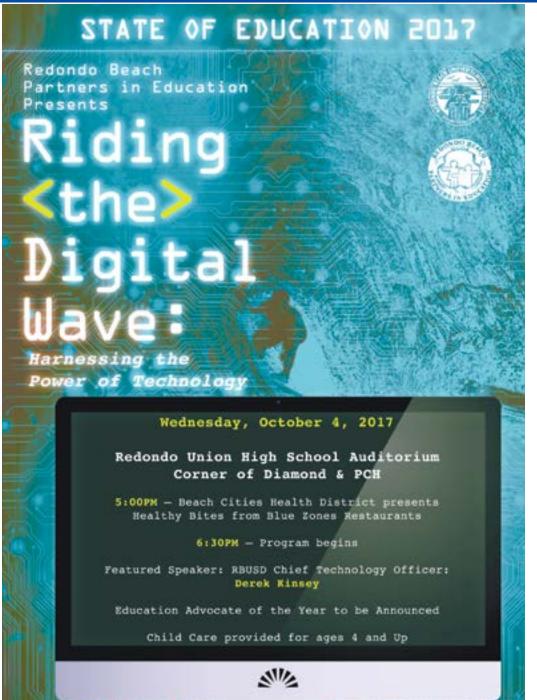
# School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

**Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District** 

Volume 11, Issue 99 September 2017



#### **Board of Education**





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Welcome **Back to School!** 



# Health News

by Ronald Tsao, MD

#### Peanut-allergy prevention in infants

Peanut allergy is one of the most common food allergies in the United States. Between 1 and 2 percent of children and adolescents are allergic to peanuts – and that number has doubled in Western nations over the past decade.

#### Prevention

Peanut allergy, a severe and potentially fatal immune response to certain peanut proteins, develops early in life and is rarely outgrown. It is unknown why some children develop peanut allergies or why the prevalence has grown in recent years.

For many years, national guidelines recommended avoiding peanut consumption during pregnancy, lactation and infancy. However, new research has shown that early introduction of peanuts to infants at high risk for peanut allergy reduces the development of peanut allergy later on in life by approximately 80 percent. As a result, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases recently released an updated guideline endorsing the addition of peanuts in babies' diets, starting at 4 months of age.

However, this is not a blanket recommendation to give all babies peanuts. The updated guidelines provide specific recommendations depending on the child's risk of developing peanut allergy. If your baby meets the criteria for early peanut consumption, waiting offers no benefits. Babies are born with an immune system that has an enormous capacity to adapt to the environment. The current view is that early exposure to certain allergens facilitates tolerance. Talk to your baby's doctor about safe ways to incorporate peanut into his/her diet. Globs of peanut butter or whole peanuts are choking hazards. Try small amounts of watered-down peanut butter or peanut-flavored "puff" snacks instead.

#### Diagnosis

To diagnose a peanut allergy, your child's pediatrician will order a peanut-specific Immunoglobulin E (IgE) blood test.

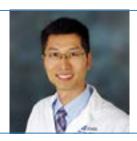
Children experiencing peanut-allergies will exhibit high levels of IgE, an antibody that is activated in response to a perceived threat. IgE antibodies trigger the body's immunesystem cells to release chemicals into the bloodstream, causing allergy symptoms such as hives, swelling, sneezing, runny nose, wheezing, nausea, and vomiting.



#### **Updated guidelines**

- Infants with severe eczema and/or egg allergy: Schedule an in-office medical evaluation with an IgE test, a skin-prick test, or both; with physician approval, introduce age-appropriate peanut-containing food as early as 4 to 6 months of age.
- 2. Infants with mild to moderate eczema: Introduce age-appropriate peanut-containing food around 6 months of age at home without an in-office evaluation.
- 3. Infants without eczema or any food allergy: Freely introduce peanut-containing foods alongside solid foods.

Dr. Tsao is a pediatrician at the UCLA Health office in Redondo Beach, located at 514 North Prospect Ave, Suite 103



#### Signs and symptoms

Most peanut reactions in infants manifest within seconds to minutes of ingestion and many occur on first exposure. Initial signs and symptoms may include severe oral itching, lip and eyelid swelling, skin flushing, and hives. Coughing, difficulty breathing, restlessness, a pale appearance, and vomiting can be signs of a more severe reaction.

#### Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

#### **Happy End of Summer!**

Here is a quick update regarding the RBUSD summer happenings:

- Phase 1 of the classroom cooling project is underway. Alta Vista, Beryl, Birney, Madison, Washington, and eventually the South Bay Adult School will feel a little cooler on warm days once these units are installed. Please be sure to thank your Board members for this "cool" gift.
- Lincoln, Washington, and Adams received fresh coats of external paint over the summer.
- We will soon begin constructing five new classrooms at Redondo Union High School.

Additionally, we have some new administrator changes to share:

- Ms. Andrea Bittick, Washington Principal (former Coordinator in Tustin USD)
- Mr. Jason Johnson, Lincoln Principal (former Adams Assistant Principal)
- Ms. Brianne Nakayama, Adams Assistant Principal (former Adams Teacher on Special Assignment)
- Ms. Nancy Ruvalcaba, Parras Assistant Principal (former Washington/Alta Vista Assistant Principal)
- Ms. Laura Urquhart, Washington/Alta Vista Assistant Principal

(former Orange USD Instructional Specialist)

With school back in session, when you are driving, please slow down, look out for kids, and be especially considerate if you are dropping off or picking up your child from school. We appreciate all that you can do to create safe school zones. It means a lot to our schools and community. Here's to a safe 2017-2018.

