

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 72
SUPERINTENDENT

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

SEPTEMBER 2014

Meet and Greet in the Park!



Be Excited!

The 2014–2015 school year has begun. If you are new to the school district, be excited. If you are returning to the school district, be excited!

Dr. Steven Keller

After years of a deplorable state economy, our financial future is far more positive. I would like to personally thank our labor partners (Redondo Beach Teachers Association, California School Employees Association, and American Federation of Teachers), as well as our management/non-represented staff, and you, our parent community, for working with the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) team during some painful economic woes. True leadership stands out in the face of adversity. The Great Recession highlighted our district's belief that we must be hard on the problem and soft on the people. Today is better because of yesterday's collaboration and trust in one another. We must also thank our PTA and the Redondo Beach Education Foundation (RBEF). These two stellar organizations continue to fight

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Kristen Holm, Washington Principal, Stephanie Hale, Kindergarten teacher, and the 2014-15 Kindergarten class met at Franklin Park for a summer play date.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Welcome Back!



Brad Serkin
President

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 new teachers at both the child development center and our school campuses and new school principals at Tulita, Washington, and Jefferson Elementary Schools and Redondo Shores High School, as well as new faces at our district office and our maintenance staff. Our school campuses are continuing to improve, with our solar projects affording our general budget some breathing room in annual cost savings, as well as being more environmentally friendly. New buildings are being completed at some of our campuses, and continued improvement is being done throughout the district. Our enrollment continues to increase each year, and scores

See **BOARD OF EDUCATION** • Page 14



Ted Craddock
President
Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

We've Got Your Chromebooks Covered

Welcome back! Redondo Beach Educational Foundation is excited to introduce our joint venture with the PTA. With the roll out of thousands of laptops this fall, we have teamed up to supply the students with all of their Chromebook needs in one convenient location, while supporting both organizations.

By visiting rbef.org, families will be able to purchase customizable skins that offer a protective layer to the cover of the laptop to keep it safe from scratches. You will be able to choose from your school logo, predesigned artwork or upload photos/images to create your own custom look. On our website, as well, we will also be selling padded cases to transport the Chromebooks to and fro.

In addition to the online shopping that we will be providing, families can also go to two local Staples stores to purchase Chromebook accessories



such as thumb drives, headphones, a mouse, etc. A flyer will need to be presented when purchasing these items for us to receive a donation. Flyers will be available to print at rbef.org, as well as at various Back to School events across the district.

We hope that you will consider supporting Redondo Beach Unified School District's two largest fundraising entities by purchasing all of your Chromebook accessories through rbef.org. Remember, we've got you covered!



Inside: Schools *pages 8–11* • Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach *page 2* • Beach Cities Health District, RB Council PTA, South Bay Hands on Art *page 4* • RBUSD Educational Svcs, South Bay Adult *page 6* • RBUSD Alternative Education, RBUSD Child Development *page 7* • AHA for Kids! *page 12-13* • Contest *page 14*

Childhood Cancer, What You Need to Know



Amanda Termuhlen, MD
Medical Director
Jonathan Jaques
Children's
Cancer Center

September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Childhood cancer is the leading cause of death by disease in children under the age of 15 in the U.S. and spares no ethnic group, socioeconomic class or geographic region. The odds of a child developing cancer by the age of 20, is approximately 1 in 330. Cancers in children can be hard to recognize right away because early symptoms often overlap with those caused by much more common illnesses or injuries.

Childhood Cancer Signs and Symptoms:

- Continued, unexplained weight loss
- Headaches, often with early morning vomiting
- Increased swelling or persistent pain in bones, joints, back or legs
- Lump or mass, especially in the abdomen, neck, chest, pelvis or armpits
- Development of excessive bruising, bleeding or rash
- Constant infections
- A whitish color behind the pupil
- Nausea which persists or vomiting without nausea
- Constant tiredness or noticeable paleness
- Eye or vision changes which occur suddenly and persist
- Recurrent or persistent fevers of unknown origin

Make sure your child has regular medical check-ups and watch for any unusual signs or symptoms that don't go away. An early diagnosis is the best way for a child to beat a cancer diagnosis.

Tell your pediatrician if you are worried about any prolonged symptoms that your child has. Your child's doctor can work with you to assess your child's risk, by reviewing family medical history, a physical examination or screenings.

MillerChildrens.org/Cancer (562) 933-8600



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to begin a new school year! We can all remember the excitement of going back to school after summer break. For some it is the anticipation of seeing old friends, for others it is making new friends in a new school and for others it may be entering school for the first time — it is a special time for everyone including the teachers. We are pleased to be publishing the excitement. If you want to share *School News* with friends and loved ones, email me and I will be happy to email you a digital copy.

