

# School News

*Education + Communication = A Better Nation*

**Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District**



Volume 9, Issue 32

May 2023



**BOUSD Students  
Celebrate  
Award-Winning  
Achievements**



(Please see page 16 for more pictures.)

[www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com](http://www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com)





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Ages  
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Ages  
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## Summer Break Offers Time For Modernizations and Deferred Maintenance



**Brinda C. Leon**  
Superintendent

Pardon our dust' will be the saying heard throughout the summer at Brea Olinda Unified School District campuses as the District goes through some exciting changes and improvements. While the initial stages of expanding and modernizing three of our schools - Falcon Academy of Science & Technology, Laurel Elementary Magnet School and Arovista Elementary - took place during spring break, the majority of the work is scheduled during the summer months.

When the Falcons and Leopards return in the fall, they will be greeted with brand new prefabricated classrooms. Behind the temporary safety fencing, construction crews can be seen preparing the foundation work to support the structures and installing new low voltage conduit for the fire alarm, bell and phone systems.

Lots of deferred maintenance and modernization projects are also underway throughout the district. For instance, Arovista is upgrading its classrooms with new flooring, fresh paint, upgraded LED lighting, and new modern classroom furniture. The exterior will also get a facelift with the assistance of deferred repairs on both playground asphalt and building roof.

The District has also begun the initial stages of the perimeter fencing project, by meeting with school sites and community partners, including the City of Brea, and will continue to plan and implement the next steps over the summer to solidify construction plans in order to bid out work this fall.

Although there may be some temporary inconvenience and dust, the end result will be well worth it for the students and staff who will benefit from these updates. Please visit our website (bousd.us), under the 'facilities projects in progress' section for continued information for all projects.

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**Kay Coop**  
Founder/Publisher



This year is quickly coming to a close and as Superintendent Leon says in her message on page 3 the district is already planning for the new school year.

Be sure to enter our word search on page 16 (all ages may enter).

Have a fun summer and please remember to include the library among your activities.

Our next issue is September 13.



## School News Roll Call

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

[www.schoolnewsrollcall.com](http://www.schoolnewsrollcall.com)

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## BEFORE and AFTER School Expanded Learning Programs

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**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent  
Orange County  
Dept. of Ed.

## OCDE's Continuous Commitment to Strengthening School Safety

Our children deserve to learn and grow in safe and secure environments, where they can thrive academically and emotionally. And parents should be confident that when they send their children to school, they will return home just as healthy and happy as when they left.

Yet in too many instances, we have seen this social contract ripped apart by the devastating reality of school violence, leading to the familiar cycle of shock, grief and anger.

I wish I could say I had answers sufficient to prevent this country's next mass shooting. I do not. I can only extend my most heartfelt condolences to anyone impacted by senseless violence, and I can reaffirm here the sustained commitment of the Orange County Department of Education and leaders throughout our region to proactively protect our students and staff.

To give you some background, California schools are required by law to update their Comprehensive Safe School Plans each year. These plans outline each campus's planned responses to various crises, and they are routinely reinforced through site-level drills, including evacuations and shelter-in-place exercises.

See **OC DEPT OF ED** • Page 15

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## Arovista *Elementary School* (K-6)

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



**Eric Barrientos**  
*Principal*

### May the 501st Be With You

As our Arovista Allstars made their way to campus one rainy May morning, they were greeted at the crosswalk by a different kind of crossing guard...not one with a stop sign and yellow vest, but rather a Sith lord wearing a black mask and cape with a red lightsaber balloon column behind him. That was when our Arovista community realized that May the 4th had descended upon their campus!

Arovista Elementary School started the 2022-2023 school year with two overarching objectives: engaging students meaningfully in their learning, and connecting students in meaningful ways to their school. As part of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, together with our Arovista Parent Teacher Association (PTA), our students were able to experience

this Star Wars-themed day in May to its fullest potential. Through the efforts of one of our faculty members, the 501st Legion traveled from their galaxies far, far away and invaded our Arovista campus.

The 501st Legion promotes interest in Star Wars and facilitates the use of their costumes for Star Wars-related events, as well as contributes to local communities through costumed charity and volunteer work. Students and staff alike were able to engage with 501st members like RippTiger, a Tie Striker, along with other Jedi Masters and Imperial Legionaries during our recess and classroom walk-throughs.

In staying true to our course of connecting students to their school, and through the collective efforts of our community (including our school resource officer), and especially thanks to the members of the 501st Legion, our Allstars will walk away with memories to last them a trilogy or two!



