



## DISTRICT NEWS BRIEF & UPDATES

February 17, 2022

From the Office of Superintendent David Alexander, Ed.D.  
3150 Education Drive Santa Rosa, CA 95407 (707) 542-5197  
[www.bUSD.org](http://www.bUSD.org)



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*Mission: Inspire learning*

*Vision: Engaging and ❤️ (valuing/caring) for our families, students and staff to empower our community.*

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### Dear Bellevue Union School District Families and Staff,

Without a doubt parent involvement is the most important factor in a child's life. Years ago this was the guiding statement of a charter school where the school each year scored in the top 1% of all schools in California. No, this was not in the Silicon Valley or a school that sat on top of a hill, but rather was located in an area with great needs. The school fully embraced the concept of parent involvement beyond the traditional means or most common ways we think of parent involvement. Today, the concept of parent involvement has expanded to include parent engagement as well. There are numerous resources online to explore what involvement and engagement looks like. One framework that has been used throughout the country is from Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University. She developed a framework for defining six different types of parent involvement. This framework assists educators in developing school and family partnership programs.

#### ***Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement***

- 1. Parenting:** Help all families establish home environments to support children as students. Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy). Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services. Home visits at transition points to elementary, middle, and high school.
- 2. Communicating:** Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress. Conferences with every parent at least once a year. Language translators to assist families as needed. Regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.
- 3. Volunteering:** Recruit and organize parent help and support. School/classroom volunteer program to help teachers, administrators, students, and other parents. Parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families. Annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, times, and locations of volunteers.
- 4. Learning at home:** Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning. Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade. Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.
- 5. Decision-making:** Include families as participants in school decisions and develop parent leaders and representatives. Active PTA/PTO or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees (e.g., curriculum, safety) for parent leadership and participation. District-level advisory councils and committees.

**6. Collaborating with Community:** Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community. Provide information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs or services. Provide information on community activities.

This framework only provides basic examples of parent involvement to help understand the many ways we as parents can support our children. We encourage each and every parent to spend meaningful time each and everyday with your child and their education.

Research from the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education shares that “no matter their income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school.” The best predictor of student success is the extent to which families encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their child’s education.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a partner with you in the education of your children.

### ***COVID-19 Updates - Tracy Whitaker, Covid-19 Coordinator***

The original COVID-19 testing consents that were signed at the beginning of the year have expired. We sent home a new consent for parent/guardian signature on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. Please sign and return this document so we can continue our robust testing program. As a reminder, students who participate in extracurricular activities such as chorus, violin, basketball, piano are required to test weekly. Please make sure to sign and return the consent. Please contact your site principal if you have questions or concerns.

On another note, we are happy to share that we are seeing a decline in student and staff cases of COVID-19. This is similar to the overall decrease in positive cases in Sonoma County and the State. We continue to have a robust testing program to support our students and staff. A huge thank you to everyone for your patience and diligence in following quarantine and isolation protocols.

### **Requirement to wear masks in schools continues**

- Although state and county mask requirements for most indoor public places expire on Wednesday, February 16, school mask requirements set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will continue to remain in effect in K-12 school settings.
  - These are state requirements, which public school districts must follow.
  - Schools are among several places where everyone over age 2, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear a face covering indoors. They include:
    - Schools (K-12) and child care centers
    - Public transportation and terminals including buses, trains, airplanes, ride-shares
    - Hospitals, clinics and other health care facilities
    - Homeless shelters
- The CDPH is currently reviewing its guidance for K-12 school settings, and an update is expected in the coming weeks. We will keep you informed of any updates.

### **Vaccines**

- Weekend vaccine clinic at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds

- February 19-20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- In the Garrett Building on the Fairgrounds campus
- Vaccines available for children ages 5+ and adults, including boosters
- No appointment necessary, but you can make one by signing up: [myturn.ca.gov](http://myturn.ca.gov)
- Open to everyone. No proof of citizenship required.
- Sonoma County - COVID-19 Vaccines for Kids: Frequently Asked Questions [Flyer](#)
- Click here for more Sonoma County Vaccine Clinic Information: [in English](#) | [in Spanish](#)

### **SCHOOL SITE SUPPORT:**

#### ***Bellevue: Nina Craig, Principal***

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

February Focus = Growth Mindset ~ Celebrate growth and improvement!

No School Feb 21

ELAC Feb 18; 9am Zoom

Parent Coffee Feb 25; 9am In Person

School Site Council Feb 28; 4pm Zoom

Food Pantry Tuesdays; 2:45

Move over Mozart Mondays after school

Violin Wednesdays after school

Chorus Fridays after school

4th-6th Grade Basketball Practices and Games as notified

Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

Please call with questions: 707-542-5195; Email Principal Craig [ncraig@busd.org](mailto:ncraig@busd.org) Office Manager, Karina [kmartinez@busd.org](mailto:kmartinez@busd.org) Parent Liaison, Amy [aflorescasares@busd.org](mailto:aflorescasares@busd.org) with any questions.

