

FREE

# School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District**



Volume 11, Issue 100

October 2017

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## Thank You to Our Staff!

*Dr. Keller, Superintendent*

### Board of Education



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*(open 7 days a week)*

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between Beryl St. and  
Diamond St.)

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## Superintendent



**Dr. Steven Keller**

### A Thank You to Our Staff

You have heard me say this far too often, but about 85% of the Redondo Beach Unified School District's budget eats. Eats, at least in this case, means people. With about 1,000 school districts throughout our state, the 85% number is about average. So, in RBUSD, we are neither high nor low when it comes to our budgetary commitment to people. What RBUSD kids receive from the 85%, however, is nothing short of impressive.

As you know, I personally interview each and every candidate being considered for a position in RBUSD. When 85% of your budget is consumed by people, shouldn't the leader make darn-sure that new hires meet the higher standards that we demand here in RBUSD? A little more due diligence on the front side pays dividends on the back side for kids!

The most important part of this message is a nod to the RBUSD staff. They are hard-working, caring, student focused, and incredibly giving of their time. I have been in this business since 1986 and I can assure you that our employees are extraordinary—each one of them. Our teachers, custodians, maintenance and grounds folks, secretaries, instructional aides, administrators, CDC staff members, and everyone else in this district genuinely make a difference in our learning community. Because of this, I ask a big favor from you—please thank them. I need to be better at this and I admit it. I continue to commit to you that I will model what I've asked you to do.

Now, you are probably saying, "Why is he really saying this?" I'm really saying this because you/we have a "great gig" here in RBUSD. Let's appreciate it more and exhibit that appreciation in words and action. If there is an issue, let's deal with it... nicely. As I often share: hard on the problem and soft on the people. As the proud leader of the finest school district in the South Bay, I ask you to value one another and what we have built in our city for our kids.

I appreciate and applaud our staff, students, and parent community. You are the best. Thank you!

## Board of Education



**Brad Serkin**  
*Vice President*

### A Destination District

Welcome back! We hope that all of the students, teachers, staff, and administrators of our wonderful district had a happy and healthy summer.

As we move forward into this new school year, we are looking at a bright and positive future for our district. We are excited to welcome to our district all of our new teachers, principals, and staff members at all sites throughout the district. This year continues one of the largest hiring periods in a long time, and brings lots of new and excited faces to our RBUSD family.

Our school campuses are continuing to be improved, most notably the new classrooms being constructed at the high school, as well as campus improvements and fresh paint at some of our other school sites. Classroom cooling has been rolled out at some of our school sites across the district, with the board's three-year targeted goal of implementing it throughout the district.

Bringing our temperatures down fosters a much better environment for our students. Last year and in years past we have had in excess of 20 or more school days where the temperatures have exceed a reasonable environment for our children to learn. For the schools which were able to be completed this summer, the feedback has been nothing short of amazing!

Our schools continue to win awards for both academics as well as environmental achievements. Our solar project is continuing to yield tremendous benefits to our general budget, as well as being more environmentally friendly. Enrollment continues to increase each year, and our overall test scores continue to propel us in the right direction.

We are indeed a destination district, and we should all be very proud of our achievements as well as beautiful campuses. I believe that the best from our district is yet to come.

**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 Meeting Dates

#### 2017

October 10  
October 24

November 28\*  
December 12\*

#### 2018

January 9  
January 23  
February 13  
February 27

March 13  
March 27  
April 24\*  
(Organizational Meeting)

May 8  
May 22  
June 12  
June 26

\* Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Board meeting in November, December, and April.





**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



# School News Roll Call

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Covering the

**REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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page 3 he writes about the importance of staff and acknowledging them. It all comes down to teamwork and everyone being appreciated for what they do. (This message is true in a family where everyone has to do their part. Every child knows how important their part is in the routine of trying to eat breakfast, make lunches, gather up school work, backpacks, athletic gear and getting everyone to school on time and prepared.) I am cognizant and appreciative of my employees who represent *School News* in everything they do to the final step of distribution to get the positive message out about RBUSD.

Our next issue is November 1. In the meantime, have a Happy Halloween!



## Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



**Hanh Archer**  
President

### FUNdraising for Arts and Music

RBEF is dedicated to the development and education of the Whole Child. Last year, your generous support and investment help fund \$936,000.00 in RBUSD school programs for this school year, including Band Teachers for 5th grade and Vocal Music Teachers for 1st - 4th grades.

The success of our middle school bands and award winning high school band and ensembles develop roots in the elementary schools music programs.

Here are some of the benefits of integrating arts and music education in our schools:

**Development in creative thinking:** Kids who study the arts can learn to think creatively. This kind of education can help them solve problems by thinking outside the box and realizing that there may be more than one right answer. **Kids can learn teamwork:** Many musical education programs require teamwork as part of a band or orchestra. In these groups, students will learn how to work together and build camaraderie.



**Responsible risk-taking:** Performing a musical piece can bring fear and anxiety. Doing so teaches kids how to take risks and deal with fear, which will help them become successful and reach their potential. **Better self-confidence:**

With encouragement from teachers and parents, students playing a musical instrument can build pride and confidence. Musical education is also likely to develop better communication for students. **Musical training helps develop language and reasoning:** Students who have early musical training will develop the areas of the brain related to language and reasoning. The left side of the brain is better developed with music, and songs can help imprint information on young minds.

RBEF fundraising is a year round effort to ensure that arts and music will always be a part of our kids' educational experience at RBUSD. Join us on Sunday, October 29th for the Skechers Friendship Walk when we walk (in person or via VIRTUAL) with our community to raise dollars for friendship and education. On Monday, November 6th, FUNdraising continues with RBEF's Mayors Cup Golf Tournament at Los Verdes Golf Course.

## Beach Cities Health District

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



**Ali Steward, MPH**  
Director  
Youth Services

### RBUSD Families Connected and Thriving

There will be no report cards, grades or annual reviews to let you know how you're doing, and you will not receive any formal training for the job at hand. There will be no vacations or holiday breaks. You'll need to be attentive and on-duty, at all times. And just when you think you have it all figured out, a new technology will drop into your lap and throw everything out of whack.

Sound familiar, parents?

They say parenting doesn't come with a user manual, but the next best thing might be a new partnership forged between Redondo Beach Unified School District and South Bay Families Connected. RBUSD Families Connected is designed to make it easier for parents to sift through all of the information out there, on topics including social media, substance use, stress and bullying. [RBUSDFamiliesConnected.org](http://RBUSDFamiliesConnected.org) provides timely and relevant resources, an event calendar, videos, e-newsletter and authentic South Bay stories.

