Learning is Fun!

Bret Harte Elementary students learn while shopping at their “Beetique.”
Not having a paycheck during the summer had been devastating. Having a Summer Saver helps me save throughout the year so I don’t have to borrow for the summer.”

ARRONDA D.
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHER
MEMBER SINCE 2013

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The final LCAP meeting of 2017, held December 21, focused on Goal 3: Continue to Align All Instruction and Learning to California State Standards. Below are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- Middle School Science teachers have written new common assessments which are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards
- Middle school English Language Arts teachers selected and administered new performance tasks from the new English curriculum
- The English Language Arts teachers are using a common four-point rubric for the common assessment for grades 6 through 12
- Social Science teachers have been to a presentation at the Los Angeles County Office of Education on the new framework for social science curriculum

Community members that participated in the event asked questions about upcoming textbook adoptions. The state of California has just opened the window for districts to adopt new social science textbooks. Therefore, our teachers will be attending a Publisher Fair through Los Angeles County Office of Education in the spring to determine which textbooks they would like to pilot. The hope would be to select a textbook sometime in the 2018-2019 school year. Similarly, parents asked how teachers incorporated arts into their instruction of the California State Standards. District staff was able to explain that teachers explore original works of art while actively participating in a series of lessons that present strategies for teaching with interpreting works of art through writing and discussion.

I encourage the larger community of Burbank to attend our next LCAP meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 5:45 pm in the Council Chambers at Burbank City Hall. We will be discussing Goal 7: Create a Positive School Climate by Maintaining a Safe Environment and Developing a Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff. District staff will be addressing safety plans and mental health and wellness to name just a couple of topics. We look forward to seeing you on March 1, 2018 at 5:45 pm at City Hall.
Estimation Time

Edison students have to keep guessing! Each month there is a new contest that has been stumping our students. Our Curriculum Specialist, Ms. Gray, has created lessons for each class to help them with estimation. The first month they had to guess how many pumpkin seeds were in a real pumpkin. The next month they had to guess how much a frozen turkey weighed, and in December they had to guess the length of a tangled string of lights.

Ms. Gray helps the students and teacher by providing tools to help them figure out the answers. In October, she showed the students the inside of a cleaned out pumpkin so they could see how many seeds were inside. She also showed them what 20 seeds in a jar looked like. For the next contest, she showed the students different pictures of animals and asked the class to guess their weight. This helped students to figure out more accurate numbers with regard to the frozen turkey. The tangled up string of lights pictured measured 69 feet! We had a few students guess 70 feet, which is a very close estimate. Each month we see many amazing guesses which show us that many students really do know how to estimate well and are improving their estimation skills!
Super Star Intervention Specialist

Students, staff, and families are so fortunate to have Sandra Davis, intervention specialist extraordinaire, serve the school community teaching a variety of skills to promote social emotional learning. Ms. Davis joined the Emerson staff two years ago and visits all classrooms to coach our students using the wonderful skills from Second Step to help them learn how to regulate their emotions, thoughts, and behaviors.

In addition, Ms. Davis works with small groups of students focusing on a specific skill such as how to make friends or how to handle conflict on the playground with a peer. Not only does Ms. Davis work with teachers and students, she is always available to speak with parents and share resources with families in need of specific support.

Any day of the week you can find Ms. Davis out on the playground during recess and lunch playing or greeting students at the front gate in the morning. Ms. Davis has also implemented a ticket system during recess and lunch by recognizing those students who are practicing mindfulness or utilizing skills from Second Step.

Ms. Davis shines daily as Emerson’s “super star” intervention specialist. Thank you, Ms. Davis for bringing peace and understanding to the Emerson community.

Harte Elementary School

“Beetique”

Bret Harte Elementary School’s PTA once again hosted a holiday shopping market for students. The “Beetique” enables students to shop for holiday gifts for their families while teaching the children about the value of different coins, counting money, totaling their purchase, and working within a budget.

Kindergartners get a little extra help from PTA volunteers who work with them to make sure everyone on their list gets a gift and help these littlest shoppers with handling their money. (It’s not unusual to see an item favored by the child become what they believe is their parents’ ideal gift!)

Older students practice their math skills and display responsibility in handling their own money. The add up their purchase, subtract from their total budget, multiply the cost of smaller items when they buy more than one. These real life transactions emphasize the idea that math is everywhere!