#### **Board of Educaton Meeting Dates**

September 12 September 26 October 10	October 24 November 28* December 12*
	2018
January 9	April 24*
January 23	(Organizational Meeting)
February 13	May 8
February 27	May 22
March 13	June 12
March 27	June 26

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

#### **Board of Education**



Brad Waller President

Welcome to a new school year in Redondo Beach. I hope you all had a great summer. I had the opportunity to do a lot of travel. I was in Sacramento a few times for State PTA business, Washington DC to help accept the National Green Ribbon Award on behalf of RBUSD, Costa Rico for vacation (highly recommended), and Greeley Colorado to bring my daughter to her first year of college.

Over the summer we made many improvements on our campuses. Washington, Lincoln, and Adams got a fresh coat of paint; Alta Vista, Beryl, Birney, Madison, and Washington have cooling units to help on those hot fall and spring days; the Alumni House at RUHS was finally remodeled; and we broke ground on five new classrooms at the High school.

But now it is time to get back into the swing of things at home and school. Here are some things to think about as the new school year begins.

**Get an early start.** The start of the year is a great time to get started on habits that will make the year easier for you. Set your alarm a few minutes earlier, drink a tall glass of water to wake up, and make sure the kids are out of the house early. Being early means no lines in front of the school or you can park a block or more away and let them walk the rest of the way. Even better, look for the nearest Walking School Bus route and have your kids start the day with exercise and friends.

**Drive safely.** For those of you who will be driving your kids to or from school, remember to pay extra care. I understand that school drop-off and pick-up times can be challenging but please remember your duty to obey all traffic laws and parking restrictions. Many of these laws are intended to address the safety of children and other pedestrians who may be difficult to see due to traffic volume and environmental factors. Be mindful of our neighbors and understand they have to deal with all this activity in front of their houses.

**Join the PTA.** Our PTAs provide terrific services, develop leaders, and advocate for all kids. Joining does not mean you must get involved or volunteer, but how hard is it to give them just one day? Your kids will appreciate seeing you on campus and you will have a better understanding of what is happening on your campus.

#### Donate to the Redondo Beach Education Foundation.

Their Investor drive is September 5 through 19, but you can invest with them anytime. The RBEF provides opportunities for students in science, music, arts, sports, math and college preparation.

Finally, take a deep breath and relax. The school year will be over in no time.

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



Kay Coop Founder/Publisher

Welcome back to another school

year. This is always an exciting time

for students to reconnect with old

school and settle into a routine.

friends, make new ones, meet their teachers, find their way around the

Thank you for including School News

in your route as we continue to bring





On page 3 Superintendent Steven Brad Waller, President of the Board of

Our next issue is October 4.



Keller brings you up to date on the changes during the summer and Education, offers helpful ideas to get your child's school year off to a great start.





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Be Part of the Largest Study on Brain Development and Child Health at UCLA!

¡Sea parte del Estudio más grande sobre el Desarollo Cerebral y Salud Infantil en UCLA!

Estudio

del

The Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) Study will enroll 10,000+ healthy children and follow them for 10 years from ages 9 to 10 into early adulthood to understand how children's experiences affect brain development and other aspects of their lives including academic achievement, social development, and behavioral and overall health.

Receive up to \$300 for your time participating in the study. Kids can also get a picture of their brain!

#### What will participants do?

During the first year visit, you and your child will be asked to complete interviews and questionnaires, play iPad games, give saliva samples, and undergo a safe, non-invasive MRI scan.

con el fin de entender cómo las experiencias de la niñez afectan el desarrollo cerebral y otros aspectos de incluyendo académico. logros desarollo social, salud conductal y la salud en general Se pueden recibir hasta \$300 por

participar en el estudio. ¡Los niños también se pueden obtener un foto de su cerebro!

Desarollo

Cerebral del Adolescente (ABCD) matriculará a más

de 10,000+ niños sanos, a quienes se seguiran por

10 años desde los años 9 a 10 hasta la adultez temprana,

Cognitivo

#### ¿Qué van a los participantes hacer?

Durante la primera visita, usted y su hijo tienen que completar unos entrevistas y questionarios, jugar juegos el iPad, dar saliva, y someterá en un estudio seguro y no invasivo de proyección de imágenes cerebrales (MRI).

If interested, contact us: Phone:(310)794-0089 Si tienen interés:

Email: abcdstudy@ucla.edu

For more info, visit: AbcdStudy.org

#### Beach Cities Health District

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



Ali Steward, MPH
Director
Youth Services

#### Walking the Walk, Talking the Talk

After six years of the Walking School Bus program in Redondo Beach elementary schools, I don't think I need to extol the physical health benefits of participating in the program.

But what if I told you there are just as many social and emotional benefits, not just for your child, but the entire family?

Sure, those extra steps have contributed

to a decline in childhood obesity – from 20% in 2007 to less than 8% in 2017 – but they've also provided an opportunity for students to build self-esteem and increase social connections.

Plus, if you're volunteering with the program (which brings more health benefits) or walking to school with your child as part of our new Walking Wednesdays program, you'll also have an opportunity to strengthen the bond between you and your child.

