

FREE

School News

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Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 15, Issue 124

September / October 2021



**So Excited
to be Back
for a New
School Year!**



Board of Education



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Flinn**
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Witkin**
Vice President



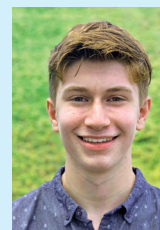
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Dr. Steven Keller

As we enter the 2021-22 school year, we want to update you on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (LACDPH) and RBUSD's protocols and guidelines.

Masks: Per LACDPH, masks that cover the nose and mouth are required for students and staff inside school buildings and classrooms. Outside, masks are optional for students and staff, at this time.

Health Screening: This is important. Your school principal has shared the health screening process with you. You, the parent/guardian, need to answer the health screening questions provided to you each morning, prior to your child(ren) leaving to school. Please contact your school office immediately if your student or someone in your household tests positive. We will not screen students nor will we take temperatures upon entry to the school site. LACDPH provides us this screening option.

Physical Distancing: Maintaining a minimum of 3 feet distance between another person is recommended by LACDPH. In classrooms, we will make every attempt to create this space; however, there will be some cases where this is not possible.

Hand Hygiene: We continue to emphasize washing one's hands often. Our schools are equipped with an abundance of soap, water, paper towels, and hand sanitizer. We encourage each student to bring his/her own bottle of hand sanitizer to school each day.

Visitors: Our school sites and district office have now opened their front doors. Formal screening for all school and district visitors will occur at the entry points of these facilities. We will ask you the COVID-19 health screening questions and we will take your temperature. As for volunteers on campus, we are gradually allowing this practice to return. Our priority is returning students to full-time, in-person learning, but we look forward to eventually welcoming parent volunteers back on campus.

Air Filtration/Classroom Ventilation: As we shared previously, we use the MERV-13 air filters in most of our classrooms. During COVID-19, we have allowed teachers to manage their room temperatures and airflow individually via their classroom thermostat. We also encourage classroom windows and doors to remain open.

Reporting: Team RBUSD has a remarkable COVID Commander, Jessica Silberling. She is also our Executive

Director of Special Education. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Ms. Silberling has managed the COVID-19 mitigation process and practices. She communicates often and directly with LACDPH officials. She is highly skilled at managing all COVID-19 reporting and contact tracing processes. Thus far, her work has been precise while also caring. **Vaccinations:** We continue to see more and more students (ages 12-17) fully vaccinated. As of August 15, LACDPH noted that 79% of RBUSD's eligible students have received at least one dose. We estimate that approximately 75%-80% of our staff members are fully vaccinated; we anticipate this percentage will increase given the Governor's recent requirement for school staff members to be fully vaccinated or adhere to ongoing COVID-19 testing.

COVID-19 Testing: We are working with our friends at Beach Cities Health District to provide COVID-19 testing when needed. This is a "work in progress" and we will keep you appraised.

Food/Drink: At all school campuses, students will have daily access to two free meals (breakfast/lunch) Monday-Friday. Students may eat and drink outdoors. An additional 1,000+ outdoor seats were installed throughout the school district over the summer to encourage and ensure that physical distancing can be accommodated. As well, water filtration stations have been installed throughout every school campus. We are encouraging students to bring refillable water bottles and fill up their bottles throughout the school day.

As LACDPH makes substantive changes to their guidelines and protocols, we will share this information with staff and families in a timely manner. Again, agility wins the long game here and we must be ready for what is next.

Finally, we want to remind parents that most of our COVID-19 cases were contracted off campus—athletic events (some school-related, some not) and social events. As you have heard us say repeatedly, what occurs outside of our schools now enters our school buildings. Please help us to minimize the spread of COVID-19 by doing your share at home, on the weekends, and before sending your child(ren) to school. Together, we can keep our families and staff members safe during a precarious time. We were successful last spring and this summer returning our students to campus and there is no doubt, working together, we will experience the same positive outcome this school year. Thank you for your continued support and care.

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

We Can All Be Health Leaders

During the past 18 months, we've all had a chance to be public health ambassadors through acts large and small. From wearing face masks, to right-sizing family celebrations and taking them outdoors, to getting vaccinated when it's your turn, we've all taken steps to help keep our households and our communities safe.

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) has been working alongside the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD) since March 2020 on the COVID-19 response, and this year, we're continuing to evolve our joint efforts to meet the needs of the RBUSD community.

New this School Year:

LiveWell Kids: To accommodate the health and safety of students, volunteers and the school community, the LiveWell Kids nutrition and garden programs have been combined to create a hybrid, farm-to-table program. These six interactive lessons will focus on educating K-5 students on the process and benefits of growing their own food and making healthy eating choices. All lessons will be delivered in the fresh air of the school gardens by trained parent volunteers.

COVID-19 Testing: BCHD will be reviving its COVID-19 testing efforts specifically for school and city partners, including required testing for student athletes and some staff. BCHD will also be providing COVID-19 testing for symptomatic students or staff, or those with a close contact with a known case, on an appointment-only basis. This information will be provided directly through your school.