Additionally, Beach Cities Health District has partnered with RBUSD Families Connected to offer parents in-person opportunities to connect on the things that are important to them – and be better equipped to handle the stressors and pressures in our very busy lives.

Some ways you can participate:

- Attend the Oct. 17 Families Connected Speaker Series, "Responding to Stressors & Pressures," at Redondo Union High School, 6-8:30 p.m. The talk will feature local experts and will be moderated by RBUSD Director of Student Services Dr. Nicole Wesley.
- Attend an upcoming Families Connected Parent Chat, happening every Monday from 10-11 a.m. at Beach Cities Health District, 514 N. Prospect Ave., Redondo Beach. A licensed professional will facilitate a small group discussion on parenting topics including stress, social media and substance use.

Learn more at [RBUSDFamiliesConnected.org](http://RBUSDFamiliesConnected.org).



## ECC INVITES YOU TO COLLEGE NIGHT!

Please join us anytime  
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**Wednesday, November 15**

- Learn About ECC Programs and Resources
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Student Life, Athletics, and Career Planning

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# El Camino College



16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90506

# Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

## Teaching Tolerance – Starting a Conversation about Craniofacial Abnormalities with your Child



**Ioana Pal, PsyD.**  
clinical psychologist,  
Stramski Children's  
Developmental  
Center  
Miller Children's &  
Women's Hospital  
Long Beach

Each year, about 4,400 infants in the U.S. are born with a cleft lip and about 2,700 are born with a cleft palate. Together, these conditions are often referred to as craniofacial abnormalities, which are among the most common birth defects.

For children with craniofacial abnormalities, there are many visible (facial characteristics and/or speech difficulties), as well as invisible characteristics (anxiety, breathing difficulties) that may impact a child's ability to interact with others in meaningful ways.

These interactions can become even more difficult, and can affect their self-esteem, self-acceptance and communication skills, when other children tease, taunt, stare or exclude them.

Your child may know someone with a craniofacial abnormality, and it may be challenging for them to understand their peer's condition. Family members and other adults who are part of a child's life have the opportunity to educate children about respect for others and tolerance of differences.

### Here are several ways to encourage tolerance:

- Model inclusive behavior. You can help your children become more compassionate, empathic and respectful by staying educated. Communicate openly with them about sensitive topics (asking and answering questions about craniofacial defects) and role play hypothetical situations or conversations.
- Curiosity is a venue for learning. Teach your child to ask questions in appropriate, thoughtful ways.
- Good communication and socialization skills lead to compassion. Encourage your child to communicate about their feelings and thoughts in age appropriate, pro-social ways.
- Ask your child's school about their anti-bullying policies in order to understand the steps taken to prevent bullying.



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# Redondo Beach Council PTA

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



**Patricia  
Harris DiLeva**  
President

## Family Engagement

Research shows family engagement equals student success. The following tips from California State PTA offer key ways for parents to get involved and make a difference:

**Model positive parenting and support learning at home.** Develop effective parenting skills and seek to better understand child and adolescent development. Create a home environment that supports learning by establishing a quiet place for homework and setting a regular time for studying. Talk with your child about college and future careers.

**Learn more about your child's school and communicate with educators.** Attend Back-to-School Night and parent-teacher conferences. Find out how to take advantage of your school's translation and interpretation services. Make time to read newsletters, memos and notices from the school.

**Help out at school or join PTA.** Look at ways to volunteer in the classroom or other ways you can help prepare or organize classroom materials at home. Find out about participating in school organizations, initiatives and school committees such as PTA, School Site Council or English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC). Help with a school-wide event or accompany your child's class on a field

trip. Remember: just joining PTA shows that you support your child and their school.

**Engage in the decision-making, leadership and advocacy efforts at your school.** Learn about and participate in the various school, district, or community decision-making bodies. Parent input is critical! Learn more about your school district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the eight priority areas that help all children succeed. Consider taking on a leadership role in speaking up for all children – at your PTA, at the school and beyond.

**Be familiar with what your child will be expected to learn and how he or she will be assessed as part of the new state standards.** Attend meetings and/or read more about the new California State Standards and how they will help prepare students for the future. Find out more about the new statewide assessment program and how your child's score will look and what it means for their progress. Talk to your child's teachers to understand how learning may look different in the classroom and how you can best support your child.

**Take advantage of community resources.** Ask your school about free or low-cost community health, cultural and social support programs. Find out about after-school enrichment programs, tutoring and free library programs that are available to you and your family.



# RBUSD Alternative Education

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



**Anthony Bridi**  
*Principal*

## Time to Evaluate, Plan, and Organize

School is in full swing. Morning routines, bell schedules, and after school activities are known and calendared; or are they?

It is commonplace to have full schedules and between our school, work, hobbies and spending time with family and friends, we often fall short in our efforts to manage time effectively. With a new school year upon us, this is the time to evaluate how your family

and personal routines are working. How many times have you experienced the one traffic light that is 3 minutes too long? 3 minutes that possibly could have been gained if another route was chosen, which would have avoided the mad dash to class and forgotten belongings in the car. Or similarly, hit every red light on the way to school or work, causing you to be 5 minutes late? 5 minutes that could have been easily gained by just leaving the house 5 minutes earlier.

Fact is, we all have been there and have our own stories to tell. I am sure your unique experiences have led you to family discussions and potential plans for improved

time management. While it is impossible to change what happens around us on a day to day basis (i.e. the light that takes too long), what we can do is change how we evaluate, plan, and organize our time to become more effective with our daily routines. Likewise, as your child matures, there is a gradual release of responsibility that evolves. Your child will need to become accountable for managing their time effectively and practicing what they have learned in order to become a successful contributing member of society. So take a moment to sit down with your child to re-evaluate your routine(s). Communicate and review the successes and challenges that are encountered on a daily basis and set long term goals to be achieved and determine barriers or obstacles that could potentially impede the process.

From there, assist your child in setting short term goals so they can begin executing their plans. This action will impact them while at school and influence their overall academic and social emotional well-being in the long run. As the year continues, so must this process of communication, reflection, and adjustments to improve time management practices!

Your success begins today!

