

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Redondo Beach Unified School District



Volume 16, Issue 128

September 2022

Welcome Back to School



**Parras Middle School Associated Student Body students pose with their sticky notes posted on a goal board!
(please see page 13)**

Board of Education



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Superintendent



Dr. Steven Keller

I hope the start of the school year is going well for your child(ren). As I have interacted with some of you during this year's return to school, I appreciated your care and support for Team RBUSD. Your kindness means so much to all of us.

I started my teaching career in Rancho Cucamonga in 1986. I was 22 years old. Since then, I have never looked back, only forward. I had other school district jobs in Fullerton, Baldwin Park, and Laguna Beach. I arrived to RBUSD in 2006. I am so glad I did. This district and this job have meant the world to me, professionally and personally. I attended Walteria Elementary, Newton/Richardson Middle School, and South High in Torrance USD as a child. This community has always been home to me and it still is today.

After 36+ years in public education, I will retire at the end of December. I am ready and I am excited. I will dabble with a few part-time jobs, which will keep me active, although serving as my daughter's personal driver will be the priority.

We have nearly four months remaining as educational partners. Let's make the most of this time together and push harder for the betterment of our kids and our learning community.

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

Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

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



**Doris
Donlou-
Richmond**
President

Together for Education

Welcome Back RBUSD Families!

What a joy it has been to see our RBUSD students as they return to campus for the 2022-23 school year. You can just feel the electricity in the air!

The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation shares in that excitement about the opportunities ahead for our RBUSD students. Excited about what they will learn together in the classroom, the time they will spend together on the fields, the creations our robotics teams will build together and the music our students will play and sing together.

Through the years, your generous investments have brought critical teachers and programs into our district classrooms, including: Band Teachers, Vocal Music Teachers, PE Teachers, Robotics, E-Sports, Teacher Grants, Intramural Sports, early College Aptitude Tests and so much more.

As we come Together for Education, RBEF gratefully recognizes that we cannot do what we do without our entire community uniting for the most important cause of all – our students! Together, we help keep that buzz of excitement going for all of our students and the opportunities for them become limitless.

Please visit the all new www.RBEF.org to learn about the current RBEF Investor Drive Blitz campaign and other special opportunities to support RBEF.

Together, we all make a difference in our children's futures.

Board of Education



**Raymur
Flinn**
Presiding Officer

On behalf of the Redondo Beach Unified School Board it is my pleasure to welcome you back to school.

As we welcome our students to campus for another amazing year, I encourage you to get involved. We are blessed to have the amazing support of community partners such as PTA, the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), and the Beach Cities Health District (BCHD). All three of these organizations welcome and need your support to continue to provide the unique, kid-centered programs for our students, teachers, and families.

Together we will continue to work to make our schools the best they can be for our students. Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful school year!

Board of Education Meeting Dates

| 2022 | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| September 13 | October 11 | November 8* |
| September 27 | October 25 | December 13* |
| 2023 | | |
| January 10 | March 14 | May 9 |
| January 24 | March 28 | May 23 |
| February 14 | April 4 | June 13 |
| February 28 | April 25* | June 27 |

(6:00 P.M. – Open Session for Sept. 27)
(4/4/23 – Swearing-In and Organizational Special Meeting Only)
*** Due to holiday/local holiday schedule, only one Regular Board meeting in November, December 2022 and April 2023.**



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Welcome to a new school year!

Dr. Keller begins this issue on page 3 with his message including the announcement of his pending retirement in December. Although his retirement is well-deserved, selfishly I will miss his positive messages. However, I have no doubt the incoming superintendent will continue with positive leadership.

Long gone are the dusty erasers from chalk on blackboards replaced with the latest in technology including digitize interactive whiteboards. In this issue you will

read about goal setting, focus on kindness and respect, safety, and much more.

On pages 16-19 we have included the popular student book reviews. If your child would like to review favorite books, please email me for guidelines. Also, don't forget to enter the word search contest (all ages may enter).

Our scheduled issues for this school year are November 9, February 1, 2023 and May 3. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices..

