

UPDATE – JUNE 2017

Superintendent's Message

Celebrations

Congratulations to all of the graduating seniors in the Bonita Unified School District. I wish you luck as you launch on your first pursuits in college and career.

Keeping in Touch

Though the school year comes to a close this month, there are many activities occurring throughout the summer. Parents and community members are invited to follow the District's Twitter account <https://twitter.com/BUSD4kids> to receive updates on key happenings.

Solar

The District is pleased to announce the completion of the District-wide solar energy project with all sites up and running. Students, parents, staff and community members now have the ability to use the online SunPower Monitoring System (SMS) provided by SunPower. Users can monitor energy output and keep track of overall energy performance of the solar systems. A link is available on the [Bonita USD Home Page](#) with the username and password information that allows users to navigate to the SMS Partner website. We want to express our appreciation to the voters for the approval of the Bond Measures that made going solar possible.

Summer Projects

Facilities: Every summer, the Bonita Unified Facilities Department engages in more intrusive projects to upgrade and maintain our facilities while campuses have fewer students present. With record breaking rain this winter, their focus for this summer will be on roofs, asphalt, and the outer conditions of our school buildings.

Makerspaces: Libraries across the District have been transitioning to include spaces for students to explore, create, and innovate by developing Makerspaces. Each Makerspace includes unique tools and building materials to stimulate creativity, as well as, student computers, a teacher computer station, a projector, and a sound system. Students are already using Makerspaces to share ideas, invent together, and connect what they are learning to their innate curiosity.

Student Safety: The Raptor System will be installed at all of our schools and the District Office this summer to add another layer of safety. Raptor is a visitor management system that integrates with the District's visitor check-in procedures and volunteer screening. This web-based system was piloted at Allen Avenue Elementary School during the 2016-2017, school year and found it to be a valuable tool. Visit www.raptortech.com for additional information.

Renovation of the District Office: For the final phase of the 2008 voter approved Measure AB Bond, the District Office will now be renovated. The main office will be temporarily relocated to [801 Corporate Center Dr. Suite 270, Pomona, CA 91768-2627](http://801CorporateCenterDr.Suite270.Pomona.CA.91768-2627) beginning July 3, 2017. The following offices will be moved to the new location on June 30, 2017: the Superintendent's Office, Business Services, Educational Services, Student Services, Specialized Services, and Human Resources.

Departments currently housed in ancillary buildings on the District Office campus will not be moving: Facilities, Transportation, Computer Information Systems, Food Services, School Age Care, Curriculum and Instruction, and Educational Technology. The District mailing address will remain, 115 W. Allen Avenue, San Dimas, CA 91773. This project is anticipated to be completed in eighteen to twenty-four months.

Thank You

The Bonita Unified School District Board of Education thanks all stakeholders who are involved in making our Bonita Unified such a great place for staff to work and to educate our future generations. A special thank you to our parents who support and partner with our schools to provide high-quality education while caring for the most precious of treasures, students. Have a great rest of the school year and summer as we continue to put kids first!

Sincerely,

Christina (Christy) Goennier, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Twitter: [@BUSD4kids](https://twitter.com/BUSD4kids)



BONITA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

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Board of Education

Chuck Coyne

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Jim Elliot

Diane Koach

Patti Latourelle

Dear Neighbors of Bonita Unified School District,

Graduation and promotion season is upon us! This is a very special time of year for our school district, our community, and especially for our families of Ramona Middle, Lone Hill Middle, Chaparral High, San Dimas High and Bonita High Schools. We are very pleased to announce that promotion and graduation ceremonies will take place at each of our respective school campuses.

We would like to inform you of our 2017 promotion and commencement schedules:

Ramona's 8th grade promotion ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Lone Hill's 8th grade promotion ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Chaparral High School will hold its commencement ceremony at Bonita Center for the Arts on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

San Dimas High School will hold its commencement ceremony at the San Dimas High School Saints Stadium on Tuesday, June 6, 2017, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Bonita High School will hold its commencement ceremony at the Glenn Davis Stadium on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Though we anticipate that our current parking arrangements should suffice for the graduation ceremonies, we also want you to know that there may be a significant increase in foot traffic near your home.

This courtesy notice is to make you aware of the general flow of traffic during the promotion and graduation ceremonies. We estimate that there will be traffic congestion an hour before and an hour after each ceremony. We thank you in advance for your patience and consideration related to the additional motor and foot traffic during this very momentous occasion.

Kindly,

Christina Goennier, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Bonita Unified School District

Roynon AP Carter Selected for Grace Miller Principal as Spencer Retires

Tomeika Carter, current Assistant Principal at Roynon Elementary School in La Verne, has been selected as the new Principal for Grace Miller Elementary School, also in La Verne. Long time principal Deanne Spencer retires in June after serving 22 years in the District, 15 years as principal and seven as a special education and third grade teacher.

