

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District

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BOUSD Welcomes Back Students for An Elevated 2023-24 School Year



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BOUSD Welcomes Students Back to School with A New Look



Brinda C. Leon
Superintendent

Amidst our students' much-deserved summer break, the diligent efforts of the Brea Olinda Unified School District maintenance team came to the forefront. Their dedication encompassed not only expanding and modernizing multiple schools, but also vital tasks such as deferred maintenance and comprehensive deep cleaning across all nine campuses.

Falcon Academy of Science & Technology and Laurel Elementary Magnet School witnessed the unveiling of state-of-the-art prefabricated classrooms, a warm welcome to students and staff. Likewise, Arovista experienced a vibrant transformation as the Allstars returned to upgraded lighting, carpeting, and furniture, setting a fresh tone for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Meanwhile, Mariposa Elementary's kindergarten classrooms saw a revival with newly applied paint and carpeting that infused the spaces with an inviting and vibrant ambiance, ideal for our youngest learners.



As we embark on the 2023-24 school year, it's heartening to know that our students and staff have stepped into a refreshed and conducive educational atmosphere, setting the stage for a successful and engaging academic journey.



School News



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Covering the BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Netragrednik

Welcome back to another new school year. Students were welcomed back with freshly updated classrooms as Superintendent Leon says in her message on page 2. At any age we can recall returning to school after a summer break with anticipation of seeing old friends, making new ones, meeting teachers, and settling into

a routine. We are excited to publish the excellence from the classrooms. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Be sure to enter our word search contest on page 12 (all ages may enter).

Our next issue is November 1.



Happy Halloween!



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Arovista Elementary School (K-6)

900 Eadington Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-2185 • arovista.bousd.us



Eric Barrientos
Principal

New Year, New Learning, New Feel

Arovista welcomed our newest and returning Allstars with some exciting and substantial improvements to its facilities, work which was completed over the summer break. Before we kicked off the new school year, our district's dedicated maintenance and operations team worked tirelessly to ensure that our school environment would be safe, inviting, and conducive to optimal learning experiences.

Our district leadership approved lighting and painting upgrades to be done over the summer, and which has given our classrooms a fresh and vibrant appearance. Welcoming neutral colors were carefully selected to create an atmosphere that inspires creativity and joy. Our students now enter classrooms that exude calm and positivity, and promote a sense of excitement for learning.



The acquisition of new, modern furniture also inspires a sense of pride and opportunity for innovative learning in every one of our classrooms. We believe that comfortable and functional furniture plays a vital role in providing a learning environment that is suitable for our future global influencers!

Our students will now be benefiting from ergonomic seating and versatile workspaces that encourage collaboration, engagement, and productivity. The combination of all of these efforts has set the stage for this year to be one where we not only elevate the quality of our students' physical learning environment, but also the quality of their learning.

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Brea Junior High School (7-8)

400 N. Brea Blvd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7500 • bjhs.bousd.us



Sheri Cole
Principal

Bobcat ASB: Fostering Campus Spirit and Leadership

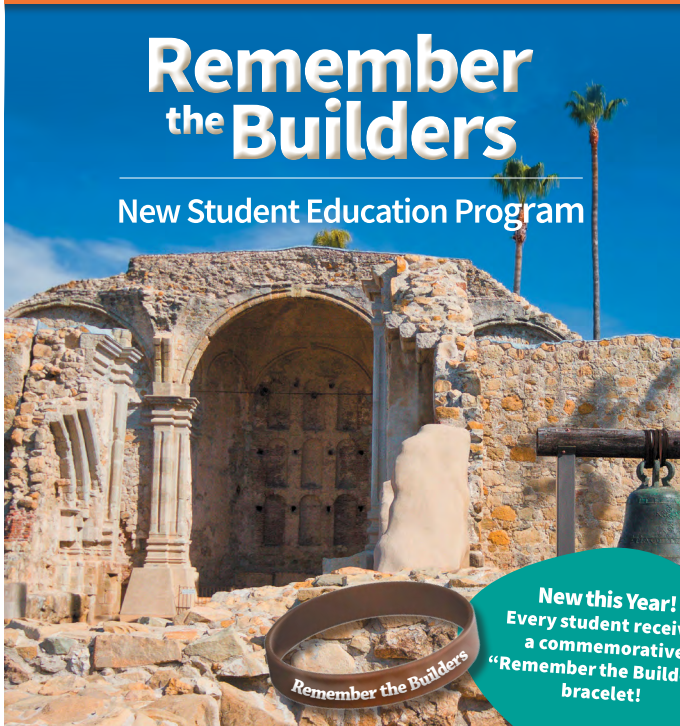
Brea Junior High School is a great place to work and learn. One of the things that makes our campus so special is our service-oriented leadership groups. One such group is the ASB leaders. This group of dedicated students work diligently to ensure that our school has fun and engaging activities. Besides leading lunchtime activities, our ASB leaders also volunteer countless hours outside of the normal school day to increase school spirit and serve our BJH community. We are grateful for this group of students and their dedication to building and sustaining Bobcat PRIDE!