## 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

### Sixth Graders Get Sneak Peek Of Junior High Life

During the week of March 20, sixth grade students visited Brea Junior High School. From the moment students stepped off of the bus, they were greeted by BJH cheerleaders, our mascot Bosco, the administrative team, and ASB students. Excitement filled the air as our future Bobcats stepped onto campus.

They enjoyed performances by band and/or orchestra, show choir and the cheer team. The admin team shared pertinent information about the school and what to expect in August. ASB showed a welcome video and led the student campus tours. During the tour, students were able to learn about the various electives on campus by visiting the elective fair. Their time ended with a student led Q & A session. We look forward to seeing our future Bobcats in August for the first day of school!





## 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 started on February 1 and BCHS Howl Print students made commemorative banners honoring Black History Month, while student leaders created posters and decorations

honoring Black History 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 sound bath. 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 sound bath 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*

## 'Love Brea' Beautification

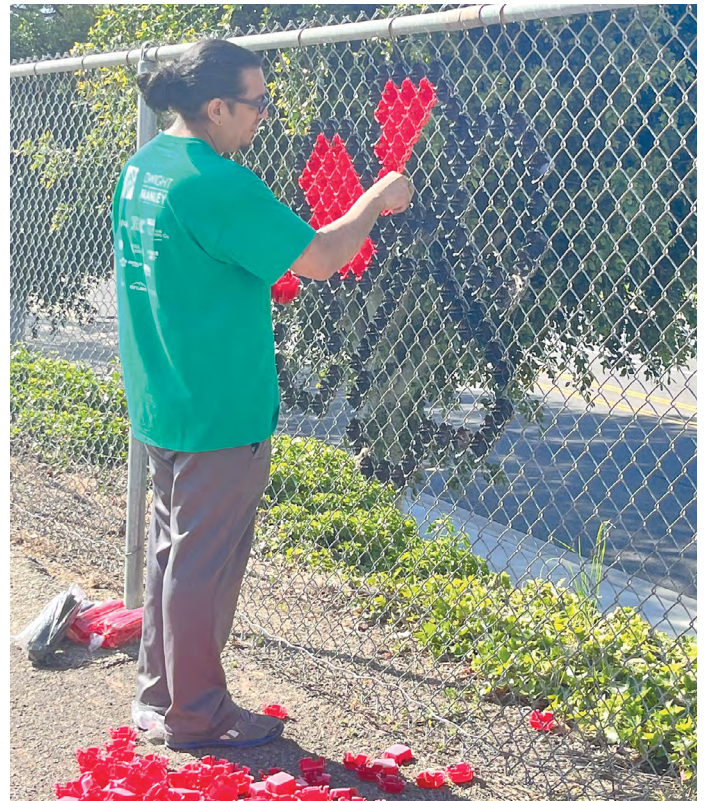
Love Brea volunteers spent a recent Saturday at Country Hills Elementary to help improve the look of the fencing and the surrounding hillside. Specially fitted cups have been used in chain-link fences to spell out mascot names as well as pictures. Country Hills has the word Cougars on the fence at the playground along with several cougar paws. After four years of wear and tear, the cups were faded, and many were missing. Thanks to the amazing help of volunteers from all over the city of Brea, that is no longer the case!

When people come together to give their time and energy, it is always a powerful experience. Not only was it an opportunity for some family time, student contributions and community building but also the end product was so rewarding! Everyone left the experience knowing a little more about the people they spent time with and were proud of the accomplishment. Country Hills is honored to have the support of the city of Brea. Brea residents are the best!

Not all Country Hills Cougars contributed at their own school. Several Cougars and their families were dispersed to other Brea Olinda Unified School District schools, which speaks to the fact that the spirit of public service and volunteerism is alive and well at our school, our sister schools, the district level and the city. Thank you again to everyone who participated!



**We love our Volunteers!**





## 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*

### Newly Appointed Athletic Council

The 2022–23 school year brought an exciting new opportunity for student leaders to shine. With the creation of our Brea Olinda High School Athletic Council, athletic leaders were selected to represent each of our 24 sports. The council members met every four to six weeks with our athletic directors and athletic administration, serving as the voice of their programs—sharing the highlights, areas of concern, and suggestions to better support our teams. Specific needs related to facility needs and use were articulated to staff, and work orders were submitted. Some custodial routes were reconfigured to

support the athletic facilities in a more efficient manner. Short-term and long-term facilities improvements have been planned to address the need for more usable weight-room space, and enhancements have been made to the gym team room to better meet the needs of our student-athletes.