Our next issue is October 1st.



School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Miller
Children's Hospital
Long Beach
Jonathan Jaques
Children's Cancer Center
MEMORIALCARE HEALTH SYSTEM

Our specialists are the leaders
in children's health care.

Jacob, 3, has a rare form of leukemia, called Philadelphia Chromosome Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (Ph+ALL), where cancer cells multiply in his bone marrow leaving the cancer hard to combat. Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach's research portfolio included an international clinical trial specifically targeting Jacob's very rare form of leukemia. His treatment data is shared with a national consortium, so Jacob is helping save other kids just like him.

From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.

Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

MillerChildrens.org/Cancer (562) 933-8600

Our specialty:
Pediatric Cancer Research

Jacob's specialty:
Saving the World



Jacob, 3-years-old,
Miller Children's Cancer Patient
is supported by a strong foundation:
Dr. Etan Orgel, pediatric oncologist



Trusted care
right where **U** live

See UCLA doctors in your neighborhood

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Manhattan Beach

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- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Radiology

Redondo Beach

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Digestive Diseases
- East-West Medicine
- Rheumatology

Torrance

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Endocrinology
- Hematology/Oncology
- Nephrology
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Sleep Medicine



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uclahealth.org/getsocial

Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

California State PTA Six Key Tips for Parents



Lisa Christensen
President

1. It starts with attendance. Parents and families are essential partners in making sure students attend school, and play a key role in identifying the barriers to attendance as well as what motivates students to go to school.

2. Support learning at home. Many RBUSD students will be receiving Chrome books this year. Make sure your home is ready for this technology. Provide your student with all the support they will need to be a 21st century learner.

3. Understand the important link between health and student achievement. Redondo Beach PTA and Beach Cities Health District are teaming up to teach our kids healthy lifestyle choices.

4. Establish a relationship with your child's teacher. Working together, parents and teachers give kids their best chance to learn. Establishing a relationship and open channels of communication with your child's teacher is a must.

5. Learning in the classroom will look different with the implementation of Common Core State Standards. We don't know what tomorrow's jobs will be, but we know that our future depends on a strong workforce in which critical thinking and problem-solving skills can be applied in any context. That's the idea behind the Common Core State Standards; they are guidelines that will help schools focus on deeper, richer learning to prepare students for the 21st century workforce.

6. Get engaged: Your voice matters in school decision making. Parents have a seat at the table when important decisions are being made at your child's school and in the school district – and there are opportunities for you to have a voice. Get engaged with your local PTA and become proactive in your child's education. See your local school for membership information.

South Bay Hands On Art

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

Amazing Projects Planned

By Co-Chairs Alicia Rubio & Sue-Anne Silkes

The 2014-2015 Hands on Art program will be presenting six amazing projects this year! The year will begin with "Zebra on the Plains", inspired by the work of Paul Kimotho, students will draw zebras using white pencil on black paper. In October, the schools will be lined with "Fields of Lavender". Students will create an Impressionist inspired landscape painting utilizing multiple brush painting techniques and styles.

2015 will begin with "Valen-dine's Heart", inspired by Pop Artist Jim Dine. Students will learn a print technique using color markers on a transparent film. Next up, a lesson in old Hollywood history coupled with a project based on the work of Jordana Klein's hill artwork. Students will learn the use of water-soluble oil pastels on wet and dry watercolor paper. In March, students will create a tribal portrait painting inspired by face paintings of the tribes of East Africa. Finally we end our artistic journey with Enchanted Inuit. Each student will create their own graphic, mystical animal in the style of Kenojuak Ashevak's famous Inuit prints using pencil, ink pen and watercolor pencils.



Beach Cities Health District

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

Walking School Bus Keeps on Rolling



Dr. Lisa Santora
Chief Medical
Officer

Students in the walk-to-school initiative logged more than 45,000 miles and burned 1.8 million excess calories last year.

Redondo Beach schools are back in session, which means kids in the Walking School Bus program are ready to walk 'n' roll. Started in 2010 by Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) as a way to put the brakes on rising childhood obesity numbers, the program currently includes more than 3,000 local kids walking weekly to 13 area elementary schools, seven of which are in Redondo Beach.

Walking School Bus participants walked a staggering 45,155 miles – enough to complete nearly two trips around the globe – and burned 1.8 million excess calories in the program, or enough to burn off 150,000 Cheetos.



The Walking School Bus complements a variety of additional BCHD-led programs and services in Redondo Beach Unified School District, including school-based gardens that students, parents and community volunteers help maintain and harvest; substance abuse prevention programming in middle schools; funding for fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals; behavioral health education programming and more.