The Beetique includes a wide variety of items crafted by the students and families in our community.

Students are very proud when they see the item they made purchased by a classmate!

The Beetique started as a fundraiser, but the educational benefits to Bret Harte students is much greater than the funds that the event brings in to support the school!
**How Green is Our Garden!**

Andrea Trujillo, one of our many parent volunteers, has taken over our garden and made it better than ever! With the support of our Booster Club, EnrichLA, and other experts, the garden has been completely cleaned up. Volunteers helped with the weeding, laying weed fabric, mulching, and even clearing trees to provide an Outdoor Classroom! Once that was accomplished, weekend Planting Workshops have been offered for parents and kids to learn some best practices when putting seedlings into the ground. In addition, the lunchtime Garden Club created last fall has been a huge success. Students cannot wait for their turn to spend time planting and learning about the environment. We have also applied and received grants to help ensure sustainability and maintenance throughout the year, including summer months. Next year, we are planning on using our outdoor classroom while teaching lessons aligned with the New Generation Science Standards. We look forward to seeing our garden grow into the beautiful and inviting place we know it can become.

**Developing a Literary Foundation**

Retired teacher Nancy Tiller continues to share her love of learning with our McKinley families each week when she facilitates Preschool Storytime. Every Wednesday Ms. Tiller brings her wealth of knowledge of early literacy to preschool age children and their families. She not only reads them stories, but also guides the children and their families in engaging and fun activities to provide a strong literary foundation. They participate in songs, games, and art activities that help them build literacy skills—and social skills. It is not just McKinley families that participate in Storytime; the program is open to any family in our community with preschool age children. Ms. Tiller is providing a place where young children can explore, learn, use their imagination, and gain skills that will prepare them for elementary school.
The Play’s the Thing!

Miller has strongly supported and encouraged theater arts. For the past 12 years, students in Grades 4 and 5 have staged a full-length theater production. Recently, there have been performances by students in other grades. We have found that theater arts fosters student confidence, school spirit, and academic achievement, specifically for our large population of English Language Learners who speak a variety of languages at home. This year, we have 19 different languages spoken in addition to English.

With the guidance of teachers Melissa Pamperin and Brian Collins, their Grade 5 students performed the play, A Kingdom in Crisis, in December. This play was written and directed by Ms. Pamperin with assistance from retired teacher and volunteer John Ossiff, along with other teachers and parents.

The synopsis of the play is as follows: It is medieval times—an age when women were protected from such things as dragons, puddles, and, well, thinking for themselves. But a plague has hit the kingdom, killing the king and all the other men, and only the men. Of course Gawain the court jester is still alive, but he’s just a jester. No one pays attention to him. The queen and the ladies in waiting come up with a plan to go out and hunt up another man to be king. One contrary soul, Constance, suggests that the women themselves could rule the kingdom. She is, of course, ignored. The results of the search are disappointing, to say the least!

Our students thoroughly enjoyed sharing this performance. We look forward to many more productions by our Miller students!

Providencia Elementary School

Outdoor Science School

At Providencia we are so very fortunate to send our fifth-grade students to Wrightwood, California, to attend Outdoor Science School (OSS) every year. This four-day, three-night educational trip is an excellent opportunity for our students to learn science standards in the great outdoors!

OSS is an excellent educational program, run through the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), that has been providing science enrichment to Los Angeles students since 1960. The four days at OSS are an important part of our students’ education. The outdoors becomes their classroom and the natural environment is their laboratory. Students learn through direct experience and observation within the natural environment surrounding the OSS campsite.

Once the group arrived at OSS, highly qualified naturalists provided daily scientific instruction. Together, staff, parent chaperones, and teachers worked with our students so they could experience and appreciate the wonders of nature in a safe and supervised environment.

Throughout the four days at OSS, our students were able to hone their investigative, problem solving, and critical thinking skills. Day and night hikes allowed the students to discover things about the surrounding environment. Students learned many songs about scientific concepts and worked together in teams to create a skit which they performed on the final night of camp.