A bonus: children and adolescents who spend more time with their parents are less likely to experiment with substances like cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana.

Ready to walk the walk? Join us for the kickoff for the Walking School Bus and Walking Wednesdays programs on International Walk to School Day on Oct. 4.

- Register your child for the Walking School Bus, where students walk to school with their classmates on a designated "bus route" guided by trained adult volunteers. Parents drop them off at a "bus stop" along the route. Sign up at bchd.org/schools.
- Interested in walking your child to school on a more informal basis? Walking Wednesdays is just as it sounds lace up your sneakers, walk out the door and join your school in promoting this safe and active mode of transportation.

Need one more reason to get moving? Walking delivers an instant mood boost. Talk about getting the school year started off on the right foot!

#### Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



Hanh Archer President

#### **Recipe for a Great School Year**

We at RBEF hope everyone found time this summer to enjoy some fun in the sun, a family getaway, or some "nothing on the schedule" days!



The 2017-18 school year is just around the corner, here is a recipe for a great school year:

9700 Amazing, Creative and Talented Students

600 Teachers and Instructional Assistants

900 Support Staff Members

45 RBUSD Administrative Office Staff Members

5 RBUSD Board Members

11 PTA units

1 Redondo Beach Council PTA

1Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

4 cups of ENTHUSIASM

3 cups of CREATIVITY

5 cups of HARD WORK

2 ½ cups of FUN & FRIENDSHIP

Mix all ingredients together. Sprinkle with PATIENCE and a pinch of HUMOR. Stir in lots of LOVE and ENCOURAGEMENT. Yields "infinite possibilities."

Add your investment to a GREAT SCHOOL YEAR.





#### 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 Success 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

This request should be in writing and submitted to:

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



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

#### **Year Round Sports Can Lead to Overuse Injuries in Kids**



John Hajaliloo, M.D. pediatric orthopedic suraeon. Pediatric Orthopedic Center, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Between club and travel teams, youth sports are more competitive than ever. In order to take their skill to the next level, young athletes are often driven to play and train year round. While organized sports are a great way to stay active, too much physical stress on a child's growing body can put them at risk for overuse injuries.

Overuse injuries occur over time in the bone, muscle, ligament or tendon when stress happens to the same part of the body repetitively. Overuse injuries are different from acute injuries, such as a broken bone caused by a fall, since the damage is not done immediately.

Overuse injuries are common in young athletes who focus on one sport for multiple seasons or year round.



#### **Signs of Overuse Injuries**

- Pain not caused by an acute injury
- Pain that increases with activity
- Swelling
- Changes in form or technique

#### **Strategies to Prevent Overuse Injuries**

- Children should be encouraged to play a variety of sports. Different sports require different body movements. Rotating sports by season will give the specific muscles and joints used in that sport time to heal and rest.
- Plan for adequate rest time.

Once a full season is finished, the child should take about a month off. It's also important to schedule rest days each week to prevent over training.

• Don't play through the pain.

Pushing through the pain can cause more damage to their growing bones. Pain that doesn't go away with normal pain management techniques may be a sign of something serious.

> 2801 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 800-MEMORIAL MillerChildrens.org/Ortho

## Our specialty:

#### Zachary's specialty: Orthopedics Volleyball Ace

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

For months, Zachary was experiencing hip pain. An x-ray revealed a bone tumor and Zachary was referred to Dr. Amy Williams at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach, who diagnosed him with Ewing's sarcoma. Dr. Williams is one of the only doctors in California who specializes in both pediatric orthopedics and bone tumors. Dr. Williams performed a limb salvage surgery to completely remove the cancerous tumor while preserving Zachary's leg. After chemotherapy, radiation and rehabilitation guided by Miller Children's, today, Zachary is standing tall.



Specialized care. Just for kids.

MillerChildrens.org/Ortho 800-MEMORIAL



#### Redondo Beach Council PTA

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



**Harris DiLeva** President

#### The Most Important Task

Is it me, or does it seem like we just put away the backpacks and lunch boxes in preparation for the onslaught of summer fun? Well, it looks like we just blinked, and that the first day of school is already here!

Late August/early September brings the usual flurry of activity, including that checklist of things to get back in the groove of the school year. We need to register the children for school, (check!); buy school

supplies, (check!); get the family back on a school friendly sleep schedule, (check!); attend Back to School Nights, (check!); and join the PTA, (definitely check!)

Yes, we hope the act of joining the local PTA is on every parent's checklist this year. In addition to supporting the many much needed programs at our schools – such as field trips and Hands on Art – the PTA also promotes and encourages legislative advocacy on behalf of the education and welfare of all children. Your membership fee is a small price to pay for a big voice in the many decisions that affect your child.

This year's PTA theme of "A Future for Every Child" epitomizes what the organization is all about: the power and strength of one collective voice as an advocate for all children. The PTA is the oldest and largest child advocacy association in America. It is comprised of more than four million parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers, and other concerned adults who all share a strong commitment to improving the education, health, and safety of our children.

Many of the benefits that our children receive today – such as universal kindergarten, the national school lunch program, Arts in Education, and a juvenile justice system - were accomplished as a direct result of actions initiated by the PTA.

The issues that affect our children today extend beyond the individual schools. The PTA's nationwide network provides parents with the tools and forum they need to collectively influence the kind of decisions that affect children at not just the local level, but also throughout our individual districts, states, and nation.

