Donuts with Dad

Please see Providencia Elementary School page 8.

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Independent Advantage gives students the big picture when it comes to handling money. Through this four session class, students will learn how to:

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According to a recent report by West Ed, Silent Recession: Why California School Districts Are Underwater Despite Increases in Funding (Krausen and Willis, 2018), “Despite projected increases in state and local education funding between 2017/18 and 2021/22 California school districts face fiscal pressures that threaten to destabilize school district budgets and force reductions in services to students.” The reason behind this situation is unknown to many community members. The headlines in the papers tout that education spending is at an all-time high; while true, this does not factor in two key points. First, education spending during the recession of 2008 was cut dramatically. With inflation included, the current funding has returned the State of California to 2007/08 levels. If you take out inflation, school districts are at the same funding level as they were 10 years ago. However, while funding levels are the same, school district costs have risen due to inflation and the State pushing down increased retirement costs to school districts. For example, the State used to require Burbank Unified School District to pay $7 million per year in retirement costs. BUSD now pays $16 million per year and it will increase by another $2 million next year. With flat inflation adjusted funding and rising costs, school districts are having to make difficult decisions.

Some school districts have restructured their budgets using restricted dollars (Local Control Funding Formula – Supplemental Funding) to keep their programs intact, class sizes low, and compensation levels adequate. Others have secured local funding via foundation grants or local parcel taxes. Others have started to raise class sizes, cut programs and services for students, or frozen compensation increases.

In Burbank, we have cut and restructured district office services, reduced non-labor spending, secured grants, and have frozen compensation levels (2016-17 no raises were offered, 2017-18 we are still negotiating a 2% raise, and there are no raises in the budget for the next three years).

Given this silent recession, the Burbank Unified School District administration deemed it necessary and advisable to submit a parcel tax proposition to the electors, which, if approved by two-thirds of the votes cast, would permit the District to authorize a qualified special tax.

November 6th is an important election for Burbank residents. The voters have an opportunity to vote on a new Governor, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and a local property tax measure to support schools (Measure QS). It is important that all Burbank residents register to vote, learn about the pros and cons of each item, and vote on November 6, 2018. Your vote will determine the future of public education, both in the State of California and locally.
Welcome back to another school year. By now students are settled into their routines and focused on academics. In this issue you will read about Integrated Educational Training, Performing Arts, Creative Writing, Flexible Seating, Growth Mindset, and much more...

This is our third year publishing the excellence from the Burbank Unified School District. You continue to validate our efforts by including School News among your reading choices and emailing wonderful comments when you enter our contests. Thank you!

Our next issue is December 12. In the meantime, have a Happy Thanksgiving!
Escape Room Strategies in our Classrooms

Escape rooms have been popping up all over the country. An escape room involves a group of people who are willingly locked in a room and given an hour to “break out”. They follow clues posted or hidden in the room, and work together to break out as well as beat the clock. Now, we have a way to replicate that in our classrooms. We conducted a teacher training over the summer and later tried it out with our students. In this case, we didn’t actually break out of a room but we gave students puzzles to decipher, each clue leading to another, and ultimately enabling them to unlock a locked box.

The rules were explained before the activity began. Students were encouraged to get out of their seats and work cooperatively and creatively all while using critical thinking skills. There were set physical and online puzzles to work through. Through this experience, students are given a series of mysteries and engaging problems to solve. Some of the thrills came from finding a code for a lock from a series of math problems, also decoding a phrase to find another code and even using a UV flashlight to find letters for the word lock. Working together we were able to unlock many locks to find the item we all started searching for…the agenda for the day.

At Edison Elementary School we are always looking for fun and engaging ways to make the curriculum relevant and rigorous, and the escape room activity was a big hit with our students and teachers!
Starting the Year Off with Safety!

At Emerson Elementary School, fifth grade students are given the special privilege to work on the school’s Safety Valet Team. The Safety Valet Program is designed to help alleviate traffic in front of the school during morning student drop-off time. When parents utilize the Safety Valet, they are able to pull up in front of the school, have the door opened for the student to exit, and safely proceed without having to deal with parking.

