIAL MEDIA: Nancy Lueder
Netragrednik by Neta Madison



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P.O. Box 728, Seal Beach, CA 90740
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**Patricia
Harris DiLeva**
President

The Dash to the Finish Line

Ah, spring! I love this time of year. More daylight hours, flowers blooming and — even here in sunny California where we're blessed with beautiful weather year-round — it seems the sky is bluer and the sun shines brighter this time of year.

It also reminds me that the end (of the school year!) is near. The scholastic marathon run is almost over. The daily grind of checking school work, running our kids around town to participate in athletics and activities, preparing lunches and just getting out the door on time each morning is almost over for a bit. You can see the finish line on the horizon but, if you're like me, you're probably exhausted. You're tempted to slow it down to a stroll. But hopefully you'll find that last burst of energy to cross the line strong.

And the temptation to slack off is there for our kids as well. As the end of the school year draws nearer, it is important to keep them enthusiastic and engaged in the classroom until the very last day. But how do you encourage them to stay focused with summer vacation just a few months away?

Here are a few tips that will help encourage your child to successfully complete the school year:

- Continue to consistently check their work and papers coming home.
- Talk with your child about what they are learning at school. Keep it up until the very last day!
- Show your enthusiasm about what they are learning. Praise! Praise! Praise!
- Keep a set bedtime.
- Don't over schedule after-school activities.
- Eat healthy.
- Remind your child of the progress that they have made during the year. Ask them to tell you the single most important thing they've learned so far this school year.
- Go over all the high points of the school year. Celebrate achievements and milestones.
- Plan a celebration on the last day!

The school year is almost over. Let's make every day count until the very end!

Make the Most of Summer!

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Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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Hanh Archer
President

Register Today!

On Saturday, April 27th, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation put another fabulous Spring Gala on the books. Thank you to everyone who attended and generously supported our fund-raising efforts. We are also grateful to the visitors who donated to our silent auction, and to everyone who purchased those amazing items and experiences. Last but not least, a

big thank-you goes to our business partners who helped to make this event a success.

With the Spring Gala now concluded, the RBEF is getting ready for summer with the RBEF Summer Sessions. Remember when summer school was viewed as something

bad? You had to go to summer school because things didn't go well during the school year. Well, that's not the case any more.

RBEF provides a number of opportunities for advancement and enrichment for students at all grade levels. Have an incoming freshman who wants to get ahead, or get a few requirements out of the way before they start in the fall? How about a K-8 student who wants to get a head start on the next grade level?

Register for RBEF Summer Sessions, a program designed in partnership with the Redondo Beach Unified School District to extend and enrich learning for students in kindergarten through the twelfth grade. For more information, and to register today, please visit our website at <https://rbef.org/summer-sessions-2019>.

RBUSD Educational Services

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



Dr. Annette Alpern
*Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services*

Spring—A Culmination of Learning in Action

Spring is my favorite time of year in schools. While it may feel to families, students, and staff that it can be an especially frenetic time of year, it is also a time to showcase and celebrate our students' learning and success.

Some may associate spring with testing season. May is the time of year when high school students across the country take the national Advanced Placement subject exams

and the majority of our students in California participate in other required state and national testing. In addition to testing though, spring is a time to share our students'

learning with parents and the greater Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) public.

Please join with us in supporting and attending the variety of music concerts, performances, and showcases during the spring months as well as the Open Houses hosted at our elementary and middle schools. In addition, over 1,000 students will be taking field trips to visit various colleges this spring, with an eye on post-high school readiness.

True enough, spring is a busy time of year. However, I believe it is helpful to refocus our attention away from thinking about spring as "busy" and see it through the lens of renewal and growth. I hope you will join with our students and staff during these culminating experiences. Happy spring!

South Bay Adult School

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



Dr. Maribel Galan
Interim Director

A Bridge to Success

The South Bay Adult School (SBAS) serves as a bridge for supporting students who wish to earn their high school diploma or are preparing to take the official GED test.

SBAS is pleased to provide a free and accredited Independent Studies - High School Diploma program for adults who have previously earned at least 100 high school credits. Coursework is completed through the Acellus online curriculum, which customizes lessons to the unique needs of each student.

