

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District**



Volume 9, Issue 31

March 2023

## BOUSD – Where Academic Success Shines



## BOUSD's Legacy Of Excellence



**Brinda C. Leon**  
*Superintendent*

Brea Olinda Unified School District is home to 10 award-winning schools and if 2022-23 is any indication of the future, the accolades will continue to accrue for years to come. BOUSD opened the school year earning the prestigious CSBA Golden Bell Award for its robust Career Technical Program (CTE) offered to TK-12 students. This honor reflects the depth and breadth of education programs and governance

decisions supporting these programs that are necessary to address students' changing needs.

Laurel Elementary Magnet School was once again recognized as a Common Sense School. This is a school-wide recognition that was achieved through the collaboration of teachers and the leadership of Kim Thorsen. LEMS earned the distinction after demonstrating its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its students to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying.

In January, it was announced that Brea Online Academy, Country Hills Elementary and Olinda Elementary received California Distinguished School honors. The California Distinguished Schools program recognizes schools for their excellent work in one of two categories: closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance. Elementary schools and middle and high schools are recognized in alternate years; therefore, awardees hold the title for two years.

The District, a devoted educational community that develops our students to become local and global influencers through dynamic learning experiences, has a proud history of excellence and with our dedicated educators, staff, and administrators we will continue to build upon this legacy.

## Board of Education



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*President*



**Paul Ruiz**  
*Vice President/  
Clerk*



**Dr. Chris Becerra**  
*Trustee*



**Carrie Flanders**  
*Trustee*



**Gail Lyons**  
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# School News



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

## Covering the BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher

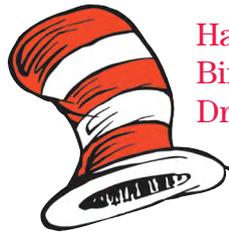


562/493-3193  
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com



This is our 9th year publishing the excellence from the BOUSD. Thank you for your loyal readership and support of public education.

Enjoy Spring Break and we'll be back with our next issue May 17.



Happy  
Birthday  
Dr. Seuss!



Start them early. They will read forever.



## BEFORE and AFTER School Expanded Learning Programs

*Programs with a Purpose*

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Open Monday-Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Brea Olinda Unified School District



For more information call (714) 990-7527 or visit [CDS.BOUSD.US](http://CDS.BOUSD.US)

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## Parent To Parent



Jodie Lynn

### A Helicopter Parent

**Q.** I have been a helicopter parent for so long that my children, ages seven and nine, are extremely apprehensive of taking any risks in various activities or doing anything where they may get even slightly hurt or disappointed. What have I done and how do I correct it?

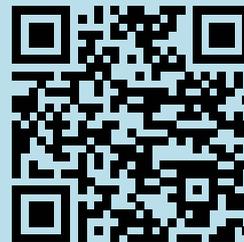
**A.** There have been overbearing and overprotective parents for years; don't beat yourself up too badly. It's easy for parents to go overboard when it comes to their kids. However, this can continue into college years and beyond, but it doesn't have to. Your parenting style and the way you view your children will need to change. You'll need to allow them to get used to the idea that they can actually try things on their own. Go ahead and sign them up for things that they are truly interested in and will most likely do well at. A few successes will build their self-confidence and they will perhaps want to do more things that are new and different. It's the mistakes and bumps in life that we all learn from that make us stronger individuals, better able to handle future situations. We have to be allowed to fail.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. [www.ParentToParent.com](http://www.ParentToParent.com)

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Ages  
7-16



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Ages  
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Check website for class times / [anaheimtenniscenter.com](http://anaheimtenniscenter.com)

## Arovista Elementary School (K-6)

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • [arovista.bousd.us](http://arovista.bousd.us)



**Eric Barrientos**  
Principal

### Allstars Showcase Character!

On the evening of Feb. 23, the City of Brea Boardroom, located at 1 Civic Center Circle, was filled with Arovista Elementary School parents in support of their students. Wearing their yellow AVID shirts, our Allstars Student Council huddled at the boardroom entrance with their advisor, Yvonne Noffal, to review their scripts and practice their transitions in final preparations for their portion of the Arovista

Elementary School showcase and annual update to the Brea Olinda Unified School District (BOUSD) governing board of trustees, executive cabinet and greater BOUSD community.