Please do your part by joining the PTA this year. Trust me, you'll feel good when you finally check it off your list!





#### **RBUSD Alternative Education**

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



**Anthony Bridi** Principal

#### Welcome Back!

As the summer season comes to a close and we get ready to embark upon another school year, I want to personally welcome you back! I hope that you are relaxed and refreshed, whether you ventured off on a vacation or made the most of a stay-cation. Or, some combination of both!

I am very excited this year, as this will be my first full year as principal here in

Alternative Education in the RBUSD. Last year, having become principal during mid-year, I took note of the vibe and overall school culture of the Alternative Education programs. This year I have developed plans to build upon what had been already established, such as increasing support in social-emotional development and enhancing 21st-century learning.

Our focus this school year is to continue to assist students in leading healthy and balanced lives so that they can succeed in their post-secondary endeavors. As such, we are thankful for the strong relationships we have forged with our partners in education, such as El Camino

College, the So Cal Regional Occupational Center, and the Beach Cities Health District. We will continue to offer opportunities through these partnerships to help guide our students towards vocational and college opportunities, while also helping them achieve personal purpose and balance to life.

We are also looking forward to creating a Wellness Center on the Redondo Shores campus. What is a Wellness Center you might be wondering? The goal of the Center is to support our students in leading healthy and balanced lives. Through it we will be able to centralize the services and support that we already offer in our regular Alternative Education program. This includes group and individual counseling services, leadership and purpose group workshops, stress and anxiety management, and mental health awareness and education. In addition, we will also be able to implement new outreach programs and activities.

The 2017–2018 school year will be memorable and exciting for Alternative Education. We look forward to seeing you on the first day of school! Your Success Begins Today!

#### **RBUSD Child Development**

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



Theresa Van Dusen Director

#### The Comforts of Home

By Andrew Riggle, Site Supervisor

It's the first day of school for your kindergartener or preschooler, and everything is going great! You find yourself walking towards the classroom with your child. The teacher smiles as she sees you and greets you and your child warmly. You stop to introduce yourself and your child as you enter the classroom. You smile encouragingly

to your child and attempt to release your child's hand. This is it: the start of a new year.

As an educator, I have seen the next few moments play out in a hundred different ways. Some students are off and running the moment you let go. Some take a few tentative steps before finding someone they recognize and may need a little guidance to engage. And some will absolutely melt down into tears and never let go. This home-to-school transition can be difficult for many children and families. However, with the use of some strategies, this transition

becomes easier for all students.

It is amazing how much impact a family photo posted in a cubby can have on a child's day. The photo or any item the child is intimately familiar with provides a sense of safety and security. It can easily be incorporated by the teacher into something bigger throughout the day during a quiet rest period or story time.

There are many child-friendly objects on the market that can be used to record the voice of a family member. Recording a simple "I love you!" or "Have a great day!" that a child can use as a reminder that school is not forever is an effective tool. Consistency furthers the impact if the phrase matches one that you use each day.

Short picture books can be helpful to students by acting as models for social skills and expectations. If a child is having a difficult time saying goodbye, a story can be created, even including photographs showing the child entering the classroom, hugging you goodbye, and then engaging in one of his or her preferred activities.

Please Drive Safely — Students are Back in School.

# SPEAKER SERIES



#### INFORMED PARENTS, ARE PREPARED PARENTS

We all want our kids to be healthy, happy and to thrive—in and out of school. When it comes to dealing with stress, social media use, and preventing substance use, there's a lot of information out there. Hear from experts and connect with other parents about the challenges we all share.

#### FREE PARENT EDUCATION EVENTS

## Parenting in the Age of Social Media

September 20, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Hermosa Valley School

## Recognizing & Responding to Stressors & Pressures

October 17, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Redondo Union HS Auditorium

#### Inclusion Matters: A Holocaust Survivor's Story

November 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m. Manhattan Beach Middle School

For more information visit southbayfamiliesconnected.org



#### South Bay Adult School

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



Dr. Anthony **Taranto** Director

#### Welcome Back to Fall!

While the beginning of this season may signal the end of summer, it is also a time for transition and starting something new. At South Bay Adult School (SBAS), we are proud to be offering a wide range of adult education programs across the South Bay region that will fit your individual needs and interests.

As part of SBAS, the South Bay Family Tree Parent Education Program annually

provides lasting learning experiences for South Bay families in a safe and fun learning environment. Through play based learning and hands-on academic experiences, these classes will help to develop the skills and knowledge our children need to become engaged, confident, and successful learners ready for kindergarten.

Our community education-based programs at Edison School, Redondo Union High School, and Mira Costa High School include photography, quilting, art, line dancing, health and fitness, foreign languages, and music. Our classes give you the opportunity to learn, explore, think, and move. The only decision you have to make is, which one?

At SBAS, we believe that continual learning is essential to fulfilling human potential. Our classes provide an opportunity to continue learning, gain new skills and abilities, expand knowledge, and improve career prospects. We offer all levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) too, from beginning to bridge, as well as academic and career skills classes that will help to prepare students for college and career success as well as successful transition in other areas.

At our Edison Learning Center, we will also be hosting Adult Basic Education (ABE) and Adult Second Education (ASE) classes in an enriched virtual learning environment. The students in these programs divide their time between attending classes and learning remotely, using an online delivery of content and instruction that also meets the Common Core State Standards and UC a-g requirements.