“I am so happy to be able to continue my journey as an administrator in Bonita Unified,” Carter said. “I am proud to be part of a District that puts students first, and focuses on student achievement.”

Carter has been the Assistant Principal at Roynon for nearly three years. “My time at Roynon has most definitely helped in preparing me for my new role as principal. In addition to gaining knowledge of the day-to-day workings of a school site, it has also helped me understand the importance of gaining trust with colleagues, parents, and students. Roynon’s diverse student population has also helped me think outside the box when developing ways to address student needs,” Carter said.

Carter’s role as Principal will start July 1, 2017. “Grace Miller is a high-achieving school that not only focuses on student achievement, but also on character development,” Carter said. “I believe both are essential in our goal of producing independent, productive, responsible members of society. I am excited to join the team.”

Deanne Spencer is returning to Salt Lake City after living in Southern California for 30 years. Her retirement plans are to spend time with her family, quilt, read, provide community service, and engage in photo journaling. She will also be looking for opportunities to coach developing teachers and participate in children’s advocacy projects.

“I am very grateful for the opportunity I’ve had to work in Bonita Unified School District and in particular at Grace Miller Elementary,” Spencer said. “I could not have imagined when I started here in 1995 that I would have so many wonderful experiences. I appreciate so much how the parents, staff, administration, Board, and community work together for student success.”

Notes from the Ed Foundation

Ed Foundation Golf Tournament 2017

On Friday, April 28, the Ed Foundation sponsored the 12th Annual Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament at the San Dimas Canyon Golf Course. Proceeds from the Tournament will fund teacher grants, school arts programs, the District’s Hands-on History program, and scholarships and awards for students of the Bonita Unified School District who persevere through difficult times. Once again this year, the Tournament was sold-out.

“The continued success of the 2017 Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament is a reflection of the enthusiasm and dedication that each of our co-chairpersons, committee members and volunteers displayed throughout this year’s event,” Tournament Co-Chair Chris Crum said. “I would like to personally thank everyone for their contributions of time, effort and expertise. A golf tournament of this magnitude could never have been such a success without everyone’s involvement and hard work.”

“How exciting for our students and teachers that the Foundation gets such amazing support for our annual Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament,” Foundation President Alta Skinner said. “For this year’s tournament, 144 golfers registered and 43 volunteers stepped up to help. Superintendent Christy Goennier and her husband Scott Goennier spent the day at the tournament volunteering and thanking all the golfers and volunteers. Special thanks to the folks at San Dimas Canyon Golf Course for their wonderful collaboration! Thank you to all who supported this great event.”

The annual Tournament, named after the late Bonita Unified School District Board member, is the major fundraiser for the Ed Foundation that supports the students, teachers and classrooms of the Bonita Unified School District. To learn more about The “Ed Foundation” visit our website at [lvsdef.com](http://www.lvsdef.com) and to make a donation, please visit <http://www.lvsdef.com/donations/>.

Lone Hill MS, Bonita HS Receive Gold Ribbon Awards from State

Both Lone Hill Middle School and Bonita High School were selected for The California Gold Ribbon Schools Award, which was created to honor public schools while the California Distinguished Schools Program is on hiatus as California continues its transition to new assessment and accountability systems.

The [California Department of Education](http://www.cde.ca.gov) honored Lone Hill Middle School with this prestigious award for the 2016-2017 school year for its PAW/Roar Intervention Program. The PAW/Roar program was implemented to provide students who are exceeding in academic standards a choice of how to spend time at the end of their school day. Students who need extra help receive additional opportunities to work with teachers to receive individual support. In March, Lone Hill hosted a validation team that consisted of three administrators from L.A. County schools who were impressed with Lone Hill’s staff, students and the positive results of the PAW/Roar program.

Bonita High School’s Gold Ribbon Award was granted for the school’s Purpose-driven, Active, Career, Exploration (P.A.C.E.) program. P.A.C.E. is a senior project program that targets seniors who are on track to be college or career ready upon graduating from high school. Updated in 2011, the ultimate goal of P.A.C.E. is to help students identify their passions and talents they have in life in order to identify the college majors they are interested in and ideally the careers that they are

most interested in pursuing. The new program was adopted to align more to the needs of Bonita High School graduates. Results measured at the end of the 2015-2016 school year showed that students who were college and career ready rose nearly 65% from about 30% in 2010 when the program started.

“We are extremely honored to be selected by the California Department of Education for a Gold Ribbon Award,” Bonita High School Principal Derek Bub said. “This award recognizes the P.A.C.E. project as a model practice and gives commendation for its tremendous impact to all students on the Bonita HS campus.”