#### ***Kawana Springs: Denise McCullough, Principal***

Thank you to all of our families who participated in the Youth Truth Survey!

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

ELAC- Feb 17 3:00 pm

Parent Coffee- Feb 18 8:15 am

School Site Council- Feb 24 2:45 pm

Spirit Day- Disney Theme- Feb 25

Student of the Month assemblies- Feb 28 Times vary by Grade Level

Move over Mozart- Weds ongoing, 12:30pm

Chorus- Thursdays ongoing, 2:40pm

Office hours- Monday-Friday, 8:00-4:00 pm

You may call 707-545-4283 or email Principal McCullough [dmccullough@busd.org](mailto:dmccullough@busd.org), Office Manager Susy Bradley [sbradley@busd.org](mailto:sbradley@busd.org), or Parent Liaison Erika Corrales [ecorrales@busd.org](mailto:ecorrales@busd.org) with any questions.

#### ***Meadow View: Jean Walker, Principal***

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Meadow View families, we appreciate you for your help in monitoring your children for COVID symptoms, complying with testing recommendations, and communicating with our school and office staff about all of this information.

ELAC meeting, Feb 15th @ 3:30 via zoom

Coffee with the Principal- Friday Feb 22 @ 8:15

School Site Council Meeting, March 2nd @ 3:30 via zoom

Food Pantry every Tuesday 2:00

Chorus- ongoing every Tuesday

Move over Mozart- ongoing every Wednesday

Office hours: Monday- Friday 8:00-4:00 pm

School Food Pantry, Tuesday, 2:00-3:00- please bring bags- walk up only. Please call the office at 707-541-3715 or if you have questions email; Principal Walker [jwalker@busd.org](mailto:jwalker@busd.org), Office Manager Natali Ramirez [qramirez@busd.org](mailto:qramirez@busd.org), Office Assistant- Isabel Luna, [imluna@busd.org](mailto:imluna@busd.org) , or Parent Liaison Paula Hernandez [phernandez@busd.org](mailto:phernandez@busd.org).

### **Taylor Mountain: Margaret Jacobson, Principal**

Thank you, TM families, for your diligence in monitoring your children for COVID symptoms, complying with testing recommendations, and communicating with our school and office staff about all of this information.

Kindness Matters at Taylor Mountain! This month's deliberate acts of kindness are:

- Feb. 14- 25: Draw a picture and give it to someone to brighten their day!

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

ELAC Meeting via Zoom Friday, Feb. 18, 8:00 am

School Site Council Meeting via Zoom, Monday, Feb. 28, 3:00 pm

Super Hero Day! Friday, Feb. 25

School Food Pantry every Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Office hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am-4pm.

Please call or stop by with questions: 542-3671; Principal Margaret Jacobson [mjacobson@busd.org](mailto:mjacobson@busd.org);

Office Manager Julie Roza [jroza@busd.org](mailto:jroza@busd.org), Office Asst. Hope Leon [hleon@busd.org](mailto:hleon@busd.org)

### **Learning Center: Curriculum and English Learners, Aracely Romo-Flores, Director**

If your child speaks a language other than English at home and is identified as an English learner (emerging bilingual student), he/she will be taking **The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)**. Beginning this month, Bellevue Union School District (BUSD) will start to give this test to all English learners.

The ELPAC consists of two separate English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments: one for the initial identification of students as English learners and the other for the annual summative assessment to identify students' English language proficiency level and to measure their progress in learning English. The initial assessment is given within a student's first 30 days at Bellevue Union School District. This test helps identify students who are not fully fluent in English and may need additional support to do well in school while accessing the full curriculum. Students who are not fully proficient in English will receive instructional supports to help develop their English.

The Summative ELPAC assessment is given yearly in the spring to students with the designation of English learner to measure their progress in learning English and to help determine if students need extra help in language learning or if they are ready to be reclassified as English proficient, which is the goal for all students identified as English learners.

English learners throughout the state of California only get **one opportunity per year** to demonstrate their proficiency in these four areas in the Summative ELPAC:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

The goal is for students to receive an **Overall Level 4** on the Summative ELPAC, which deems the students as proficient in English. **BUSD's goal is to reclassify all of our English learners prior to leaving our district.** We recognize that supporting our students' English language development and proficiency will ultimately help them to experience greater opportunities and success in middle school, high school, and beyond.