Additionally this fall, BCHD is giving residents a chance to support local schools and their personal health through a Healthy Schools Pledge Drive as part of Blue Zones Project®. For each Beach Cities pledge received from August November 14, the Health District will donate \$1 to local Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs).

To take the Blue Zones Personal Pledge, visit bchd.org/bzppledge. Once the form is complete, a prompt will appear and you can select which school PTA you would like to benefit.

Find more information on Beach Cities Health District, Blue Zones Project and the Healthy Schools Pledge Drive at bchd.org.

Host a Goodwill Fundraising
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Please see our ad on the back page.



Take the Blue Zones Pledge!

at bchd.org/bzppledge

I
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HEALTHY
KIDS**

For each Beach Cities
pledge received,
Beach Cities Health
District will **award
\$1 to local PTAs.**



Learn more at bchd.org/schools

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by HEALTHWAYS



Beach Cities
Health District
A Public Agency

514 N. Prospect Ave., 1st Floor, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310-374-3426 • www.bchd.org/bzo

RBUSD Educational Services

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

21st-Century Learning



Dr. Annette Alpern
Deputy
Superintendent,
Educational
Services

Whether you or your student are nearing the end of the pre-K–12th-grade journey in RBUSD or you are just at the beginning stages of formal schooling, September always brings with it both excitement and some nervous energy. You may have a new principal or a new teacher at your school this year. Remember to welcome them warmly into our school community.

In addition to new staff, there are many exciting educational changes on the horizon for our schools this year: full implementation of the Common Core State Standards, Chromebook distribution to all of our third-through twelfth-grade students, handheld tablets in all of our transitional kindergarten through second grade classrooms, and new elementary report cards, to name a few. Our board of education, superintendent, school administrators, teachers and staff are all committed to informing and educating our parents along the way as these 21st-century instructional transformations take shape. We have scheduled many, many parent information events this year, and we encourage you to attend and become involved in our schools.

We look forward to seeing a huge turnout at our Back to School Nights on the following dates: elementary, Sept. 17; middle school, Sept. 18; and high school, Oct. 2.

- Back to School Nights
- Elementary, Sept. 17
- Middle School, Sept. 18
- High school, Oct. 2

South Bay Adult School

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



Reaching Your Goals



Vivian Ibarra
Director

South Bay Adult School (SBAS) welcomes you back to another year of providing alternative methods for students to reach their educational, training, career and personal goals. We have been providing classes for families in Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hermosa Beach since 1918. Our classes are held at school campuses throughout the beach cities.

Programs are divided into five different areas: Parent Education; English as a Second Language, High School Diploma Program, Community Education, and online courses. Each course is designed to meet the needs of the student. Our teachers are exceptional, classes are interesting, and prices are affordable.

In Parent Education, parents and children attend school together. The child has a great time in a developmentally-appropriate program, while the parent makes lifelong friends and learns parenting skills.

English as a Second Language classes help adults develop important language skills needed to communicate. We also offer citizenship classes.

The High School Diploma Program helps adults earn high school diplomas through independent study. We have two locations, at-home study, and flexible schedules. This year we offer the General Educational Development (GED) test and an online, GED-preparation course.



Learning is fun in Parent Education.



International Day for our ESL Students.

Community Education courses are fun and informative. You can exercise your brain and your body with our classes in cooking, languages, computer, health, finances and more. New classes this year include Podcasting, Classic Hatha Yoga, So You Want to Be a Pilot, and more.

Our Online Courses let you learn from the comfort of your home with over 300 courses from Keyboarding to Becoming a Veterinary Assistant.

Come learn, enjoy yourself, and make new friends. Discover why so many people take classes here. Fall term starts the week of

September 8. Look for your Fall SBAS brochure in the mail or online at www.southbayadult.org. Registration is easy at www.southbayadult.org. “Like” us at www.facebook.com/SouthBayAdultSchool to receive early updates and special offers.



Fall 2014

southbayadultschool
Classes for lifelong learning!

Fall term: September 8-December 13, 2014

SBAS ADULT EDUCATION

Redondo & Manhattan Beach Unified School Districts

www.southbayadult.org

Look up, get involved, have fun and learn something new!

www.facebook.com/SouthBayAdultSchool



focus
lifelong learning

What's new?

Grammar Tune Up for ESL Students, Internet & Email Usage-Identity Theft Protection, Podcasting 101, Tiny Pros Soccer, So You Want to Be a Pilot?, Photoshop Elements 11-Digging Deeper, Do Re Mi at Night with the Family, Classic Hatha Yoga, Jazz History: The Women of Jazz, Italian Language & Culture-Int.

Special education programs are authorized by federal and state laws.