## RBUSD Child Development

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



**Theresa Van Dusen**  
*Director*

## An Active Summer

What did your middle school student do this summer? Stay home and play with their electronic devices? Or hang out at the beach

with their friends and go to fun places, such as many of Southern California's great amusement parks and tourist attractions? Well, at "The Zone," our students were

able to do and participate in all of these fun things!

The Zone is the middle school equivalent to the RBUSD's elementary CDC program. We began the Zone summer program in 2014, and it has grown every year. Our teachers work very hard to create a program that is fun and exciting, and geared to the age of our middle school students.

The students were off campus for four days a week, and their trips included amusement parks, museums, bowling, horseback riding, rock climbing, and, of course, beach days playing in the sand

and surf. In addition to these trips, the students also had activities such as competing in cooking competitions and painting their own artistic masterpieces. They really had a great summer keeping busy!



**Visiting the set of Friends**



# RBUSD Educational Services

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



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

## Educating the Whole Family

Educating the whole child. More than likely, you've heard the term before. Maybe from a School Board member? Maybe from Dr. Keller? Or maybe your school site principal? The concept originated from famed education philosopher John Dewey in the early 20th century. John Dewey and other progressive educators believed that public schools needed to be reformed; specifically reform that included focusing on meeting the physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs of children. The public schools of a hundred

years ago were not typically engaged in this kind of work. Thankfully, public schools have come a long way since that time.

Our focus on whole child education in Redondo Beach has been a critical component and part of the core fabric of our school district's success. We also recognize that if we ONLY focus on the needs of the almost 10,000 students we serve, we aren't capitalizing on the important role that parents and guardians can and do play in helping our young people to thrive. With that in mind, we are continuing to expand our parent education outreach this school year. Some of that

outreach comes in the form of parent education events that you can attend in person. A number of those upcoming events are included for you below. As well, we have developed many community partnerships and now have numerous resources available to you at the tip of your fingers and the closest digital device. [RBUSDfamiliesconnected.org](http://RBUSDfamiliesconnected.org) include topics such as stress, bullying, grief, social media, technology, tobacco, vaping, and substance abuse. There are age-appropriate and relevant articles, videos, and parent and teen blogs for elementary, middle and high school parents, youth and educators.

Please mark your calendars, plan to attend, and learn how, together, we can support the growth and happiness of our youth:

- RBUSD State of Education: Riding the Digital Wave  
October 4th, 6:30 p.m.  
Redondo Union High School Auditorium
- Recognizing & Responding to Stressors and Pressures  
October 17th, 6:30 p.m.  
Redondo Union High School Auditorium
- Free Support Group: Families Connected Parent Chat  
Every Monday, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Beach Cities Health District Cafe, 514 N. Prospect Ave.

## FAMILIES CONNECTED PARENT CHAT



**Wondering if  
your child is  
experimenting  
with drugs or  
alcohol?**



**Striving to create  
balance in your  
household and  
manage family  
and student  
stress?**



**Seeking guidance  
about rule setting  
and boundaries  
around social  
media and  
technology?**

**Every Monday from 10-11 a.m.**

Beach Cities Health District  
514 N. Prospect Ave., Suite 102  
Redondo Beach



for an online gallery of resources, an event calendar, videos, e-newsletter, and authentic south bay stories, go to [southbayfamiliesconnected.org](http://southbayfamiliesconnected.org).

# South Bay Adult School

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



**Dr. Anthony Taranto**  
Director

## Keep Educating Yourself!

The Public Policy Institute of California anticipates that by the year 2025 there will be a 1.5 million shortfall of skilled workers (AEBG, 2017).

Adult education provides opportunities and services that can equip adults with the knowledge and skills they need to address this gap in the workforce, as well as to participate effectively as citizens, parents, and family and community members.

Instructional programs ensure that adults have the education and skills they need in a competitive economy for a better quality of life (CDE, 2016). Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Secondary Education (ASE), together with basic skills courses/classes, can help adults who do not have a diploma complete their High School Equivalency (HSE), earn a High School Diploma (HSD), and prepare them for entry to college or the workforce.

One of the largest programs at South Bay Adult School (SBAS) is English as a Second Language (ESL). Adult English Language (EL) programs are designed to help those who are new to the United States, as well as others who have not yet fully developed proficiency in English, acquire the basic knowledge and skills they need to

function effectively in the workplace, in society, and as parents.

Students may enroll in classes in preparation for the High School Equivalency Certificate (GED), or for the high school diploma. Our GED Prep course is offered in a classroom environment that provides the opportunity for students to work independently and at their own pace.

Students may also complete course requirements in some areas through the Independent Study Program. The goal of the South Bay Adult School (SBAS) Independent Study Program is to support our students' successful transition from high school to college or career. Prior to transitioning to college or careers, students must complete 230 credits to earn a high school diploma. Students in our GED Prep or ISP program are provided access to an online curriculum, individualized work to study at home, and are required to attend a Learning Center Lab/Workshop with a teacher for a minimum of once per week to review their progress.

At SBAS, our ESL, GED PREP, and complete high school program help to provide adult learners with the skills they need to enter the workforce, and with options for career pathways. Visit us at [www.southbayadult.oeg](http://www.southbayadult.oeg) for more information.



## CPR Certification-First Aid

- Safetynet instructors are nationally certified and trained according to the 2017 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care.
- Participants are trained to remain calm and respond appropriately for medical emergencies on the job or at home.
- CPR certification is valid for 2 years.
- First Aid certification is valid for 3 years.
- Course covers: Adult-Child-Infant CPR, choking, drowning, bleeding, shock, burns, fractures, concussions, tooth loss, puncture wounds, embedded objects, seizures, poisonings, heat emergencies and diabetes.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 4, 2017  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
OR Wednesday, October 18  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** South Bay Adult School  
Conference Hall A  
3401 Inglewood Ave. Redondo Beach, 90278

**FEE:** \$60.00 (register at [www.southbayadult.org](http://www.southbayadult.org))



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## Adams *Middle School* (6–8)

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



**Lisa Veal**  
*Principal*

### Bringing Curriculum to Life

At Adams Middle School, we strive to provide our students with an engaging educational experience that extends beyond the classroom. We accomplish this in a variety of ways, including project-based and hands-on learning. With the support of an amazing PTSA, every grade level enjoys a historically themed day of learning.

Renaissance Day is a station-based day of learning with activities such as Elizabethan dance, sculpting and flag making, Shakespearean performances and a jousting tournament.