School News

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Covering the
REDONDO BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Beach Cities Health District

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



Emory Chen
Director
Youth Services

BCHD Helps Students Have a Healthy School Year

Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) is excited to kick off a new academic year of the LiveWell Kids Garden and Nutrition hybrid, farm-to-table program in alignment with our health priority of physical and brain health. The initiative is comprised of six, 30-minute interactive lessons, focused 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 garden by trained parent volunteers.

On October 12, the in-person celebration of Walk and Roll to School Day returns after a two-year hiatus to encourage more kid-power and less horsepower. This annual event will bring together BCHD staff, local elected officials, police officers, RBUSD school administrators, parents, students and volunteers walking designated routes in promotion of safe streets and physically active transportation.

BCHD will open the doors this fall to “allcove Beach Cities,” our new youth wellness center, which will be temporarily located at our campus of 514 N. Prospect Ave. BCHD is partnering with allcove, a program developing an innovative network of integrated youth mental health centers across California. With support from California’s Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission and the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing, allcove Beach Cities will offer many services for young people ages 12-25, including mental health, physical health, substance use, peer support, family support, life skills and supported education and employment services.

For information, support and referrals for youth and families, call Beach Cities Health District’s Youth Well-Being Line (310) 374-3426 and press option 2
Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and Friday: 8a.m. - 12p.m.
More information is available at bchd.org.



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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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Redondo Beach Council PTA

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

Redondo Beach Council
PTA
everychild.onevoice®



Heather Willoughby
President

Welcome Back

On Behalf of the Redondo Beach Council PTA, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year!

Your PTA Leaders have been hard at work preparing for the students return and they are 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. The strength of our PTA depends upon the involvement and commitment of all parents, students and staff.

It is our goal to advocate for all children, mentor tomorrow's leaders, promote family engagement, and strengthen our voice through increased 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. Thank you for your continued support and have a wonderful year.



PTA leaders welcome teachers and staff at the Back to School Rally



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back page

Uterine Fibroids are Common, But How Does it Affect Pregnancy and Fertility?



Elizabeth H. West, M.D.,
obstetrics and
gynecology
specialist, FACOG,
MemorialCare
Medical Group –
Douglas Park

Uterine fibroids are the most common noncancerous tumors in women of childbearing age. Approximately three million women in the United States have fibroids. Fibroids are made up of muscle cells and other tissues that grow in and around the wall of the uterus. Some women may experience symptoms if they have fibroids, such as:

- Heavy periods
- Feeling full in the lower abdomen
- Urinating often
- Lower back pain
- Reproductive problems

If a woman happens to experience symptoms of fibroids or if it is suspected that fibroids are present during a routine exam, tests may be ordered to help confirm the diagnosis, such as an ultrasound or an MRI.

Approximately 10 to 30 percent of women with fibroids develop complications during pregnancy. The most common complication of fibroids during pregnancy is pain.

Treatment for fibroids is decided on a case-by-case basis. It is based on the symptoms a person experiences, what is found during a routine pelvic exam, and the fibroids' size/shape/location.

During pregnancy, treatment for uterine fibroids is limited because of the risk to the baby. A treatment option for pregnant women is removing the fibroids during a C-section delivery. As this is a risky procedure, this is only done if necessary. The safest way to treat fibroids is to remove them before pregnancy or after the post-partum period.

If you're planning a pregnancy and have been diagnosed with fibroids or suspect you have them schedule an appointment with your doctor. Knowing if you have uterine fibroids before will help ensure that you and your baby are safe throughout the pregnancy.

To learn more, visit memorialcare.org/OBGYN.

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RBUSD Alternative Education

1000 Del Amo St., Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310/798-8690 • <https://pdhs.rbused.org/>



Jens Brandt
Principal

Positive and Productive School Year

We are so happy to welcome back all of our Patricia Dreizler High School (PDHS) and alternative education students, colleagues, friends, and families. Our team, of outstanding educators and staff, is ready to make this

yet another awesome school year for

our very deserving students. We are always proud of our students at PDHS and Redondo Beach Learning Academy for showing up every day (and on time), getting their work done, learning important social and life skills, and preparing themselves for college and career. We appreciate your dedication to education, self-improvement, and future success!

