

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Brea Olinda Unified School District



Volume 10, Issue 35

March 2024

Cultivating Kindness at BOUSD



HOMEBUYING POP QUIZ

**When trying to buy a home,
what's most important?**

- A)** Budget-friendly loan options.
- B)** Rebates and discounts.
- C)** A strong relationship between my lender and real estate agent.
- D)** All of the above.

**If you answered “all of the above,” then
SchoolsFirst FCU Home360® is the homebuying program for you.**

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All loans are subject to approval.

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Equity Engaged! BOUSD Prioritizes Equity-Focused Engagement for All



Brinda C. Leon
Superintendent

It's no surprise that school districts across California have placed a greater concerted effort to help advance equity and close achievement gaps within our school districts. Brea Olinda Unified is no different. Our district kicked off 2024 on the right foot - placing equity work at the forefront for our teachers and staff during a District-wide Professional Development Day on Jan. 26.

During this all-day training, our teachers and staff attended a variety of sessions that focused on improving student connections, nurturing social-emotional well-being for our most vulnerable student populations, and enhancing instructional strategies to help positively move the needle for our literacy and math goals.

It was especially wonderful to welcome Dr. Cherina Betters, Chief of Equity & Access at San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, who provided a keynote address that focused on ways to build positive student relationships, create change through inclusive teaching practices, and nurture a sense of belonging through engagement and community in our schools.

I am pleased to share that BOUSD continues to make gains in many areas. We have consistently outperformed the county and state in many academic performance metrics. I am excited to see BOUSD complete another year strong by continuing to focus on closing the achievement gap for target populations, advancing college and career readiness, and cultivating positive, safe, and respectful school environments.



ATTENTION PET LOVERS!

Join us for the

FIFTH ANNUAL

CITY OF BREA PET EXPO 2024



APRIL 6

9 am - 3 pm

Brea Community Center

695 E. Madison Way

Admission **\$3**

Kids under 12 **FREE**

Pets will not be admitted

BreaSpecialEvents.com

Pet Products

Pet Adoptions

Learning Opportunities

**Police K-9 Demonstrations
and More!**

***DO NOT
bring your
pets!**

Contact **Kristin Steyerman**
714.990.7771 | Kristins@cityofbrea.net



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



562/493-3193
kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

This is our 10th year publishing the excellence from the BOUSD. Thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

In this issue you will read articles on a wide range of topics. Beginning on page 6 Arovista Elementary School Principal, Eric Barrientos, introduces their new initiative for family engagement. On page 10 Brea Olinda High School Principal Dr. Josh Porter's article is about commitment to community service. You'll read articles about Robotics, an Outdoor Learning Space, SOAR Assemblies, and so much more...

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

Our next issue is May 15.

Have a Fun Spring Break!



BEFORE and AFTER School Early and Expanded Learning Programs

Programs with a Purpose

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Learning Link • Preschool • TK/Kindergarten
Connection programs are available

Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Day Camps
are available year around

Homework Help, 21st Century Learning,
STEAM Activities and Outdoor Recreation
Planned each day

**Now
Enrolling
School Age
and Teen
Programs!**

Before and After School Care available
on all 6 Elementary School campuses:

Arovista, Country Hills, Falcon Academy
Laurel, Mariposa, Olinda

Teen Center open at
Brea Junior High School

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**



**ANAHEIM
TENNIS & PICKLEBALL
CENTER**

Junior Summer Program 2024
June 10-August 1

SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS

Beginner/Intermediate & High School JV

*All players are grouped by age/ability
Learn new skills, have fun, play matches,
make great memories*

Monday-Thursday
8:30am - 11:30am
\$245 per week

Ages
7-16



PICKLEBALL FOR KIDS

Introduction/Intermediate

Saturday a.m. classes
\$105 for 5 weeks
Monday & Wednesday a.m. classes
\$120 for 3 weeks

Ages
6-15

ATC JUNIOR CLINICS

Beginner / Intermediate / Advanced

Friday a.m. or Saturday a.m. classes
\$105 for 5 weeks
Tuesday & Thursday p.m. classes
\$120 for 3 weeks