Pacing of each lesson is tailored to provide more content and practice time on concepts that are challenging for

students, and less time on concepts that students have mastered. Textbooks are not required, and students are free to study at times which are convenient for them day or night, wherever an Internet connection is available.

SBAS also offers free GED test preparation online courses that focus on skills to help you study for the official GED tests with instructional videos, practice lessons, and assessments in our computer lab or from the comfort of your home, 24 hours a day. You will have access to all subjects of the GED Test Prep.

For questions about the GED test preparation online program, or our high school diploma and independent study, please contact South Bay Adult School at 310-937-3340. SBAS will support you through your journey.

RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • rshs.rbusd.org



Anthony Bridi
Principal

Spring Reflection

I am proud to report that Patricia Dreizler Continuation High School has been recognized as a Model School!

This recognition is a culmination of the hard work we are doing as a learning community of

which you are definitely a large part. Thank you, parents and guardians, for your dedication to and support of your students.

You may or may not know this, but our school has recently changed its name from Redondo Shores to Patricia Dreizler. The RBUSD school board approved this name change in Ms. Dreizler's honor as thanks for her extensive community contributions that span decades. Ms. Dreizler was recently on campus during an assembly to show her support for our students and their accomplishments. We are fortunate to have Ms. Dreizler, a pillar of our community, active and present for our student body.



Patricia Dreizler speaking to the student body during the March assembly.

Second, I am proud to report that the Student Attendance Review Board 16 (SARB) has also been recognized as a Model SARB. This board supports students and families in Redondo Beach, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and El Segundo to address school attendance and provide guidance toward academic and social-emotional growth and success. I would like to give a grateful shout-out to our school leaders and community partners for their commitment to global student needs as members of the SARB 16.

Last, as spring approaches, I recommend finding time to decompress and recharge in preparation for the end of the school year. For our seniors, this is a time to finish strong while keeping postsecondary goals in reach. For our juniors, this is a time to prioritize individual achievement and set attainable goals moving into summer.

I look forward to graduation on June 19. While there is still work to be done, I am proud of the current accomplishments of all of our students.

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Ioana Pal, PsyD,
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It's the beginning of spring, the air feels warmer and the excitement of summer is present. However, as the school year winds down, anxiety can ramp up.

The end of the school year is a time of transition. Children and parents internalize stress in different ways and finding ways to alleviate anxiety will help families have a more enjoyable summer.

There are various stressors that can impact their well-being, including:

- Changes to sleep and diet along with other routine activities
- Changing schools or needing to attend summer school
- Leaving a friend or beloved teacher behind
- Moving to a larger campus
- Studying for and taking exams

Although it's difficult to predict how a child will respond to change, it's important to communicate. Parents can help with their child's transition by creating closure, so that their child doesn't assume the worst about the upcoming year. With any transition, it's important to have a meaningful conversation, so parents can be aware of how a child is handling the situation.

Some tips to deal with stress and anxiety, include:

- Encouraging involvement in non-verbal activities, like sports, reading, writing and art
- Establishing coping skills they can engage in when they're feeling overwhelmed, such as taking the dog for a walk, playing a video game or talking to someone
- Celebrating the completion of milestones
- Highlighting the independence they'll gain because of the new transition
- Scheduling a walk-through at the new school or sit-down with their next teacher
- Writing a card to a beloved teacher they're leaving



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Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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Lisa Veal
Principal

Disconnect to Connect

By Amber Beach and Gina Guglielmana

For centuries, people all over the world have participated in a variety of health-oriented cleanses, purges, and spiritually focused missions, all in the spirit of self-improvement. In our ever-growing, changing, and consuming world of technology, a different kind of detox may just be what doctors are prescribing today. According to Common Sense

Media, the average teen spends nine hours per day online, which can contribute to a number of emotional and physical issues. There is an abundance of research to support that participating in a digital detox improves sleep, relationships, productivity, self-esteem, and overall mental health.

At Adams Middle School, the Wellness Committee spread awareness and education about the benefits of putting down your mobile device by hosting a school-wide Digital Detox Week from April 22–26. During this week, staff, students, and families were encouraged to make a concerted effort to disconnect from their devices, drones, and droids to connect more with their kinesthetic hobbies,

and, most importantly, with each other. In preparation for a week of collectively decreasing our screen time, we front-loaded Adams families with a variety of uses for their hands, including volunteering at an animal shelter, trying a new recipe, visiting a farmer's market, going to the California Science Center, and hiking to the Hollywood sign.