Continued COVID-19 Health & Safety Efforts:

Vaccinations: Through the South Bay Consortium for School Vaccines, BCHD was able to vaccinate more than 430 RBUSD employees and administered more than 2,440 doses to RBUSD students ages 12-18. BCHD will continue to partner with RBUSD and the surrounding local school districts to make vaccinations available as additional age groups become eligible.

School Well-Being Line: BCHD answered more than 1,300 calls from parents and school staff in the 2020-21 school year, and the School Well-Being Line for Families will continue to be a resource for questions about COVID-19, vaccinations, testing, health and safety, mental health, and any other health concern. Call 310-374-3426 and press option 2 on Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. - noon.

For the latest health information from BCHD, sign up for the parent newsletter at www.bchd.org/covid-schools.

BEACH CITIES SCHOOL WELL-BEING LINE

Information, Support and Referrals for Families and School Staff

Call Beach Cities Health District's School Well-Being Line for Families at **310-374-3426**, **and press option 2**. The hours for the 2021-22 academic year will be **Monday - Thursday: 8 am - 4 pm** and **Friday: 8 am - 12 pm**.



For more information visit bchd.org/schoolwellbeingline



Board of Education



David Witkin
Vice President

There is a famous quote, which many have attributed to Walt Whitman: "Be curious, not judgmental."

What a wonderful statement, and not just because there are Ted Lasso T-shirts available online that say it! It applies both to our students and to us as their parents and role models!

Our school board meetings used to be, admittedly, rather dry sessions begun with the Pledge of Allegiance, punctuated with several "All in favor say Aye? Aye!", and the occasional appearance of cute elementary students or theater troops showcasing their latest projects, and a gavel ending the proceedings so we could all go home for dinners.

Not anymore. In RBUSD and across the nation, school board meetings most unexpectedly have become must-see TV (or YouTube) for concerned parents and community members, as we have suddenly become battleground territory regarding masking, vaccines and curriculum choices.

I think I speak for my fellow four board members when I say that all of us decided to run for and serve on the board because we genuinely care about our kids' education and doing good for our school and civic community. We are paid a stipend of \$3,000 per year (basically, to cover expenses and missed work time in our day jobs). COVID has forced us to make difficult decisions about school closures, openings, union MOUs, sanitation measures and vaccine requirements, none of which they taught in "board member training" when I was first elected many years ago.

All of our deliberations are taking place in a backdrop of edicts handed down or tweeted from the federal, state and county governments that, as they like to say in school jargon, "have a lot of room for growth."

I write not to defend or excuse anything we have decided or will be forced to decide in the coming months. We welcome opinions, whether they agree with our own opinions or not. We have, and will, disagree even within our own board, because we are all dealing with imperfect information and bringing our own histories and backgrounds to the issues at hand.

Ultimately, while no one will be perfectly content with what comes out of our boardroom or district office, please understand that all of us, from the board and Dr. Keller on down, only seek to achieve the right solution for the greatest number of students, parents, teachers, staff and community members that we possibly can.

Next time you tune in or attend our meetings, bring your opinions, bring your facts, but also, be curious, not judgmental.

2021 Board of Education Meeting Dates

September 28*	October 26	December 14*
October 12	November 9*	

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

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



Doris Donlou-Richmond
President

Welcome Back to School!

How wonderful it is to feel the buzz of excitement as our students and teachers return to campuses. School is BACK! And the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation is thrilled to share in that excitement as we look forward to the opportunities in front of our RBUSD students as they look toward the future with enthusiasm and promise.

This year RBEF is proud to celebrate 30 years of supporting our Redondo Beach Unified School District. Your investments through the years have allowed us to help bring critical teachers and programs into our district classrooms, including: Band Teachers, Vocal Music Teachers, PE Teachers, Robotics, Teacher Grants, Intramural Sports, early College Aptitude Tests and so much more. So what opportunities will RBEF be able to bring to our students over the next 30 years? It's all up to you.

Please visit www.RBEF.org to learn about the current RBEF Investor Drive Blitz campaign and other opportunities to support RBEF. When we all come together, we help keep that buzz of excitement going and the opportunities for our students become limitless.

Together, we can ALL make a difference in our children's futures because #WeAreRedondo!

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



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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome back to another school year. This year is an improvement over last year, but certainly not back to normal yet. On page 3 Dr. Keller begins this issue with an update on protocols and guidelines.

As you will read in the articles in this issue everyone is excited to be back to school. You will read about Learning Acceleration, the importance of helping your children create a positive mindset and establishing a routine. Students are encouraged to become involved in something outside of the classroom. Try out for a team, join a club, play an instrument or volunteer.

David and Daniel are back with book reviews on page 19. If your child would like to be a student columnist reviewing favorite books, please email me for deadlines and guidelines.

Our next issue is November 10 just in time for the holidays. Speaking of holidays, be sure to enter the Halloween word search contest on page 19. Simply find the words in the word search from the list and email me the one word that is in the list but not in the puzzle. Have fun!

Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

School News

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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com
Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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South Bay Hands On Art



Art This Way

By Co-Chairs Caasi Copp and Buffy Soule

Things are pointing in a good direction for HOA! This school year, we expect to begin returning back to some of our pre-covid traditions: kids in classrooms, special art supplies, and docents. Our theme this year is 'Art This Way'. We hope to fill schools with art here, there, and everywhere! Six projects will be coming throughout the year to decorate some of those classroom walls and home refrigerators. The first project, 'Night Walk' by Lee-Jean Lin will let students decide which way they'll walk in the dark, and what they will see with their flashlight. It'll be interesting to see what they find! Thank you for letting us bring art projects in so our artists can create and grow!

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

RBUSD Educational Services

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



Dr. Susan Wildes
Assistant
Superintendent

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to an exciting school year filled with many great opportunities. While our students and families were partaking in a much-deserved summer hiatus, Educational Services was gearing up to welcome back not only our returning students but also our teachers and staff members. Our focus is on providing administrators, teachers, and staff with research-based best practices to support our students' full-time return to in-person learning.

What does research indicate is the most effective practice in recovering from school campus closures? Learning Acceleration.

Learning Acceleration is the process by which every student has the opportunity to engage in grade-level work that will prepare them to achieve their goals after high school. Learning Acceleration means not rushing through the curriculum, but rather, using proven strategies that will help students engage with the most critical work of their grade as quickly as possible.

We provide our students with rigorous grade-level work, and also insert the prerequisite content, skills, and knowledge from previous grades and courses that is necessary for success. Research also shows that when schools just focus on the remediation of skills the students fall farther behind.

Is Learning Acceleration a new thing? No. Acceleration is a response that builds on existing research and best practices, and is in line with the pre-COVID priorities of the Redondo Beach Unified School District. It is also an approach to learning that will continue to be relevant in a post-COVID world. Learning Acceleration, as a teaching approach, ensures that all student-needs are being met. Our department also focuses on increasing staff capacity to support the social and emotional supports coming out of a COVID world.

Which takes priority? They both do. Challenging students with rigorous and interesting content is not at odds with supporting social-emotional needs. We will welcome our students back to school in a supportive and challenging academic environment.

Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

By Kimberly Quihuis, President

On Behalf of the Redondo Beach Council PTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you back to school in person!

Your PTA Leaders have been hard at work preparing for this day and they couldn't be more excited to roll up their sleeves and dive into the new school year.

PTA is the nation's largest volunteer-led child-advocacy association working to drive improvements in the education, health and well-being of all children and families. And now more than ever we need you. The strength of our PTA depends upon the involvement and commitment of all parents, students and staff.

PTA's Organization Goals

- Advocate for the education, health, safety and well-being of all children
- Inform engage and empower our members and the public on issues concerning children and families
- Mentor the leaders of tomorrow Promote, practice and embrace inclusiveness
- Promote and build family engagement to foster positive outcomes for every child
- Strengthen our voice for all children by increasing membership

Our mission is to positively impact the lives of all children and families.

Together, we will continue to work to make our schools the best they can be for our children.



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Dispelling Myths About COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids



Graham Tse, M.D.,
chief medical officer,
MemorialCare
Miller Children's &
Women's Hospital
Long Beach

Immunizations are one of the best means of protection against contagious diseases, including COVID-19. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine recently received full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for people 16 years and older, which means this vaccine met high standards for safety and effectiveness. The CDC continues to recommend everyone 12 years and older get a COVID-19 vaccine, this is especially important as the new school year begins.

There is a lot of misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccinations for kids. Below are answers to common questions you may have.

COVID-19 doesn't affect children as much, so why should my child still get vaccinated?

Anyone can be infected with COVID-19. Fortunately, it's rare for kids to get seriously ill from COVID-19. However, with the highly contagious Delta variant, there has been an increase in cases and hospitalizations in kids. Unvaccinated children also can spread COVID-19 to others.

If my child already had COVID-19, should they still be vaccinated?

Children should be vaccinated regardless of whether they already had COVID-19. Research has not yet shown how long they are protected from getting COVID-19 again after they recover and immunizations have been shown to provide increased immunity from COVID-19 infection even better than an actual COVID infection.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine alter my child's DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines will not change or interact with your child's DNA in any way. They deliver instructions to our cells to start building protection against the virus that causes COVID-19.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine cause fertility issues?

There is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of COVID-19 vaccines.



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South Bay Adult School

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Drew Gamet
Director

Thrilled to Have Students Back in Class

We are so excited to have students returning to in person instruction this fall. Even though we were one of the few Adult School programs that stayed open online continuously since March of 2020, there is simply no substitution for having you back on campus. We are also thrilled that many of our Pathways students that are dual enrolled at SBAS and El Camino Community College will have many of their classes in person as well.