Much like our incredible PDHS Class of 2022, we have lofty expectations for our new and returning Dreizler students. We know their paths will follow the unique and resilient journeys provided by their peers before them. We wish our PDHS Breakers, as well as all RBUSD students, a positive and productive 22-23 school year!



Our PDHS Class of 2022 celebrates a wonderful moment of collective accomplishments and happiness

RBUSD Educational Services

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



Dr. Susan Wildes
Assistant Superintendent

Curricula Materials Matter

During the 2021-22 school year, RBUSD teachers, administrators, parents, and Board members came together to engage in the study of best practices around early literacy, culminating with a K-5 English/language arts curriculum adoption recommendation.

Why was this process of learning, reviewing, and

studying so critical? The team understood that students learn primarily through interactions with teachers and instructional materials. So the selection of a program was one of the most impactful decisions we could make as a district. RBUSD has adopted Wit & Wisdom/Geodes/Fundations for all students in grades K-5, developed using the science of reading, with particular

emphasis on knowledge building, foundational skills, and evidenced-based questions, tasks, and assignments. Throughout the summer, teachers and administrators have engaged in rich professional development that will continue over the next three years of implementation. We look forward to seeing all students engaging with rich texts, worthy of great conversations and study.



Elementary teachers engaging in summer professional development in teaching foundational skills.

RBUSD Child Development

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



Theresa Van Dusen
Director

Welcome to a New Year

We are excited to be starting the 2022-2023 school year and everyone is looking forward to meeting all of our new families and welcoming back our old friends. It is hard to believe that summer is already over, since CDC has been in

full swing all summer with our amazing summer program where our students were active doing fun (and educational) activities that included on site visits and lots of imagination.

We are now shifting gears and focusing on having a fun and successful school year with continued collaboration between the school-age CDC teachers and the primary school teachers so that we can build on their instruction. Our teachers also provide activities that not only enrich a child's school experience but also allows them to have a fun time.



Hoop it up summer visit.

We are very excited to begin the new school year and we look forward to another great year.

South Bay Adult School

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



Dr. Suzanne Webb
Director

Fall Term 2022

It is an exciting time at SBAS — we have spent most of August preparing for a positive, in-person learning experience for our adult students this fall. Activities include testing our incoming students via the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessments (CASAS), holding student orientations, and providing team building and professional development opportunities for teachers and staff. Fall Term begins on

August 29, 2022 as we welcome students in the following programs – English as a Second Language - ESL (six levels), Citizenship, Adult Basic Education (English and Math Academies), High School Diploma, GED, Adult Transition Program, and Career Pathways Support Classes for students who are dual enrolled at SBAS and El Camino Community College.

As the new Director of SBAS, I am honored to work with a team of teachers and staff who are genuinely committed to helping adult students achieve their dreams and goals. Welcome back, Adult Students!



Our mural welcomes our students back on campus!

Adams Middle School (6-8)

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



Dr. Tanaz Bruna
Principal

Fantastic Year Ahead!

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! I am happy to announce that Adams PTSA was recently recognized as a National PTSA School of Excellence. This recognition is given to school communities with excellent open lines of communication and data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results. The School of Excellence program is committed to supporting and recognizing

partnerships between local PTSAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Congratulations to our Adams PTSA and our entire community for this outstanding honor!

In addition to this great news, a research firm called Niche publicly ranked Adams as having the number-three best public middle school teachers in Los Angeles County! I am proud of the hard work our staff puts in each day to ensure that our students excel and reach their full potential. I am certain that your children's academic careers at Adams will be both prosperous and enjoyable.

