

UPDATE – MARCH 2017

Superintendent's Message

For several months now, Bonita Unified has been talking about the Hero's Journey, learning from the wisdom of myth and legend how to manage change. I must be honest, as a human being and as a Superintendent, sometimes I can't get past the first word: hero. There can be an unrealistic sense of responsibility to make greatness happen if I think I have to be a hero. But to be a hero is not our quest. It's the process of becoming more heroic and the disciplines that develop heroic qualities that will allow us to accomplish great things together. From *The Hero's Journey* by John L. Brown and Cerylle A. Moffet, we learn that "We never really arrive at the point of being a hero, but we are constantly becoming heroic. We don't ever 'get there.' We are always 'getting there.' The horizons keep moving, and the needs keep evolving."

A Collective Quest—we are in this together

Brown and Moffett continue, "Whether consciously or unconsciously recognized, the modern educator's quest involves a collective search for a way to make our schools and school systems...capable of addressing the needs of increasingly diverse student populations and complexities associated with the social, economic, and moral demands that society places on our system of public education."

In February, Tyler Durman spoke at the Parent Partnership Academy, a series of parent workshops, presented by the Specialized Services Department of Bonita Unified School District. Durman has been part of our quest by speaking to parents and students on many occasions. His address in February encouraged parents to balance their efforts in providing, preparing, and protecting their children for their future. For parents, the goal is for children to develop independence so that they can eventually provide for and protect themselves in their future.

Innovate with Purpose

Speaking of preparing students for the future, Bonita Unified is using the construct of the Hero's Journey to help us navigate our pursuit of Personalized Learning, which allows teachers to adjust learning so students have some choices about how and where they are learning and the ability to adjust the pace based upon student need. Instruction is adapted to the student's learning style to acquire information, collaborate with others, and choose the method of demonstrating mastery of a standard. This is much more than providing 1:1 access to technology and then protecting students from the pitfalls of the Internet. This is much more than innovation for its own sake. Personalized Learning is the conduit for preparation in a complex world.

Tuned In...To You

As businesses can fail when they bring products or services to the market if they guess what their consumers need, assume what they want, and tell them why they need their solution, school districts can fall into the same trap. We don't want to guess, assume, or tell our educational stakeholders anything without first understanding what they want and need. Instead, we are tuning in to listen to our students, parents, teachers, staff, and community. The Stakeholder Input Meeting

on March 21, 2017, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Lone Hill Middle School Multi-Purpose Room is a fantastic time for community members to help the District understand your needs and desires for students. This is an opportunity to provide input on the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), which is the District's three-year funding plan as mandated by the California Department of Education (CDE).

For a School District, becoming heroic means addressing the needs of increasingly diverse student populations in an increasingly complex world. I'm so grateful that the Bonita Unified School District is becoming heroic together, innovating with purpose, and tuning in to our community.

Sincerely,

Christina (Christy) Goennier, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Twitter: [@BUSD4kids](https://twitter.com/BUSD4kids)

Hit the links and help the students and teachers of BUSD

Make your plans now to enjoy 18 holes and benefit the students and teachers of the Bonita Unified School District. The 12th Annual Ed Jones Memorial Golf Tournament presented by the La Verne / San Dimas Ed Foundation will be held on Friday, April 28th at the beautiful San Dimas Canyon Golf Course nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Tournament includes a helicopter golf ball drop with a \$1,000 prize for the closest to the pin, \$500 for furthest to the pin.

Register by April 17th and the single golfer price of \$200 drops to \$175 and includes the Tournament round of golf, lunch and beverage, prime rib dinner banquet, goodie bag, custom t-shirt, and a 2 for 1 green fee coupon good for a future visit. Plus, there will be raffle prizes, a 2017 Toyota Camry hole in one contest for silent auction, sports memorabilia and more.