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Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • breacanyon.bousd.us



Brea Canyon High School – Phone Free and Full of Engagement

Brea Canyon High School recently made a bold move in curbing phone distractions by introducing Yondr phone pouches. While not an instant hit among students, early signs suggest that the innovative measure is yielding positive outcomes.

Although the initial reception might not have been overwhelmingly positive by students, it's becoming evident that the introduction of Yondr phone pouches is fostering increased engagement and stronger relationships among students. Teachers have observed a marked improvement in classroom attentiveness, with students more immersed in discussions and lessons. Students seem more connected to the material and to each other, enhancing the overall learning environment.

As the school community embarks on this phone-free journey, there is palpable excitement about the potential for deeper connections and improved academic focus. The experiment with Yondr phone pouches holds promise for Brea Canyon High School's students and educators as they navigate the academic year ahead.



Brea Country Hills Elementary School (K-6)

150 N. Associated Rd., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-3221 • countryhills.bousd.us



PTA Participation

Happy 2023–24 school year! We know that a strong school-home connection is one of the most important factors in student success. It's also a key factor in positive school culture and teacher satisfaction. When we work together, our students benefit greatly, as we all do. I have seen this proven throughout my years in education and as a mom to two children as well.

At Country Hills, we have the best PTA! Our Parent Teacher Association is the fabric of our school. Our teachers, staff and families work together to bring fantastic opportunities to students every year. The amount of time and energy it takes to provide movie nights, social events, the jog-a-thon, Cougar Carnival, sixth-grade promotion week and many other events is astounding!

Through our fund-raisers, we are able to provide incredible experiences for our students and classrooms



Country Hills PTA Membership Drive Poster.

that not only create memories to last a lifetime but are also rooted in community, communication and respect, which are modeled for students. This legacy for Country Hills has existed for decades, and even generations like ours have parents who attended Country Hills and now bring their children to our school.

Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

789 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7850 • bohs.bousd.us



Dr. Josh Porter
Principal

BOHS Kicks Off The 'Last Firsts' For Class Of 2024

This year Brea Olinda High School was excited to kick off another great start to the school year. Each year it is a transition for our seniors to experience their last first, which begins with their last first day of school. The history behind this tradition is to encourage our students to take time to enjoy

this last year of school and foster lifelong connections with their peers. Additionally, we hosted a number of student events to kick off this school year, which included our first school-wide rally and our green and gold themed Den at Friday night's community event during our first home football game. This community event was an exciting time for BOHS, as we hosted over 300 elementary and middle school students representing their school or sport on the field for everyone to acknowledge their connection to Brea.



Brea Online Academy (TK-6)

689 N. Wildcat Way, Brea, CA 92821 • 714/990-7882 • onlineacademy.bousd.us



Dr. Kristin Risberg
Principal

Fostering Connection and Experience

Brea Online Academy is revolutionizing virtual learning with its innovative Wednesday Enrichment program, offering a diverse range of activities to its independent studies students. The program, featuring VEX Robotics, Art Masters, STEM exploration, and PALs (Peer

Assisted Learning), goes beyond traditional online education by fostering connectivity and hands-on experiences.

Students enrolled at Brea Online Academy are given a unique opportunity to delve into subjects that pique their interests, enhancing their learning journey. VEX Robotics sparks creativity and problem-solving, while Art Masters cultivates artistic talents. The STEM track delves into scientific wonders, and PALs promotes collaboration.