At Adams, we want each and every student to meet their growth potential inside and outside the classroom. Middle school can be a tough time for many of our young students. It is a time when they are experiencing growing pains, both physically and emotionally. They are working on finding where they fit in among peers and who they truly are. At Adams, we want to educate, support, and nurture them through this

journey. We want our students to become lifelong learners, self-advocates and active members of a larger learning community. Here are some ways you can help your children be successful:

Help them be self-advocates. If concerns arise during the school year, have them reach out to the proper adult on campus for support. Our counselors, teachers and staff are here to always help navigate a difficult situation.

Let them fail. Having a growth mindset versus a fixed mindset is so important at any age. Help them be resilient when they experience disappointment and failure. We will continue to message this to our students regularly.

Encourage them to take risks. Try out for sports teams, join new clubs, experience new experiences. These are ways they can find their passion. We will provide our students with various opportunities to be part of our school community outside the classroom.

Get involved. Read our emails, participate in school and district events, attend parent-teacher conferences. We strive to have open lines of communication and transparency with our families and students.

Above all, we are dedicated to students finding success, which we know means different things for different people but must always at least include feeling valued and respected. We thank you for your support and partnership in this goal, and together we will continue to build the legacy of Adams through the success of our students. I believe in the power of collaboration and the importance of communication, so please know that we are only an email or a phone call away. I look forward to a successful and rewarding school year!

Alta Vista Elementary School (K-5)

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



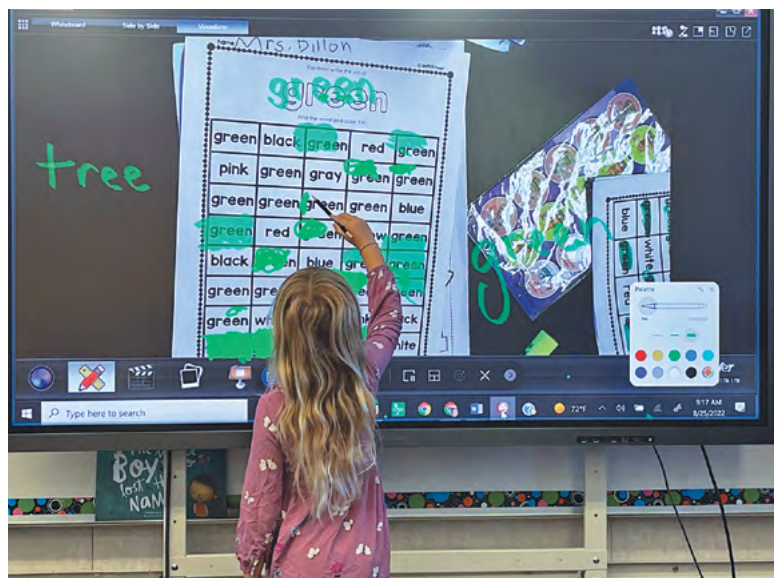
Karin Sato
Principal

Welcome Back Wildcats

Welcome back Wildcats. The Alta Vista Elementary staff is fervently excited to engage in meaningful experiences with our talented, intelligent and inquisitive students. We are also looking forward to a productive partnership with our parent community to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential.

Alta Vista continues to enhance student learning. Over the summer, our classroom projectors were removed and replaced with upgraded technology. The Samsung Flip TV screens are a digitize interactive whiteboard which also serves as a collaborative tool that will allow our students and staff to quickly find, mark up and share whatever they need.

It is going to be a great year at Alta Vista!



Student interacting with our upgraded Samsung Interactive Flip TV screen.

Beryl Heights *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Joshua Stern
Principal

Welcome Back!

Beryl Heights Elementary School is excited to welcome everyone back to school for the 2022-23 school year! As we start the school year, we do so with gratitude. We are grateful for our amazing students and staff who are returning for another year of learning in the classroom. The

excitement over parents and guardians coming back to our campus is filling our buckets! We can't wait to see our volunteers on campus helping with Hands on Art and our families getting together to create more bonds at our after-school events, such as Movie Night.