In order to become a Safety Valet Team member, the student must have a signed permission slip from a parent/guardian to participate in the training and work designated times throughout the school year. Our program is supervised daily by our Intervention Specialist and a Yard Supervisor. This year we had 46 fifth-grade students trained by the Burbank Police Department. Officers Munoz and Chapman trained the students in front of our school, at the valet line, showing them how to wave cars through, open doors safely, and greet students and drivers. Different scenarios were presented to the students and the officers shared strategies for how to deal with them.

In addition to providing extra safety for our students, this program offers participants a chance to get involved, volunteer for their school, build self-esteem, gain leadership experience, and become a role-model in the Emerson community. Our Emerson Safety Valet Team is full of shining stars who contribute to a safe and caring school environment.

Jennifer Kaitz
Principal

Emerson Elementary School
720 E. Cypress Ave., Burbank, CA 91501 • 818/558-5419

Breaking Out of the Classroom

Using black light, coded clues, and teamwork, fourth and fifth grade students recently had a chance to Break Out at lunch time. Teams of students worked together to solve math puzzles by discovering the combinations to five different locks to open a box and discover the prize. The puzzles were all based on math, and used students’ current skills to get them to look more deeply into math structures and foundations and apply them to new problems. Choosing to do Break Out in a classroom over playtime was an easy choice for one student, “I can play any day, but getting to do the puzzles and figure out the locks is better than the sandbox!”

In addition to lunch time challenges, classrooms from first to fifth grade have used Break Out activities to excite students about geography, social studies, literature, and problem solving. With a growth mindset philosophy, Break Out activities promote student perseverance and stamina in work. Additionally, working in teams promotes communication and cooperative skills.

Break Out kits are one of many tools used at Bret Harte to promote creative thinking and problem solving, expose students to new ways to look at school work, and explore the subjects in new and creative ways. We are thrilled when students Break Out at Harte!

Martha Walter
Principal

Harte Elementary School
3200 W. Jeffries Ave., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-5533

www.schoolnewsslcall.com
**Ms. Basinski’s Junior Environmentalists**

For the past several years, Ms. Basinski, one of our third grade teachers, has been coordinating the recycling program at Jefferson. Her students are junior environmentalists in charge of emptying the recycling bins in every classroom, as well as the front office every Tuesday morning. It is clear to anyone watching these students that they are very proud of the responsibility assigned to them. This year, with the support of parent volunteers, Ms. Basinski will work with Jefferson’s newly elected Student Council to implement a crayon recycling program in addition to the weekly pick up of recycled materials. Her goal is to support students’ understanding of the importance of their role in protecting the environment even as young children.

Student Council reps will also have the opportunity to help other students explore eco-friendly practices. In addition, teachers can use specially developed standards-based lesson plans to enrich instruction and promote lively class discussions.

We look forward to seeing the results of this worthy community service project!

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**McKinley Elementary School**

349 W. Valencia Ave., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-5477

**A Great Start!**

We have had a successful start to the school year at McKinley Elementary school. Our Back to School night for parents was a great success and we had a wonderful turn out from our families. We have had some big changes this year including the painting of our building and new construction. We started out the school year with two new classrooms, one for our fourth grade dual-immersion class and one for our Around the Bell program. Five new classrooms are still being built and should be done and ready for our use by January of 2019.

The students have really enjoyed watching the construction progress. We are very excited to have new classrooms and additional space where we can support student learning with our Panther time program, maker space activities, before and after school educational clubs, and enrichment activities. We look forward to not only the physical growth of our school facilities but also the educational growth of each of our students.
A Space for Science Explorations

Miller Elementary School is extremely fortunate to have a space where teachers can take their students to do hands-on Science investigations and explorations. The idea to have this designated classroom where students have large tables, equipment, and supplies available to them so that they can learn about science came from retired Miller teacher John Ossiff.

With the implementation of the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS), providing students the opportunity to use the science process to find out how to answer questions about how the world works is not just useful in science but it will help these students in real life. The basic science skills that students are learning about include observing, communicating, classifying, measuring, inferring, and predicting. These skills will provide a foundation for learning more complex skills, which include formulating hypotheses, interpreting data, making models, and experimenting.