This past school year, we were excited to bring Civil War Day to Adams for the first time. Our eighth-grade students enjoyed a day of learning centered on this time period and historical event.

Curriculum is alive at Adams!



**Abe Lincoln and Principal Veal**

Our sixth-grade students participate in Greek Day, at which time they enjoy a host of activities including ancient Greek math games, a reader's theater, Olympic Games and an unforgettable chariot race.



**Zeus (AKA Mr. Morlock) explains to students the rules of the chariot races**

## Alta Vista *Elementary* (K–5)

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



**Susan Wildes**  
*Principal*

### Digital Readiness

One recent morning before school, a parent stopped me in need of advice. She stated that her daughter was asking repeatedly for a cell phone. She asked whether I felt that her daughter was too young for the responsibility of a cell phone. This is a question that many parents are all struggling with; what is the right age to have a cell phone?

Much to her dismay, I didn't answer the question, but rather gave her a series of questions to use to determine their child's readiness. Deciding when your child is mature enough to handle the responsibility of a cell phone is a personal decision. There are some questions, however, that parents should ask to decide if the time is right and what time of device might be most appropriate.

- Does your child spend time away from you or supervising themselves walking to/from school? In this case, your child may be telling you that they want a "phone" in order to help themselves feel safe. Maybe your child just needs a way to communicate with you, but not all the functionality of a smart phone.
- Ask your child how they see themselves using the

phone. They may tell you that they see themselves playing games or taking photos. In this case, maybe a simpler device may suffice. Or they may say they want to be able to text friends. How they view themselves using the device will better help you decide the type of education they need first in order to keep themselves safe. We suggest going to Common Sense Media for tools such as how to protect your child from cyber-bullying, family media-use contracts and suggestions on setting parental controls.

- How responsible is your child with their belongings? Do they lose things often? If your child tends to lose things easily, then keeping up with a cell phone may be too much.
- How's your child's impulse control? If someone sends them a mean text or an inappropriate picture, will they be able to refrain from responding and seek out your help?
- How available are you to stay on top of their usage and to monitor their communications?

Deciding when your child is ready for a phone is not easy. Even children ready for the responsibility still need to be armed with the tools and knowledge to ensure that they are safe and will adhere to guidelines.



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

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



**Karen Mohr**  
*Principal*

### **Parent/Guardians in the Learning Process:**

**P** — Beryl School salutes the Parents and Guardians in our community.

We couldn't do it without you.

**A** — Parents play an active role in our P.T.A.

**R** — Parents help read to the class and assist reading groups in several of our classes. They also model reading in their homes.

**T** — Parents track their child's progress by communicating with the teacher.

**N** — Parents read newsletters and keep current on their child's classroom activities.

**E** — Parents help set expectations along with the teacher.

**R** — Parents accept responsibility in assisting their child with homework and daily reading.

**S** — Parents supply our school generously by supporting the PTA and RBEF.

**I** — Parents are in touch with the teacher through email and daily communication logs.

**N** — Parents are a necessary part of student success.

**L** — Parents instill the desire for life long learning.

**E** — Parents share their experiences and cultures, enriching our lives.

**A** — Parents attend important meetings such as Back to School Night, conferences, Open House, and Town Meetings

**R** — Parents raise children with the six pillars of character.

**N** — Parents provide a nurturing environment for their children.

**I** — Parents invest time and energy inside and outside the classroom.

**N** — Parents communicate the needs of their children.

**G** — Parents give of their time and talents, from P.E. lessons to Hands on Art.

Thank you Beryl Parents and Guardians for Supporting our School and Your Wonderful Students.

## Birney *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Mira Baskaron**  
*Principal*

### **Watch D.O.G.S.**

We are heading into our third year of implementing the wonderful Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) on the Birney campus. This amazing program is a school-based father involvement effort that works to support education and safety. Once again we are calling on all Birney Bobcat fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father figures to spend one day on our campus.

The Watch DOGS will continue to participate in many areas during their time on campus. They will be in classrooms reading with students, on the yard playing football and basketball, chatting with the children, and even working our valet line or lending a helping hand around the school. The Watch DOGS have been an important part of the Birney community, and we are very much looking forward to another year of having them here.

We will be kicking off our Watch DOGS breakfast next month. This is where fathers and father figures will have

breakfast with their students and commit to one volunteer day. This wonderful event will begin the program, and our dads and other father figures will also get to hear all about the research behind its success.

The Birney Bobcat staff and students have loved having the Watch DOGS on campus. Students continue to show big smiles when giving a Watch DOG a high-five, or greeting them in passing. Our staff have also commented on how wonderful it is to have the Watch DOGS at school. We are truly looking forward to another successful year of Watch DOGS implementation at Birney.



**Students and father figures enjoying breakfast during last year's Watch DOGS kick-off event.**

## Jefferson *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Jeff Winckler**  
*Principal*

### Falling Into Place

Fall is here. As we move away from the very start of school, many things are coming together at Jefferson as we establish a rhythm for the school year ahead.

October represents the only month of the year in which every week of school is a full one. These uninterrupted weeks generate a pace and flow that allows the year to become its own. With a full month of instruction under their belts, our teachers and staff have a read on the dynamics of their classrooms. Additionally, we as a collective whole begin to have a sense of how the year feels as a school community.

There are many school and local events across the South Bay in October that help shape synergy and connectivity across the Jefferson community. These events include the

start of Jefferson's Running Club, the PTA's Movie Night, the RBEF and Skechers Pier to Pier Walk, Red Ribbon Week, and the Halloween Parade at the end of the month. Together they will help bring Jefferson together to "fall" into place for the months ahead.



**The Jefferson Running Club Show Its Spirit**

## Lincoln *Elementary* (K-5)

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



**Jason Johnson**  
*Principal*

### The Benefits of Blending In

Sometimes parents ask me, "What happens to the money the Redondo Beach Education Foundation raises?"

The RBEF continues to work hard to answer this question for our families so that they can understand the value of their contribution. But, in a strange way, this shows how important the RBEF is for our schools. The dollars spent on RBEF-

sponsored programs are so fundamental to our schools that it is sometimes hard to see them at work!

As an elementary school principal, I see the impact of these dollars every day. When our students participate in Next Generation Science Standards in the lab, that's RBEF. Do you hear those fifth-graders playing instruments in the cafeteria? That's RBEF. If you hear singing on the other side of the campus, that's RBEF too. And those highly qualified physical education teachers out on the field are also your RBEF dollars at work. RBEF contributions blend in because they are in plain sight.