The tournament is a fun-filled day on a beautiful golf course. No wonder it sells out almost every year. The proceeds benefit the Ed Foundation supporting the teachers and students of the Bonita Unified School District. You can learn all the Tournament details and register at:

<http://www.lvsdefgolftournament.com>

To learn more about The Ed Foundation, visit our Website at www.lvsdef.com and to donate, please visit www.lvsdef.com/www/donations

Narala Wins Elementary, Chauhan Wins Middle School Spelling Bee

Sudheshna Narala and Avinash Chauhan each won first place in their grade level's respective spelling bees. Avinash Chauhan, 8th grader at Ramona Middle School in La Verne won the school's 7th Annual Spelling Bee by spelling "reminisce." Sudheshna Narala, 4th grader at Shull Elementary won Bonita Unified School District's 13th Annual Elementary Spelling Bee, by spelling "thesaurus."

Ramona's contest was open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. This is the second year in a row that Avinash Chauhan's has won. He will compete at the Inland Valley Regional Spelling Bee on March 18, 2017, with a chance to progress to state and national championships.

The District's eight elementary schools each conducted a spelling bee for 4th and 5th grade students at their individual school sites. The top seven spellers in each contest advanced to the District event. Sudheshna Narala will advance to the L.A. County Office of Education's 12th Annual Spelling Bee on March 29, 2017.



Photo 1: From left to right, the Bonita Unified School District's Elementary School Spelling Bee Winners: 2nd Place - Anya Chauhan, 4th grade, Oak Mesa Elementary, 3rd Place - Riley Holmes, 5th grade, Shull Elementary, and 1st Place - Sudheshna Narala, 4th grade, Shull Elementary.

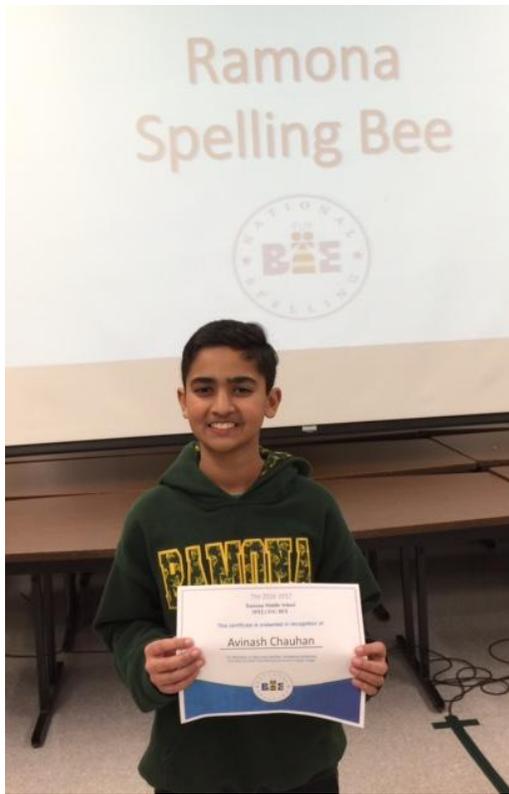


Photo 2: Eighth grader Avinash Chauhan has won his second spelling bee at Ramona Middle School. The winning word was “reminisce,” which seems appropriate for a repeat champion!

Schools in the Spotlight

La Verne Heights Elementary School

Get Connected through Social Media

La Verne Heights Elementary has stepped up the social media game with multiple ways for parents and community members to stay informed. Learn about how education is making a difference in the lives of our students on any of the following platforms:

- YouTube Channel: La Verne Heights Elementary
- Twitter: @LaVerneHeights
- Facebook: La Verne Heights Elementary PTA

In addition, parents can download the Remind app on their smart phones and connect through teacher-issued codes to receive timely reminders about homework, field trips, and more!

The Arts at LVH

Art education at La Verne Heights continues to be enriching for our students. Over the winter, all kindergarten students performed in class gingerbread man plays. First graders performed songs

and recited poems in their Winter Song Fest. Fourth and fifth grade choir students showcased their talents at the winter performance of Hot Chocolate at the Bonita Center for the Arts.

In addition to the performance opportunities, La Verne Heights students continue to study the visual arts in the Meet the Masters program, where all students learn about famous artists and create an art piece in that artist's style. In December, students studied Ringgold and in January, Da Vinci.



Photo 3: Stephanie Fincher's Kindergarten class performs a gingerbread man play before the winter break.