“Wednesday Enrichment is more than just a break from routine; it’s about building a sense of community,” remarked teacher Tracie Bretz.

As education evolves, Brea Online Academy stands at the forefront, ensuring that its students not only receive quality education but also enjoy a holistic learning experience that prepares them for the dynamic world ahead.



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

650 N. Apricot Ave., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-3908 • falcon.bousd.us



Dr. Jeannie Kim
Principal

Falcon Academy Community Bonding

Falcon Academy of Science & Technology is excited to have our first community building event next week, the PTA sponsored Falcon Fall Dance! We already have over 200 students and family members RSVP’d. We, at Falcon

Academy, see this community bonding event as an opportunity to celebrate our Falcon pride. The Falcon Fall Dance will have



three fun and important elements: dinner, dessert, and dancing. We love bringing our Brea students and families together through fun and exciting activities and look forward to many more to come. Falcon Academy is also excited to explore additional ways to incorporate science and technology into our classrooms. We are grateful for our Instructional Coach, Mrs. Thammassuckdi Casillas, to join us in engaging our students to integrate technology into their lives.



Erika Lopez
Principal

LEMS Unveils Innovative Learning Spaces

Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation & Career Exploration unveiled its cutting edge Makerspace and Career Lab, marking a pivotal stride in providing hands-on learning experiences for our students. In these dynamic environments, students emerge as problem solvers, critical thinkers, collaborators and communicators.

The Makerspace engages young minds with real world challenges, nurturing creativity and resilience. It fosters

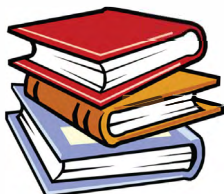
a culture of a growth mindset, propelling students to conquer challenges both local and global.

Complementing this is our visionary Career Lab, igniting students' curiosity in diverse professions. This experiential journey sparks passions, helping them grasp the impact of professions on society and envision their futures.

Laurel Elementary continues to lead in fostering insightful education, equipping students with skills that resonate beyond the classroom. Our commitment to innovation empowers them to shape a meaningful and impactful tomorrow.



WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL



2023 — 2024



Mariposa Elementary School (K-6)

1111 W. Mariposa Dr., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/529-4916 • mariposa.bousd.us



Rick Torres
Principal

Where Learning Comes to Life!

Get ready, Brea, because Mariposa Elementary School is all set to kick off the new school year with a line-up of exciting opportunities that our children are going to love!

The school is abuzz with anticipation as Mrs. Wagner prepares to begin our piano lessons again. The children will be able to discover the magic of music right here in our music lab. It's a great chance for them to unleash their inner Beethoven and let their creativity flow.

We will also continue to kick learning up a notch with our focus on the four C's of Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity. Through engaging STEAM lab activities, our students can also dive into hands-on projects that ignite curiosity and teamwork and shape them into future-ready problem solvers.

Calling all young innovators! Our robotics program is set to launch for grades four to six. With four competitive teams participating in VEX IQ Robotics, the grades five and six students will be exploring the world of technology, engineering, and teamwork as they design and build their way to success. Grades three and four will also be part of the action through their VEX GO program, discovering the magic of robotics and coding.

Art Masters is also making its debut too, bringing art appreciation and creativity to the forefront. From the tiniest tots to our seasoned sixth-graders, everyone will get a chance to unleash their inner Picasso and explore the vibrant world of art.

And get ready for showtime! Mrs. Miller will be leading our enthusiastic students in a show choir that promises to fill our hallways with melodies and harmony. It's a great opportunity for your children to shine on stage and discover the thrill of the performing arts.

But that's not all. The Mariposa Elementary PTA has a calendar full of family friendly events that will definitely bring the community together. From movie nights to an Angel's baseball game event, a lively family dance, and even a bingo night, there will be something for everyone.

The Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) is also getting a facelift! Get ready for an immersive experience with a new sound system, projector, screen, fresh paint, and improved lighting. It's the perfect place for enriching gatherings and interactive learning.