You can find information to help you better understand the ELPAC at the Starting Smarter ELPAC website ([elpac.startingsmarter.org](http://elpac.startingsmarter.org)) where you also can find sample test questions and free resources to help support your child's learning.

#### HELPFUL LINKS

- [ELPAC Parents Guide to Understanding](#)
- [Starting Smarter - ELPAC](#)

Great News! State Superintendent Tony Thurmond's new literacy initiative has been extended through **February 28, 2022**. This gives students free and unlimited access to thousands of digital books and news articles on the Renaissance myON platform. Students can read these books and articles on any digital device that is connected to the Internet, even in low bandwidth areas. myON books can also be downloaded onto mobile devices for offline reading. See the attached letters for specific information about how to log in. Please note, when signing in, instead of entering your school name, in that box you must type in **Gift of Literacy**.

[Family Letter-English](#)

[Family Letter-Spanish](#)

#### **Food Services: Rita Kesler, Interim Manager**

All students continue to be provided free meals. Meal menus and additional information into our Food Service Program may be found on our website at: [www.bUSD.org/cafe](http://www.bUSD.org/cafe)

#### **Human Resources, Michael Kellison, HR Director**

Are you someone who is interested in making a difference in the lives of children? If you are interested in learning more about our open positions, contact Michael Kellison, Director of Human Resources, at [mkellison@busd.org](mailto:mkellison@busd.org) or call (707) 542-5197 ext. 5.

Join the BUSD team! Applications for job opportunities and more at Bellevue Union School District can be found at [Edjoin.org](http://Edjoin.org).

#### **Business Services, Chris Kim, CBO**

The District will present its official audit of its 2020/21 financials by Christy White and Associates at the Board Meeting scheduled for February 15, 2022.

The District also continues its effort to solicit membership on its Bond Oversight Committee; for additional information and an application, please visit our website at <https://www.bUSD.org/Page/161>.

#### **Maintenance & Operations, Roger Farrell, M&O Director**

Owl Boxes have been installed in an elevated space on the outer perimeter of each of our campuses to encourage Barn Owls to take residence on our campuses to help nocturnally hunt & minimize our gophers.

We removed the rubber bark from Bellevue playground areas & installed new wood chips for fall protection. Kawana Springs due to heavy rains has been postponed until Spring Break. To represent our United States appropriately we refurbished our flag poles at our Bellevue and Kawana Springs Elementary Schools during our past Winter break.

A new electronic marquee sign is being planned to be installed at Meadow View Elementary as early as our upcoming Spring Break.

TLCD Architectural firm submitted our [Kawana Springs Modernization plan set](#) to [DSA](#) 12/24/21.

**Executive Assistance, Moriah Hart**

**[Want to volunteer at school?](#)**

1. Bring a negative TB test, COVID Vaccine Card & Photo ID to the District Office
2. Exchange TB test, COVID Vaccine Card, and ID for fingerprint form (we will make copies)
3. Make appointment to get fingerprints by calling number on fingerprint form
4. Go to your appointment. Take fingerprint form
5. Wait to be cleared (1 day to 3 months)
6. The District Office will notify your school when everything is cleared

## TK/K Registration is now open



## El Inscripción de TK/K ya está abierto

Do you have a child who has just turned five years old, or turns five next year? Perhaps a neighbor or friend does and you can share this information! Registration for next year's (2022-23) kindergarten class is now open. Register [online](#) or in person today!

We have the traditional one-year kindergarten, and also a two-year transitional kindergarten (TK), sometimes called kinder academy or kinder bridge. The state of California has defined transitional kindergarten for those students turning 5 on or after September 2 through February 2nd, but we at Bellevue Union School District want to support and teach all of our students who are ready for TK with birthdays Sept. 2, 2017-June 30, 2018. For more information and school tour dates contact your school or follow us on facebook.



### **Visual and Performing Arts Update**

We are super excited to continue after school chorus and violin programs for our students and looking forward to next year and expanding our arts opportunities.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Sonoma-Marín received an Assistance for Arts Education grant from the U.S. Department of Education to work with partner elementary schools in Cloverdale Unified, Bellevue Union, Rincon Valley Union and Windsor Unified School Districts. The grant will provide paid professional learning, resources and support for our elementary teachers to integrate the arts with English/Language Arts. It's an amazing opportunity for our teachers and students! This is a multi year grant with our TK-1st grade teachers having the opportunity to attend training this summer, training for 2-3 grade teachers will be summer 2023 & 4-6 graded teachers will have the opportunity in summer 2024.

Our newsletters are always available on our [website](#) on facebook: [www.facebook.com/busd.org](http://www.facebook.com/busd.org) and via our mobile phone app available here: [www.busd.org/app](http://www.busd.org/app)

In partnership with you,

**Dr. David Alexander**

Superintendent

BELLEVUE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

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