Our wonderful teachers are already building relationships with our Beryl students, teaching them about kindness and respect while also building their learning stamina and resiliency in the classroom. We are also welcoming a new English curriculum, Wit and Wisdom, that will further engage students and continue our efforts to deliver equity-driven instruction. Our incredible kindergarten teacher,



Mrs. Collins, greets her students with kindness and love every day. They put forth their best efforts as she encourages them through the challenges of what for some is their first experience in a classroom. Just like the rest of our Beryl staff, Mrs. Collins guides her students with grace.

Birney *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Eileen Leckenby
Principal

Birney Bobcats are Back!

Birney can be described in one word- welcoming. This was true as we celebrated the new school year starting. Our PTA and staff kicked things off with an amazing Ice Cream Social event. Our Kindergarten team welcomed the newest and youngest Bobcats to the school community with

joy and care, and hosted a wonderful Back to School Night before school even started!

It is not just the large events, however, that have made Birney such a welcoming place. It is the little moments, too. It is the staff members seeking out a student who looks lonely at recess and including them in the play. It is in the kindness that students show to each other. It is in the moments of gratitude, where students thank their teachers by drawing them pictures, and the staff members exchanging notes of appreciation. These moments of connection make this community so special. Welcome back, Birney Bobcats, to another amazing school year.



Birney students at the Ice Cream Social.

Jefferson *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Jeff Winckler
Principal

Falling into Place

As we move away from the very opening of the school year, many things begin to come together at Jefferson as we start to establish a rhythm and pace for the fall. Teachers and staff get a firmer read on the dynamics of their classrooms, while students and families settle in and ideally get comfortable. It is during this time that we as a collective whole begin to have a

sense of how the year feels as a school community. There are many school and local events in September and October that help shape synergy and connectivity across the Jefferson community. These events include the start of Jefferson's Running Club, Beach Cities Garden and Nutrition Programs, the first Hands On Art lesson, Red Ribbon Week, PTA Movie Night, the Skechers Pier to Pier Walk, and the Halloween Parade. Together, they help bring Jefferson together and fall into place for the months ahead.



Getting the school year going at Jefferson.

Lincoln *Elementary School (K-5)*

2223 Plant Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278 • 310/798-8631 • lincoln.rbusd.org



Marvin Brown
Principal

Our Theme: Connecting

Welcome to the start of the 2022-23 school year!

I am honored to be the new principal of Lincoln Elementary and joining a community of excellence.

Whether you are returning to Lincoln from your summer break or are new

to our school, we are pleased to welcome you back!

Our theme this school year is Connecting. There's nothing more powerful than making strong connections. This school year, our students will connect with friends, with their wonderful teachers, and with the new Wit & Wisdom ELA curriculum. Our staff will connect by collaborating like never before. They will feel connected to a supportive team that starts in the office. Additionally, we understand the importance and need for our staff to be connected with you, especially during these unstable times. With connection comes safety, with safety comes engagement, and with engagement comes performance.



Lincoln students participate in a social activity.

Through this cycle, we all will take pride in and enjoy our experience at Lincoln Elementary.

Last school year, we noticed an increase of challenging student behavior. Most likely, this was a result of many students not having had a full school year in person and missing out on social experiences with their peers. This school year, we have implemented the Lion P.R.I.D.E behavior expectations. All Lincoln Lions will demonstrate being Punctual, Respectful and Responsible, having Integrity

and Determination, and keeping Everyone Safe. These positive behaviors will be demonstrated in all settings on our campus: classroom, playground, cafeteria, bathroom, hallways and library. We believe in reinforcing positive behaviors and supporting our students' development as they learn how their actions have consequences.

Again, welcome back! Let us look forward to the connections this school year will bring, and remember that how we treat one another has a lasting impact. I look forward to sharing a fantastic year with you!

Madison *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Dr. Heather Cash
Principal

Together Again

The Madison School community is brimming with gratitude and positive energy as we return to school this Fall. From sharp pencils to new shoes, back to school has felt normal, which feels

comforting to us all. We all have a newfound appreciation for the beauty in the commonplace and predictable. Something we have all counted on is the familiarity of school lunches, which are free for all students again this year. In the Madison cafeteria, Christie Cahill models joy, humor and patience each day as she serves our students. Christie knows the name of every Comet. It's because of people like Christie that Madison students are nourished with kindness, joy and respect every day. Thank you, Christie!