We have also worked on increasing spectator support for our events, including creating a buddy system between sports programs and the locations of student sections. At each meeting, the athletic directors were able to report back to the students on progress made with their suggestions from the previous meeting.

We value the student input received this year and are excited to see how this council will continue to support all of the BOHS athletic programs moving forward.







**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 also amazing ways to keep our hearts healthy.

The program is centered around Finn the Dragon's mission which included 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 with silly string at a celebratory park day.



## 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

### Coding and Gaming at Falcon

Falcon Academy students have been thoroughly enjoying their coding lessons with Minecraft EDU. This innovative tool has made the process of learning to code both engaging and enjoyable for our students. Through Minecraft EDU, our students are learning to code and create their own customized Minecraft worlds complete with unique rules and objectives. This process has

allowed them to exercise their creativity and imagination, as well as improve their problem-solving skills.

As they work on their individual projects, students are gaining valuable experience in writing and debugging code, troubleshooting issues, and collaborating with their peers. Under the guidance of Mrs. Ribbe, our instructional coach, the Falcons have been able to explore the world of coding and technology in a fun and supportive environment.

One of the key reasons why Minecraft EDU has been such a hit with our students is its immersive and interactive nature. By being able to see the direct impact of their coding efforts within the game world, students are able to fully engage with the coding process and see the tangible results of their work. This has made coding feel less like a chore and more like an exciting adventure, encouraging our students to take ownership of their learning and explore their interests in technology.

As we approach the end of the year, we are thrilled to see our students so engaged and enthusiastic about coding with Minecraft EDU. It has been a fantastic way to round out our technology curriculum, and we are grateful to Mrs. Ribbe for guiding our Falcons through this exciting journey. We look forward to continuing to explore the world of coding and technology with our students in the years to come.

## Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration (K-6)

200 S. Flower Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2520 • [laurel.bousd.us](http://laurel.bousd.us)



**Lauren Tovar**  
Principal

### Developing New Ways For Students To Learn

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration has spent the 2022-2023 exploring ways to expand the magnet program and provide unique learning experiences for our students. This

year we began the process of learning about outdoor learning spaces, including the use of school gardens. We are excited to announce that we are recipients of the Project Learning Garden grant to start our new Leopard Learning Space. This outdoor classroom and garden will be open to all students in grades preschool through 6th and will be a location for community events and family engagement activities. Our grant includes

the installation of boxed planing beds, a shed, tools and teacher resources. We have developed a site garden team and have met with the district to discuss next steps for installation over the summer. We can't wait to share this new space with our students and community.





# 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*

## Mariposa Takes The Lead

The Mariposa staff took on the task of organizing the 42nd annual Brea Best Meet, and we are proud to say that it was a whopping success. Students from six BOUSD elementary schools showed up with competitive spirits and an eagerness to leave it all on the field. There were lots of opportunities for our students to show their strengths by competing in events such as the

bi-athlon, softball throw, long jump, metered dashes, and relays.

Mariposa's team began preparing long in advance with the help of "Coach" Gasppora, who volunteers his time in working with children during the lunch recess. It was all

hands on deck too, with so much of the community out to help run the event. Brea Mayor Marty Simonoff and Brea Mayor Pro Tem Christine Marick helped Superintendent Brinda Leon kick off the day with an address to the crowd. The BOUSD Board of Education was also busy handing out ribbons, while over 50 Brea Olinda High School and Brea Junior High students guided the competitors to their events.

Parents and teachers assisted with field events too, while BOUSD Cabinet members and administrators managed track races. There was even an opportunity for the elementary principals to join the fun with a short race, which ended in a six-way tie. At the end of the day, win or lose, everyone involved came out a winner, bringing Brea residents and children together for a fun day of competition and community bonding.





# Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

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



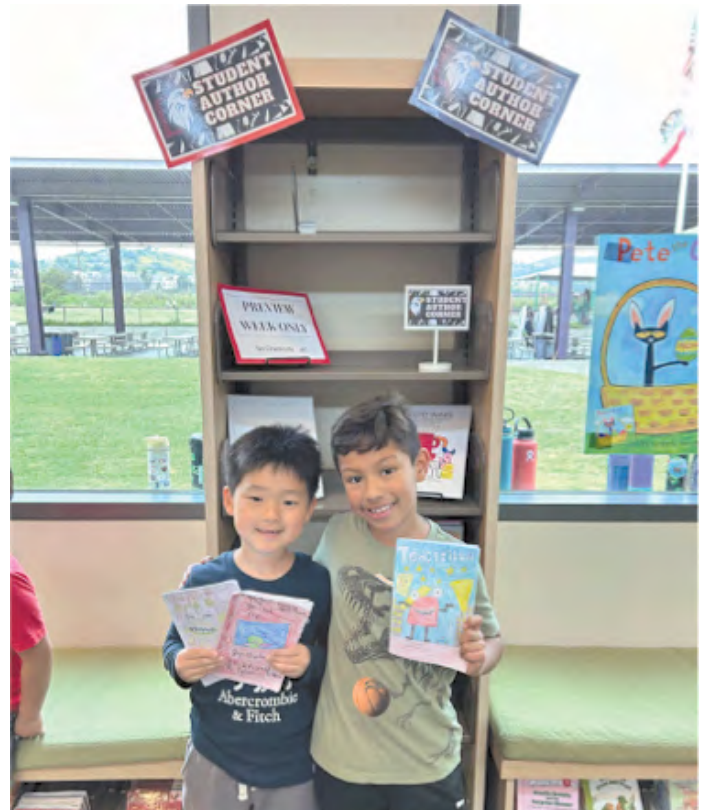
**Aubrey Lim**  
Principal

## Student Author Corner

Olinda Elementary School has many talented authors, artists, and illustrators. The Olinda Student Author Corner was created by Mrs. Yerkish, media technician, to showcase student authored books in the Olinda Media Center. Students are able to submit an original book to the library, the book is processed for circulation and then put on display in the Student Author Corner.

The purpose of this Author Corner is to spotlight student authors and make their work available to other students to check-out and enjoy.

Student Spotlights: Mrs. Alacala's 1st and 2nd grades created the "Bro Book Club," in which students write and illustrate books together. Students Ben Lin, Charlie Steward, Nick Soto, Leo Kang, and Jacob Ruiz in Miss Case's 2nd grade class have submitted a five-book series called, "Fluffy and Ghosty: The Legend of the Donut." 3rd Grader and published author, Penny Jen, did a read aloud of her book, "Sharing: Princess and Unicorn Stories" to our TK and Kinder classes during their library time. Additional Eagle authors include Paige F., Mateo S., Dylan K., Neha R., Nathan C., Kaydence F., Charlotte S., Isaac R., Aiden L., Ero B., Auggie G., Chloe T....and more coming soon!







**Dr. Al Mijares**  
Superintendent  
Orange County  
Dept. of Ed.

Of course the strategies for promoting safety will vary by campus and are ultimately up to each district's locally elected school board and leadership teams, in partnership with teachers, families, staff, students and communities. But our department eagerly supports this work with trainings and workshops throughout the year, covering such topics as safe school plans, behavioral threat assessments, earthquake preparedness, resilience strategies and active-shooter behavioral indicators.

Meanwhile, OCDE works closely with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies to study everything from cyberbullying to how to best secure school facilities. One key partnership worth noting is with the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, or OCIAC, which leverages the reach and resources of the Sheriff's Department, the FBI and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to detect, investigate and prevent criminal and terrorist activity.

OCDE and the Sheriff's Department also team up every summer to host the Safe Schools Conference with the California Department of Education. This three-day

event brings together more than 500 educators and law enforcement personnel from throughout the state to discuss issues and trends related to campus violence, bullying, social media, human trafficking, gangs and substance abuse.

In the case of critical incidents impacting schools, OCDE's Crisis Response Network deploys psychologists, nurses, social workers and other personnel to support students and staff during and after emergencies. This team also conducts trainings for schools, youth service providers, parents and students.

Finally, OCDE champions positive school climates and anti-bullying through initiatives such as the Multi-Tiered System of Support framework, Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, or PBIS, and our One Billion Acts of Kindness campaign, which kicked off in 2016 to promote character and amplify civility in our communities.

In Orange County, we view the pursuit of safer schools as a race with no finish line, and that means our commitment must be equally unwavering and enduring. New threats will continue to emerge, but so too will new technologies, strategies and best practices for protecting students and schools. Above all, we vow to stay vigilant and informed, work closely with our law enforcement partners, and adapt our approaches accordingly.

We owe our children and families nothing less.

# Day at the Beach – 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 July 15, 2023**

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

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## BOUSD Students Celebrate Award-Winning Achievements