While your contribution may blend in with the crowd, please know that they keep our children ahead of the pack. The instructional enrichment that these dollars purchase is

essential to our students achieving beyond the standard.

As a former high school teacher and middle school assistant principal, I have seen first hand the whole-child product that those dollars purchased. When people say Redondo Union High School feels like a college, it's not just the stellar facilities. It's your stellar students! RBEF enrichment supports our students being college ready by middle school promotion rather than high school graduation.

A \$250 contribution per student is the surest investment out there. Trust me, I've seen the payout on graduation day!



**Your dollars at work in the classroom.**



## Madison Elementary (K-5)

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



**Drew Gamet**  
*Principal*

### An Important Life Skill

Physical education is one of the most important things we can teach our elementary school students. In light of our current crisis with child obesity, it is so important that our students' education also includes teaching them how to fully enjoy an active lifestyle.

Students also need to be taught the importance of healthy eating habits. Our partnership with the Beach Cities Health District, and all of the docent volunteers who teach nutrition as a part of the LiveWell Kids and Garden program, helps see to it that our students get those important lessons. Our students also have the opportunity to learn about mindfulness as a part of their lessons from the Mind-Up program. However, even after all of these lessons and programs, there is still one important wellness lesson that only you can teach at home.

That is called "sleep"! Sleep has been shown to be one of the most important factors that determines a person's overall health and sense of well being. The average American elementary school student gets approximately 9.5 hours of sleep a night. However, experts recommend 10 to 11 hours per night.

One important factor that can reduce a student's amount of sleep is whether or not they have a television set in their room (or other electronic device) which may distract them from getting to sleep on time. Students who don't get enough sleep have been shown to have difficulty in concentrating, remembering material, and performing tasks or collaborating in groups. Lack of sleep is also a factor which can contribute to childhood obesity.

So please, take the time to make sure that your child is getting plenty of sleep. It is one of the best life skills you can teach!

## Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren**  
*Principal*

### Where Everyone Belongs!

Parras Middle School counselors determined that there was a need to help with the transition of elementary students into middle school. To address this need, they first wrote a grant to the Redondo Beach Education Foundation to start an outreach program. The RBEF determined that this was a real need at the middle school and funded the grant.

The program we started is called WEB, which stands for "Where Everybody Belongs." It is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes the sixth-graders with the goal making our new friends feel

accepted and comfortable during their first year. Built on the belief that students can help other students succeed, the program trains mentors from the eighth-grade class to become WEB Leaders.

As positive role models, these WEB Leaders help guide the sixth-grade students to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to middle school. At this time, both of our school counselors and four teachers have attended WEB training to help make the program a success.

The program began in August with a bang! For two days we had 90 eighth-graders come in during the summer break to be trained as mentors. These students learned leadership skills and how to get a group of sixth-graders to work together through team building, name games, and activities.

On August 24, the WEB leaders then held a special orientation for nearly 360 incoming sixth-graders. The turnout was amazing! Our WEB Leaders worked with the students about getting to know new people and strategies for success. The WEB Leaders worked hard at bonding and creating lasting relationships with their sixth-grade friends.

At Parras Middle School, we are proud of the efforts of our eighth-grade WEB Leaders who work hard at making our new students feel welcomed!



**Eight grade Parras students attend WEB training over the summer.**



# Redondo Union *High School*

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



**Jens Brandt**  
*Principal*

## The Four C's

Last month, we spoke about the strong Union focus this year at RUHS. In conjunction with that, our work on enhancing 21st century learning will also be prioritized this year. We have communicated a lot about the four C's of 21st century learning: critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. However, there is much more to it. It also includes life

skills such as flexibility, initiative, cross-cultural skills, productivity, leadership and responsibility and themes such as global awareness, financial literacy, civic literacy, health literacy and environmental literacy. From AP History to AP Environmental Science, or from Advanced Drama to Career Readiness, we are proud of the more than 100 different courses we offer to support students' success in this century.

The framework we are using to guide us in this work was created by the Partnership for 21st Century Learning—or just P21—and can be found at <http://www.p21.org/our-work/p21-framework>. Our goal is that rather than having students feel that they need to take every class to get a full learning experience, they instead get a full learning experience in every classroom. The idea here is that 21st century learning is more about how students learn than what they learn. We expect the four C's of the classroom.

If you are interested in learning more about the four C's and 21st century learning, Edutopia created a great guide for parents that can be found at <https://goo.gl/c3KbS5>.

Whatever critical issues we may face this century, RUHS graduates will have the skills necessary to succeed!

## Tulita *Elementary (K-5)*

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



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna**  
*Principal*

## Working towards School Success

One thing is for sure at Tulita – our entire community wants to see our students succeed. Watching a student develop, grow, and succeed academically, emotionally, and

socially is the most rewarding feeling for educators everywhere. Our focus on the 21st century learning skills will help our students be better communicators, collaborators, more creative, and become critical thinkers. Often times, adults ask us how they can help their child using the same skills that are taught in school to ensure their child has a productive school year.

Below are key ways that parents can work with schools in working towards school success:

- **Remember that education is a partnership.**

Education is a process that takes the effort of the student, the teacher, and the parent. This triad must be in place to help students succeed. We encourage you to get involved at Tulita. Not only will your child love it, they will feel more connected to school. Research shows that connected students are those who also end up feeling successful at the end of the year.



**Teacher Meet N' Greet organized by PTA was parents' first opportunity to get involved!**

- **Encourage a growth mindset.** Remember, it's okay to make mistakes. Remind your child that mistakes are just an opportunity for growth. Focus on effort and the power of the word "yet" when students are frustrated and feel like giving up.
- **Over communication is better than under communication.** Ask your child's teacher to clarify any information that seems confusing and let them know when something major is going on in your child's life. Read newsletters, visit websites, and attend back to school nights. It is okay to disagree on a method that an educator is using but trust them as professionals and know they want the same outcome as you.

At Tulita, our entire learning community is dedicated to work hard and to give your child the best education possible. We ask that you trust and support us so we can all work towards our common goal – successful students!

# Washington Elementary (K-5)

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



**Andrea Bittick**  
Principal

## Ways to Have a Successful School Year

We all want the very best for our children. It is important to remember that as a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When parents and families are involved in their children's education, the children do better and have better feelings about going to school. Studies show that what the family does is more important to a child's school success than how much money

the family makes or how much education the parents have. There are many ways that parents can support their children's learning at home and throughout the school year.