These laws require that a free and appropriate public education shall be offered in the least restrictive environment to all students identified as disabled. Through the District’s Student Study Team process and other procedures, a continuous effort is made to locate and identify individuals who might qualify for special education services.



The law also provides that parents may initiate a request to have their child assessed to determine eligibility for special education and/or related services. This request should be in writing and submitted to:

The Office of Special Education
1401 Inglewood Ave.
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

RBUSD Alternative Education

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

Welcome Back!

Sue Hall, Principal

I am excited to start the school year as the new principal of the Alternative Education Program and meet all of you in the community. As you may have heard, Dr. Erin Simon has taken a position with Long Beach Unified School District as Director of Student Support Services. Congratulations, Erin! During Erin's successful tenure as principal, Redondo Shores High School earned many prestigious awards, including the California Distinguished School Award, the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Bronze Award, and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Certificate of Accreditation. Although I have huge shoes to fill, I look forward to continuing this tradition of hard work and accomplishments.

My professional background includes experience in general, special,



2013 Class - Dr. Erin Simon accepts the Model Continuation High School Award for Redondo Shores High School.

and alternative education settings. Most recently, I served as a program specialist for Redondo Beach Unified School District's secondary schools, collaborating with staff and parents to provide services for our Special Education students. Previously, I was a teacher, an assistant principal (middle and high school), and a principal of an alternative high school. This year at Shores, I am proud to be joining your team of dedicated professionals and honored to be serving your students in their pursuit of success.

To better prepare our students for the 21st century, our teachers are focused on providing relevant, rigorous curriculum and incorporating new technology in the classroom. We are also committed to maintaining strong partnerships with colleges and vocational programs. We are lucky to have a wonderful parent community (School Site Council, PTSA, and parent volunteers), which is already planning for parent nights and fund-

raising events that support our students' goals. It is going to be another great year at Redondo Shores, Redondo Beach Learning Academy, and Independent Study! By working together, our students' success begins today!



Redondo Shores students visit California State University, Dominguez Hills.

RBUSD Child Development

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




Up and Running!



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Welcome back to another great year at the Child Development Center! As we begin the school year, we are wrapping up our exciting summer program that kept all of our children and teachers on the go all summer!



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

We are looking forward to another successful 2014–15 school year. Our continued collaboration between the school-age CDC teachers and the primary-school teachers continues to grow and allows our after-school program to offer a curriculum that builds on the instruction of the regular classrooms. Our teachers provide activities that enrich students' school experiences and also allow them to have fun. Homework time is also a part of the daily schedule and offers assistance to the children and at the same time offers support to our working parents. The CDC program is dedicated to providing the best choice in care and education for our students.

CDC is very excited to begin the new school year, and we look forward to another great year!



Fun times at Tulita!



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Anthony Taranto
Principal

Success is a Collaborative Endeavor

Welcome to the 2014–15 school year! Our commitment at Adams Middle School is to provide a safe, positive, intellectual learning environment that will empower students to become creative problem solvers, critical thinkers, and inspired learners prepared for high school, college and life in the 21st century.

Middle school is a time of a change. It is an exciting time, but it can also be challenging with the increase in workloads and the social adjustment to being on a larger campus and having multiple teachers throughout the course of the day.

Eagles, I encourage you to do the following so you can be successful in your transition and time in middle school: communicate with others in a respectful and meaningful way; pose questions, examine possibilities, and challenge yourselves to find solutions; surround yourselves with positive people; make positive choices related to physical and mental wellness; and contribute to our school community in a collaborative, respectful manner.

Parents, please make time to ask your children specific questions about their day at school, for example, “What was the most interesting thing you did in math class today?” or “Tell me about your science experiment.” Use the Parent Portal early and often. The Portal will give you relevant information regarding your children’s performance on their homework, a test or a quiz as well as their attendance. Your interest and concern in their school progress will motivate them to do their best.

Communicate with your children’s teachers and staff members to establish a successful home/school connection. All of our teachers have classroom websites with their contact information, homework assignments and useful resources.

We are looking forward to a positive, upbeat school year at Adams, where all of our students have Eagle Pride!



Susan Wildes
Principal

Kicking Off a New Year

Welcome back to a new and exciting 2014–2015 school year at Alta Vista Elementary! Our hope is that the summer break has provided each and every one of you the chance to relax, rejuvenate and spend quality time with family and friends.

Our teachers and staff have been furiously preparing for the arrival of your children, and are looking forward to beginning another successful and enriching school year. Alta Vista is an amazing school, and I know that our new families and kindergarten students will love being a part of this great learning community.

Every new school year welcomes changes and additions, and this year is no exception. In an effort to continually improve our school culture, Alta Vista is piloting a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports program.