However, there are some important safety points that you should be aware of. Just like the RBUSD K-12 schools, all of our staff is either vaccinated or required to regularly COVID test. Also, masks ARE REQUIRED while inside classrooms as well. We are also asking student to maintain social distancing at all time. (Inside and outside) And, just like K-12, all students will need to self-screen before coming to campus every day.

Together, we are going to have an incredible term and we are looking forward to seeing you all!!



The South Bay Adult School Staff, READY TO HAVE YOU BACK!!!



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Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Welcome Back Students

At The Child Development Centers, we are enjoying welcoming all of our new Kindergarteners, as well as our continuing and returning school age students, to a 2021-2022 school year filled with many exciting and engaging possibilities.

Since opening in June of 2020 with 167 students, then expanding last fall to 450 students, our focus has been on safety, implementing stimulating activities, and growth. We now have 1,145 students enrolled across the district. The CDC team; Instructional Assistants, Teachers, and Site Supervisors, diligently work to provide a program for students that is educational, enriching, and most importantly fun in a space that is safe, all while we continue to abide by the LACPHD guidelines. Our students make it all worth it! We are truly excited to

welcome more students back to in person school and CDC and can't wait see their full bright smiles, but for now, we'll enjoy seeing the smile in their eyes.



Adults have fun at CDC too!

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Ages 3-5; Tues.&Wed.
"Goldilocks & the Bears"

Strum & Sing
Ages 6-10;
Tues.& Th.
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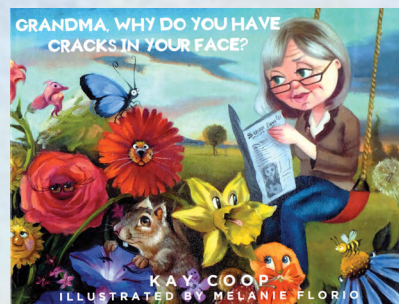


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for more information



Grandma, Why Do You Have Cracks In Your Face?



Is a question many grandmothers have heard from their grandchildren. When a grandchild finds her beautiful lost doll, she understands beauty is more than skin deep.

By Kay Coop | Illustrated by Melanie Florio

RBUSD Alternative Education

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



Jens Brandt
Principal

Not One Set Path

We have truly appreciated welcoming all of you back for the 21-22 school year. Our team, of exceptional educators and staff, is ready to make this a fantastic school year for our deserving students. While we continue to face so many different challenges, our resilient young people and wise teachers are already working together to learn, grow, and thrive. We are very proud of our students at

Patricia Dreizler High School and Redondo Beach Learning Academy for showing up every day, getting their work done, and safely enjoying each other's company.

While some of our students intend to return to RUHS, others look forward to graduating early. This is the beauty of alternative education. There is not one set path, but many. We encourage all of our amazing and unique students to find the route that best suits their academic and career interests, as well as their health and happiness.



Patricia Dreizler High School Staff Welcomes Students to the 2021-2022 School Year!



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Adams *Middle School (6–8)*

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Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Welcome Back, Eagles

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We hope that you and your families enjoyed a relaxing summer vacation filled with rest and leisure activities. For those families new to the Adams community, we would like to extend a very special welcome. Our dedicated staff has been working hard in preparing for another amazing school year as we work towards normalcy. We look forward to building relationships with our students in person.

As always, the community and I would like to extend a warm welcome to those families who are new to the school. Our inclusivity is a source of pride, and you will be hard pressed to find a more welcoming and supportive school community. As our returning families are aware, we strive to ensure that every child feels welcomed, connected, and a part of the Adams family, providing the high-quality education that our students deserve.

Recently, a research firm called Niche publicly ranked Adams as having the No.5 best public middle school teachers in California. We are proud of the hard work our staff puts in each day to ensure that (y)our students excel.

This year, our goal as a school will be to accelerate student learning, a process by which every child has an opportunity to do the grade-level work that will prepare them to reach their academic goals. Accelerating students means not rushing through the curriculum, but rather using proven strategies that will help them engage with the most critical work of their grade, while providing strategic

and intentional intervention when needed to close learning gaps.

In addition, we want to welcome students back to school in a supportive and challenging academic environment where social-emotional learning is incorporated in every aspect of the school day, as we recognize the isolation that many may have experienced in distance learning.

We ask all of our families to help us in three small ways. First, show your appreciation to our wonderful teachers and staff whenever you can. Second, become involved in the PTSA. Your membership in the PTSA is critical, but your time and talent go much further. We have some exciting PTSA events and programs planned this year that can only work if everyone pitches in to help.

Third, give to the Redondo Beach Ed Foundation if possible. Thanks to the RBEF, we continue to have ongoing teacher release-time for collaboration, a college-going culture, music, and STEAM-related activities (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) at all RBUSD schools!

Lastly, we ask all of our families to make the commitment to become involved in at least one activity or event this school year. Multiple studies show that committed and connected parents produce high-achieving students.

Our entire team is looking forward to an amazing year, one focused on improving student learning, continued social-emotional growth, and strengthening our commitment to the community. Thank you for your commitment to the Adams learning community!