The encouragement of disconnecting to connect is not about dramatic life changes; rather, it is about being more mindful of our electronic use and making subtle yet meaningful changes to our lives. Changes in our daily routine can start by evaluating the time we spend—or do not spend—around the dining table. Whether it be breakfast or dinner, time around a table is critical for family bonding. It is a time to share our successes, gain support for our challenges, and check in with one another. While it is important to check or e-mails and phone calls sometimes need to be answered, it is essential that both parents and children set their phones down, close their laptops, and connect.

We invite you to join us in our commitment to creating closer connections by creating one new tradition as a family.

Alta Vista *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Dr. Dale Hillyer
Principal

It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

As the African proverb states, “It takes a village to raise a child.” But it takes the entire parent community to make Alta Vista great!

I wanted to take a brief moment to thank all the wonderful volunteers who help us raise the whole child. We have such brilliant parents and families giving countless hours to make everything happen. I also wanted to

highlight some of the opportunities and programs run by the parents that have a huge impact on student happiness and well-being.

Our PTA does a phenomenal job of providing resources for the school and teachers. They also provide great experiences for the students and families, such as school dances, Fun Run, carnivals, field trips, and assemblies, just to name a few. These events connect the students to the school and the community.

There are many other parent-run programs that have huge impacts on students. The Running Club has over 230 children participating. Research is clear that students who exercise in the morning are more prepared to learn.

Hands on Art, Wellness Council, Nutrition Docents, Garden Docents, Battle of the Books, valet, yearbook, First Lego League coaches, RBEF, and WatchDOGS are all

programs that provide incredible experiences for students. There is much effort that goes into making all these happen.

Whatever your passion or time availability, I am sure we can find an event for you. Thank you to all the supportive parents and families. It truly takes a village to raise a whole child.



Hands on Art volunteers prepping the charcoal art lesson.

Beryl Heights *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Prepare for Testing

Start early to help students prepare for the state testing in May and June. Regardless of the test, students prepare throughout the year to become successful, lifelong learners. Kindergarten students experience reading and writing daily and work hard on social skills. First-graders increase their reading fluency and comprehension and learn how to problem-solve in math. Second-

grade students write animal reports and study math facts and word problems. Third-grade students learn their multiplication and division facts, read math stories and problem-solve, and write daily to prepare themselves for explanatory writing and writing using text evidence.

While learning how to write narratives, response to literature essays, and summaries, fourth-graders focus on writing, creating projects, collaboration and mathematical problems. The fifth-grade students have the privilege of attending Science Camp for four days where they learn valuable information about animals, plants and nature.

Testing Tips

Third-through-fifth-grade students will be taking the state-standardized testing on their Chromebooks. To help your children do well on their testing, please make sure they get a good night's sleep. Also, make sure that you provide a light, healthy breakfast, and have your children dress comfortably and arrive at school on time. Most importantly, send your children off to school with confidence-building words of praise and support like "You'll do great!" "Believe in yourself!" "I love you!"

Suggest that your children breathe deeply to relax before and during the test, and remind them to read directions carefully and be thoughtful when submitting their answers. Please do not schedule trips, dental or medical appointments, or early pickups for testing days. Please make sure their Chromebooks are charged every night!

Most of all, remember that tests are just one indicator of how a child is doing, and communication throughout the year with your children's teachers is always the best way to determine their success. As always at Beryl, we strive to be the best we can be, and with your help and support, our students will be successful in all that they do.

Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Morning Meetings

Morning Meetings have landed at Birney Elementary School in a big way, ensuring that students are building a culture of connectivity and community within their classrooms and beyond. Morning Meetings allow students to gather with their classmates in the classroom first thing in the morning to participate in four activities to build community. Morning Meetings are

meant to provide students with opportunities to connect with one another and build a community of respect and trust, create empathy, and promote collaboration—all while supporting the social-emotional needs of students.

Morning Meeting always begins with students greeting one another in various ways. Each day, the students learn and execute these greetings with different students in their classrooms. Next, students participate in a sharing activity, which could include what the students did this past weekend, what their favorite restaurant or subject is or what they are looking forward to the most this week. Next, the students participate in an activity which is typically linked to an academic skill from the day before or one that is to come. The final part of Morning Meetings is a letter written by the teacher for the class. It could include

information about a special event taking place that day or week, an encouraging message, or sharing a proud moment.