OSS was made possible due to our hardworking fifth-grade teachers, parents, and our Booster Club. Without their support, a trip of this magnitude would not have been possible. The Providencia community has embraced this tradition, and we look forward to continuing the OSS experience for many more years to come.
Maker Space Carts

Last year, each elementary school in Burbank received a Maker Space cart with Code & Go Mouse Kits, Keva Planks, and Little Bits Kits. All of our students, from Kindergarten through fifth grade love using the Code & Go Mouse Kits to set up mazes and program the mice to find the cheese. These kits help students begin to understand the basics of computer coding. Our fourth-grade math enrichment has been using the Keva Planks to study the basics of engineering and our fifth-grade enrichment has been using the Little Bits to study circuits. We are so grateful to the Burbank Education Foundation and the “90 for 90” campaign which raised more than $100,000 to support increasing technology in our schools. Support from the local business community and Burbank’s citizens is providing a better future for all of our children.

Stevenson Elementary School
3333 Oak St., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5522

Positive Behavior Management

We believe in a positive environment. Our school starts every week with a Monday morning assembly where parents are welcome. Students and staff participate in the Pledge of Allegiance then chant our school motto loudly: “Stevenson is Helpful, Friendly, and Respectful!” The principal then gives Positive Praise slips to students who exemplify our school motto.

Stevenson students were taught positive behaviors necessary for success on our schoolyard and in our cafeteria by using the proactive management system called CHAMPS. Randy Sprick and his Safe and Civil Schools program created CHAMPS. Each letter in the word CHAMPS stands for an expectation. “C” stands for conversation. What should the conversation sound like? Conversation in the cafeteria is “talking to the people at your table in a low tone” where Conversation on the yard is “talking to the students playing in your group in a normal voice.” “H” stands for help. How do you ask for help in the environment you are in? “A” stands for activity. What should the activity look like? Obviously the activity in the cafeteria is very different from the activity on the yard. “M” stands for movement. How much or how little movement can you have?

“P” stands for participation. What type of participation goes on in the cafeteria? The yard? “S” stands for success. We will be successful if the CHAMPS positive expectations are followed.

Positive and proactive intervention support systems are powerful and effective. We have seen positive changes at our school since implementing CHAMPS and by creating a school motto. Students, staff, and parents alike love the positive environment as well as the clear expectations that come with CHAMPS. Stevenson is Helpful, Friendly and Respectful!
Ending Semester One with STEAM
The entire school (Transitional Kindergarten through 5th grade) had an amazing experience on their last day of the first semester, just before winter break. Washington’s Parent Teacher Association (PTA) sponsored an all-day STEAM Portable Hands-On Museum event and it was spectacular! Mobile Ed transformed the auditorium and each grade level had a 40-minute opportunity to experience a state-of-the-art children’s museum focused on science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Students rotated through different stations and had exposure to high-tech fields of study for the very first time.

Students were encouraged to explore the museum at their own pace and manage their time between stations that appealed to their individual interests. Students had opportunities to build arches; program robots for 3D printing; turn their energy into a light show; and mix and match four different rollers, each with their own texture, while learning about friction.

From team building to problem solving, students felt inspired to become the architects and engineers of tomorrow!

Novelist –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 Burbank in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 30, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game - fun for all ages!

Congratulations to Livvy Wei and Garrett Morberg-Nguyen Winners of our December Contests!
Music Education Expands

The Instrumental Music Department at Luther Burbank Middle School is growing! In August, we started a new string orchestra class led by the Luther instrumental music teacher, Ms. Natalie Buresch. Learners in Beginning Strings choose a string instrument (either the violin, viola, cello, or double bass) to learn how to play. The students study a variety of repertoire including classical and pop music. In December they performed their first full concert and they sounded wonderful. Parents and staff were so impressed with how quickly the students have learned to play their instruments. They have learned both bow and plucking skills, and they played four different pieces in the winter concert. For many of the students, this is their first time playing an instrument, so they are also learning basic music theory, including how to read music and how to play an instrument while watching their conductor, Ms. Buresch. This spring, Strings students will compete in the Music Theory Olympics where they will test their knowledge of music theory, music history, and various other topics covered throughout the year.

The LBMS Instrumental Music Association would like to invite the Burbank community to our upcoming concerts on Saturday, March 10th and Tuesday, May 2nd. More information can be found on the IMA website: www.lbmsbandandorch.weebly.com. In addition, students who are interested in joining the Strings class can contact Ms. Buresch at natalieburesch@burbankusd.org.