Our teachers and staff members work hard to provide many relevant and enriching courses for adult learners. We encourage you to take advantage of all that we offer here at SBAS. Learning never stops, and neither should you! Remember, as F. Scott Fitzgerald once said, "Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

Registration for classes is easy and convenient. So sign up today at www.southbayadult.org.







#### **RBUSD Educational Services**

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



Dr. Annette Alpern Deputy Superintendent, Educational Services

#### What's Your New Year Goal?

By Nicole Wesley, Director of Student Services

It is the start of a new school year! Hip, hip, hooray! Often times with the start of a new school year we parents challenge our children to set goals. We ask them to think of ways that they can improve from last year. What will they do differently? Or, better?

What we mean are ideas like, "Let's make this the year where you advocate for yourself and ask for help as soon as you need it." Or, "This is the year where you will turn in your

homework on time everyday..." Perhaps we can also make new friends, try a new club, or eat lunch in a different spot? There are so many ways that we can challenge our children in the hope that they will take healthy risks, grow from new experiences, learn from failure, or cope and bounce back ready to take on the world (or school) again.

But, what about us? What goals are we, their parents, setting for ourselves? How can we better support our children? What new ways can we get involved in our schools? What can we do to make sure that our students navigate and thrive this year, and in our ever-evolving global world, as independent thinkers, collaborators, and contributors?

If you haven't taken a moment to set at least one goal for yourself, this is the time. Without coming across as too preachy, the point here is that we often push our children to improve or step out of the box, but we also forget the power of actually "walking the talk." It is never too early to encourage our students to advocate for themselves. This means that we can take a step back and resist reaching out to the teacher or jumping straight to the principal. It means that we can teach our students how to have a voice and how to use it effectively. And of course, we are there to support, guide, and yes, verify that their efforts were effective.

As a parent, there are many ways in which we can challenge ourselves this year. We can volunteer at school at least once; come to a PTA or RBEF event; read the newsletter each week; or engage in quality conversations with our children daily. It's not easy being a parent, but it sure is enjoyable when we set goals and do our best to reach them.



# COLLEGE NIGHT!

Please join us anytime between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, November 15

- Learn About ECC Programs and Resources
- Tour the Campus
- Attend Workshops: Financial Aid, Honors Transfer Program, Student Life, Athletics, and Career Planning

RSVP: www.elcamino.edu/collegenight



16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90506

#### Adams Middle School (6–8)

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



Lisa Veal Principal

#### **Success in the Middle**

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! I hope that you have enjoyed a restful summer break with family and friends. We eagerly anticipating your return, and look forward to what we know will be an incredible school vear.

To our new and incoming families, we would like to extend a very special welcome. Know that you are joining one of the most

dedicated and supportive communities in the South Bay. We are confident that you will have an enjoyable and successful middle school experience.

Similar to elementary school, we would like to remind our families that we are in a special partnership with you, one in which the primary goal is to ensure that your children will find academic, social, and emotional success. Contrary to popular belief, students still need the support of their parents as they transition to secondary education. It may not look the same, but it is vital that you continue to play an active role in their education.

Please know that parent volunteer opportunities are still available in middle school. Start by joining the PTSA. Not only does this group provide invaluable program

and student support at Adams, it also works diligently towards designing family and social events where the Birney, Lincoln, Madison, and Washington families all feel welcome.

We invite our fathers in the Adams community to get involved as well. Adams launched the Watch D.OG.S. (Dads of Great Students) program last year, and it was an amazing success! As the only middle school in the South Bay to host this program, we are excited to be heading into our second year. We welcome the fathers in our community to join us on campus in support of their school and children.

Students too are encouraged to get involved. Middle school can be both an exciting and anxiety provoking time for children. Taking time to better understand campus life and all that it entails will assist them with the transition from elementary to middle school. There is an abundance of opportunities for your students to get connected and explore their interests. We encourage them to join a club, play a sport, participate in the ASB, or try one of the other many ways in which they can get involved outside of the classroom.

Once again, welcome back. I am excited to be starting a new year with the Adams community. I know it will be the best one yet!

#### Alta Vista Elementary (K–5)

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



**Susan Wildes** Principal

#### Welcome Back!

The teachers and staff are excited to welcome back all of our students and families to the 2017-2018 school year. The beginning of every school year is an exciting time, with new friends, teachers, and classroom environments. But it can also be stressful for students as new routines and relationships are being forged. It can be the perfect time for students, along with their families, to

prepare for stress-inducing triggers, so that students can navigate the beginning of the year and become confident learners.

Every school year comes with new learning and increased school expectations. The new school year also often marks the beginning of many sports and extracurricular calendars for our students. As adults, many of us manage our busy lives with calendars. This can also be an effective tool to teach children to use early in the elementary years. A simple desk calendar that your children can use to visually plot out homework assignments, sports practices, and even fun activities can help them to feel like they have control over their time while teaching the valuable skills of time management

and responsibility. Help your child visualize when extracurricular activities are going to impact homework time and plot out strategies so they can stay on top of the work.

Another stress-inducing trigger for many of children is the lunch/recess time, when new friendships are developed and old friendships are tested. Role-playing social scenarios with children can help them to feel more confident when difficult situations arise. Practicing activities such as asking to join others' play or what to do or say when feeling excluded from others' play can give your child the tools and strategies prior to the encounter. As parents, we often tell our children to "use your words," but we fail to actually help them practice the words to use in a safe environment.