Both schools were honored at an awards dinner on May 15 in Los Angeles recognizing the many outstanding programs in the region.

Seventy Students Honored by Ed Foundation in May

The La Verne San Dimas Educational Foundation presented Acts of Kindness Awards, Perseverance Awards, and college scholarships to more than 70 students on May 8, 2017, at the Bonita Center for the Arts.

“It is exciting to see our Bonita staff take the time to support amazing students who have not given up, but rather persevered and have excelled, despite life’s obstacles and challenges,” Foundation President Alta Skinner said.

Five Acts of Kindness Awards were given by the Foundation to students who accomplished something remarkably kind in their community. Nominations were sought from the community, and this award is given in honor of former Board Member Ed Jones who gave much of his life to the schools and his community. The 2016-2017 Acts of Kindness Awards were given to Haylee Algorri, Deidre Renzullo, Rebecca Chou, Denny Duran Flores, and to sister and brother Ayiana and Chayton Grana.

The Perseverance Awards are given to two students in grades three through eight from every school site who have persevered through hardships in their lives. This year, an award was also given to one District kindergarten student. The foundation salutes their courage and admires their ability to continue in spite of great difficulty.

In addition to funds raised at the annual Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament and donations made by private citizens and area businesses, Waste Management has become a major sponsor of the Perseverance Awards. Public Sector Solutions Manager Teri Muse joined the Foundation Advisory Committee last year and created a perpetual scholarship.

The Ed Foundation's college scholarships are given to commend Bonita Unified high school students who have faced significant challenges, but succeeded in spite of them. Fifteen students from Bonita Unified high schools received scholarships from the Ed Foundation this year.

Since 1983, the La Verne/San Dimas Educational Foundation has been committed to enriching and enhancing educational opportunities for students facing personal adversity in the Bonita Unified School District. The Foundation's primary function is to recognize and reward students who have persevered and succeeded in school despite experiencing hardships in their lives.

Schools in the Spotlight

La Verne Heights Elementary School

2017 Walk-A-Thon

On May 24, La Verne Heights' PTA held their signature annual fundraising event, the annual Walk-A-Thon. Though total funds raised were not known at the time of this printing, the event supports many of the academic and enrichment opportunities students receive, including Accelerated Reader Incentives, Family Reading Nights, Meet the Masters Art Program, Character Counts character education program, and transportation for all field trips.

Working toward a total fundraising goal of \$46,000, the PTA is proud to have raised almost \$35,000 at the time of this printing. Eleven sponsors have contributed \$500 for the event: Anderson Tax Service, My Delight Cupcakery, Sanders Lock & Key, Rick's Realty, BJ's, Red Dragon Karate, Detroit Auto Body Inc, Mr. D's Diner, Century 21 Marty Rodriguez, Banc of California, and Tensor ID. Anyone wishing to contribute to La Verne Heights' Walk-a-Thon is invited to contact the school office.



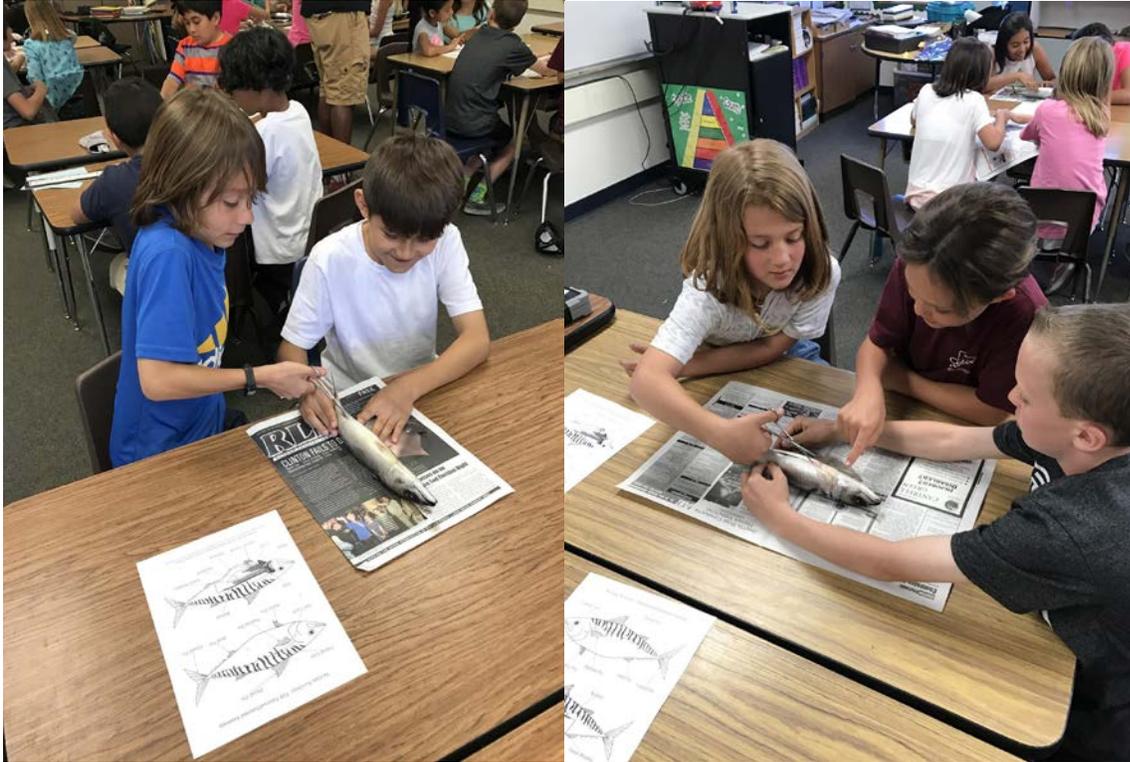
Photo 1: La Verne Heights Principal Patrick McKee and the 2017 PTA Walk-A-Thon Committee get in the spirit of this year’s theme: “Truth, Justice, and the La Verne Heights Way.”