Christie is happy to see students back 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!

We are at the beginning of another amazing school year at Parras Middle School. The energy throughout these first few weeks has been incredible, and we are excited to be keeping this great momentum going.

One of our highest priorities for the year is to see our students flourish in a positive learning environment. It is something that everyone is a part of, can help build, and will benefit from. Some attributes of a positive learning environment are the following: to be welcoming, safe, supportive, respectful, motivating, engaging, rigorous, and confidence-inspiring.

What you will see from our staff this year, as in years past, is an unwavering commitment to a rigorous, fun, and meaningful learning experience for all students. A great start to this came from our Associated Student Body (ASB)



Many students posted their goals for the year on sticky notes to fill this board!

during the second week of school when they played music during lunch and set up a board for our students to post their personal goals on for the year.

Thank you to everyone in our vast Parras Community for doing your part to make this our best year ever!

Redondo Union *High School*

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



Anthony Bridi
Principal

Welcome, SEA HAWKS

*By Molly Lower,
Assistant Principal*

Welcome back, Sea Hawks! The excitement on campus at the best high school in the South Bay is palpable as we return for the 2022-23 school year. The RUHS community has been hard at work to make our beautiful campus a welcoming, engaging home for all students. Here are some highlights from the beginning of the school year:

1. PTSA volunteers were instrumental in helping over 3,000 students register for the new school year. Their positivity and support made Registration an exceptionally smooth experience!
2. Link Crew is back! These campus leaders provide

guidance and friendship to all new RUHS students, and they started our year off strong at Orientation to welcome freshman and transfer students into the Sea Hawk flock.

3. Our incredible ASB team hosted the first of many lunchtime "First Friday" celebrations in Freshman Circle to cap off our first week back on campus. Students toppled soaring Jenga towers and squared off in epic ping-pong tournaments to celebrate the return to school—and the arrival of the weekend.

Sea Hawks, we have lots of engaging opportunities for you on campus inside and outside the classroom, and we want you to take ownership of your learning experience. Challenge yourself to speak up in class, join a club, start a club, try out for a sport, read a book for fun, even pick up that piece of trash that isn't yours. We are excited to partner with you to make this year exceptional. So, Sea Hawks, ask yourself: Are you on PACE to SOAR?



ASB celebrates a successful first "First Friday" at RUHS.

Tulita *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Andrew Estrada
Principal

Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! We are off to a great start, and look forward to amazing experiences this year.

At Tulita, we had many things to celebrate during the last school year, including the formation of the English/Language Arts (ELA) Adoption Committee, which has produced the adoption of the “Wit and Wisdom” curriculum this school year. We

also had our first full year back in nearly three years, which allowed us to see the return of in-person Town Halls, Family Movie Night, Battle of the Books, Lego League/Robotics, Science Fair, The Fifth-Grade Talent Show, and so much more! We look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities for our families to be on campus and, alongside their children, feel connected to our school.

Our goal at Tulita is to provide high-quality education in an environment where students feel valued, challenged, connected, and can thrive. One way we aim to reach these goals this year is through the implementation of our newly adopted ELA curriculum. Our teachers have been hard at

work this summer learning the new curriculum and lesson planning so that your child can reap the benefits of this highly rigorous curriculum. Tulita teachers will continue to refine their instructional practices throughout this school year to meet the needs of all students.

Finally, our staff and school counselor will continue to focus on the social-emotional well-being of your students, as the research clearly shows that children are more likely to perform better academically when they feel connected to their school and can build relationships with their teachers.

Please consider becoming involved in the PTA, whether it is through membership or a volunteering of your time, as we begin to bring back some of our PTA events this year. Also, please consider giving to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation (RBEF), as they continue to fund our elementary physical education and music as well as expanded outside counseling services. Finally, please show your appreciation for our amazing teachers and staff members whenever you can. Whether it is a simple note or email, these small gestures can go a long ways towards showing your gratitude.