Alta Vista *Elementary School (K–5)*

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



Karin Sato
Principal

Welcome Back 2021 -2022

Joy. That word comes to mind as we successfully welcomed back the students at Alta Vista Elementary. Joy was evident on the faces of our students, staff, and community. There was laughter, hugs, and kisses as our Wildcats said goodbye to their families and entered through the gates. There were joyful hellos

as students walked through the doors of their classrooms greeted by teachers who welcomed them with a warm hello and making each student feel special with a personalized nameplate, folder, or a special welcome greeting posted on the wall. This was my first opening as the new principal of Alta Vista and a joyful one! Welcome Back Wildcats. It is going to be a great year.



Alta Vista's Wildcat spreading joy to the AV community.

BEACH CITIES VOLLEYBALL 2021

BOYS PRE-TRYOUT CLINIC

Thursday, September 9 • 5pm - 7pm

BOYS TRYOUTS

Friday, September 10 • 6pm - 8pm

Saturday, September 11 • 10am - Noon

Sunday, Sept 12 • 5pm - 7pm

Questions: Please call or text Coach Christian 310-382-0899
or email info@beachcitiesvbc.com

BOYS SEPTEMBER SUNDAY CLINIC

Last session! ^{fun!} Sunday, Sept 12 • 5pm - 7pm

FUTURE STARS ENTRY LEVEL VOLLEYBALL

Boys and girls ages 8 to 13 years. Little to no volleyball experience required • 2 days per week or Saturdays only • 8-week sessions thru June 2022 • Coach Phil: philspazek@gmail.com or (310) 889-6496

SESSION 1: SEPT. 20 through NOV. 13

Option A: Mondays and Wednesdays 4pm - 5:30 pm
(September 20 through November 10)

Option B: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4pm - 5:30 pm
(September 21 through November 11)

Option C: Fridays 4pm - 5:30pm & Saturdays 11am - 12:30pm
(Sept. 24 through Nov. 13)

Option D: Saturdays only: 9am - 10:30am or 11am - 12:30pm
(Sept. 25 through Nov. 13)

GIRLS

14 & UNDER

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY CLINICS

SUNDAYS • 3pm to 5pm

Sept. 12, Sept. 19, Sept. 26

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

PRE-TRYOUT CLINICS

Thurs., Sept. 30 • 5pm to 7pm

Friday, Oct. 1 • 5pm to 7pm

GIRLS 14 & UNDER

TRYOUTS

Saturday, October 2

10am- 12pm: Girls 12 & Under

2pm - 4pm: Girls 13 & 14

Sunday October 3

ALL AGES: 4pm - 6pm

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

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Sundays 3pm - 5pm

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Sign up now at BEACHCITIESVBC.com or call (310) 546-9150

Family Assistance available for players with documented financial need • Beach Cities Volleyball Club is a non-profit 501(c) (3) corporation in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service & California Franchise Tax Board. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Federal I.D. #91-2163900

Beryl Heights *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Karen Mohr
Principal

Welcome Back to Another Fantastic Year

We are off and running with the 2021-2022 school year! Our Beryl staff is excited and ready to partner with all of our students and families for another fantastic year.

Our teachers have been preparing to make this the best year yet by teaching to rigorous standards at every grade level, preparing for school events, and encouraging accelerated learning at all levels.

In addition to our rigorous curriculum, we also embed our Character Counts recognition program within daily activities. We welcome your questions, and ask that you become an active participant in your child's education.

Remember to check the communications from your teacher each day, and reach out to our staff whenever you have questions. We hope that you are also signed up with Parent Square and are receiving our weekly school information through your email. You can download the Parent Square app on your phone and get messages that way, too!

Throughout the school year, talk with your child about



Welcome Back Beryl Heights Students!

their day and ask them what they have learned. Devote 30 to 60 minutes a night to discuss 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 too by keeping an open communication with their teacher.

Attendance is one of the keys to your child's success. School starts at 8:15 a.m. every day.

Please have your students arrive

on time to acclimate them 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 cannot do our job of educating your child if he or she is absent. Being late for school also hurts a child's learning. A student who is consistently late every day could miss up to 30 hours of instruction during the year, so please make sure that your child attends school regularly and on time!

Behind our school is a dedicated team ready to help your student excel and have an amazing educational year. The Beryl staff is looking forward to a successful school year.

Birney *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Creating a Positive Mindset

Welcome back, Bobcats! I am truly looking forward to a new school year and our students now attending in person.

We want to welcome all of our returning Birney families, and also 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. Kicking in the school year with a positive mindset can make all the difference socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. This is something that we must work on with our students every day both at school and in the home.

There is a real connection between the mind and body. We have all heard stories about patients who were ill and had a positive outlook and attitude which 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 make a difference in their well-being.

There are ways that we, as adults, can guide our students in having a positive mindset. A positive mindset can also be contagious. Here are some items to incorporate in your daily life that can help with fostering a positive mindset in your student and 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 the things that are done well, and support those that are a bit of a challenge.