Science should be about having fun, exploring, making mistakes, and learning from these mistakes. We are so glad that our Miller students have a space where they can learn about Science as well as how to collaborate with others and think critically. Additionally, it is our hope that by actively engaging our students in hands-on science explorations, they become more interested in science and even consider a career in this field.

Providencia Elementary School

Donuts with Dad

At Providencia Elementary School, we love to recognize the amazing dads, grandpas, and uncles who make our school community so special. Each year our Booster Club sponsors a lovely event called Donuts with Dad. Dads and students come to school from 7:30-8:30 to have breakfast together in our Community Room. As families arrive, we capture pictures in our photo booth before they head in to enjoy a delicious breakfast of muffins, bagels, juice, coffee, and of course donuts.

The Booster Club also sponsors an annual event to honor the outstanding moms, grandmas, and aunts that are part of the Providencia community. Muffins with Moms is when our moms and students get to come to school to enjoy a special morning together.

These two events would not be possible without the support of our Booster Club and of course the many dedicated volunteers who work so hard. Thank you, Boosters, for enabling our families to come together to enjoy each other’s company and create special school memories that will last a lifetime.
Off to a Great Start

The Roosevelt Elementary School Rough Riders have had a terrific start to the 2018-19 school year. Our students and teachers are embracing the District’s focus on math instruction and building number sense through exploration-based activities. In our first few weeks of instruction, each grade level has used manipulatives, visual models, problem-solving games, and number talks to explore how numbers interact and relate to one another. This helped set a positive tone for all students to feel more confident in their development of math concepts and to build an understanding of the fundamentals of number sense. We have also structured our “Power Hour” intervention blocks to include math groups for both review and extension in fourth and fifth grades so that students can engage in meaningful activities targeted to their ability level.

We also spent time during the first month of the school year reestablishing a healthy school culture of building peace among our student community. We held grade level PeaceBuilder Assemblies where we discussed the meaning behind our PeaceBuilder Pledge:

“I am a PeaceBuilder, I pledge to:
• Praise people
• Give up putdowns
• Seek wise people
• Notice and speak up about hurts I have caused
• Right wrongs
• Help others
I will build peace at home, at school, and in my community each day.”

Roosevelt staff members are taking extra steps to recognize and praise students who are positively contributing to our school community while still holding them accountable for the firm, fair, and consistent expectations we set for student behavior.

The partnerships and trust between our staff, students, and parents go a long way towards making our school a welcoming and supportive environment for academic learning and social development.

Flexible Seating Yields Benefits

Some of the classrooms at Stevenson have decided to change their classrooms to flexible seating. Here are some research-based reasons why flexible seating is good for kids and can improve learning.

Flexible seating is one way that students can feel empowered and make choices of where and with whom they sit. It also allows them to change where they sit from day to day and to choose the type of chair that makes them feel most comfortable. Flexible seating enables students to sit in different types of chairs, some of which even allow students to rock or bounce, lean or stand. This is beneficial for students as it gives them the freedom to move while learning, which has been shown to increase metabolism and increase oxygen flow to the brain. It also helps keep students focused.

Working in groups or with a partner in a comfortable environment facilitates higher-order thinking skills, such as problem-solving, and emotional skills, like conflict resolution. Flexible seating helps students collaborate and share. Studies have shown that more discussions and collaboration occur in classrooms with flexible seating. At Stevenson, we are seeing students who are more engaged, enthusiastic, and relaxed. If you were to ask the students, though, they would say that the new seating options are just a lot more fun!
Washington’s Village

There is more to a school community than teachers, students, principals, and parents. We often forget about the people behind the scenes, such as the school’s office staff. These are the individuals who keep everything running effectively and efficiently. It’s especially important to ensure that we recognize the hard work of Washington’s office staff. They are professional, dedicated, and caring, and they want the absolute best for every student at our school.

Their job duties are never ending … from taking accurate attendance records, to answering phone calls, enrolling students, helping families transition to our school, ordering materials and supplies for teachers, and working with our staff of more than 100 and our student community of more than 500! These employees are amazing and go above and beyond their job descriptions on a daily basis.

Washington is a unique school with families who speak 15 different languages. Therefore, we have used Title I funding to hire two community liaisons to support our Spanish and Armenian families with verbal and written translations. We have also used Title I funding to hire a curriculum lab assistant in order to support our teachers and intervention programs. Our school could not run efficiently without these wonderful and hardworking staff members. When you visit the Washington school office, you will always receive a warm smile and helping hand.