What is PBIS? It is a program that was founded on the belief that we can explicitly teach and model appropriate behaviors for our students early, and then continuously identify, intervene if necessary, and ultimately reward those wanted behaviors.

This school year we are also going to get our students ready to ROAR! This acronym — which stands for Respond Appropriately, Own Your Behavior, Act Safely, and Be Ready to Learn — is the motto that will drive our students and teaching.

Get ready to see our newly revised “Wildcat Wows” used to reward your children, and be ready to celebrate their success as they collect these Wows and redeem them for a variety of non-food-related prizes. Are you ready to ROAR with us?



Karen Mohr
Principal

Welcome Back!

We have started the 2014–2015 school year, and change is here, inevitable and great! The Beryl Heights Elementary School staff is excited and ready to partner with all of our students and families for another fantastic year! As a California Distinguished School and a Blue Zones workplace, Beryl focuses on best teaching strategies and our students’ social and emotional well-being. We welcome three new teachers to our staff, Rachel Woodhull in third grade, Varina Moore in fourth grade, and Kimberly Johnston (formerly known as Ms. England)

in fifth grade. Our new classrooms are ready for our fifth-graders, and we are excited that our school is growing and thriving every year. Teachers have been preparing to make this the best year yet, teaching the rigorous Common Core State Standards at every grade level, preparing for the new technology all children will have in their hands, and embedding our Character Counts recognition program within our daily activities. As a learning community, we welcome your questions and ask that you become an active participant in your student’s education.

Remember to take time to meet your child’s teacher during the first month of school. When your child comes home after school, talk with him or her about

the day and ask what he or she learned. Devote 30 to 60 minutes a night to discussing school work, homework, and the other activities at school. Read together every night to make reading a priority in your child’s life. Take an active part in their learning by keeping open communication with your child’s teacher.

Attendance is one of the keys to your student’s success. School starts at 8:15 a.m. every day for all students, kindergarten through fifth grade. Please have your students arrive at 8 a.m. to acclimate to the new day. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Research shows that children who are in school do better in their academics and on tests. We can’t do our job of educating your child if he or she is absent. Being late for school hurts a child’s learning too. A student who is consistently late every day could miss up to 30 hours of instruction during the year. Your child’s success in school depends on having a solid educational background—one that can only be gained through regular school attendance. Please make sure your child attends school regularly and on time!

Please attend our PTA meeting and Back-to-School Night on September 17 to support our PTA and then listen to your child’s teacher carefully outline the school year and expectations. Our PTA meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, followed by a presentation and staff introductions. Afterward classroom presentations will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Our dedicated team ready to help your student excel and have an amazing educational year.



www.matteltoystore.com

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Birney *Elementary (K-5)*

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



Lisa Johnson
Principal

A Promising Year

Welcome to the 2014–15 school year! We hope you have enjoyed a restful summer and are rejuvenated and eager to start a wonderful year of learning.

This year promises to look like no other, full of exciting educational opportunities for our students. Thanks to Measure Q, all students will eventually have one-to-one access to a technological device. Additionally, teachers have been participating in ongoing professional development in preparation for full implementation of the Common Core State Standards

(CCSS), and they are eager to bring this wealth of knowledge into the classroom.

As you know, Common Core will change the way in which teachers teach and students learn. As we continue on this journey together, you can help your children be successful by encouraging them to read daily, by asking them what they have learned in school each evening, by promoting perseverance, and by knowing that as the classroom characteristics change, so will the manner in which your children demonstrate their learning.

Speaking of change, we are excited to announce the addition of several new teachers to Birney’s staff! As you walk the campus this fall and view the beautiful new additions to the facility, take a moment to extend a greeting and a Birney welcome as well to the new faces you might see. This includes students and parents alike, as our small community has grown to over 450 students!

Once again, welcome back. I am excited to be starting a new year with the Birney community, and I know it will be a great one!

Jefferson *Elementary (K-6)*

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

Dr. Oryla Wiedoeft, *Principal* Our Jefferson Family

The start of a new school year is my favorite time of year! We want to welcome back our returning Jefferson students and families, and extend a special greeting to those new students and families who will be joining us for the first time. Can you believe our new kindergarteners will be the graduating class of 2027?

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new principal of Jefferson Elementary School. This will be my first year with the Redondo Unified School District, and I am both thrilled and honored to be leading such a distinguished school.

I would like to welcome two new and fabulous teachers to Jefferson. Ms. Kelli Henry will be joining the fourth-grade team, and Ms. Kirsten Schneider will be joining the fifth-grade team. I hope everyone will take a moment to meet and welcome them to our Jefferson family.

Over the summer, the dedicated teachers at Jefferson have been working hard to get ready for another year of providing exceptional educational experiences in a nurturing environment.