Birney is proud of the work our staff and students engage in with Morning Meetings, centering around building community and helping our students connect with one another.



Ms. Rivello and her 2nd grade students
participating in an activity during Morning Meeting.

Jefferson *Elementary* (K–5)

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Testing, Testing

As we head further into spring and towards the close of the school year, the 2019 statewide California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) testing window is just around the corner. This year the CAASPP testing will occur during the weeks of May 20th and June 3rd, with a break from testing during the week of May 27th due to Memorial Day and Open House.

Testing will focus on Language Arts and Mathematics for grades three, four, and five. Additionally, fifth-graders took the California Science Test (CAST) during the week of May 6th. Both CAASPP and CAST testing are one of the many important measures we use to gauge student standards mastery as well as indicators of how well our school is performing overall.

For testing, many parents and families ask how they can best prepare students to do well on the assessments. Since the tests are cumulative and covering Common Core grade level standards taught through the year, putting in long hours of studying in the days that lead up to the test or during the test is not necessarily the best way to be ready for success.

To be very clear, we don't recommend this approach to testing at all. Studying and over-studying for state testing more often than not has the opposite desired effect on students, burning them out, instead of furthering one's chances for success. Instead, in order for students to do their best during testing, it's important to follow these basic guidelines:

Get a good night's sleep the night before testing. Have a complete breakfast the day of testing as well as a complete dinner the night before. Having a high level of protein is ideal if you can.

Maintain good attendance prior to and during testing. Come to school on time the day of testing. Exercise each day during the testing window. Students and parents should talk about the importance of testing, and stress the value of trying their best without putting too much pressure on the student.

Our goal is to make the testing period as smooth and stress free as possible for student, while also balancing the need to be "on" and approach the tests seriously. With your commitment to this approach, we can achieve it so that our students can do their best. Thank you for your ongoing support of Jefferson and our students.

Lincoln *Elementary* (K–5)

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



Jason Johnson
Principal

The Wax Museum

It is a strange feeling to stand in the Lincoln Elementary main hallway and speak in person with George Lucas. He tells me everything about himself, from

his iconic films to the number of children he has. I move one step over and listen to Amelia Earhart as she takes me into the skies where her dreams were lofted high.

This is the third-grade Wax Museum, and much like Lucas' Star Wars films, it is iconic. Like many of the grade-level traditions at Lincoln Elementary, the Wax Museum tends to sweep me off my feet. Imagine the experience of walking in Lincoln's courtyard surrounded by one hundred historical figures ready to give you their life history and importance at the push of a button. No, really—you simply push a button affixed to their shirts, and they begin!

The Wax Museum is the brainchild of our third-grade



Lincoln's Wax Museum.

teachers, who work tirelessly to—pardon the pun—bring it to life. Students pick historical figures and conduct research into their lives and prominence in our history. Next, students prepare a one-minute speech that encapsulates everything they have learned about Jackie Robinson, Annie Oakley, Queen Elizabeth—the list goes on. I love how the Wax Museum allows students to choose their history relative to the timing

of African American History Month and Women's History Month. No subject is too obscure or broad, and if you walk the hallways the day of the event, you will be pleasantly surprised at how creatively our students choose.

Finally, the magic touch of the Wax Museum is its audience. The third-grade teachers invite parents, district staff, and most importantly, first- and second-grade students to participate. Every wax figure presents, and they do so on multiple occasions for a diverse audience. The Wax Museum allows our students to shine as individuals, and at the same time, it brings our school together.

Madison *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

Website Tools

As our school year winds down, I would like to call your attention to a few important tools that are at the bottom of the Madison Elementary School website. These tools can help your student continue their academic success, or provide students with a little bit of a boost during time off. While there are many websites and/or apps that are out there that claim to support student academic progress, the tools that are available to parents through our website are Madison-tested, Madison-approved!

- **Reading Eggs-** This is a great program for students that are currently in grades K-2. The program has a look that is skewed towards younger students. Once students have completed the diagnostic (which we completed here at school) they are presented with a plethora of lessons that support early childhood literacy.
- **Raz-Kids-** This is a program that gives students complete stories to read and then follows them up with comprehension questions. Unlike Reading Eggs, Raz-Kids does not have in-depth, explicit lessons for students. However, our students enjoy the stories because they are tailored to their specific reading level. We have seen this program serve as being a

great vehicle for getting students interested in reading for entertainment.