SUMMER TEAM TENNIS

Intermediate/ Advance Players

Monthly: June/July/August
Friday Practice 4pm-5:30pm
Saturday Match Play 10am - 11:30am
\$160 per 4 weeks every month

Ages
8-16



Call to Register / 714-991-9090

Check website for class times / anaheimtenniscenter.com

Arovista *Elementary School (K-6)*

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



Eric Barrientos
Principal

Anchoring Success Together

We are thrilled to celebrate the launch of our Allstars Parenting Atlas: Anchoring Foundations to Success! This initiative marks an exciting collaboration between our school and our dedicated parents, aimed at enhancing student learning and social-emotional development through increased family engagement.

Our first session focused on conflict resolution strategies led by our Arovista Elementary school counselor, Vanessa Cardenas. It was heartwarming to see our parents actively participating, sharing insights, and learning alongside us. From discussing methods employed within the school to practical strategies for

implementation at home, the session was a testament to the power of collaboration between home and school. This partnership not only strengthens the bond between families and the school but also creates a supportive network where everyone is committed to the success and well-being of every student.

As we move forward with the Allstars Parenting Atlas Series, we are eager to tailor upcoming topics based on the valuable feedback of our Arovista community. By coming together as partners in education, we are laying the groundwork for our children's success both inside and outside the classroom. Together, we will continue to anchor the foundations of success for our students, building a brighter future for each and every Arovista Allstar!



Brea Junior High School (7-8)