Let's start the new school year with a positive mindset. This can make all the difference in your child. Our entire Birney staff will continue to take our students on this wonderful journey of positive thinking. I am certain that this year will be a fantastic one to remember!

Jefferson *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Ready and Steady

Team Jefferson is excited to have our doors open to welcome students back for full-day instruction during the 2021-2022 school year!

As we proceed into the fall, we again find ourselves in a different set of circumstances than past years. While we are relieved that this fall is not a re-do of 2020, it is also not a return to “business as usual” for the start of school like 2019 was, either.

With this in mind, we have approached the beginning of the school year knowing that things in our collective world are still a bit different for everyone. At Jefferson, we are confident that we will continue to be a place where we support our students the very best we can, and under the conditions we all find ourselves in, whatever they are.

We are committed to continue to learn together as we proceed into the fall season, and will do so with patience, flexibility, and positivity. Our goal remains to safely serve as genuine partners in education, and to deliver as a team on behalf of our students and community.



Team Jefferson is ready to stay clean and green!

Lincoln *Elementary School (K-5)*

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8646 • lincoln.rbusd.org



Brianne Nakayama
Principal

Supporting a Strong Start

The Lincoln community has made sure that the new school year is off to an amazing start. Our PTA recently welcomed families and students back to campus with our Back to School Kickoff events. It was wonderful to see our community together for the first time in nearly a year and a half. Having the opportunity to host annual events in person again set the tone for a return to the traditions that our community holds dear.

We as adults enjoy sending our children back to school, but it is important that we remember to establish routines that will ensure they have a strong start. The beginning of every school year has teachers taking the time to explicitly instruct every student in the rules, expectations, and procedures that are required in both the classroom and at Lincoln. Teaching and modeling clear expectations for our students ensures that they will experience success in the daily routines of school.

Parents, it is important to remember that your children also need to be taught (and sometimes re-taught) the rules, expectations, and procedures at home when it is time for them to return to school. As a parent myself, I know first hand how important consistency is to keep my home and sanity intact. You will want to have:

A consistent time for your child to go to bed and wake up each morning. Elementary school students need between 9-11 hours of sleep each night, so be sure to adjust bedtime accordingly.

An established and organized space and plan on how to complete homework.

Time to do as much as you can the night before to make lunches, pack backpacks, and charge Chromebooks.

Scheduled, uninterrupted time each day to discuss the school day with your child.

At Lincoln, we are already off to a strong start. By working together, I know that our students will be achieving great success this year.

Madison Elementary School (K-5)

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



Dr. Heather Cash
Principal

Twist and Turn!

Our return to school at Madison has meant a continuation in our learning about how to be flexible and adapt as we work as a school community to give children what they need to thrive. We have great models in our students as they boast fun masks and frequent handwashing with good humor and positive energy! Students' energy and excitement is contagious for all of us. We are so very appreciative of our families' partnership in keeping everyone safe and following safety protocols, as inconvenient as they sometimes can be. With humor, grace and quite a bit of practice, we'll all learn to bend and flex, just like this Comet, finding reasons to laugh along the way!



Victoria is having fun at school!

Parras Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Jonathan Erickson
Principal

Welcome Back to Parras Middle School!

Welcome to our 2021-2022 school year. We are so excited to be having our students back on campus for full-length school days. It has been a gradual rebuilding since we closed the campus in March of 2020, from distance learning to hybrid learning and now (almost) completely back to normal.

It will be our goal this year to constantly strive for balance in physical health, social-emotional well-being, and academic excellence, and in this order of priority. We need to have our physical health to do anything else, and so please help us make sure that everyone follows all of the health and safety protocols.

Secondly, the pandemic has done more than cause direct physical health problems, because many people have suffered emotionally as well. At Parras, we will continue with our social-emotional learning program in advisement through the SecondStep curriculum, as well as through our many other counseling and support programs.



Dr. Erickson welcomes students to the 2021-2022 school year.

Finally, and more than ever, we are supporting academic excellence in all classes to accelerate learning after so much disruption last year. As always, thank you so much for being our partner in these efforts. Together, we can do incredible things for our students

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Anthony Bridi
Principal

Creating Great Learning Experiences

As we approach the beginning of another school year at RUHS, we hope that

you and your family have enjoyed a safe, relaxing, and healthy summer vacation! Our teachers and staff look forward to welcoming your children back (for a full school day) to the best high school in the South Bay and beyond, Redondo Union!

While preparing your students for the 2021-2022 school year, this is a wonderful opportunity to discuss our shared expectations with regards to your child's active participation in the teaching and learning process. We have highly-qualified and exceptionally talented teachers throughout the RBUSD, and the high school is no exception. Our teachers spend countless hours preparing and delivering rigorous, relevant, and engaging lessons which promote and support opportunities for curiosity, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communication.