- **Fast ForWord-** For students that are in our upper grades and want to reinforce or extend their learning in literacy, Fast ForWord is a great tool. It is similar to Reading Eggs in that once students have completed a diagnostic assessment, they are given lessons to work on. However, the look of the program, as well as the activities that they are provided with are geared to slightly older student. For that reason, it is for students that are currently enrolled in grades 3-5.
- **Eureka Math-** This next-generation curriculum website has more information and resources to help your child than you could imagine. This is a great site if you are looking for additional materials to challenge your child, or if you are just looking to be more effective in helping them with their homework. When you log onto the website, you will want to click on the link “sign up” in the upper right hand corner so you can create your own parent account and have access to all of their parent resources. They even have materials in Spanish!

Your kids will definitely need a breaks as well, so make sure to get them outside and running around. But these tools can really help challenge your student when they have down time around home.

Parras *Middle School (6-8)*

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



Jonathan Erickson
Principal

Career Day

By Jonathan Erickson, Principal

What is the purpose of school? There are countless correct answers to this question. However, career readiness is certainly one of the highest priorities. On March 29, Parras Middle School hosted its annual Career Day, and students learned about everything from being an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to composing music for movies.



Some students experienced quite interactive presentations!



**Counselors Rachel Andrews
and Lisa MacMillan**

We had over 40 presenters, and every single one brought a special passion and enthusiasm for the work they do. Parents, friends of staff, and even former students came to present about the work they do in the careers they enjoy.

Our students asked excellent questions and showed great curiosity and excitement as they learned about what their future jobs may be. Perhaps the most remarkable part of the experience is how students connected what they are learning in classes now to skills that are necessary for work in the future. This is certainly a big “why” for all that we do.

Thank you to our whole staff for making this such a wonderful event—especially our counselor, Lisa MacMillan, who was the lead planner.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Jens Brandt
Principal

Preparing for the Future

School-To-Career (S2C) is a district-wide program that helps middle and high school students prepare for the world of work.

The core of School-To-Career is the statewide WorkAbility Program and the agency-funded Transition Partnership Program, both of which work closely with community businesses to create a positive and lasting work relationship for our students. Program staff members on the campus of RUHS work tirelessly to help students realize their potential and reach their goals of financial independence and personal success.

While students receive mentoring and work experience, employers receive students and potential applicants who have been prepared for entry-level positions and who are eager to work. The WorkAbility Program is committed to offering valuable activities to assist students with individualized education plans to be prepared for the “real world.”



Junior Kalea receives her first check for her work at The Salvation Army.

Our program starts in middle school by helping students explore careers, develop their sense of self, and prepare for the transition to high school. From the moment students enter their freshman year, the School-To-Career staff provides valuable work preparation, including pre-employment training such as writing resumes, practicing the interview process, possible job placements, starting a work experience, work site monitoring, and constructive feedback! The students graduate career-ready!

The Transition Partnership Program (TPP) works closely with community agencies that can help promote personal and financial independence through work. Eligible students in the eleventh- and twelfth-grades are carefully guided and mentored through employment preparation, work experience, job placement, and finally the hiring process. Students may also receive transportation and clothing assistance, and can continue to pursue their career goals after high school.

The School-To-Career Program, with a diligent and dedicated staff, eager students, and support from the community, serves over 500 students and places over 95 of them in valuable work experiences every year. We are proud to be S2C!

Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

The Productive Struggle

One influential practice at Tulita Elementary that has led to school success has been the systematic teaching of the growth mindset, which includes perseverance, grit and productive struggle.

By teaching students to persevere, they'll be able to grapple with the issues at hand and will be able to come up with a solution themselves, developing resilience in pursuing and attaining the learning goal set forth by the teacher.

Productive-struggle skills build lasting understanding and strengthen stamina. This leads to responsive teaching by the teachers. Teachers use strategic questioning skills to help students labor and struggle but continue to try to make sense of a problem. Teachers practice long wait times and encourage students to have reflective conversations in the classroom.