Patriotism

As an expansion to the Character Counts program, La Verne Heights has integrated Patriotic songs into morning announcements. Students have learned to sing "You're a Grand Old Flag" and "This Land is Your Land." This spring, they will learn "America the Beautiful," and at the end of the year the students will learn "The Star Spangled Banner."



Photo 4: The student body at La Verne Heights gathers to sing patriotic songs.

Shull Elementary School

BUSD Provides a New Portable Classroom for Shull Elementary School

Over the last few years the enrollment at Shull Elementary has gone from 575 to 620 students. Enrollment has grown for several reasons. In 2012, Shull Elementary was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School, and in 2016, as a California Gold Ribbon School. The school has won awards because of the high academic achievement of their students and many families transfer their children to the school. Additionally, over the next year, a new housing development in San Dimas will be within the attendance boundary for Shull and enrollment could increase another 10-20 students.

Principal Chris Ann Horsley is excited for the new classroom. “We have been very crowded and this extra room will provide space for another class or enrichment programs.” Construction on the classroom will be completed in March, and the classroom will immediately be put to use as a technology classroom where students will be able to take their state tests in a quiet environment.



Photo 5: A crane moves a new portable building into place on Shull Elementary School's campus to accommodate increasing enrollment.

Shull School's Parent Night Out – You Are All Invited!

On March 4, 2016, Shull Elementary PTA will hold a Parents Night Out. The event is called, *Let the Good Times Roll*, and includes dinner, dancing, raffles, a silent auction and casino tables. The fundraiser will be held at the Stanley Plummer Building near San Dimas City Hall. The event costs \$25.00 per person or two tickets for \$45. The school is advertising a “shark-tastic time” and is extending the invitation to any adults in the community. Tickets may be purchased at Shull School, 825 N. Amelia Ave. in San Dimas. All the proceeds will benefit Shull School as it continues to fundraise for technology and an electronic school marquee. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 9:30 p.m. The school will also host a babysitting service for the evening. For more information please contact the school at 909 971-8208.

Shull's Parents Night Out
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL!
 ◆ MARCH 4, 2017 ◆

<p>Location: Stanley Plummer Building 245 East Bonita Avenue San Dimas, CA 91773</p> <p>Date: Saturday, March 4, 2017</p> <p>Time: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tickets: \$25 per person or Two for \$45 Or buy a table for 8 for \$175 <small>*Discount available for BUSD employees</small></p> <p>Includes: Dinner Non-Alcoholic Beverages Play Money</p> <p>Join us for a shark-tastic time! There will be lots of food, casino tables, silent auction, music, dance floor and more! All proceeds to benefit our school!</p> <p>If you would like to donate a service or item(s) for the silent auction, please contact Jessica Garcia at: JESSGARCIA422@GMAIL.COM</p> <p><i>Ticket sales begin on February 1st.</i></p>	<p>◆ Black Jack</p> <p>♠ Roulette</p> <p>♥ Dancing</p> <p>♣ Raffles</p> <p>◆ Silent Auction</p> <p><i>Beer & Wine Cash Bar</i></p> <p>ADULTS ONLY</p>
---	---

Chaparral High School

College & Career Readiness

Chaparral High School has developed a comprehensive college and career plan that includes activities on campus and in partnership with Mount San Antonio College (Mt. SAC). So far, the program includes the following:

- A College and Career Skills course
- A Senior Sunrise Kick-off for the program
- Access to a college planning portfolio through Google Classroom
- A workshop regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- College Fair offered twice a year

Over the course of the year, Mt SAC High School Outreach counselors have come to campus to counsel students on the Summer Bridge and the Connect 4 Program. Upon completion, students are guaranteed priority registration at Mt. SAC. They have provided materials to help students investigate majors and have assisted students with the application process. Additionally, seniors will tour Mt. SAC and attend an orientation later this spring.

Senior Ashtyn Douglass said, “The counselors are very helpful in getting us the information that we need. They are very knowledgeable and really care about our future and our success in college.”

Senior Government Teacher Zachary Gross said, “The Mt. SAC presentation had such a lasting effect on our students. I know many of them have been putting a lot more thought into their future plans after high school as a direct result of this opportunity.”