Finally, teaching children to ask questions to clarify information and to advocate for their own learning is an extremely valuable skill that can help them reduce their own anxiety that may arise during the school day. Advocacy can start being practiced at home. When your child asks for help, practice and reward specific clarification. For example, "I don't understand how to tell which shoe goes on which foot" is an effective advocacy question that can help children to grow as learners.

#### Beryl Heights *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Karen Mohr Principal

#### That Time of Year!

Welcome back to another exciting year at Beryl Heights! Beryl staff is ready to partner with our students and families for another fun-filled year! Teachers have been preparing to make this the best year yet, with rigorous academic standards taught at every grade level and our Character Counts recognition program embedded within our daily activities. As a learning community, we

welcome your questions and ask that you become an active participant in your children's education.

Take time to meet your children's teachers during the first month of school. When they come home, discuss their day and ask them what they've learned. Use time in the car with them to squeeze in a little more learning by reviewing their day. Set priorities, and spend one-on-one time with them. Help them organize their backpacks, binders and materials. Devote 30 to 60 minutes a night to discussing schoolwork, homework and other activities. Read together nightly to make reading a priority in their lives, and be sure to keep open communication with their teachers.

Attendance is key to children's success. A child who misses a day of school misses a day of learning. Research

indicates that regular attendance leads to academic success. Being late for school hurts learning, too. A student who is consistently late every day could miss up to 30 hours of instruction during the year. Your children'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 Back to School Night on Thursday, Sept. 14, to listen to your children's teachers 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. Classroom presentations take place from 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m. You can sign up for conferences and give the teachers your phone number and email.

September is the time to establish a positive, ongoing relationship with your children's teachers, help you understand your children's needs, and give them needed support. Parent involvement is a big indicator of success. Through teamwork, devotion and an optimistic outlook on your children's education, they'll be successful. Beryl Heights comprises a dedicated team ready to help your children excel and have an amazing year. We're looking forward to a successful school year!

#### Birney Elementary (K–5)

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



Mira Baskaron Principal

#### **Starting Out Positive!**

Welcome back, Bobcats! I am truly looking forward to a new school year. We want to welcome our returning Birney families and extend a special greeting to our new Birney Bobcats across the campus, from staff to students. This year promises to be another successful one, with many exciting things to look forward to.

Birney has been on a growth-mind-set journey for the past two years and will continue on this road for the 2017–18 school year. Kicking in the year with a positive mind-set can make all the difference socially, emotionally, physically and academically. This is something that we must work on with our students daily, both at school and at home.

There is a real connection between the mind and body. We've all heard of stories related to patients who were ill and had a positive outlook and attitude that contributed to their healing. Expectations are powerful. The mind has the ability to change so much. We want to help our students understand this powerful impact and use it to continually foster positive thinking and in turn make a difference in the well-being of the whole child. There are ways that we as adults can guide our children in having a positive mind-set.

#### A Guide for Guidance

A positive mind-set can be contagious. Here are some items to incorporate into your daily life that could help with fostering a positive mind-set in your children and your entire family:

**Be optimistic!** There is always a positive in every situation. Look for that positive. and discuss it with your child.

**Practice kindness.** Everyone can use some kindness in their world. Do something kind for someone, and ask your child to do the same.

**Laugh.** Laughter is good for the soul and will foster a positive mood.

**Encourage others.** Practice put-ups all the time, focusing on things that are done well and supporting those things that are a bit of a challenge.

So, let's start the new school year with a positive mindset. This can make all the difference in your child and your entire family. The entire Birney staff will continue to take students on this wonderful journey of positive thinking at school. I am certain this year will be one to remember. I look forward to a fantastic 2017–18 school year!

#### Jefferson Elementary (K–5)

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



Jeff Winckler Principal

#### Off We Go!

Welcome to the start of the 2017-18 School Year! We have a lot of exciting school-based programs that begin during September. As the month gets going, parents should talk with their children outside school about what back to school really means and do so in a manner that is positive and supportive. This discussion should include appropriate behavior as well as academic expectations.

An on-target conversation should be pressure and stress free, and aim at expressing that we all expect our students'



Trash free Tuesday at Jefferson begins on September 12.

best. Parents are also encouraged to begin to establish a constructive relationship with teachers during the first few weeks of school.

Establishing a routine is also one of the most important things we can do to ensure a successful school experience. There should be a healthy transition from the freedom of summer to the more regimented school schedule. An ideal schedule includes consistently establishing home-study time as well as outside activities such as sports and clubs and having an age-appropriate bedtime.

Thank you in advance for your partnership and support of our school, and again, welcome back! Team Jefferson is looking forward to a fantastic school year!



The Jefferson Running Club kicks-off September 25.

#### Madison Elementary (K–5)

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



**Drew Gamet** Principal

#### Welcome Back!

After a fun-filled summer in sunny Southern California, welcome to the 2017-2018 school year! For the first time in years we are fortunate to find ourselves in the position of being able to welcome our entire teaching staff back for this upcoming school year. However, we are thrilled to have a new PTA president at Madison Elementary School, Jennifer Attenza!