Level Up

We know that transitions can be difficult for many adolescent students. At Jordan, we work to provide proactive measures that will help students succeed. From positive behavior strategies to high school tours, the Jordan staff continually strives to anticipate student needs and make the transition process easier.

Fifth grade students at our feeder elementary sites receive visits from our counseling and intervention team. As well, we host a Fifth Grade Family Night in February, and Jordan administration hosts tours for incoming families once a month. Our registration process and Cougar Camp in August also provide incoming fifth-grade students the tools and information they need to be successful and get excited about middle school.

Eighth grade students have individual meetings with their counselor and parents to discuss their schedule and high school classes and opportunities. Every eighth-grader at Jordan visits John Burroughs High School to tours the campus. As well, the high school counselors visit Jordan, and this year we have added a “Getting Ready for High School” fair during which many clubs, sports, and organizations will share information with our eighth graders. We know that student involvement is an important factor in social and emotional well-being and success in school. We strive to prepare our students to maximize their opportunities for learning and career and college readiness.
Multicultural Week

To start a conversation about multiculturalism, Burbank High School hosted Multicultural Week. Though the World Languages Department hosts “World Languages Week” in the spring, Administration felt it was important to represent different cultures at BHS all year round. World Language teachers Arby Tacub and Yvette Velasco were asked to exhibit the different cultures, languages, and traditions that are represented by the faculty, staff, and students at BHS. Teachers, counselors, ELD students, and world language students contributed by recording videos that featured them speaking in another language and teaching words or phrases that were then highlighted on BHS-TV as part of the morning announcements.

One activity that students enjoyed during Multicultural Week was a contest promoting multicultural awareness. QR codes posted around campus were linked to videos teaching how to speak another language or facts about different countries and people. Students scanned the codes and, if they posted a video to their Instagram account sharing what they learned with the hashtag #celebratebhs, they had a chance to win a prize. Many students were determined to scan all 40 unique QR codes! Teachers also joined and posted videos of what they learned from the codes. In the spring, the World Languages department plans on showcasing more of the students by hosting a concert where they can perform songs and/or traditional dances from their cultures to share with the community. Multicultural Week helped initiate conversations we can have with our students about promoting acceptance and embracing differences.

Ms. Tacub and Ms. Velasco saying good morning in Tagalog on BHS-TV
Senior Portfolio: A High School Reflection

A requirement for seniors at Monterey High School is their portfolio project. This is an opportunity for students to reflect upon themselves—where they have come from and what they have accomplished and to take some steps toward their future. The portfolio project was adapted by a Monterey teacher from a presentation he saw at Luther Burbank Middle School.

Students research a quotation which they feel best reflects something about themselves. They complete an essay explaining the quote and how it applies to them. They also reflect on the individuals who have helped them while in high school and the impact these individuals have had on their lives.

A compilation of work samples, a resume, a sample of a job application, and a college application are included as practice and reference. Students are also expected to obtain at least one letter of reference.

A portfolio session is then scheduled and parents, significant others, and Monterey staff are invited to see the student present his or her portfolio.

The portfolio project is an activity that students and staff look forward to and one which leaves parents feeling satisfied and proud of their student’s growth.
New Mural
Several students at Community Day School recently had the opportunity of a lifetime when they got a chance to display their artistic talents. Students teamed up with interns from Nickelodeon Studios to create a mural that is now proudly displayed in front of the school. The students expressed their creativity as they collaborated with the studio interns to design and paint the mural. Students positively and uniquely expressed their artistic talents and abilities. They really enjoyed the experience. As one student described the experience, “Finally, a fun, cool project we can look at and say, ‘Yes, I did some of that!’”.

Workforce Readiness Institute
Burbank Adult School is going to launch the Workforce Readiness Institute this spring. The 12-week program is designed to assist individuals in: generating strong resumes and cover letters, conducting job searches, preparing for interviews, and strengthening technological literacy. The program will also feature guest speakers from business and community-based partners who will share their expertise with the students in the areas of generating strong applications, and powerful interviews. Another key feature for students participating in the institute is the incorporation of social media in their digital portfolio. This will allow students to promote their skills to potential employers and generate a strong, eye-catching profiles. Students successfully completing the Workforce Readiness Institute will receive a certificate of completion which will certify the competencies the students can demonstrate as a result of graduating from the program. In order to meet the needs of interested students, the institute will be offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and also on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Happy New Year!