Jefferson is an amazing place, and it is the positive relationships between our teachers and families, supported by a phenomenal PTA, which combine to make our school the great place it is for learning. To ensure another great year, all of our parents are encouraged to join the PTA. Here, everyone can make a difference!

Once again, welcome. We are looking forward to another wonderful year as the Jefferson Family.



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Madison *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Drew Gamet
Principal

Looking Ahead

Welcome to the 2014–2015 school year! I hope that you and your family all had a spectacular summer, filled with fond memories. Your Madison Elementary School teachers have been not only resting and recharging, but planning and training for this year. Many Madison teachers have attended classes and trainings on a variety of topics: presenting instruction using netbooks, Readers/Writers Workshop, and, for the first time, Mathematics Workshop or Cognitively Guided Instruction.

All of this hard work on the part of our teachers is to insure that Madison continues to give your child a California Distinguished School education.

Now that school has started, it is important to begin to transition your child back to a school-like regimen. This includes returning to a regular schedule for all of their basic activities, such as waking up, meal time, evening rituals and going to sleep. The sooner this is in place, the easier the transition for your child.

Parras *Middle School (6–8)*

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



Dr. Lars Nygren
Principal

Elements of a Successful Year

Greetings, Panthers! The Parras Middle School staff is excited and ready for yet another fantastic school year! At Parras Middle School, we are dedicated to providing our students with a strong academic education while also ensuring that their social and emotional needs are met.

After a successful pilot program during the last school year, the district has decided to roll out Chromebooks to the entire Parras student body. We are thrilled for the educational opportunities this provides for our students. In the pilot program, we saw an increase in personalized learning as well as more efficient testing and an overall excitement for learning through the use of technology. We look forward to the positive changes Chromebooks will provide.



Parras Middle School opens its doors for the 2014-2015 school year.

on our website; access our Parent Portal and teacher websites to help your children monitor grades and due dates; attend Back-to-School night on Sept. 18; get involved with the PTSA; talk with your children about their school day; establish routines for morning and homework; maintain contact with your children's teachers; and encourage your children to get involved in our clubs and intermural sports.

Through the collaboration of the Redondo Beach community, families, students and our staff, Parras has been recognized as one of the highest-achieving South Bay middle schools. At Parras, we are committed to providing students with the best education possible. We look forward to yet another successful school year!

As the school year starts, we have put together a few simple ways to support your children in their middle school education: frequent Parras Middle School's website, www.parrasmiddle.org, for the latest information about our school; purchase school supplies—the Parras school-supply list is available

Lincoln *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Getting the Train On the Tracks

Welcome to the 2014–2015 school year! We have a number of exciting events and programs planned for your students. There are a few things to keep in mind to help “get the train on the tracks” for a strong year.

Remember, success at school begins at home. Establishing a good routine is one of the most important things we can do to ensure a productive school experience. As summer closes, bedtimes need to be appropriately adjusted, and a consistent, organized location should be established where students can study and do homework. Breakfast should also be a part of every morning schedule, along with allowing enough time to get to school promptly!

Education is a partnership between students, parents and school staff, and good communication is key to a healthy and productive partnership. We encourage parents to talk with their children about “back to school” in a manner which is positive and constructive. Appropriate behavior and realistic academic expectations should be discussed as well.

Parents should also communicate with their teachers during the initial weeks of school. This can be either through discussions during mutually convenient times, or by a brief email exchange. They should share any important information that could benefit the teacher in this relationship, and also use the time to learn how they can contribute to the classroom.

With these goals in mind, our students and families will be able to “get the train on the tracks” and build a strong head of steam for the school year.

Washington *Elementary (K–5)*

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

Kristen Holm, Principal

Looking Forward to A Great Year

Welcome back, Explorers! I am honored and delighted to be the new principal of Washington Elementary School. I am so excited to be part of a school community where students are valued and parents can take an active role in their children's education.

I was born in Pennsylvania, and before the start of kindergarten my family moved to California. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, and so after high school I attended Cal State Northridge, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in liberal studies. I began my teaching career in a private school, and then attended Pepperdine University, where I earned my Master of Arts in education and my Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.

Two years later I made the move to the Lawndale School District, where I have taught for the last 19 years. While teaching full time I also held several leadership roles, and was a member of many district-wide committees.

I also initiated wellness programs at my school site, and in 2011 I was nominated by my colleagues (and was selected) as the California Gold Medalist Teacher of the Year by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. I was also Champion Educator of the Year from the Network for a Healthier California.

In 2013 I earned my Master of Science in administration and an administrative credential from Pepperdine University, where I graduated with honors.