While our teacher grade-level teams tirelessly plan, teach, assess student learning, analyze the data, and adjust their planning for optimal student learning – no matter the student level – we cannot ensure your child's academic success without your active support. It is thus vital that you spend some time each day with your child in reading. Likewise, it is important that you also talk to them about school, specifically what they are learning and how it impacts their daily life. But even more than these important steps, it is vital that your child also has very good attendance.

It's worth noting that a student doesn't have to have perfect attendance. When a child is genuinely sick,

especially with a fever or vomiting, it is important to keep them home to recover and not spread more illness among their classmates. However, it is important that they attend school as much as possible. This means that they may come to class with some sniffles or a slight cough at times.

It is also very important that your students attend class on time. Students who are chronically tardy are immediately put into the position of having to start their day in a state of stress, which decreases their ability to maximize their academic efforts. In a school where our attendance area is as small as Madison's, everyone is expected to be at school on time.

Remember, students in the breakfast program can come to the cafeteria beginning at 7:30 a.m., and the gates to the school will open at 8 a.m. Student appointments should always be made outside of school hours, and when we have school vacation days for holidays like Thanksgiving or Winter Break, please make sure not to leave early or return late. While it is true that poor attendance impacts the finances of a school, the detriment to a student's learning is far more concerning.

You can always check the Madison Elementary School website for more information. Just go to http://madison.rbusd.org/. Have a great school year!

#### Lincoln Elementary (K–5)

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



Jason Johnson Principal

#### **More than Welcome**

I hope you had a relaxing summer spent with family and friends and now are ready to begin an outstanding school year. I am honored to be the new principal of Lincoln Elementary School. While serving as assistant principal at Adams Middle School, I quickly learned that Lincoln Pride meant something special. The community and staff possess a reputation for active involvement

and whole-child focus. What does that mean? Well, for example, our PTA takes the phrase welcome back to heart.

Before school begins, we invite Lincoln families to campus so they can learn what teacher they have this year. However, our PTA seizes this opportunity as a chance to bring our community together. The Back-to-School Kickoff is an afternoon event for parents to meet one another, learn about resources and volunteer opportunities, and join the PTA. Students are encouraged to wear a grade-level colored shirt and spend time catching up with friends. New students? We have a welcome booth designed to cater to their specific needs and get the family up to speed. Want to make a memory? We have a photo booth that shows the students' grade-level and their newly assigned teacher. The PTA goes above and beyond to make our Back-to-School Kickoff a welcome back to remember.

Being new myself this year, I truly appreciate this event. Returning to school from a long summer is not always easy, and it's events like this that help ensure a successful transition. Both the school and the PTA need your help and involvement to continue to provide engaging opportunities for our students at Lincoln. I urge you to find your niche and volunteer on campus. Also, please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Back to School Night on September 14. Welcome back!



**Back to School Kickoff** 

#### Parras Middle School (6–8)

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



**Dr. Lars Nygren** *Principal* 

#### **Many Ways to Communicate**

The start of the school year is always exciting, with the thrill of new classes, new teachers and new responsibilities. It also marks the start of a new set of goals for students, parents and staff. However, it doesn't come free of worry. Communication between parents and teachers, the parents' level of involvement and students' academic and social success are paramount for parents

new to the middle school experience. Concerns, though valid, shouldn't linger, as there are multiple ways that parents can remain involved and connected to the school community.

Though parent volunteering through middle school may look different from elementary-school volunteering, there are many opportunities for involvement during the students' three years at Parras. For one, we encourage incoming middle-school parents to connect with our Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) early in the school year to volunteer for events or be a part of the

PTSA board. The board heads committees that organize student events like the eighth-grade Legacy Project, seventh-grade Renaissance Faire, sixth-grade Greek Day, and STEM Night. At the middle-school level, we emphasize the importance of parents' gradual release of responsibility. This helps students establish a healthy level of independence and self-responsibility as they continue to expand on already developing organizational skills.

Some ideas for proactive intercommunication include bookmarking our school's website; familiarization with the bell schedule, dress code and events calendar; downloading the Infinite Campus Parent Portal phone app; ensuring that we have your correct phone number and email; sending an introductory email to students' teachers at the beginning of the school year; and signing up to receive Google Classroom email summaries.

Know that our number-one concern is the academic, social and emotional success of your children. Everyone at Parras Middle School looks forward to the start of the 2017–18 school year with our students and meeting their families.

#### Redondo Union High School

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



Jens Brandt Principal

#### The 'Union' in Our Name!

Welcome back! We hope you had a great summer. We also want to give a special welcome to our new freshman, the class of 2021. Congratulations—you are officially Sea Hawks now!

You all probably recognize "We Are Redondo" as one of our favorite slogans at Redondo Union High School. However, the Union part of our name is also very important

to our culture and purpose. Union is a great word, sharing a prefix with other wonderful words such as unity, unique, universal and university. In our RUHS Mission Statement, we see these values:

The students, families, staff and community of Redondo Union High School provide a safe educational environment (unity) that supports the needs and cocurricular interests (unique) of a diverse population of students (universal) in meeting high academic expectations and postsecondary goals (university).

This year, you will hear the union theme from our Associated Student Body (ASB), our faculty and the administration. As a student, what can you do to further unify our school? We have some suggestions:

Treat everyone with respect—especially peers who appear to be very different from you. Diversity is a strength of our school community, and we flourish as we embrace it.

Get connected—especially outside class.

Join a sport, a performance group or a club where you can meet new people and have fun beyond the classroom.