The new year is well underway with students focused on their academic goals.

Have you listened to our podcasts? On our web site simply listen to our Contest podcast for the “word of the month” for a chance to win a GAZUMP card/dice game. Email the “word” to kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com. From the current entries each month one winning name will be drawn. The winner will be notified by email, name posted on FB, TW and Instagram. www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Good luck!

Our next issue is April 18.

Keira’s Book Nook

Best Night Ever or a Catastrophe?

Best. Night. Ever. By Rachele Alpine, Ronni Arno, Alison Cherry, Stephanie Faris, Jen Malone, Gail Nall and Dee Romito

This book is about school dance preparations at Lynnfield Middle School, which include a televised performance by Heart Grenade, the all-girl band recognized for winning a Battle of the Bands contest. The lead singer Carmen is stuck at a cousin's wedding while Genevieve, the backup singer, is about to faint from stage fright. Tess, Ryan and Ellie can't wait to attend, and another girl is determined to ruin it all. Finally Ashlyn, who is being forced to babysit two little girls, drags her charges to the dance. This could all lead up to the best night ever or a catastrophe!

I loved this book, because the seven authors tell their points of view based on each of their “middle grade” experience. No single story teller tells the entire story. I rate this book 4 out of 5 apples, because it does get a little confusing being written from seven points of view.

Keira F. is a sixth grader. In addition to her love of books, she enjoys art, crafts, traveling and playing with her cats. She rates books from 1 to 5 apples with 5 being the highest.

Jenna’s Review

It is Owlsome!

Owl Diaries-Baxter is Missing

Author: Rebecca Elliot

Do you have a diary? Do you like writing in the diary? There is an owl named Eva. She has a diary and writes in it every day. This story is about Eva’s pet bat going missing. When Eva was at school, her teacher Mrs. Featherbottom told the class about a story contest. Whoever wins gets owl Ninja books signed by the author! Some kids in Eva’s class had stories already. But Eva had no idea what to write about. Then Eva went back home. The next morning, she found that her pet bat, Baxter, was missing! Eva started a new club called Baxter Bunch to find Baxter. Her club friends started helping Eva to search for Baxter. Can Eva find Baxter after all?

I like this book because Eva talks about her daily life with flaptastic illustrations.

Jenna is a second grader. She likes reading books and her parents reading books to her. Besides reading, she also likes art, dance and soccer.
Book Review By Katrina

A Virtual World
Ready Player One
by Ernest Cline is all about the OASIS, a virtual world where you can be anyone, do anything and enjoy life to the fullest. And that’s pretty important, seeing as the world is currently dirt poor. Creator James Halliday however, leaves his players one last surprise on his deathbed. Located within the game are three hidden keys, and whoever can find them and unlock all three gates, will inherit both his wealth and the OASIS itself. Though for five years, no one has any luck. Only for teenager Wade Watts to find the first key. Now the world is scrambling to find the keys, especially the IOI, an internet company intent on turning the free OASIS into a playground for the rich and powerful alone. Despite the dangers, Wade and his friends continue to search for the keys, and won’t stop until its GAME OVER for everyone. Thrilling and fast paced, this book is a shocking theory of what our own future as a society could look like in a few decades. A great read for lovers of 80s pop culture and gaming in general. I give this book 4 out of 5 crescent moons.

Katrina is a tenth grader who loves reading books as much as writing her own stories and enjoys watching Anime. Katrina hopes to be an author one day very soon. Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons with 5 being the best.
Join the Burbank Unified School District’s Secondary Instrumental Music Campaign!

The Burbank Unified School District has identified a need of $1.2 million for the repair and purchase of new instruments for secondary instrumental music programs. The District has set a goal to raise 10% of that need by the end of this school year, naming the campaign “Music Is Instrumental.” 100% of all donated funds will be used to repair and replace musical instruments for students in all middle and high schools.

“Music is Instrumental” is a coordinated effort involving non-profit organizations, local business partners, the Burbank Arts for All Foundation, parents, booster organizations, community members, and District staff. The campaign ends on May 11, 2018.

You can make a tax-deductible donation by writing a check and noting in the memo line “Music Is Instrumental.” Please mail your check to:

Burbank Unified School District
c/o Peggy Flynn
1900 W. Olive Avenue
Burbank, CA 91506

Alternatively, you can donate online at www.burbankusd.org/afa