Brandi Young
Principal

Washington Elementary School
2322 N. Lincoln St., Burbank, CA 91504 • 818/558-5550

Yvonne Seta, Office Manager; Crystal Weinstein, Curriculum Lab Assistant; Kaline Albarian, Armenian Community Liaison; Sharon Goff, Office Assistant; and Adriana Chavez, Spanish Community Liaison

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 should email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put Burbank in the subject line)

Entries must be received by November 15, 2018
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a GAZUMP card/dice game.

BLACK CAT CANDY CARVE CEMETERY COSTUME DECORATIONS FRANKENSTEIN FRIGHTFUL GHOST GOUL GRAPE HAUNTED HOUSE HALLOWEEN JACK O LANTERN MUMMY SPIDER SWAMP CREATURE TRICK OR TREAT VAMPIRE WEB WEREWOLF WITCH ZOMBIE

Congratulations to Brady Meade and Mirza Lavarreda Winners of the April Contest!
Respect, Excellence, and Community

Respect. Excellence. Community. Those are the core values at Luther Burbank Middle School. Our entire school has embraced those values and incorporated them into everything we do.

From walking through the hallways, to attending assemblies, to learning in the classrooms, Luther’s learners and staff are following the tenets of respect, excellence and community. The values were developed as part of the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support program (PBIS) that Luther is using to provide guidance and reinforcement for its students.

Every teacher, counselor, administrator and classified assistant has been trained on how to use PBIS. Luther learners hear a consistent message no matter where they are on campus, and they are learning that positive behaviors are the key to success in school. In addition, students who exhibit positive behaviors are rewarded for their efforts. For example, some students will be invited to attend an after-school celebration where every teacher at the school will be there cheering them on and they receive a decal that they can display on their locker for public recognition of their good work. Other students will be given an extended lunch period on a Friday afternoon. Students who do the right thing in their classrooms are given a ticket and an opportunity to win prizes from their teachers.

Positive behaviors are reinforced daily through a character education program called “Words of Wisdom.” The first five minutes of the day are dedicated to teaching and/or reinforcing positive behaviors through the use of quotes, discussion, role playing, and videos created by Luther learners. By putting all of that together, we create a school in which the core values of respect, excellence, and community abound and where everyone on campus can experience positivity.

Dr. Oscar Macias
Principal
Luther Middle School
3700 W. Jeffries Ave., Burbank, CA 91505 • 818/558-4646

New Faces

In addition to a new principal, Jordan Middle School has several new staff members this year. Debra Gilmore was formerly the office manager at Roosevelt Elementary School, and when the position opened at Jordan, she came over with me. Kelly Brown also moved up from elementary to middle school. She was the PE teacher at several of the elementary schools in Burbank and when we needed a new middle school PE teacher, she fit the bill perfectly! Roberto Labrada was a great find who moved into our area and was hired to teach Social Science for one of our teachers who is on leave. We want to keep him around next year to help teach our first dual immersion class. Amanda Stratton was hired to teach math and replace veteran Jordan teacher, Phil Silverstein. She has big shoes to fill, but has jumped in with great enthusiasm. We finally found a great Spanish teacher in Anna Rodriguez to replace our last minute transfer to the high school. She has a ton of energy and a strong background teaching Spanish. We were fortunate to find such high quality teachers and staff to join this amazing Jordan family.

Dr. Jennifer Meglemre
Principal
Jordan Middle School
420 S. Mariposa St., Burbank, CA 91506 • 818/558-4622
Growth Mindset

Like every year at John Muir Middle School, there are great plans in place to make this an incredible year and make John Muir better than ever. This year, one of the programs that we are implementing to improve the well-being of our students is growth mindset.

Over the summer, all of the teachers at John Muir had the opportunity to read the book Mindset by Carol Dweck, which puts forth the idea that there are two different types of mindsets that our students (and all people) have – a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Students with a fixed mindset believe that their intelligence and abilities are determined at birth and no matter how hard they work they can never be smarter or get better in areas where they struggle. The typical example is the student who believes that they are not a “Math person” and will therefore never be good at Math. This is the internal belief of someone with a fixed mindset.