In my free time I enjoy playing tennis, golf, traveling, and taking my dog Sandi to the dog beach.

Once again, I am privileged to join the Washington School community and Team RBUSD! I look forward to meeting all of my Washington families during the 2014–2015 school year.

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Dr. Nicole Wesley
Principal

RU Ingredients for Success

By Jens Brandt, Assistant Principal

Welcome to the 2014–15 school year at RUHS! At this time, students and parents may ask, “What does it take to be successful at Redondo?” Throughout the year, we will share our thoughts and advice in classrooms and parent meetings via our website/ Infinite Campus and e-mail. In the meantime, we would like to start off with four basic questions and ideals:

RU Ready? This is a new school year and therefore an opportunity to start with a clean slate. So, what does it mean to

be ready? To be prepared in all aspects of school and life! So, RU on time to school and class? RU ready to participate in discussions? Will you complete your homework and assignments? Benjamin Franklin once said, “Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.”

RU In? At Redondo, there is something for everyone! Whether you are an artist, a musician, an athlete, a gamer, a dancer—the list goes on—there is a group, a team, a club, an activity, or a program for you! The most successful students at RUHS are a part of something beyond the classroom. When you are a part of something, you simply care more about school and your time here. You are on a schedule, you have responsibilities to take care of, others rely on you, and you feel better about yourself. So, try out for a team, join a club, play an instrument, volunteer—do whatever it takes to be a part of something bigger than you! At Redondo Union, participation equals success!

RU Proud? This is one of the most important values on our campus! RUHS is an incredible school. We have the best students, teachers, staff, facilities, programs and resources around! We should all feel very proud and fortunate to teach, learn and work here! For those of you who have gone to different schools or worked somewhere else, you already know and appreciate how lucky we are! Therefore, let’s treat one another and our school with the utmost respect and demonstrate our pride on a daily basis. If you see someone being mistreated, stand up for that person! All members of our diverse school and community, whether gender, race, religion, ethnicity, culture or sexual orientation, deserve to be and will be respected. If you see someone disrespecting any aspect of our amazing school, stand up and say something! Our school can only be as good as the people within it. Be proud of yourself and RUHS!

RU Purposeful? John F. Kennedy said, “Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” Take a moment to ask yourself “What is my passion?” What drives you through the day? Whether it is academics, athletics, theater, music, arts, technology or any other interest, the key to a successful and happy life is to have passion and purpose. For some people, this passion is known and developed at a young age; for others, it takes many years. There is no wrong answer to the “passion” question—simply think about the question and where it will take you.

Tulita *Elementary (K–5)*

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

Dr. Tanaz Farzad, Principal

Gearing Up for the School Year

Welcome back, Tidalwave families! It is a privilege to be kicking off this school year as the new principal of Tulita Elementary.

I am honored to lead such a distinguished school. I also hope you enjoyed a relaxing and enriching summer vacation, and are rejuvenated enough to begin a productive school year.

Every adult at Tulita is dedicated to making sure that our students will make great strides in their academic and social development. Over the summer, teachers planned collaboratively, engaged in professional development, and are now anxiously waiting to meet their new class of students. I am already impressed with their drive and motivation to stay ahead of the learning curve.



Tulita teachers engaging in summer professional development with the UCLA Math Project.

We want to give a very special welcome to those new students who are joining us for the first time. We are sure that your academic career at Tulita will be both prosperous and memorable. We are going to have an awesome ride on the Tulita wave of learning!

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Note-ables

Singing Our Way Through



Kate Karp

This collection's subtitle is *Songs for the World's Bravest Kids*; although the CD is inspired by children with serious illnesses, it provides a bridge for other children as well as adults to understand what these young people go through in their battle for recovery. The adults in their lives have to be brave as well, so this collection is for them, too.

Musician/songwriter Alastair Mooock sat down with his guitar and began writing songs as a way of dealing with his daughter Clio's leukemia diagnosis—she's doing well, by the way. As Clio started to feel better, she sang and wrote along with Mooock. The result is this tuneful collection, with musical accompaniment as evocative as the lyrics, and lyrics as true as the spirit behind them.

Singing Our Way opens with "I Am the Light," a spoken-word poem that, if it doesn't put a lump in your throat, will have you listening in awestruck silence about "this cancer, an unwanted trip that I didn't sign up for and I'd rather have skipped." Onward the CD goes in a tone that's anything but mournful. In "When I Get Bald," a child relishes comparing heads with Dad, whose own hair has gone the same way, and "B-R-A-V-E," a zest-filled rap tune to put fear in Fear itself. "I'm a Little Monkey" is one of the cheerful tunes composed by Clio and Mooock, "Home When I Hold You" features Mom and Dad crooning a lullaby to ease nighttime dread, and "Take Care of Your Grownups" sings about how much tough work goes into being a parent. That's especially true in situations like this—parents need to be brave, too.