Through the introduction of the growth-mindset philosophy, teachers do not praise students for simply getting an answer right to a specific question. Rather, teachers emphasize creative problem solving and give



Upper grade students work together to persevere through a math problem

constructive feedback in the moment to help steer students toward the right solution. They also encourage students to share their thinking with others in the classroom, allowing peers to expand their own thinking. This kind of effortful learning develops grit and creative problem solving, and results in an understanding of grade-level content on a deeper level. It allows

students to apply that deeper learning to more-complex problems.

By teaching resilience and perseverance, students begin to strengthen the traits associated with the personal and social responsibilities that are needed to be college and career ready. This includes a focus on students striving for excellence, cultivating integrity, contributing to a larger community, being resilient, and understanding various perspectives. Executive functioning skills such as decision making, taking initiative and displaying commitment are taught through goal-setting and utilizing self-evaluation tools such as checklists, rubrics and models.

By teaching students that perseverance is an important character trait, Tulita is creating a community of lifelong learners with goals for the future.

Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



Andrea Bittick
Principal

Doing Science

By Andrew Estrada, Assistant Principal

When you enter classrooms during science instruction at Washington Elementary School, you will likely observe students “doing” science in a different way than you remember as a child. Instead of rote memorization of facts and terminology, students utilize those facts and terminology to develop explanations and design

solutions to support evidence-based arguments. Instead of the teacher providing all of the information to the class, students conduct their own investigations, solve problems, and engage in classroom discussions while their teacher facilitates.



Students thinking like scientists and engineers.

This shift in the way students “do” science is based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS calls for student-centered learning that enables students to think on their own, solve problems, communicate effectively, and collaborate with their peers and teachers—all of which are critical to learning scientific concepts. This school year, our district has adopted a new curriculum, Amplify, which is a phenomena-based curriculum that blends hands-on investigations, literacy-rich activities, and interactive tools to empower students to do the heavy lifting in the classroom.



Students create a chain reaction to demonstrate evidence of magnetic forces and touching forces.

Ultimately, the NGSS and Amplify provide Washington students with the tools necessary to think and inquire like real scientists and engineers.

RBUSD Child Development

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



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Finding the Right Program for Your Child

Many parents today do not have the luxury of staying home with their child/ren. The reality is, more and more families rely on the help and support of quality preschool and after-school programs. At the Child Development Centers (CDC) we work together to constantly improve our program while keeping it fun and exciting.

So, what makes an excellent child development program?

- Providing a safe, nurturing environment for all children.
- Developing positive relationships and interactions among staff and the families that we serve.
- Recruiting and hiring only the best staff members who are committed to providing quality instruction and guidance, with each teacher holding a Child Development Permit or Multiple Subject teaching credential from the state of California.
- Having a strong staff development program to teach and help further support the best practices in our programs.
- Providing a well-rounded variety of activities and

opportunities that support the physical, social and cognitive growth and development of all participants.

- Working closely with the elementary school staff to ensure that both preschool and after-school academic components and activities are aligned with, and enrich school standards and curriculum.
- Providing opportunities for our children to participate in planning, to exercise choice, and to engage in a variety of fun and exciting activities and opportunities.
- Establishing a strong partnership with our families and community in order to achieve program goals.
- Encouraging our families to participate in their child's class whenever they can so that they are a part of the program too.
- Systematically evaluating our program and using that information for on-going program planning and enhancement. Each year we survey our staff, children and parents for feedback and program improvement ideas.

Our CDC program recognizes the importance of possessing and maintaining all of these key qualities that make up an excellent child development program and we are proud to serve our families.

Lucy's Book Review



Lucy Davis

Buzzfeed

TASTY - Latest and Greatest

The world's viral videos are made up of a lot of things: dancing cats, little kids, and absurd tricks. But what has taken the world by storm? BuzzFeed, with



their mouthwatering food videos. Saved and liked on every platform, *TASTY* shows you how to bake the perfect late-night snack or crowd-pleasing dessert. Now, the best of the best has been compiled into a step-by-step cookbook so you can easily get the plate off your screen and on your table. Grab your ingredients, and this book

I love this book for so many reasons! It is easy to follow, fun to look at, and the layout makes sure you can find your favorite recipe in a pinch. Four out of five bookworms.

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

Richard's Book Review



Richard J.