Students with a growth mindset believe that if they work hard enough and spend enough time on something, they will be able to improve their abilities in that area. In the Math example, those with a growth mindset believe that while they might not be good at Math yet, if they put in enough time and effort, they will continue to grow and improve. Research shows that people with a growth mindset are more successful in school, in their jobs, and in their relationships.

Every Friday throughout the school year, all Muir students will do growth mindset lessons through their Muir Time class. The lessons will help students to examine their own mindset, recognize the positive impact that a growth mindset can have, develop goals for themselves and change the way that they view themselves and their abilities. We believe that growth mindset will help Muir students to be more successful now and in their future.

Dr. Greg Miller
Principal

Performing Arts take Center Stage

We are extremely proud of our performing arts programs at BHS. Our community is full of industry professionals and it comes as no surprise that our students share many of those same passions.

This year the Instrumental Music Association will perform four concerts. “Angels & Demons,” the fall show, will explore the darkness and light of human experience. “Winter Stories,” the winter show, will showcase spoken word, poetry, and short stories accompanied by music. “Festival Prelude,” the spring show, gives the ensembles a chance to showcase their classical repertoire before traveling to competitions in March. “Finale,” the year-end show, is a beach party themed celebration of the students’ successes throughout the year.

The Vocal Music Program at Burbank High School has proven to be one of the most successful choral programs in the nation with close to 200 students in the program and four award-winning choirs including In Sync, Impressions, Sound Dogs, and Out of the Blue. The flagship advanced group, In Sync, consistently ranks among the top five show choirs in the country and was awarded Grand Champion honors at Show Choir Nationals in 2017.

BHS Dance has more than 350 students who were extremely excited to welcome Mojgahn Emamjomeh as co-director (with Amanda Sandifer). In September students performed in “Giant Dance Camp,” a day-long event featuring a variety of dance styles. Our advanced levels have started to prepare for their Fall Dance Festival, which will be staged in November.

The BHS Drama program is also thriving! Our classes drive students toward a meaningful exploration of ensemble, performance, and artistic expression. Along with a number of scene and monologue showcases, our major 2018-19 productions include Monty Python’s Spamalot, a student-written and student-directed One-Act Festival in early February, and The Crucible next April.

Dr. Michael Bertram
Principal
Creative Writing

Writing presents a daunting challenge for many high school students. When I ask my students why they dislike writing, a typically answer might be “I’m not good at writing.” It hurts to see students sell themselves short by discounting their writing abilities, especially when so many students actually do have the skillsets to be engaging and prolific writers.

One of the ways we are engaging our students is with our new Creative Writing class. The official course title is Creative Writing, but it could actually be called Critical Thinking class. In this class students are told that the first step to producing thought-provoking writing is to be a thought-provoking thinker. In lieu of practicing grammar and spelling abilities, students discuss a variety of topics with depth and open-mindedness. Instead of reading and discussing poetry and novels, students have an opportunity to watch documentaries and listen to podcasts. Documentaries such as “Jiro Dreams of Sushi” have sparked discussions about discipline and hard work while teaching students about tolerance and different cultures. Being able to connect the subject matter to the reality of students' lives generates enthusiasm that results in genuine and authentic writing.

Monterey students are using their writing skills to revive our school newsletter. The newsletter provides students with an opportunity to write articles on topics that they really care about. Student writers learn how to research subjects and conduct interviews. Our most successful and effective article to date was released at the beginning of our 2018-2019 school year and was titled “Buddy Teachers.” In this article we compiled a profile for each member of the Monterey staff. The profiles contained a photo of the staff member and a list of information about him or her including their favorite movie, favorite genre of music, and other personal interests. The idea was that as students became more comfortable with their new instructors they would be less hesitant to ask them for help once a personal connection was established. We are looking forward to see what other positive effects writing can have on the lives of our students at Monterey High School.
Insight into Music Industry

Burbank Community Day School welcomed a guest speaker from Astro's Audio Video and Lighting, Inc. who spoke to them about grit and perseverance in reaching short- and long-term goals. Cypher, who is a well-known DJ in the music industry, spoke to our students and gave them an overview of the modern music industry. He told the students that there are many career paths in the music industry. He explained that you don't have to be a singer, rapper, or musician to be successful in the music industry. There are opportunities in the areas of promotion, production, art design, marketing, etc. Our students were engaged and asked many questions. With a microphone and a speaker some of our students took advantage of the opportunity to show off their musical talents in front of Cypher, the student body, and the Community Day School staff.