One of the silver linings from distance learning is that the technology skills of our staff members and students have improved. Our staff and students are comfortable, competent, and connected through their Chromebooks, Schoology, and dozens of other learning apps and platforms. As a result of this collective effort, our students are better prepared for an ever-evolving world.



RUHS seniors speed interviewing in Mr. Soo Hoo's class.

Despite all of the extraordinary instructional practices and opportunities for student engagement, there is one essential ingredient for student success at RUHS. In order to truly benefit from the variety of academic courses and pathways made available to them, our children must be active participants in the learning process! What does active participation look and sound like in a Redondo classroom? Productive students ask questions, take notes, contribute to discussions, innovate

when challenged, and constantly reflect, just to name a few.

Finally, 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 the time you spend here. You are on a schedule, you have responsibilities to take care of, others rely upon 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! RUHS families, we thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to create engaging and effective classroom learning experiences for all RUHS students.

BEACH CITIES VOLLEYBALL 2021

BOYS and GIRLS fun!
CLINICS and TRYOUTS

**Please see ad
on page 13**

Tulita *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Andrew Estrada
Principal

We Got This!

Welcome to the new school year, Tulita! We hope that you have enjoyed a restful summer with your loved ones. The Tulita staff has been hard at work preparing for the safe return of our students, and we look forward to an incredible year. This school year is full of potential, and our return to full in-person learning has created a buzz around our campus.

The return to full in-person learning also means the re-establishment of routines and best practices to ensure that our students will have a successful year. Eating a balanced breakfast and getting plenty of sleep, reading for at least 20 minutes a day at home, and engaging in regular conversations with your student about their day at school are all keys to being successful at school.

One area that is critical to our students' academic and personal growth is for them to engage in goal-setting.

Having an age-appropriate and ongoing dialogue at home as the school year progresses through the first few weeks is a positive way to get started and focused. Goals should be intentional, realistic, and specific. Goals should also be driven by the student, with input from the adults in the home.

When setting goals with your student, reflect upon those that were set in the past to help determine a reasonable starting point. Remember that each new school year brings different challenges and circumstances that should be considered. With this in mind, it is best to determine short, medium, and long-term goals for your students. Goals can and should be connected to areas of academic, social-emotional, and physical growth.

Between setting specific realistic goals and being thoughtful in crafting them, this year will undoubtedly get off to a great start. There is a lot to celebrate and look forward to this year. Let's make it count!

Washington *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Andrea Bittick
Principal

Encouraging Community

Our focus for the new school year at Washington is on connections and community building. We are committed to fostering and enhancing connections with students, families, staff members, and within the larger community. Everyone has been so resilient over the past year and half, and now is the time to come together and continue to support one another.

Programs that we have used in the past, like Start with Hello and the Gratitude Campaign, will return this school year. These programs help to develop a sense of belonging for our students. Children who feel connected to school tend to perform better academically. These programs also help support the social and emotional needs of our students while also developing our sense of school community.

Our PTA's theme this year is "Better Together." We will be hosting virtual and in-person events where students and families can have the opportunity to engage in activities that promote belonging. Some of these events include Multicultural Night, Movie Night, Earth Day Fair, and Family Fun Night. It is going to be a great year at Washington!



Better Together!

2021-22 Washington PTA Logo

David's Review



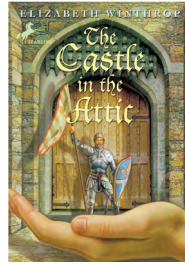
David H.

Big Small Adventure

Title: *The Castle in the Attic*

Author: Elizabeth Winthrop

Do you like magic, knights, dragons, and adventure? Then this is the book for you.



William is a boy that loves his nanny and housekeeper, Mrs. Phillips, who has taken care of him since he was born. She is retiring and he doesn't want her to leave. She gives him a giant toy castle and a toy knight inside it as a goodbye present. William finds out that the toy knight, Sir Simon, is actually alive and the invisible kingdom inside the castle has been taken over by the evil wizard Alastor! William has Sir Simon shrink Mrs. Phillips with a magic coin so that she can't leave William and can stay with him forever. Then William shrinks himself so he can save the kingdom from the evil wizard.

Read this book to find out if William saves the day!

David is in fourth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and outdoor activities such as rock climbing, tennis, and basketball.

Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Best Friends

Title: *Narwhal's Otter Friend*

(A *Narwhal and Jelly* Book #4)

Author: Ben Clanton

Narwhal the narwhal and Jelly the jellyfish are best friends. One day, they are swimming in the ocean when they meet Otty the



Otter. Otty is an adventurer that has done lots of cool stuff and met many animals. Otty wants to go on his next adventure and invites Narwhal to join him. They forget to invite Jelly. Jelly becomes jealous and wonders if he is still Narwhal's best friend. Is Otty now Narwhal's best friend? What will happen to Jelly? You will find out if you read this book.

This book is really cute and funny and made me laugh while I was reading it. I hope you read it and like it as much as I did!

Daniel is in second grade and he likes to spend time with his family playing board games, reading, and playing sports like tennis, soccer, and basketball.