Daring Escapes

I Survived: True Stories: Extreme Weather! By Lauren Tarshis

This book is about real people experiencing weather disasters like the Joplin tornado, hurricane Sandy and avalanches while skiing.

It's exciting to read about people's daring escapes. I liked how after each of the 3 stories there is a fact sheet about the weather type and a list of rules to help you be safe in each situation. My favorite survival story is about Ariel, who escaped with her family from their house in Rockaway, New York before hurricane Sandy hit. Afterwards Ariel started a Facebook page to help people get connected to places where they could receive help or get donations to replace the things they lost. I give this book a 4 out 5 stars, because I think more details could have been given about each story for more information, but it's definitely a great real-life book that describes helpful skills and provides some good advice.



Richard J. is a 4th grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical activities like bike-riding, swimming, diving and running. He is a hard-working student who enjoys reading, seeing and learning new things and spending time with his family and friends.

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South Bay Hands On Art

Catalina

By Co-Chairs Sandi Arthur
and Karen Ford Cull

Kids will be getting their hands dirty, quite literally, with the latest project from South Bay Hands on Art. They will be trying their hand at a project in charcoal, one of the oldest methods of artistic expression, dating back to cave paintings!

The project, titled “Catalina” will have the kids creating a scene from Catalina Island using a pinch of charcoal powder to tint the paper, and then creating mountains, rocks and a dock using charcoal pencils and compressed charcoal sticks to make larger dark areas. A bright white moon and reflections on the water will be achieved by erasing away the charcoal powder.



Artist Rolandas Dabukas (center) instructed parent docents recently in the Alta Vista Elementary cafeteria.

2110-B Artesia Blvd., Box 805, Redondo Beach, CA 90277
www.southbayhandsonart.com

Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

A Funny Story

Have you recently lost your baby tooth? In *I lost my tooth!* by Mo Willems, all the squirrels except Zoom Squirrel thought that when Zoom Squirrel said he lost his baby tooth, it was a real baby. So then they went to go look to

find the baby tooth. Then Zoom Squirrel found his tooth. When Zoom Squirrel showed his tooth, the other squirrels got gifts for the baby tooth. Do they finally know what a baby tooth is? I like this book because it has jokes and makes me laugh. It also has cute drawings and some facts about teeth at the end.



Yoona is a 1st grader. She likes doing cartwheels and soccer. She also likes asking questions to her parents. Having a playdate with her friends is her favorite too.

Manhar's Book Review



Manhar M.

Walk the Line

The Man Who Walked Between the Towers

By Mordicai Gerstein

This is a true story of a French aerialist Phillippe Petit who walked between the two towers of the World Trade Center in 1974. He performed daring activities in the sky, like walking and dancing on the cable. This book has amazing pictures of the New York City from different perspectives. The book also has interesting foldouts. The book talks about how Phillippe planned his daring act and what happened after he was caught. One must read this book to find out about this unique event.



Manhar M. is in Kindergarten. Manhar likes science, math, coding, traveling, hiking, reading about world news and spending time in building robots from Legos.

B is for Book



Bailey

An Oregon Tale

Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie by Kristiana Gregory will always be my favorite historical book!

Hattie Campbell is going to Oregon! Before she knows, she is traveling the Oregon Trail with 8 grueling months ahead: Rivers to cross, Indians, snakes, poisonous vegetables, it has it all! People everywhere are dropping like flies and everyone must fight to survive. Will Hattie fall among the fear, the blistering heat, and the losses? Or will she emerge at the end with memories, a new land and heart in Oregon?

Told as a diary, *Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie* is an entertaining way of learning about the Oregon Trail. I really love how the author describes events, I feel like I'm in the story.

I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Bailey is a 7th grader who loves being with her friends and reading. When she isn't doing these things, she's dancing ballet or lyrical.



Christina's Book Review



Christina J.