Here's to an amazing year!

Washington *Elementary School (K-5)*

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



Mira Baskaron
Principal

Welcome Back

I am truly looking forward to this new school year. I want to welcome our returning Washington families, and also extend a special greeting to our new Explorers across the campus, from staff to students. This year promises to be another successful one full of many exciting things to look forward to.

Starting off the year with routines and goals is important when you consider what it takes to have the most successful school experience. For example, establishing a bedtime that allows for the necessary hours of sleep for a child's optimal functioning should be set in place early. Having bed-time discussions with your child will help to ensure that they will have an understanding of the expectations they need to meet, and why it is important for their well-being.

Another pre-established routine discussed and implemented should be expectations that center around homework and reading time. In order to minimize distractions, there could be a special place set aside

where homework can be completed. Setting in place a “family read time” might also be beneficial for your family. Everyone can sit in the same area, such as the living room or dining room, and read their own books. If you have young children in the family, this would also be a great time to read to them and/or have them read to you. It is also good practice to make sure that all of your electronics are put away so as not to serve as potential distractions.

An additional routine that is critical is establishing a set time to sit and talk as a family. This could be done daily around the dinner table, or perhaps before bed. It is important to connect with the family and discuss your day. Perhaps you can establish a special question that everyone can answer as a way to keep the conversation moving. No matter how you decide to carve out family time, make sure that it is an intentional time period set aside to connect with one another.

I am certain that this year will be one to remember. Starting effective routines at the beginning of the school year can make the transition a little easier for everyone. I look forward to a fantastic 2022-2023 school year!



Taeyoung's Book Review



Taeyoung K.

April Fools! Or not...

Title: *The Terrible Two*

Author: Mac Barnett and Jory John

Everybody is someone at school. Miles Murphy is a prankster. But he is not just pulling a few pranks. He is the school's grand prankster. But when he

is forced to move to Yawnee Valley, he knows that he will lose his title as his school's jester. After he moves, he wants to make a comeback. But to his surprise, on the first day of school, someone had moved Principal Barkin's car on the front stairs of the school. What this means is that this school already has a prankster. As he is the new kid, Principal Barkin introduces him to Niles Sparks, the school helper. At first Niles seems like any school's goody two-shoes, but as Miles learns about Yawnee Valley's prankster, he realizes that some people might not be who he thinks they are. It takes two to accomplish something, but is that two terrible enough?



Taeyoung K. is a 7th grader. She loves reading books and writing her own stories. Also, she likes to draw and play video games.



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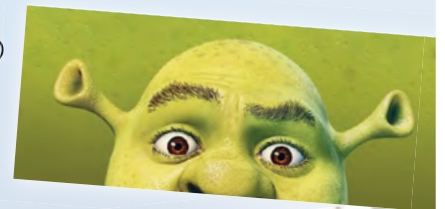


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- * Strum & Sing Ukulele (7-Up)
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David's Review



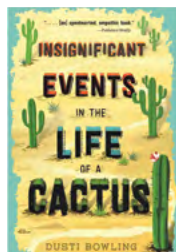
David H.

Perseverance and Friendship

Insignificant Events

in the Life of a Cactus

is a great book about perseverance. The main character, Aven, was born without arms and becomes friends with Connor, a boy who has



Tourette syndrome, and Zion, a boy who gets teased for being overweight. They are all trying to help each other survive middle school while being different.

The author has a humorous writing style. I recommend this book to anyone who wants a heartwarming and uplifting read. Enjoy!

David is in fifth grade and he loves to read and play piano. He likes math and activities such as tennis, basketball, and bowling.

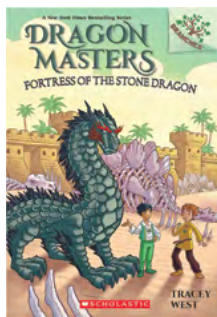
Daniel's Review



Daniel H.