Get involved—especially during spirit weeks. It feels great to be proud of the school you attend for four years. Wearing red on Fridays, sporting university gear on Thursdays, and participating in spirit activities throughout the year are fun ways to show pride and deepen our school unity.

So again, welcome back, and here's to another fantastic year. Let's sing in unison—"Sea Hawk Pride!"



The RUHS Admin Team: AP Bryan Ines; AP Bill Dargen; Principal Jens Brandt, AP Jonathan Erickson; AP Meghan Schooler

#### Tulita Elementary (K–5)

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



**Dr. Tanaz Bruna** Principal

#### **Recharging the Growth Mindset**

Welcome back to another school year at Tulita Elementary School! We were excited to greet our students on the first day of school and to welcome the new families joining our learning community. While summer is a time to recharge and relax from the fast pace of the school year, we hope you have also continued to embrace the growth mindset as a family.

The start of school is a good time to help the students refocus on learning, their strengths, and the resources that will help with school success. Having a positive mindset will help kick off the school year with a fresh start. Here is one way you can recharge your child's growth mindset.

Have a conversation with your child using these questions: What are my best abilities? How do friends influence me? When and with whom am I at my best? Who are my best sources of help? How can I do more of what will best help me to succeed? Encourage your child to really take the time to think about each one of these questions and to be as honest as possible when answering. You can also consider using these questions as journaling activities.

One of the best ways you can model a growth mindset is to speak candidly and positively about the mistakes you've made and what you've learned from them. This will show your children that taking risks and making mistakes are natural parts of the learning process.

We are going to have an awesome ride on the Tulita wave of learning in 2017–2018.

#### Washington *Elementary (K–5)*

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



Andrea Bittick Principal

#### **Welcome Back!**

Welcome back to school, Explorers! I am honored to be the new principal at Washington Elementary School and to join Redondo Beach Unified School District. I most recently worked in the Tustin Unified School District as a coordinator at the district office. I am looking forward to utilizing my experience in implementing inclusive environments and working with

the teachers, staff, parents, and community to sustain and develop practices to meet the needs of all students at Washington.

Laura Urquhart will be our new assistant principal at Washington. Ms. Urguhart most recently worked in the Orange Unified School District as an elementary instructional specialist. She is excited about the opportunity to serve the Redondo Beach Unified School District, where she hopes to continue to make a positive impact in students' academic achievements and attainment of a lifelong love of learning.

We also have several new staff members joining our Washington family: Amy Wagner-Nunez, Learning Center; Brenda Restori, school psychologist; Rhoni Meistrell,

second grade; Jessica Olmedo, fourth grade; Beverly Gonzalez, dual-immersion third grade; and Adriana Peralta, dual-immersion fifth-grade. We are very excited that these teachers have joined the Washington community.

The beginning of a new school year is much like the beginning of a new year for all of us who work in in education—and for families as well. It is the perfect time to initiate routines, set intentions, and reflect upon the successes or failures of the past. Teaching children to set intentions and goals at an early age can help them to develop purpose and meaning in relation to their learning. Daniel Siegel, author of The Mindful Brain, wrote, "Intentions create an integrated state of priming, a gearing up of our neural system to be in the mode of that specific intention: we can be readying to receive, to sense, to focus, to behave in a certain manner." Setting goals is a daily activity in the school environment, but it is also something that can be integrated at home. Although mornings can be rather hectic, try to find a time when you can help your child set a short-term goal for the day or the week. Check in at the end of the day or week to help your child engage in self-assessment. These types of activities can help children become more reflective and resilient.

It is going to be an amazing year at Washington. Go, Explorers!

#### **Novelist –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.

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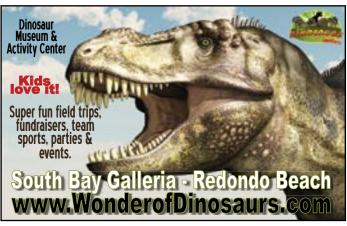
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**Congratulations to:** 

**Wendy Barnes and Carissa Herring** Winners of our June Word Search Contests!

Entries must be received by October 15, 2017 From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

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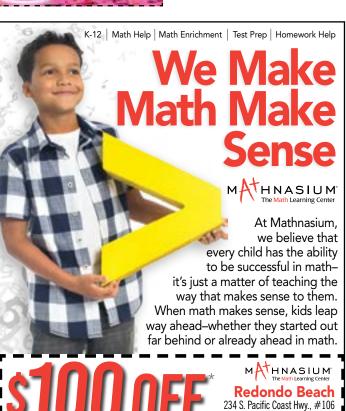


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#### Lucy's Book Review

#### The Fault in Our Stars

By John Green We all have a different definition of the word 'normal'. For Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen-year-old girl with lung cancer, that



**Lucy Davis** 

means daily medicine, an oxygen tank named Philip, and the worst of all...Support Group...

That is, before she meets Augustus Waters: charming, funny, and frankly handsome (even if he only has one and a half legs due to cancer). Together, the pair goes through infinity. From broken trophies and hijacked wishes, to Not Letting Illness Get

In The Way Of Ruining Life. (Because it can, if you let it. You just have to learn how not to.)

I really, really, love this book for so many reasons. It's honest, funny, and raw. John Green does a wonderful job of telling such a story. I will give you a warning: the book contains some adult language and situations. Also, you might need tissues. Five out of five bookworms that are well deserved!

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.



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