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

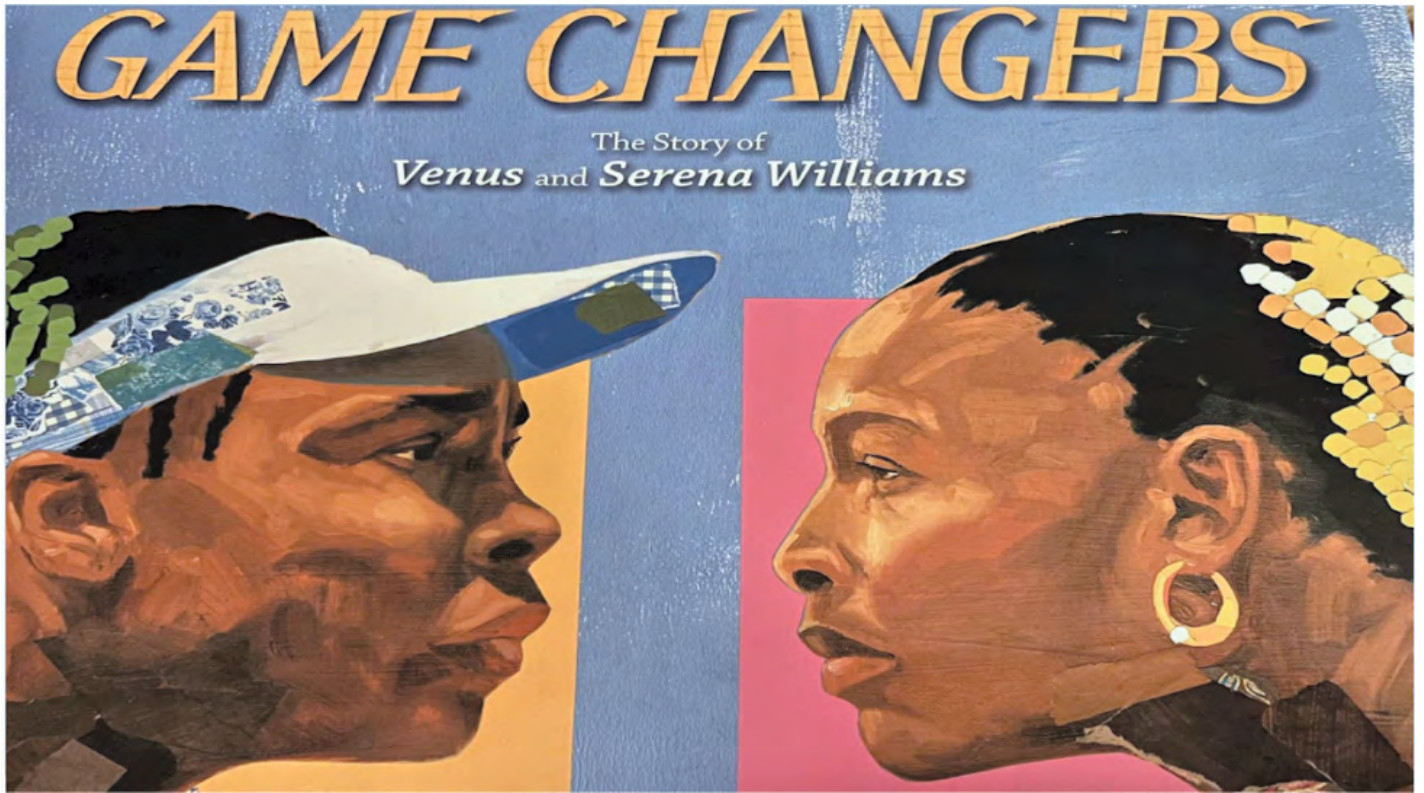


Sheri Cole
Principal

BJHS Celebrates Black History Month

The month of February of was quite busy at Brea Junior High School. The entire campus proudly celebrated Black History Month with a variety of activities, including morning announcements which highlighted a famous African American. In addition, our weekly newsletter included videos highlighting influential black historical figures, and on Fridays, students were treated to the sounds of Black artists and

musicians during lunch. Likewise, students participated in an African American Read-in event through English classes. This is a Nationwide event that celebrates Black History month through a focus on literature. Students who came to the auditorium participated in a read aloud about Venus and Serena Williams called Game Changers. They discussed character traits of Venus and Serena Williams and how their character contributed to their success. In addition, students were entered in a raffle for edible treats from South Africa.



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**Covering the
BREA OLINDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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Brea Canyon High School (9-12)

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



Yes, We CANyon!

Brea Canyon High School distinguishes itself through its dedication to social-emotional learning and community engagement. At BCHS, education extends beyond textbooks to nurture empathy, resilience, and a profound sense of belonging.

This school year, an advisory period was added for our students to complete credit recovery and focus on social and emotional learning. The students are also rewarded every week for their great attendance with the ability to leave early on Fridays during this advisory period.

Our curriculum emphasizes emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and authentic self-expression, fostering meaningful connections among students, faculty, and families. This past month, BCHS collaborated with Project Kinship on a picnic where the students were able to listen to music, create individual artistic pieces, and enjoy ice cream sundaes. It was a day filled with love, bonding, and community.

As graduates, our students are equipped with the necessary academic and life skills they need to succeed beyond the classroom. BCHS stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, shaping individuals who are not only prepared for the future, but also actively contribute to creating a more compassionate and connected environment.

Yes, we CANyon!



BCHS Coyotes build community through art



BCHS and Project Kinship Picnic

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

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



Shelley Lopez
Principal

Universal Design for Learning

“Multiple means of engagement” is one of the three main aspects of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and at Country Hills

and elementary schools across the district, we have been implementing new ways for teaching and learning to take place. This includes incorporating project-based learning and using multiple means of engagement to inspire and expand student learning. Country Hills sixth-grade students are increasing their depth of knowledge about Egypt by creating projects of their choosing, and those choices include every element of the project.



The current sixth-grade Egyptian projects are an example of outstanding teaching and learning. In Mrs. Raish’s sixth grade class, students chose from not only a variety of topics but also a variety of possibilities in presenting their research, from clay models to short films and everything in between—even canopic jars! Students were able to choose a high-interest topic and then present it to the principal, superintendent, and a board member during a recent visit to the school. Each student in Mrs. Raish’s class participated, and it was an impressive sight!

Way to go, sixth grade!
Keep up the excellent work.