Our Allstars Student Council described to our district leadership their student-focused lens on how they contribute to connecting and engaging their fellow Allstars to their school. From supporting Arovista PTA events to creating engaging activities during recess for schoolwide spirit days, the student council outlined how their efforts not only build connections between students but also help shape the character of our school community through the emphasis of the Six Pillars of Character of Character Counts! They not only demonstrated how they help shape the character of our school but were also a shining example of what it means to be an Arovista Allstar!



## Brea Junior High School (7-8)

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • [bjhs.bousd.us](http://bjhs.bousd.us)

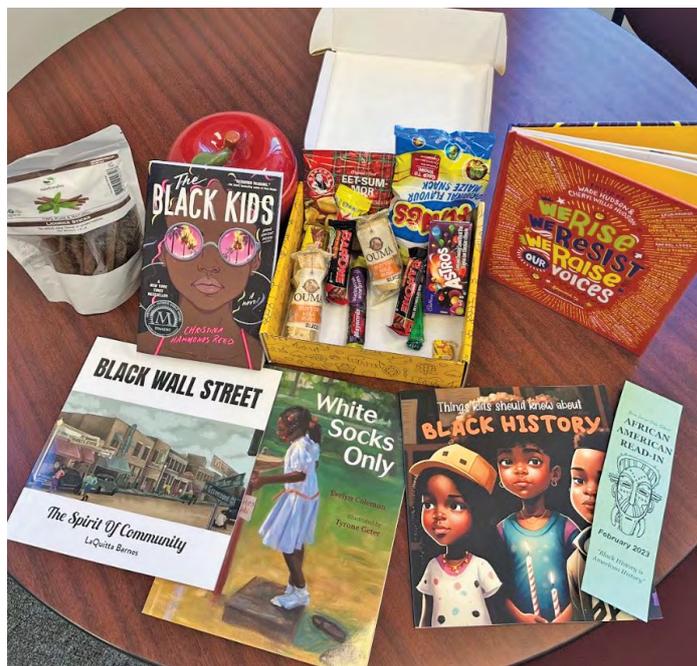


**Sheri Cole**  
Principal

### BJH Celebrates Black History Month

Brea Junior High was proud to celebrate Black History Month in a number of ways throughout the month of February. During morning announcements, a famous African American was highlighted. In addition, our weekly newsletter included videos highlighting influential black historical figures. On the last Friday in February students enjoyed music by black musicians such as the Jackson 5, The Temptations and

Stevie Wonder. Students also participated in an African American Read-in event through English classes, which is a Nationwide event that celebrates Black History month through literature. The historical fiction book, *White Socks Only*, was read to students by the principal and students discussed the impact of segregation. In addition, students were entered in a raffle for edible treats from Africa. Finally, all students had an opportunity to try Natural African Licorice and they learned about the oral hygiene and medicinal benefits.



# Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

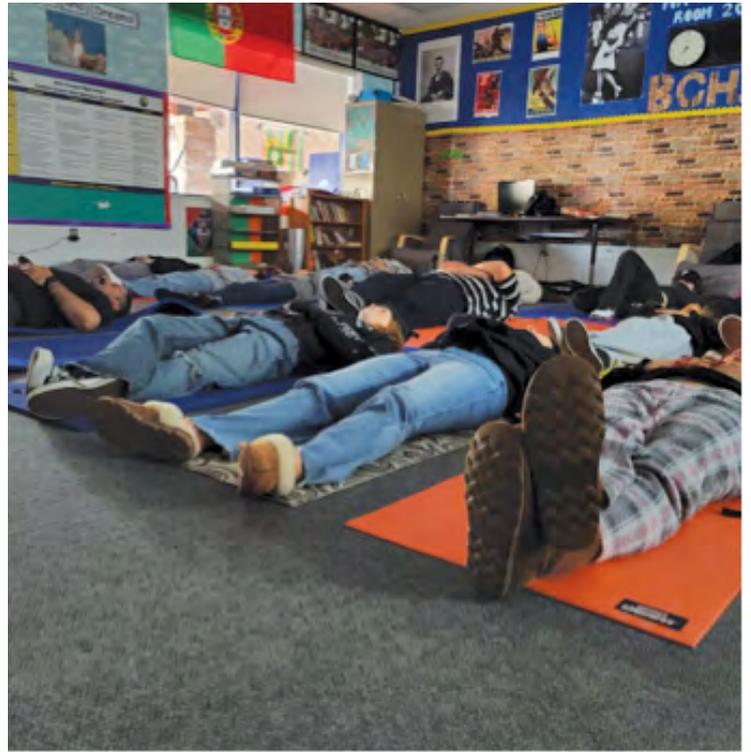
689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • [breacanyon.bousd.us](http://breacanyon.bousd.us)



**Dr. Kristin Risberg**  
*Principal*

## Black History Month: Honor the Past, Treasuring Self-Health

Brea Canyon High School was proud to celebrate Black History Month for the 2022-23 school year. Celebrations kicked off February 1st as BCHS Howl Print students made commemorative banners honoring Black History Month. Student leaders created posters and decorations honoring Black History, with both including contemporary and historical figures that have been trailblazers for our country. Our teachers put in extra effort to celebrate Black History and dedicated lessons and time to dig deep into the amazing contributions of black leaders. Our celebrations included musical selections from black artists, an African American Dance Troupe, guest speakers, and a soundbath. Students had the opportunity to focus on the past in rich discussions and work on their self-health with guest speakers, including a plant and herbal expert. The students were invited to a soundbath and guided meditation led by Jade Monet. The students really enjoyed the activities and celebrations honoring black excellence.



# Brea Country Hills *Elementary School (K-6)*

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • [countryhills.bousd.us](http://countryhills.bousd.us)



**Shelley Lopez**  
*Principal*

## California Distinguished School

Brea Country Hills Elementary was awarded the California Distinguished Schools award this year by State

Superintendent Tony Thurman. It is an honor to be recognized as a school that is “closing the achievement gap and achieving exceptional student performance.”

We have been celebrating this achievement this month with a luncheon provided to the staff by BOUSD. On Feb. 16, schools named as 2023 California Distinguished Schools were invited to the California School Recognition Program Ceremony at a major hotel in Anaheim. Superintendent



Leon and the principals of Brea Online Academy, Olinda Elementary and Country Hills Elementary were able to attend the evening portion of the celebration.

Country Hills continues to offer a well-balanced educational program and is aligned to the district philosophy of continuous improvement. Our focus on social-emotional learning, academics and extracurricular activities gives students many opportunities to show

their talents and strengths in all areas. A big thank-you to everyone who supports Country Hills within the school, the district and the community—your support has made all the difference to students!

# BEST. SUMMER. EVER.

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**Dr. Kristin Risberg**  
Principal

### The BUZZ Around Kids Heart Challenge

The Brea Online Academy students and staff partnered with the American Heart Association for the Kids Heart Challenge. Our students and families set a school wide goal to raise funds and participate in learning life saving techniques. The American Heart Association hosted a

school wide Zoom assembly and taught our students how to use hands-free CPR and other amazing ways to keep our hearts healthy. The program is centered around Finn the Dragon's Mission which includes wellness and kindness. The students were able to earn individual prizes such as different dragon character keychains, jump rope, wristbands, t-shirts and other trinkets. Over a three week period, our students worked very hard and were able to surpass their fundraising goal and earn the opportunity to spray the Principal Risberg with silly string at a celebratory park day.