Halloween 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)

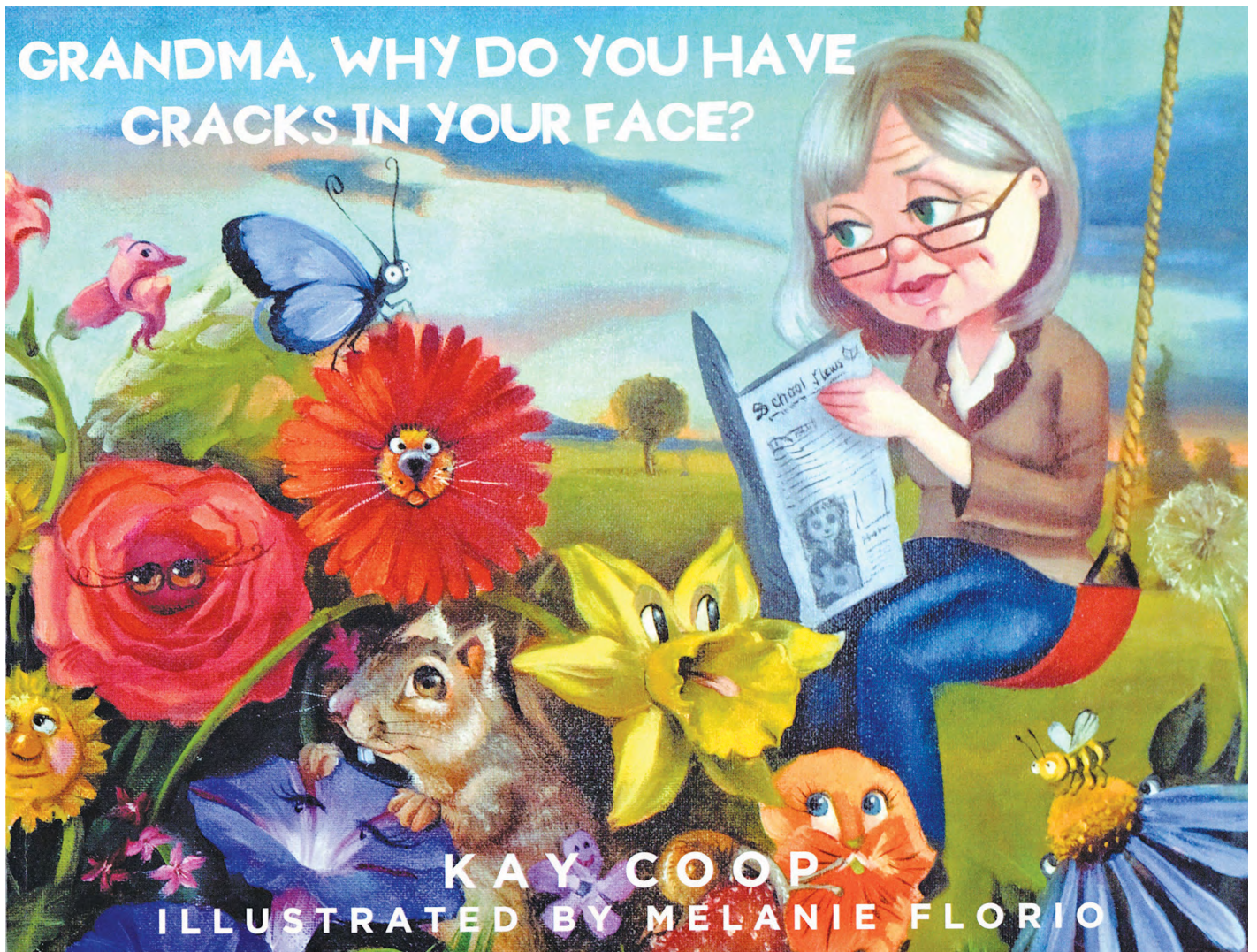
Entries must be received by October 20, 2021

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

BLACK CAT	HALLOWEEN
CANDY	JACK O LANTERN
CARVE	MUMMY
CEMETERY	SKELETON
COSTUME	SPIDER
DECORATIONS	SWAMP CREATURE
FRANKENSTEIN	TRICK OR TREAT
FRIGHTFUL	VAMPIRE
GHOST	WEB
GHOUL	WEREWOLF
GRAVE	WITCH
HAUNTED HOUSE	ZOMBIE

N	I	E	T	S	N	E	K	N	A	R	F	D	E	N
R	D	S	V	A	M	P	I	R	E	C	L	B	V	Q
E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	P	M	A	W	S	R	A
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T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
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GRANDMA, WHY DO YOU HAVE CRACKS IN YOUR FACE?



KAY COOP
ILLUSTRATED BY MELANIE FLORIO



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*Grandma, Why Do You Have
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question many grandmothers
have heard from their
grandchildren. When a
grandchild finds her beautiful
lost doll, she understands
beauty is more than skin deep.