6th grade presenters share their work with Superintendent Leon and Board Member Miller.

Brea Olinda High School (9-12)

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



Dr. Josh Porter
Principal

Community at the Heart of BOHS

Brea Olinda High School is proud to share an enhanced commitment to giving back to the community. This year BOHS has extended its community service commitments from our leadership organizations to our athletic programs, where each athletic team has now committed to volunteer the equivalent of one athletic practice to community service. This will provide over 2,400 additional hours of support to a community that has given so much for more than a century.

As many community members saw during the annual Brea 8k, our student representatives from football, marching band, choir, and the National Honor Society, to name just a few, were all present to provide support and lend a hand in the set-up of this large-scale event.

Additionally, our BOHS athletic leaders will be reading to elementary students for Read Across America Day. Our Red Cross Club also volunteers for local community blood drives, and along with the ASB, they have partnered with the UCI Blood Drive to bring a mobile clinic to the Brea Olinda campus.

BOHS appreciates its continued partnership with the City of Brea, which has helped to coordinate many current and future volunteer opportunities for our students. Next month our students are looking forward to serving alongside the Brea community at the annual Love Brea community service event on April 27th.

Whether it is visiting with seniors at the Brea Senior Center, supporting our foster youth, or delivering baked goods to our local fire and police departments, the students of Brea Olinda High School love all that is Brea!



Brea Online Academy (TK-6)

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



Fernando Grimaldo
Principal

Building Connections and Community in an Online Learning Environment

At Brea Online Academy, we are proud to offer a comprehensive, yet flexible, virtual curriculum, while not losing sight of the social and interactive opportunities offered to students in a traditional school model. We value the importance of building connections and fostering a sense of community and strive to offer the best of both worlds to our students.

This year, we're placing greater importance on social-emotional well-being by participating in daily virtual class meetings and monthly virtual assemblies to provide a platform for students to engage with their peers and teachers. We have also introduced a monthly group meeting with our school counselor.

Beyond virtual interactions, our in-person meetings further solidify these connections by providing a platform for hands-on experiences and creating social bonds by working together on STEM, Art, and Robotics projects. The addition of our Peer Assistance Leadership program has further contributed to our sense of community, creating a supportive environment of collaboration and mentorship among students.



Falcon Academy of Science & Technology (K-6)

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



Dr. Jeannie Kim
Principal

Our SOAR Assemblies

The Falcon Academy of Science and Technology (FAST) made a special presentation at the Brea-Olinda Unified School District School Board meeting on February 8. The presentation was delivered by our student

adviser and several of our student council members.

The group provided an interactive experience for the council members as they introduced all of the amazing happenings at FAST, which included a mini-SOAR assembly. SOAR stands for “Staying Safe, Owning your own actions, Acting responsibly, and Respecting everyone and everything. The event was an absolute blast!

In true school fashion, the third-grade students made a number of innovative creations for presentation to our faculty, staff members, fellow students, and families. There were many amazing inventions presented, including a sensory jacket that had a Pop It and strings attached to it, a few T-shirt folding devices, and so much more. All of the creations were ingenious!

Falcon has SOAR assemblies every other month to celebrate our students and our school culture. The February SOAR assembly went off without a hitch! The students were honored for showing the qualities of fairness and respect. Jog-a-Thon prizes have also been getting distributed as well, and one of the big-ticket items occurred at the SOAR assembly. The children participated in a SOAR card cash cube and the entire crowd was enthralled. Everyone had fun!





Erika Lopez
Principal

Garden of Possibilities

In an exciting endeavor to foster career exploration and innovation at Laurel, our school has embarked on a transformative project: the creation of a vibrant outdoor learning space — our very own Garden of Possibilities.

Guided by their curiosity and passion for environmental stewardship, students have been actively involved in the entire planning process for the garden. From sketching out their dreams and aspirations for Laurel's garden design to enthusiastically rolling up their sleeves to build planters and fill them with rich soil, they have helped set the stage for an immersive educational experience that represents a dynamic intersection of nature, education, and creativity.