Singing Our Way Through is a wonderful resource for teachers, parents and, of course, children coping with illness. For more resources for patients and the people who love them, visit the CD website at www.singingourway.com.

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

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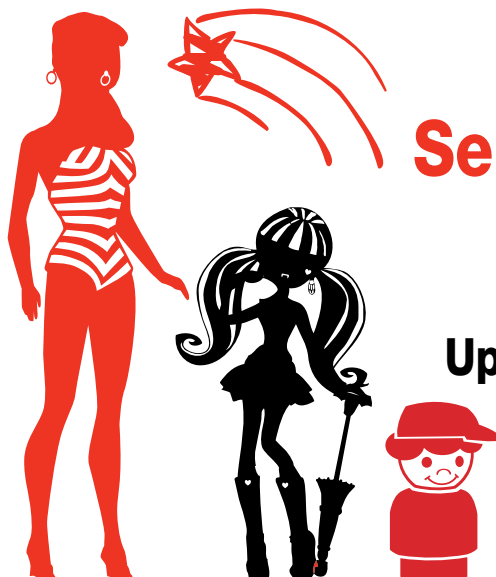


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Dr. Steven Keller

for increased funding locally and statewide, as well as advocating for each and every RBUSD student.

As you may already know, all third- through 12th-grade students will receive new netbook/laptop computers in the first few months of the school year. We will roll-out a pilot tablet program later this school year for kindergarten through second grade students. We hope to formally implement the tablet program in the spring of 2015. In the meantime, please check out RBEF's Web site (www.rbef.org) and connect with your local PTA for more information about netbook covers and accessories.

Summer construction continues with new classrooms coming to Beryl Heights, Birney, and Madison Elementary Schools. Jefferson and Tulita Elementary Schools will soon see upgraded field/play areas. Adams Middle School will finally have a stage in its gym. For the first time in a long time, Redondo Union High School... has NO construction.

We have several new administrators to introduce. They are: Ms. Sue Hall, Principal of Shores High School/Alternative Education/School Attendance Review Board Coordinator (from RBUSD); Ms. Kristen Holm, Principal of Washington Elementary School (from Lawndale Elementary School District); Dr. Tanaz Farzad, Principal of Tulita Elementary School (from RBUSD); Dr. Oryla Wiedoeft, Principal of Jefferson Elementary School (from Los Angeles Unified School District); Ms. Robin Rau, Coordinator of Instructional Services (from RBUSD); and Ms. Raquel Dickert, Assistant Principal of Adams Middle School (from Hawthorne School District).

Welcome back and please enjoy the 2014-2015 school year!

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continue to move in the right direction. Our netbook pilot from last year is moving into a district-wide implementation in third through 12th grades, and a tablet pilot will begin at the kindergarten through second-grade level this year. These and many other great things are primarily a result of the passage of Measure Q in our community, for which we sincerely THANK YOU. We should all be very proud of our beautiful campuses, and I believe the best from our district is yet to come.

A huge THANK YOU to all of our staff for all of your HARD work and leadership and for doing whatever it takes to make our school district the BEST that we can be. We are grateful for their tremendous support over these past few years. The district is only as good as its staff, and I believe we have one of the best groups of teachers, staff and administrators around. To our parents, your time and continued efforts to ensure your child's success has not gone unnoticed, and we THANK YOU for your time and support. I am proud to be a parent and serve our community and this GREAT school district and can't wait for all the amazing things to come! Please volunteer and help support your PTAs, donate to Redondo Beach Education Foundation, as they are the single biggest fund-raiser and private outside supporter for our district, and, most importantly, stay involved and volunteer in your child's classroom or at his or her sporting or community events. As busy as all of our lives are, a few hours really does make a difference for both your children and the community at large.

Wishing everyone a wonderful year, and thank you for supporting this outstanding community!

Leadership 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)

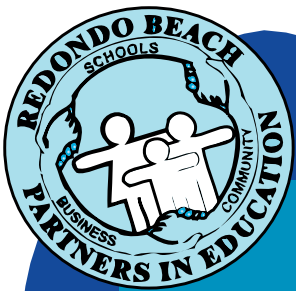
Entries must be received by September 20, 2014
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Accomplished | Independent | Strong Willed |
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| Confident | Intelligent | Teamwork |
| Determination | Organized | Trustworthy |
| Drive | Powerful | Understanding |
| Enthusiastic | Responsibility | |
| Focused | Role Model | |

You may have worked this September 2012, but taking a leadership role is a great way to start the new school year.

Word Search by Gunnar Coop

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



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