Chaparral/Vista Annual “Strike 4 Success” Open House Event

On Wednesday, March 8th 2017, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Chaparral/Vista High School will be hosting its 4th annual Open House Strike 4 Success event at Chaparral Lanes in San Dimas. Through partnerships with the San Dimas Rotary Club and the San Dimas Senior Citizen’s Club, and support from our Parent Teacher Student Association and the community, we are able to host a fun evening of bowling, prizes, and great interaction between students, parents, teachers, and community members.

Students receive two complimentary tickets for themselves and a parent or guardian. Community members are invited to bowl a game, which includes shoe rental and one raffle ticket for \$20. All guests have a chance to join additional opportunity drawings. Opportunity prizes include two Lakers tickets. There will also be a special drawing for parents and/or guardians in attendance. All raffle prizes have been donated.

“It is truly an enjoyable and rewarding evening, and our students feel valued and supported,” Principal Christine Black said. “School funds raised will go towards several programs that benefit teachers and students. Join us to support our students who would benefit from leadership opportunities and continued recognition for outstanding attendance, positive behavior, and credit earning. Go Bulldogs!”



Gladstone Elementary School

GATE Field Trip to LAX

In February, the GATE students got to spend the day at LAX learning about the inner workings of an international airport. The students visited the Flight Path Museum and learned the history of aviation. They were also able to see K-9 training in action and take an airfield tour. The trip highlights the many different career choices available to them in the aviation industry.



Photo 6: Fifth graders from Gladstone Elementary GATE program visit LAX.

5th Graders to Science Camp

In January, the 5th graders made the yearly trek into the San Bernardino National Forest for science camp! This year, students were greeted with snow, and for many, it was the first time getting to walk and play in the snow. But Mother Nature wasn't done as she brought a few more inches during their stay. In fact, the four-day trip had to be cut to three due to heavy snow that moved in on what would have been the final day of camp. The 5th graders learned about botany, astronomy, archery, rock climbing, and the water cycle with a little bit of history from the region. The annual trip is a highlight of the 5th grade year.



Photos 7&8: Gladstone's 5th graders attend Science camp in snowy San Bernardino National Forest.

Kindergarten Circus

The community is invited to the Kindergarten Circus. Each year, our youngest Griffins put on their version of the Greatest Show on Earth! You will see acrobats, lions, monkeys, jugglers, strongmen, and more! The Circus will be held this year on Friday, March 24 in the Gladstone Kindergarten Playground. Make sure to arrive early so you can visit a carnival with lots of games, raffles, and treats. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. for the carnival and the show starts at 5:00 p.m. Come join the fun!

Spring Performances @ Bonita Center for the Arts

March 8 - Lone Hill Middle School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.

March 9 - San Dimas High School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.

March 13 - Ramona Middle School Band Concert, 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

March 15 - Bonita High School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.

March 21 - Bonita High School Choral Concert, 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

March 22 - Ramona Middle School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.

March 24 - San Dimas High School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 9 - Lone Hill Middle School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.

May 10 - San Dimas High School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 11 - Lone Hill Middle School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 12 - Bonita High School Jazz & Symphonic Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
May 15 - Elementary Choir Concerts:
 Allen & Roynon, 5:30 p.m.
 Gladstone & Ekstrand, 7:30 p.m.
May 16 - Elementary Choir Concert:
 Oak Mesa & La Verne Heights, 5:30 p.m.
 Grace Miller & Shull, 7:30 p.m.
May 17 - Ramona Middle School Choral Pop Show, 6:00 p.m. & 7:45 p.m.
May 23 - Bonita High School Choral Pop Show, 7:00 p.m.
May 24 - Bonita High School Choral Pop Show, 7:00 p.m.
May 25 - Ramona Middle School Band Concert, 6:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
May 30 - Elementary Band Concert: Allen, Ekstrand, Gladstone, & Roynon, 7:00 p.m.
May 31 - Elementary Band Concert: La Verne Heights, Oak Mesa, Shull, & Grace Miller, 7:00 p.m.
June 1 - San Dimas High School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.
June 2 - San Dimas High School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.