Here are some wonderful ways for you to get started with this process:

- 1. Develop a partnership with your child's teachers and school staff.** Be sure to meet your child's teacher right away and let them know you are interested in open communication and frequent dialogue. Also be sure to attend all parent-teacher conferences.
- 2. Support your child academically.** Helping your child set up daily routines that include bedtime,

healthy food choices, and homework protocol will benefit your child when it comes to acquiring the knowledge and skills that are expected at each grade level. Also, sit down and help your child with homework or find homework help if it is needed.

- 3. Get involved with your child's school.** Offer your services on that PTA committee. Ask your child's teacher if they need help in the classroom. Offer to help with supervision during recess or lunch. Not only do students love to have their parents on campus, but it is a great way for parents to really understand their child's world while they are away from home.
- 4. Support your child's learning at home.** Always maintain a positive attitude when talking about school or education with your child. Encourage them to read and help them find a balance between spending time on digital devices and other activities such as organized sports. Embolden them to be independent and to take on responsibility.

Our goal is to work with you as partners to help your children succeed in learning and in life. We look forward to partnering with you this school year!

## Fruits & Veggies –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](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put RBUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by November 15, 2017

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win  
a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

LETTUCE	TOMATOES
APPLES	KIWI
CABBAGE	GRAPES
KOHLRABI	BERRIES
ONIONS	CHERRIES
PEPPERS	CARROTS
ORANGES	MANGO
LEMONS	BANANAS
LIME	PLUMS
CELERY	BROCCOLI
POTATOES	

B	I	N	X	R	D	O	R	A	N	G	E	S	I	B
R	R	K	J	G	O	S	T	C	M	R	G	F	B	G
C	K	O	W	C	Z	E	A	I	K	K	A	M	X	R
M	S	Y	C	H	E	R	R	I	E	S	B	W	I	A
Q	Z	R	T	C	R	L	W	B	B	E	B	W	R	P
J	P	J	E	O	O	I	E	A	R	L	A	I	O	E
J	J	M	T	P	M	L	N	R	A	P	C	G	C	S
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S	N	K	S	P	R	N	N	K	E	H	U	I	Q	V
J	R	D	H	C	E	I	O	L	A	S	Q	F	V	R
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J	J	L	K	N	W	K	B	F	E	I	H	A	I	I
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## Lucy's Book Review

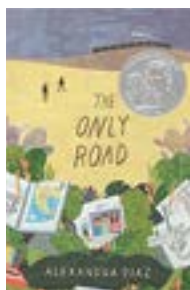


Lucy Davis

### The Only Road

Author: Alexandra Diaz

Life in Jaime's small Guatemalan village is pretty peaceful, excluding one group: the Alphas. Drug dealers that ask for 'favors' and new recruits.



If you refuse, you die. So

when Jaime's beloved cousin, Miguel, is murdered for that very reason, the whole family is devastated. And the death comes with something else: a request for Jamie and Miguel's sister Angela to join them.

The only way Angela and Jamie can escape is to leave Guatemala, and that might be harder than it seems. Train hopping, refugee churches, immigration officials, and lost dogs are all part of their journey, and hopefully they can make it to the other side. The U.S. is promising safety, but the road to get there isn't.

I really enjoyed this book. It talks about serious topics while still keeping the mood as light as possible. Five of five stars are well earned in this wonderful story.

Lucy is a 6th 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.

## Alana's Book Review



Alana F.

### The Wide-Awake Princess

By: E.D. Baker

Long ago, in the kingdom of Treecrest, a baby princess was born, and was given many magical gifts. This little girl is known as Sleeping Beauty. So- as the stories say- when the



evil fairy cast the famed curse on the

newborn, her fairy godmother lessened it. However, the royal family was so traumatized that they decided that their second daughter, Princess Annie, should be immune to all magic. Hence, when the sleeping curse fell upon her older sister, Annie was unaffected, and set off to find the one who could save the kingdom. Traveling far and wide, she battles things scarier than magic, like evil, fear, and stereotypes. But without any magical gifts, will she triumph?

I'd give this book eight out of eight trifold shards for it's cleverly hidden messages. It's also downright hilarious, and has had me laughing for hours.

Alana is a student columnist and a self-proclaimed "huge nerd". When she doesn't have a book in her hands, she loves to play video games and write fiction. She rates books on a scale of 1-8 trifold shards with 8 being the highest



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## Christina's BookReview



### These Happy Golden Years

*These Happy Golden Years* is the 8th book of the series. The story is based on the diaries of Laura Ingalls Wilder. It tells the story of Laura transitioning from a teenager to a young bright lady and having the responsibility of being a teacher. However, the school she must teach at is very far from her house so she has to stay with Mr. Brewster,

a settler. When Laura arrives to the Brewster's house she feels unwelcomed because their family is so drastically different from her own. Mrs. Brewster is a very unhappy woman who deeply resents having to live in that area. Mrs. Brewster dislikes that Laura has to stay with them and is so unpleasant to her that Laura counts the days she has left until the school is over and she can leave. Laura is having a hard time adjusting at school too, feeling that her students don't respect her because they see her as too lenient. Laura feels very lonely and insecure. But little by little Laura starts making friends, feeling warm inside in the freezing cold. Eventually Laura begins having a courtship with a young man that she likes, having little pleasant daily routines like horse buggy riding and such to enjoy together. Things start to look better for Laura. If you want to know what happens next, you must read the book.

I liked this book, even though it was a little sad at the beginning, when Laura, despite being miserable and unhappy, continues doing what she is doing in order to earn enough money to allow her blind sister Mary to stay in college for the visually impaired. I was glad to read that Laura's persistence paid off in the end. I give this book 4 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Christina J. is an 8th grader. Christina is a hard-working student who did a community service project "Quilts for the cold" last school year. She is an avid reader, who enjoys some peace and quiet with a good book about some great adventure. Christina is 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).



## Book Review By Katrina



**Katrina D.**

### *The Handmaid's Tale*

by Margaret Atwood is a dystopian story where women have lost all their rights. They are now considered objects and being bought, owned and sold is simply the way the world works. Women

are divided into a hierarchy of Marthas, Handmaids, Wives and discards, with men raining supreme. Fertile women are ranked Handmaids, much like Offred who can easily remember the days before the totalitarian system, back when she'd lived happily with her daughter. But now, living as a Handmaid to the Commander, she must stay alert. If she's caught trying to escape or find her daughter, nothing short of a traitor's death awaits her. Who can she trust, where can she go and, most importantly, what is she willing to do to survive and see her daughter again? A brilliant book, I recommend this book to everyone who enjoys dystopia books. This truly is a classic and I rate this book 5 out of 5 crescent moons.



Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.

## Isabella's Book Review



**Isabella A.**

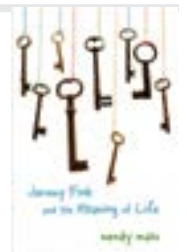
### Adventure and Fun

The book *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* by Wendy Mass is about a 13 year old living in Manhattan with his mom and his friend Lizzy. Together, they convinced the mailman to give them a package. Inside,

they find a letter and a box. The letter indicated that the box once had keys that were now lost. They decide to set out to find the keys. In the process, they sneak into a business and vandalize it. A policeman makes them do community service, as punishment they have to deliver packages. They ride around the city delivering antiques to the people who had once pawned those items. Almost all was planned by his dead dad

The friends must now do this the entire summer. Will they find the keys before Jeremy's birthday? Or ever?

I give this book 4 stars because it is full of fun and adventure.



Isabella is a 6th grader who loves to read, write, volleyball and plans on becoming an author of children's books. She rates books 1-5 stars with 5 being the best.

## South Bay Hands On Art

### Flexibility

By Co-Chairs Sandi Arthur and Karen Ford Cull

South Bay Hands on Art has been teaching art in Redondo Beach for over 30 years. Creativity is now recognized as one of the 4 C's of 21st Century Learning. We believe that Hands on Art also contributes to the other three: Collaboration, Communication and Critical thinking. These are the skills employers will seek in our children. We also notice these skills flourishing in our docents, creating a community of parents engaged in our schools, thinking creatively and loving art.

This year's theme draws on a key component of creativity: flexibility or taking an idea from one area to another. It encapsulates ideas from two projects, one inspired by Brian Andreas' 'Story People', the other by Eric Merrell's moonlit deserts and mixed with a little David Bowie. If you don't get it, try humming *Lets Dance!*

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## The Saga of the Soroban



**Kan S.**

Heisei Year 29 (2017): All-Japan Soroban Championships at the Kyoto International Conference Center in Kyoto, Japan

There is a tension in the air, taut as a bowstring. Then, a burst of rapid clicking sounds ensues, thousands together, bead against bead, filling the chamber. The prestigious, annual All-Japan Soroban Championships, a gathering of the finest

soroban practitioners in all of Japan, had begun. But: what is soroban? To the onlooker, it may seem old-fashioned and irrelevant in today's digitalized society; however, soroban, the time-honored Japanese abacus, is the very embodiment of unfading skill passing from generation to generation. Used from historic times, soroban has remained in the Japanese culture for many a century, retaining its speed, accuracy, and magnificence whilst defying the attrition of time. It was my privilege and honor to partake in such grand a contest, though my eight years of experience with the abacus was dwarfed by the decades other contestants were armed with. With nimble fingers that, through nudging wooden beads, manage to calculate massive numbers and mental calculations as swift as lightning, we shall plunge into the Soroban's labyrinth.

Kan Shimada is an eighth-grader and an avid eight-year soroban practitioner who has participated in the All-Japan Soroban Championships, among others and holds, Pre-4 dan level, holding true to his Japanese heritage; however, he aspires for 5 dan in both soroban and mental calculations. One of his chief interests, besides every manner of learning, is the art of the soroban, a mighty coalition of wooden beads and pearls that has granted him great skill over the years. This first issue will be the first amongst three, released in succession, and culminating in the Championships..



## Jenna's Review

### Cry, Heart, But Never Break



**Jenna C.**

Author: Glenn Ringtved  
 Have you ever lost something or someone? Were you sad?



In a small house, four children lived with their beloved grandma. Every night, there was a visitor whose name is Death. The children knew Death had come for their grandma. Death's only friend is night, so the children made a plan quickly to keep Death away from their grandma by giving him coffee all through the night. The youngest child asked why their grandma had to die. Death started telling a story about two brothers, named Sorrow and Grief and two sisters, named Joy and Delight. One day, the brothers and the sisters met together. They were in love with each other so much when the time came to die, Grief and Joy died on the same day and so did Sorrow and Delight. Death asked, "Who would enjoy the sun if it never rained? Who would yearn for day if there were no night?" At last, Death stood up. I chose this book because it is a sad story but also gives you comfort.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.

## Katie's Review



**Katie C.**

### A Heartwarming Story

Author: Firoozeh Dumas  
*It Ain't So Awful,*  
*Falafel* is a book about an Iranian girl named Cindy (who lives in the U.S) who goes through a turmoil of thoughts, challenges, and problems--big ones.



In Iran, there are political problems that the U.S is now involved with. The Iran government takes hostages from the U.S, making Americans hostile to Iranians. As if things can't get any worse, Cindy's dad loses his job. Cindy's parents give Cindy heartbreaking news to her: they must move back to Iran. Cindy is torn. She does not want to leave the city where she has just started to find new friends. Just as the family is about to leave, good news comes. Her father is offered a job in the U.S! Cindy can stay! Cindy is overjoyed at the news. With humor and relatable scenarios, this heartwarming story is sure to win your heart. I give this book a five out of five stars.

Katie is a 8th grader that loves to read and write. Fictional books are her favorite. Besides writing and reading, she loves soccer, acting, dancing, and playing the violin. She hopes to publish her own book someday.



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## Note-ables



**Kate Karp**

### Camp Songs

Camp songs are very dear to Ella Jenkins, the national children's-singalong treasure who at 93 is still performing. She cherished songs that her brother brought

home from Boy Scouts and had always wanted to record a camp-song CD.

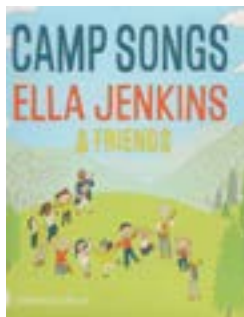
For this project, Jenkins assembled a literal band of brothers and sisters who have veritable campground DNA: Kate and Tony Seeger, nephew and niece of the legendary Pete Seeger, and Judy Seeger, the late folk singer's wife. A team of musicians, children, parents and teachers rounds out the rounds, spirituals, campfire singalongs, protest songs and just plain silliness.