As we nurture this project, collaboration emerges, and we are proud to partner with the district, parents, and our students to bring this vision to life. Their collective input and dedication infuse every aspect of the garden's development, ensuring that it reflects the diverse interests and aspirations of our school community.

In addition, a tranquil outdoor reading area invites students to immerse themselves in the wonders of literature and the serenity of nature. And nearby, a butterfly garden bursts with vibrant colors, providing a habitat for these delicate creatures and offering opportunities for hands-on



learning about pollination and biodiversity. Laurel's herb garden also serves as a living laboratory where students explore the culinary and medicinal properties of various plants. It is through these experiential activities that the Garden of Possibilities becomes a dynamic classroom without walls, where curiosity thrives and learning knows no bounds.

As we look ahead to the 2024–25 school year, anticipation grows for the completion of our Garden of Possibilities. Together, we cultivate not just a garden but a future ripe with endless possibilities.



Mariposa Elementary School (K-6)

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



Rick Torres
Principal

Our Expanded Robotics Program

Our Mariposa Elementary School VEX IQ Robotics program has been thriving during its second year. We offer a hands-on experience for students across the various grade levels. This academic year we were able to expand our robotics offerings by introducing three separate programs at no cost to the students.

VEX Go, which caters to grades three and four, now boasts over 56 participants who focus on laying the foundation for the basics of coding. These younger students build and code robots using blocks to tackle a range of challenges. For grades five and six, VEX IQ engages approximately 48 students across two sessions, all of which provides a deeper exploration of robotics concepts and engineering.

Mariposa's commitment to competitive robotics is evident by our establishment of four teams of 15 students. The competitive aspect of this program has inspired a strong sense of teamwork, as well as forged a valuable community partnership with a local aerospace employer. Mr. Rathod, a visiting engineer from the company, recently emphasized to our students the alignment between their classroom robotics methodologies and real-world engineering.

The dedication of Mariposa's robotics teams has yielded some remarkable results, with one team qualifying for the VEX State Championship Competition—a significant milestone. This achievement underscores the talent and commitment of our students, and also showcases our program's effectiveness in nurturing future engineers and problem-solvers.

The Mariposa robotics program is a testament to our school's dedication to STEM education. We are shaping the innovators of tomorrow and earning the pride of the entire school community.



Olinda Elementary School (K-6)

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



Aubrey Lim
Principal

Celebrations at Olinda Elementary

Olinda Elementary embraced cultural diversity and unity throughout February by commemorating Lunar New Year and Black History Month while focusing on kindness as part of the PBIS initiative. The school hosted a myriad of engaging activities, such as live performances, storytelling sessions, and research projects, to educate and celebrate these significant occasions. Students actively participated in these events, fostering a sense of appreciation for various cultures and histories. Additionally, the school recognized exemplary behavior, highlighting the Students of the Month who demonstrated exceptional kindness,

contributing to the positive atmosphere at Olinda Elementary. This holistic approach not only enriched students' understanding of cultural celebrations but also reinforced the importance of kindness, creating a nurturing and inclusive school environment.



Whole Health Everyday 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: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com (Please put Brea Olinda in the subject line)

Entries must be received by **May 1, 2024**

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

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| ALKALINE | MINERALS |
| ALMONDS | NATURAL |
| APPLES | NOURISH |
| CARROTS | NUTS |
| CHICKEN | PROTEIN |
| FIBER | SALMON |
| FRUITS | SEEDS |
| HEALTH | VEGETABLES |
| HUMMUS | VITAMINS |
| KALE | WATER |
| LEMONS | |



Good Dental Health



Word Search Contest

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- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Breads | Eggs | Milk |
| Brushing | Examination | Nutrition |
| Cereals | Fish | Orthodontist |
| Checkup | Flossing | Pediatric |
| Daily | Fluoride | Sugar |
| Dairy | Fruits | Tooth |
| Dentist | Guidelines | Vegetables |
| Development | Healthy | Water |
| Diet | Meat | Whole grains |