## ELITE AQUATICS SPORTS TEAM

[www.eastaquatics.com](http://www.eastaquatics.com) 714-402-7166



All EAST swim classes begin with a FREE assessment! Assessments take place by appointment only Monday through Thursday at Esperanza High School. Our year-round program offers a competitive swim team, swim lessons for ages 2 and up, youth water polo, and High School Water Polo. For more information visit our website, email, or call us with any questions regarding our program:

Swimming: [coachashley@eastaquatics.com](mailto:coachashley@eastaquatics.com)

Water Polo: [jessdiaz@eastaquatics.com](mailto:jessdiaz@eastaquatics.com)



# Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • [bohs.bousd.us](http://bohs.bousd.us)



**Dr. Josh Porter**  
*Principal*

## Exploring Beyond the Classroom

Brea Olinda High School encourages students to expand their learning experience beyond the classroom. Whether the focus is on writing, public speaking, exploring different career paths, participating in academic competitions, or problem-solving through creative thinking, we offer our students unique opportunities to engage in hands-on activities with leaders, professionals, and fellow students.

Through many of our academic competition teams at BOHS, we provide students with the opportunity to discover and explore new talents, passions, and possibilities for their futures. While we have many success stories to celebrate, a special shout-out goes to our Mock Trial team, who had two of our Wildcat students individually receive the Best Attorney Award and Best Clerk Award from the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County (CRF-OC).

To receive these prestigious awards, the students were nominated by other students from the opposing schools. Also representing our Wildcats was the Culinary Competition Team, which brought home seven top awards at the 2023 FCCLA Regional Competition. We are so proud of our students' hard work and dedication.

Brea Olinda High School remains committed to providing its students with the opportunity to expand their knowledge, and encourages our Wildcats to reach their fullest potential.



# Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • [falcon.bousd.us](http://falcon.bousd.us)



**Karen VanDine**  
Principal

## Falcon Academy – Visibility Flags

Student safety is Falcon Academy's number one priority. Falcon families and staff have voiced concerns for our students walking to school and utilizing the crosswalks around the Falcon campus. Falcon staff, parents, and neighbors have worked collaboratively to share ideas regarding traffic during drop off and pick up and student safety.



One innovative idea resulting from these exchanges is the establishment of our Visibility Flags used in the three crosswalks leading into the Falcon Academy. These brightly colored pedestrian flags are intended to assist students and parents to gain the attention of motorists as they cross the streets leading into the school. The District provided buckets and neon orange flags for students to raise high while crossing the street. The flags definitely make the students much more visible to our vehicular traffic and much safer in their arrival to school.





**Lauren Tovar**  
*Principal*

### Lunch and Launch

On Saturday, January 28, 2023, Laurel Elementary Magnet was excited to host its first Recycle Fashion Show. Over 30 students in grades TK-6 designed their own outfit using recycled or recyclable materials as part of our school-wide effort to keep our campus clean and bring awareness to the importance of caring for our environment. Each entry had a model to walk down the red

carpet and provided a written description of the materials used and the message behind their design. Students utilized cardboard boxes, plastic bags, wrapping paper, paper plates, shipping packaging, and magazines as some of their materials. Our families enjoyed snacks and sat in chairs along the red carpet to cheer on their students as they strutted their stuff down the runway. Each participant was awarded a small trophy that was printed using our 3D printers and a certificate. The event was such a success that we are looking forward to next year.



# Mariposa Elementary School (K-6)

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • [mariposa.bousd.us](http://mariposa.bousd.us)



**Rick Torres**  
Principal

## Robots Galore!

The robots were not the only things buzzing at BOUSD's VEX IQ Robotics Invitational held Feb. 18 at Olinda Elementary School. Olinda was among 19 teams from across Orange County and Los Angeles, and students could not contain their excitement about competing with robots they had designed and built! Not only did Mariposa students engineer their bots but they also submitted engineering notebooks where ideas, drawings and game strategies were recorded.