Autism Awareness Month

April was Autism Awareness month, and to help raise awareness, the staff at La Verne Heights promoted this year’s theme by wearing Autism Awareness shirts every Monday in April. AutismSpeaks.org shares, “Autism Awareness Month is a time to educate your community about autism and Light It Up Blue! Spreading autism awareness in schools is a great way to celebrate April and promote inclusion and acceptance in the classroom and beyond.” We are excited to be a part of this national movement in raising awareness at La Verne Heights and beyond.

GATE Students Dissect Fish with Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

As a part of the enrichment experience for our gifted and talented program, Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) students performed fish dissections on March 29. The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Ocean Outreach came to La Verne Heights to provide students with a hands-on dissection lab. The research team at Cabrillo taught the students about fish classifications as well as techniques and tools scientists use to examine the external anatomy and the internal organ functions of an ocean fish.



Photos 2 & 3: La Verne Heights GATE students cut into marine biology with a fish dissection project led by Cabrillo Aquarium Ocean Outreach.

Oak Mesa Elementary School

Elementary Track Meet Wins

Physical Education teacher, Linda Hand, who is also Oak Mesa's 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year, coordinated the Bonita Unified elementary track meet in April. Oak Mesa students earned 15 first place medals, 14 second place medals, and five third place medals. Student Reese Van Orden had three first place finishes in the 800M, 400M, and Relay. Student Luke Bentley had two first place finishes in the Relay and 800M and a second place finish in the 400M. Oak Mesa also had 29 students who qualified for the regional meet on May 13.



Photo 4: Student athletes from Oak Mesa Elementary School place in the District Track Meet in April.

Math Field Day Team Places in County Competition

After placing first in the Bonita Unified math field day in April, the Oak Mesa fourth grade team competed in the Los Angeles County Office of Education's math field day hosted at APU on April 29. The Oak Mesa team, coached by fourth grade teacher Sheri Moore and kindergarten teacher Robin Ryser, finished with gold in two categories, Conceptual Understanding and Problem Solving. The fourth grade team included: Anya Chauhan, Jackson Kelly, Jonathan Li, George Safieh, and Kyra Loza (alternate).



Photo 5: Oak Mesa competed in the L.A. County Math Field Day in May.

Read-A-Thon Madness

Oak Mesa was Wild About Reading for Technology in May as students participated in a Read-A-Thon to raise funds for classroom technology. Students checked out their favorite books and book series from the library and earned pledges from friends and family members. Individual and class incentives helped to motivate the readers--a favorite was the opportunity to spray silly string on Principal Steven Patterson and Librarian Emily Ziepke, an honor earned by the classroom that brought in the most in pledges. The class with 100% participation earned the opportunity to design next year's Oak Mesa T-shirt.

Spring Chorus Performances

Oak Mesa's choir students were on stage at the Bonita Center for the Arts to perform their spring concert on May 16. Andy Mainiero's Honor Band students also performed at Knott's Berry Farm on May 26.

Oak Mesa Employees of the Year

Oak Mesa is pleased to announce Linda Hand as Teacher of the Year and Health Clerk Rae Jean Caldarone as Classified Staff Employee of the Year.



Photo 6: Physical Education Teacher Linda Hand and Health Clerk Rae Jean Caldarone were named as Oak Mesa's Employees of the Year and honored at receptions in May.