Frank Fuentes
Administrator

Integrated Educational Training

This fall Burbank Adult School (BAS) is piloting two programs for English as a Second Language (ESL) students under the State model of Integrated Educational Training (IET). Under IET, ESL students get their target language instruction and simultaneously work towards developing skills in Career Technical Education (CTE).

The new programs at BAS are ESL Health Care Occupations and ESL Information Technology. Both will run for 14 weeks and, at the conclusion, students who successfully complete the programs will earn certification as Customer Service Technicians. Each course will be co-taught; the ESL teacher will focus on the language development and the CTE will provide instruction on the technical skills.

Upon completion of the programs students may opt to continue their education in CTE and earn certification by taking the Pre-Certified Nursing Assistant, Clinical Medical Assistant, or the Pharmacy Technician programs. Each of the health occupations programs provide their own industry specific certifications which allow students to enter these fields. Others may decide to take the Cable and Computer Networking or the Computer IT Tech Support programs and earn the requisite industry certification. The goal of IET is to accelerate ESL students’ access into CTE while improving their workforce skills to create greater opportunities.

Emilio Urioste
Director
Book Review By Katrina

A Riveting Story

Something New; Tales From a Makeshift Bride

by Lucy Knisley is a graphic novel describing Lucy’s experiences in love and marriage. Lucy’s love life has its ups and downs just like anyone else. But when the love of her life, John, proposes, they leap headfirst into the whirlwind of preparing a wedding. From guest lists to dresses to catering and vows, Lucy gives the reader an honest depiction of the chaos and joys that comes with preparing a wedding. She also takes time to expand on the fears, hopes and worries that come with crossing the threshold of marriage that is quite relatable. The author keeps the story alive with a colorful art style and the story riveting with her trials to create a wedding out of society’s expectations. Breaking through the ‘weddings are easy’ stereotype of books, I’d recommend this story to anyone and everyone.

Katrina rates this book five out of five crescent moons.

Katrina is an 11th grader who loves to sketch, read and write. She either wants to publish her own novels, work in animation or become a biologist (or maybe all three!). Katrina will rate her book reviews from 1 to 5 crescent moons.

Milestones and Firsts—Word Search Contest

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BIRTH
KINDERGARTEN
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATION
COLLEGE
DATE
LOVE
ENGAGEMENT
MARRIAGE
HOUSE

RECITAL
CAR
DISNEYLAND
TRAVEL ALONE
AIRPLANE RIDE
BALLOON RIDE
CRUISE
FIRST TOOTH
KISS

K H S B C P H L I P C Z J G R
F I R S T T O O T H V Z R W S
X G N L I F U O B H S B X S M
A H U D Y K S I B K Z Y N A L
I S J I E G E L L O C L G B A
R C R S Y R R Q L T A A X S V
P H E N G A G E M E N T R C D
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On September 10th, Los Angeles based environmental education nonprofit Grades of Green kicked off its global Water Campaign for middle and high school students. The Water Campaign engages students to research a local water issue, develop an innovative solution, and then share that solution with the community to advocate for policy change. Each team receives personalized support throughout the program from a Grades of Green Mentor. Last year’s winning Water Campaign teams collectively conserved and protected a total of nearly 900,000 gallons of water. Now, over 80 student teams from 10 different countries are competing to win the $1,000 grand prize for the team with the most impressive overall impact.

Are you interested in joining a Grades of Green Campaign? Email info@gradesofgreen.org for more information on how to sign your school up for Grades of Green’s Waste Campaign beginning January 2019!

Grades of Green has been empowering students to take action to care for the environment since 2010. In this short time, Grades of Green has helped mentor over half a million students across 21 countries. Based in California, they provide personalized mentorship to hundreds of students in the greater Los Angeles area. To find out more information about Grades of Green, email info@gradesofgreen.org and follow us on Instagram @gradesofgreen.