We're excited to be embarking on this learning journey with your children here at Mariposa Elementary. With a blend of music, arts, technology, and good old-fashioned fun, this school year promises to be a very memorable one. So get ready to dive in and make the most of the fantastic opportunities ahead!

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 Brea Olinda in the subject line)

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

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 |

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Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

3145 E. Birch St., Brea, CA 92821 • 714/528-7475 • olinda.bousd.us



Aubrey Lim
Principal

Olinda's Launch into Learning

At Olinda Elementary School, students SOAR towards personal excellence. We define personal excellence as not only thriving academically, but socially, emotionally, and behaviorally. Our Olinda Eagles are actively learning and growing in all areas of their development. One way we meet the needs of our students is through our PBIS program. This year, our Olinda

teachers and staff engaged in behavior rotations with all students, guiding them around campus and having meaningful conversations about how to SOAR in each location. Our Olinda SOAR words define what our students display each and every day!

- Show self-control
- Own your actions
- Act responsibly
- Respect self and others

We are also excited to incorporate PBIS into our Student of the Month selection. This year, Olinda students will be honored each month for not only demonstrating excellence in their academics, but also in their character through theme-based Student of the Month selections. Some examples are positive attitude, respect, and leadership. With all the great things happening here at Olinda, it is going to be a truly amazing year!

EAGLE OF THE MONTH	
AUGUST Positive Attitude	JANUARY Perseverance
SEPTEMBER Friendship	FEBRUARY Kindness
OCTOBER Respect	MARCH Ownership
NOVEMBER Self-Control	APRIL Leadership
DECEMBER Responsibility	MAY Integrity



Orange County Department of Education



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent



Dr. Ramon Miramontes
Deputy Superintendent of Instructional Programs

In the Star Wars universe, whenever a spacecraft makes the jump to light speed, the stars outside the cockpit stretch out into luminous streaks. It's a mesmerizing visual of acceleration that brings to mind the dizzying

advancement of technology here on planet Earth — and the urgent need for educational systems to keep pace.

With artificial intelligence poised to reshape workplaces and society at large, the Orange County Department of Education is moving ahead with an ambitious initiative that will evaluate and determine the best approaches for integrating AI into teaching and learning. This could include more personalized learning, real-time feedback for students and teachers, or the automation of routine tasks, allowing educators to focus more on matters that demand human insight, judgment and creative thinking.

While the outcomes have yet to be determined, we do know this won't be a solitary endeavor. Led by our Educational Services division, OCDE is taking the first steps of a collaborative journey that will involve school district leaders, industry partners, educators, parents and students. And we envision it taking place in three distinct phases.

The first phase will seek to elevate AI literacy and leadership, establishing a common understanding and terminology in Orange County. The second phase will develop strategies and an implementation plan in collaboration with leaders of the county's 28 independent school districts. Finally, a third phase will evaluate our efforts, gather data and plan for the future.

OCDE's commitment to continuous improvement and community engagement ensures that the feedback loop will remain open, fostering a culture of learning and adaptability.

OCDE has long sought to stay ahead of the curve when it comes to emerging technologies, but AI represents something we haven't quite seen before. These newer tools simulate human intelligence, enabling computers to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive abilities. As such, they have the potential to impact just about every aspect of our work and lives, from teaching and learning to health care, transportation, media, energy, finance and customer service.

While ChatGPT and other publicly available services aren't perfect, remember that they are programmed to learn from us, which means they can and will evolve exponentially. In other words, the examples we see today are the worst versions we're going to encounter moving forward.

Preparing students for an AI-driven future isn't just about passing along technical skills. It's about teaching adaptability, critical thinking and ethical decision-making. By integrating AI literacy across educational settings, OCDE and our partners will be able to equip students with the capacity to navigate an increasingly complex world without losing those traits that make us uniquely human, like kindness, character and artistic expression. And through community engagement, we can pursue a shared vision for AI that aligns with our local values and needs.

The need for education to remain in stride with technology is undeniable, and the Orange County Department of Education has long been a leader in this arena. But collaboration is the key to what lies ahead. That's how we'll ensure that the next generation isn't just ready to embrace the challenges of an AI-driven world, but that they're poised to drive innovation, forge new paths and contribute meaningfully to a future that's constantly in motion.