

UPDATE – AUGUST 2017

Superintendent's Message

Have you ever gone through a drive through, ordered something for yourself or others, and then left only to discover your order was wrong? You thought you had effectively communicated what you wanted, only to have the result not be what you expected. I know this happens to me on occasion, and leaves me feeling frustrated. Sometimes I even consider not returning to that establishment. The breakdown in communication has damaged the trust I had in the organization.

As Superintendent of Bonita Unified School District, I strive for effective communication to build and maintain relationships, both within the organization and with our parents and community. Healthy relationships are the cornerstone of our culture in Bonita USD. People work hard to ensure our students have the best education, not just in academics, but in athletics, arts, and activities. These efforts are worthless unless we are communicating with our parents and communities.

With that being said, I would be remiss if I didn't remind everyone of this year's "Smudge Pot" football game that will take place at [Citrus College](#) on Saturday, August 26, at 7:00 pm. I encourage everyone to come out to support our students and staff as we continue to celebrate this tradition.

This annual "Smudge Pot" game between Bonita High and San Dimas High Schools began in 1972, two years after the opening of San Dimas High School. The silver "Smudge Pot" was selected as a symbol of the area's historical citrus industry. As friendly rival cities, the residents of San Dimas and La Verne come together at Citrus College and support their teams. What a great way to build and strengthen relationships between the District and our two great cities we serve.

Back to School Bonita Unified School District Challenge

The days of summer are coming to a close as the staff, students and community are gearing up for the first day of school in Bonita Unified School District on August 21, 2017.

Back to school means looking for all the "right deals" to ensure students have the supplies they need to be successful in the upcoming school year. Every year, some of our students don't receive the same opportunities. We are asking our community to please consider volunteering or donating to our La Verne-San Dimas Educational Foundation (LVSDEF) who provides funds and support throughout the year with teacher mini grants, Ed Jones Acts of Kindness awards and Perseverance awards. Volunteer opportunities are available and donations can be made at www.lvsdef.com.

New Faces in Bonita Unified

With the recent retirements and promotions within Bonita Unified School District, many of our sites and departments will have new faces.

Leslie Sandoval is the epitome of Bonita Unified through and through. She grew up attending Shull, Lone Hill, and San Dimas High Schools. Her husband, Jason Sandoval, works for Bonita Unified in the Computer Information Services department, and their two daughters, Sophia and Sarah attend Bonita schools.

After 16 years at Lone Hill Middle School as a science teacher and ASB director, Sandoval is excited to transition from being a Lion to a proud Roynon Raccoon as Assistant Principal at Roynon Elementary. “Leslie is a wonderful addition to Roynon. She brings extensive knowledge of the local community with her, as well as first-hand experience with the social and academic skills necessary to prepare Roynon students for the next level,” says Principal DiGrazia.

Dan Gribbon is the new Dean of Students for the Ed Jones Educational Center. Gribbon comes to Chaparral-Vista with extensive experience in administration and alternative education. What made him stand out among a very competitive field during the hiring process, is his passion for the work and his demonstrated commitment to kids and their academic and personal growth. In 2013, he was awarded the ACSA Continuation Administrator of the Year for the state of California. Principal Chris Black says, “ Dan shares our vision, which is to provide a rigorous and personalized educational program that prepares our students for success in college or their chosen career. We are excited to welcome Dan to the Bulldog team; he will be a tremendous addition and asset to our school community.”

Bonita Unified School District Promotes Two Curriculum Experts

Bonita Unified School District announced the promotions of Chris Ann Horsley and Anne Neal as the Senior Directors of Curriculum and Instruction at their July 5th Board of Education meeting.



Horsley and Neal will be based out of the Educational Services Department and will focus on ensuring the students of Bonita Unified School District continue to receive a first rate education, while exploring additional opportunities to bring in Personalized Learning. “Both come into their new roles with a proven record of increasing student achievement, and we are thrilled to have them lead our District in curriculum and instruction for the coming years,” stated Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Matt Wien. Chris Ann Horsley was the principal at Arma J. Shull Elementary school for the past 17 years, where she worked with staff and the community to continually focus on reading by the end of third grade for all of our students. Horsley looks forward to sharing her passion for reading and working with all of our schools across the district.

Anne Neal has been the principal of Ramona Middle School for the past ten years. Neal’s specialty has been providing a rigorous academic program while balancing it with the social emotional needs of our middle school age students. Neal looks forward to working alongside the rest of the schools as they continue to innovate in education.