*Camp Songs* opens with Jenkins's harmonica and the round of all rounds, "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Following are 24 more familiar and yet-unheard numbers: "This Little Light of Mine," "Down in the Valley"; "Sipping Cider Through a Straw," and the hilarious but complicated round "One Bottle of Pop." On "The Hill Was Steep and Tall," Jenkins relates how she reluctantly signed up for a hike with some campers and then got hopelessly lost.

You may know that Woody Guthrie had written "This Land Is Your Land" as a protest song and might have wondered about it. One of the two sociopolitical verses not sung at school is included here—good fodder for a social studies lesson.

Our school districts provide numerous school-year camping opportunities and field trips, and there are scout gatherings and youth groups who are going to love these songs.

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



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## Marissa's Movie Mentions



**Marissa Aldegarie**

### The Dark Tower

Lots of readers who follow Stephen King's series of books would now know the movie as "The Dark Tower."

The book that started the movie off was filled with sci-fi and fantasy imagery. Our protagonist is Jake Chambers (Tom Taylor), who is a troublemaker from New York. Jake has visions of a tower which keeps the universe in order. He also has visions of two people: Gunslinger, Roland (Elba) and the Man in Black, Walter (McConaughey). Walter wants to demolish the tower and he knows a very powerful kid could help him. Jake has a lot of that power which lets him read minds. He doesn't realize how powerful he is. The part in the movie where Jake enters a house with a demon starts the beginning of his adventures and meeting other characters.

I enjoyed watching this movie because it kept me interested. However, if you did not read the book, you may lose a lot of details and it may be hard to follow. I would give this movie a 4 out of 5 because it had a great plot.



Marissa is a 8th grader who loves to watch movies, especially action films. She would love to be an actress or news anchor woman in the future. She rates movies on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest.

## Rabina's Review

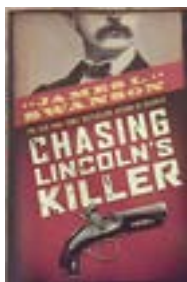
### A Book with a Purposeful Moral



**Rabina K.**

*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* {  
By: James L. Swanson  
People seemed so bright

to the new leadership  
but, after the Civil War,  
everything had changed.  
A few men were furious  
about the South's loss.



They had decided it is time  
for revenge. John Wilkes Booth and his  
crew were planning to plant a bullet in  
President Lincoln's head for months after the Civil War.  
On April 14th, 1865 the bullet finally flew, causing President  
Lincoln's death. After that, a new trial began, chasing John  
Wilkes Booth.

This book shows the reader that there are more than one  
perspective, so one should never make assumptions based  
on an incomplete story. The author unearths the truth  
about John Wilkes Booth's motive to kill the president.  
With the facts and personal opinions provided by the author  
in the story, I think this book will surely make the reader  
think. I give this book nine out of ten stars.

Rabina is a 5th grader, who enjoys reading historical fiction and  
biographies. Writing is her passion. Besides, reading books and writing,  
she also enjoys playing soccer and piano.

## Richard's BookReview



**Richard J.**

### A Fun, Scarey Book

Geronimo Stilton is famous mouse,  
publisher of a mouse newspaper. In this  
story he goes to visit his Aunt Sweetfur, who  
is vacationing in Pleasant Paw hills, but to  
get there he must pass the Dark Forest. On  
his way Geronimo got stuck in front of the  
terrible Cannycat Castle with its terrifying  
cat statues. Because of the lightning storm  
Geronimo decides to go into the castle, even though he is  
scared of it. Once there, he sees a great deal of scary things.  
He comes across a closet with a skeleton of a mouse. Then he  
encounters a ghost of Duke Slicedpaw cannycat that comes  
running towards him! After many unexplainable scares,  
Geronimo got exhausted and fell asleep, only to wake up to  
see his sister Thea, his cousin Trap, and his nephew Benjamin  
there with him. Together they all see the terrifying ghosts  
until toward the end the mystery of the ghosts is revealed.  
The ending is what you would have never expected at all!

I liked the humor and the mounting suspense of this  
book, as well as the interesting and different color fonts for  
certain words and that all the pages have pictures. I give  
this book 5 out of 5 stars, with 5 being the best.

Richard J. is a third grader. Richard likes math, playing sports, physical  
activities like bike-riding and running, reading and spending time with  
his family.

## Victoria's Review



**Victoria Lowe**

### Amazing Adventures


*The Land of Stories* by  
Chris Colfer is a fantasy/  
fiction novel about twins  
named Alex and Conner  
who get trapped in the  
*Land of Stories*, a book  
that their grandmother



gave to them. They go through many  
adventures all trying to get back to earth  
to their mom. In between these adventures, the twins go  
through different realms: The Elf Empire, The Northern  
Kingdom, The Eastern Kingdom, The Dwarf Forests, The  
Red Riding Hood Kingdom, The Corner Kingdom and much  
more. They also meet Disney Princes and Princesses who  
become their best friends. In the end, Alex and Conner  
realize they are stronger than they once thought.

How did they get trapped? How do they escape? What do  
they experience in each realm? All of these questions will  
be answered once you read this amazing adventure! I give  
this book a "5 out of 5 Smiles."

Victoria Lowe is a 7th grade student. She loves school and enjoys  
spending time with her friends. Victoria's favorite kinds of books have  
mystery and fantasy plots and will rate them with "Smiles." Victoria  
has an affinity for singing, loves musical theatre and is a member of the  
South Bay Children's Choir.



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## **Girls Ages 14 & Under Tryouts** **Grades 4th-5th-6th-7th-8th** **Advanced, Intermediate, & Beginning Teams**

**Saturday, October 7th @ Manhattan Beach Middle School**

Ages 12 & Under 9:30-11:30am Ages 13 & 14 11:30am-1:30pm

**Sunday, October 8th @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

All 14 & Under Ages 5:30-7:30pm

**Monday, October 9th @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

All 14 & Under Ages 5:30-7:30pm

## **High School Girls Club Clinics & Tryouts**

### Clinics:

**Sunday, October 15th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

**Sunday, October 22nd 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

### Tryouts:

**Sunday, October 29th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

**Sunday, November 5th 5:00-7:00pm @ LA Galaxy Soccer Center**

## **Spaces still available on our Boys Club Teams!**

### Boys Ages 14 & Under Tryout:

**Sunday, October 8th 4:00-5:30pm @**

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