Students competed in six rounds of cooperative matches in the 22/23 VEX IQ game Slap Shot, which required

players to empty pucks from game elements and move them to score positions across the gaming field. Roboticists also displayed mastery of their devices during skills challenges where they were able to display their driving skills. All of this was an opportunity for students to flex their ability to think critically, problem-solve on the fly, and cooperate and communicate with teammates.

Not only was the experience lots of fun for Monarchs but it was also a learning experience that will prepare them for careers and college in a modern world where these skills are valuable. Mariposa Team 4916B was awarded the Sportsmanship trophy for displaying a positive attitude and enthusiasm. Just another example of Monarchs soaring to great heights!



# Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • [olinda.bousd.us](http://olinda.bousd.us)



**Aubrey Lim**  
Interim Principal

## Soaring to Excellence

At Olinda, we are delighted to announce that our elementary school has been recognized as a 2023 California Distinguished School. This achievement is a result of the hard work and dedication of our outstanding faculty and staff members. They strive to prioritize academic excellence, student well-being, and strong enrichment programs.

In addition to our academic programs, we are so proud of our Kindness Club too, which promotes positive relationships among students and creates a culture of kindness and inclusion. Our school also prioritizes

the well-being of students by providing resources and support to help promote mental and emotional health.

We also offer a wide range of enrichment programs, including music, art, and technology. We work hard to provide our students with the opportunity to explore their passions and develop new skills. The PTO also works tirelessly to provide additional resources and funding to enhance the learning experience for students.

We are grateful for our students, parents, and community members who contribute to our success. We are proud to be a 2023 California Distinguished School, and will continue to strive for excellence in every part of our academic program. Go, Eagles!



## Aubtin's Review



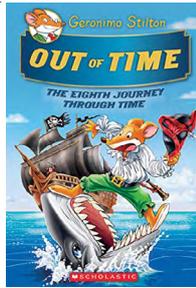
**Aubtin M.**

### Fun Ride through History

Title: *Geronimo Stilton – Out Of Time*

Author: Elisabetta Dami

Geronimo Stilton is a best-selling author running a newspaper called The Rodent's Gazette. He lives in New Mouse City, Mouse Island. Geronimo and



his friends are at the museum for a very special event. Then three artifacts went missing and director of the museum asked Geronimo to help. Geronimo goes off on a journey through time by a time machine. He meets Alexander the Great, Cleopatra, Sir Francis Drake and Mozart. Can Geronimo find all the artifacts before time runs out?

This is an adventurous, historical, educational and a very funny book. I enjoyed learning about famous people in the history in such a fun book. I hope you will too.

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

## Maple's Review



**Maple**

### A Dangerous Journey

Title: *The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone*

Author: Jaclyn Moriarty

Bronte is ten years old when her parents suddenly die. She lives with her Aunt Isabelle when she finds her parents' will. It says



that she must visit all ten of her aunts, except for Aunt Isabelle, and give them gifts. There is ancient magic in the will, and if Bronte does not do what it says, then her town, Gainsleigh, will be ripped apart. On Bronte's journey, many wonderful things happen, such as visiting a beautiful library and learning to speak some of the Dragon language. This book has fun mini quests, and some pretty big ones too. If you enjoy books about danger and tough girls, you will love this book. I adored this book, and I bet you will too!

Maple is in 5th grade. They love reading, petting their dog, and playing with their friends. They want to be a librarian when they grow up.

## Fun Things and Places–Word Search Contest

**Rules!** One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: [Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com](mailto:Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com) Please put BOUSD in the subject line.

Entries must be received by **April 15, 2023**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble!

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PARK

SLIDES

SWINGS

ROAD TRIP

PARTY

MOVIE

POOL

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CAMP

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BIKE RIDE

REUNION

CRUISE

SKATING

VIDEOS

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