Journey for Victory

The School for Good and Evil: Quests for Glory by Soman Chainani

The 4th book in *The School for Good and Evil* series follows through the quests of recently graduated students (most of which are children of famous storybook characters) on a journey to create their own legends. These kids will be either heroes or villains of their own stories. But as Tedros, the son of King Arthur of Camelot, struggles to rule his Kingdom, it is realized that a great menace is keeping Tedros from being able to pull Excalibur from the stone, which causes other students to fail in their quests. Now several former and current students are off on a journey to save everyone's story from getting ruined. I enjoyed this book, as it is like the Harry Potter series, you read from book one and on, and watch the characters grow, change and become the great heroes and villains they were trained to be at school. Now they have to use these lessons against a villain who threatens to disrupt their world. I rate this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Christina J. is an 9th grader. Christina is an avid reader, who enjoys a good book about some great adventure, mystery or action. She is a hard-working student and a young author herself. In 5th grade she wrote a book *Melody's Stories: I Am a Spy Now*, published by Studenttreasures Publishing (PIN #3582798).



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Keira's Book Nook



Keira

Household Pet to Wild Animal

The Call of the Wild Jack London is a classic that shows the reader how a life can change overnight. This novel is written from the perspective of Buck, a California dog, who lives a comfortable life in Santa Clara when he is stolen



and sold as a sled dog. Buck learns to adapt to his new life and overcome obstacles. He goes through many different masters as a sled dog, and makes friends and enemies along the way. Through it all, the wild calls.

Jack London is an extraordinary writer who is best known for his books, *Call of the Wild*, *White Fang*, and *The Sea-Wolf*. London is also widely known for his naturalist writing style. I rate this book four stars, because although it was a good read, it could be a little morbid at times. However, I would still recommend this novel to anyone 4th grade and up.

Keira is a 7th grader who loves to read. She also enjoys crafts, traveling, soccer and playing with her cats. Her reviews are rated from 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest.

Katie's Review



Katie C.

The Power of Words

Power is something that is typically misunderstood as something that requires physical strength.

However, it can be far from that. In *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak illustrates a scenario of a girl who uses her power of words to express herself. Liesel is a girl who becomes an orphan in the midst of a war. She loses her brother as well, and is devastated and traumatized from it. She lives with her foster parents who care for her, and along her journey of exploring her power, she meets a new friend Max. Max teaches her that it's not always about what you do, what but you say. Together they read and start to see the real truth: words are the power. Liesel grows as a person throughout the book and even though she doesn't find her happy ending, she reminds herself that her words are important, and they give her power.



Katie is a ninth grader. Her passion is writing and she likes finding new ways to structure poetry. She is working on creating a story line with a series of poems. In her spare time, she enjoys soccer, song writing and reading books.

Day at the Beach Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put RBUSD in the subject line.

- | | |
|------------|---------------|
| SUN BLOCK | SURF BOARD |
| TOWELS | FLOAT |
| SWIM SUIT | SHIRT |
| SUNGLASSES | SANDWICHES |
| UMBRELLA | SHORTS |
| HAT | CHAP STICK |
| FLIP FLOPS | FIRST AID KIT |
| PAIL | COOLER |
| SHOVEL | DRINKS |
| BLANKET | SNACKS |
| BOOK | |

Congratulations to our April Contest Winners:
Christopher & Daniel Kim and Kathleen Pham

Entries must be received by June 15, 2019

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!



Isabella's Book Review



Isabella A.

Truly Inspiring

Heidi by Johanna Spyri

Heidi is a sweet young girl that is taken to live with her sour uncle. While Heidi resides in the Alps, she meets the young shepherd who loves food.

Heidi loves the Swiss Alps but is suddenly sold to a wealthy family in Germany. She is to be friends with Clara, a girl who is paralyzed and is lonely.

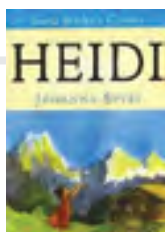
On a quest to attempt to see the Alps in a German city, Clara and Heidi escape from the house, landing Heidi in deep trouble. Heidi is sad and attempts to run away. When she is caught and denied permission to return home, Heidi becomes depressed.

When Heidi begins to sleepwalk and go outside at night, the doctor says it is because of her depression. The doctor says that she needs to go home.

Will Heidi be allowed to go home? Or will she find a home in Clara's house?

I would Give Heidi 5 stars. I hung on to every word and anticipated every page

Isabella is a 7th grader and just published her first short story in a school anthology of young authors after winning first prize with her work. She rates books on a 5 star scale.



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 July 29 - August 2

Location: Hess Park, Rancho Palos Verdes
Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm. Monday - Friday
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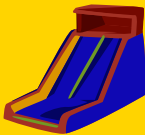
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