Dragon Masters

In *Fortress of the Stone Dragon* (Dragon Masters #17) an evil wizard named Astrid is trying to rule the world and someone must stop her! Dragon Masters



Drake and Mina, with

their dragons Frost and Worm, must get to another Dragon Master, Caspar, and his dragon Shaka (the Stone Dragon) to get help to defeat Astrid. This story had a lot of action, dragons, and magic. I really liked this book because it was fun to read. You should read this too!

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



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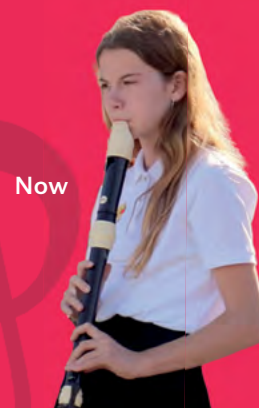
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Yoona's Review



Yoona C.

Friendships

Title: *Rules*

Author: Cynthia Lord

Catherine is a 12 year old girl that is talented in drawing. She has a brother named David. David is diagnosed with autism. David and Catherine's

mom would go to OT. Catherine would sometimes come to. That's where Catherine met a friend called Jason.

Jason is a teenage boy in a wheelchair that can't talk. They first meet when Catherine is bored and draws Jason. Jason catches her and tells his mom with his communication book. Jason's mom gets angry, but that soon leads to Catherine making word cards for Jason. Catherine also meets another person named Kristi. Kristi is a "cool" girl as said by Catherine. At first, Catherine is embarrassed to tell Kristi she has a brother that has autism and a friend who is in a wheelchair. Will Catherine learn to value good friendships? Will she find out what is truly important to her? Read to find out!



Yoona is a 4th grader. She likes to read books and create stories. She also enjoys playing soccer.

Aubtin's Review



Aubtin M.

Teamwork

Title: *Thomas & Friends – Day of the Diesels*

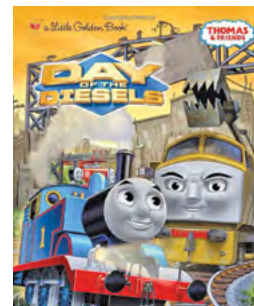
Author: Christopher Awdry

On the Island of Sodor, Thomas the tank engine and Percy the small engine are best friends. When

Belle; the fire engine comes, she becomes Thomas's new friend.

Percy feels very left out. Percy goes to the Diesel Works to see if the Diesels want to make friends with him. Percy leads the Diesels to the Steam Works, when he discovers that Thomas is held prisoner in the Diesel Works. What will happen to Thomas? Will Percy save him? I recommend you read this book to see what happens.

I learned about friendship, teamwork and cooperation from this book. I hope you will too. You will find great pictures in this book.



Aubtin is a 1st Grader. When not playing, Aubtin does writing, reading and drawing. He also likes sports, swimming, and music. He cares a lot about his family and friends.



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Sourish's Review



Sourish M.

A Second Chance, Something Everyone Deserves...

"I remember falling" says the first line of the book *Restart* by Gordon Korman. It describes the reminiscence of the main character Chase Ambrose who has an accident that changes his life forever. The way the author has



displayed this character is incredible. He writes the story from each character's own point of view which projects a movie inside the reader's head as if they are experiencing it live. Every character plays a role in the main character's life, Shoshana Weber, Bear Bratsky, Aaron Hakimian, Brendan Espinoza, Kimberly Tooley, and Joel Weber. Chase was a bully who would torment others, but when he got amnesia, he changed for the better. The readers may be entertained by the amusing moments in the story such as the time when Brendan drove a tricycle through a carwash! Chase received something rare to everyone, a second chance and that should be deserved by everyone!

Sourish M. is a seventh grader who is enthusiastic to learn more and experience new things. He likes Science and Reading, plays soccer, basketball, guitar, and has fun with friends and family. Sourish loves to spend long hours coding and expanding his experiences by traveling with his family.

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BOYS TRYOUTS

Friday, Sept. 9 • 6-8 PM

Saturday Sept. 10:

14 & Under • 9-11 AM

High School Boys • 11-1 PM

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