

UPDATE – JUNE 2018

Superintendent's Message



One of the great joys and privileges as a Superintendent is to visit classrooms and campuses to observe the tremendous work performed by Bonita Unified staff. Every year, the staff from each of Bonita Unified's 13 school sites and ancillary departments nominate two employees, one classified and one certificated, who have demonstrated exemplary service to be named Employees of the Year. To be recognized by peers is an honor, especially in Bonita Unified, as we are fortunate to have so many exemplary classified, certificated, and management staff. Please join me in congratulating those selected as our 2017-2018 Site Employees of the Year.

ALLEN

Certificated: Casie DeSalvio
Classified: Monica VanDuyne

ROYNON

Certificated: Stacy Willetts
Classified: Maribel Valdivia

SAN DIMAS HIGH

Certificated: Gordon Hamlow
Classified: Yvonne Pena

EKSTRAND

Certificated: Carey Vasile
Classified: Eva Bustos

SHULL

Certificated: Marki Cordero
Classified: Joe Boscarino

CENTRAL KITCHEN

Classified: Edna McKenna

GLADSTONE

Certificated: Adrian Wong
Classified: Carolyn Hudson

LONE HILL

Certificated: Alicia Saldana
Classified: Susan McNinch

MAINTENANCE & FACILITIES

Classified: Norman Masse

GRACE MILLER

Certificated: Amy Powell
Classified: Gricelda Mendoza

RAMONA

Certificated: Cory Hanson
Classified: Kristine Steece

TRANSPORTATION

Classified: Gilbert Alvarado

LA VERNE HEIGHTS

Certificated: Anika Bartley
Classified: Laura Metcalfe

BONITA HIGH

Certificated: Jeff Bird
Classified: Michelle Castro

DISTRICT OFFICE

Certificated: Jack Nance
Classified: Jennifer Flores

OAK MESA

Certificated: Jean Marston
Classified: Emily Ziepke

ED JONES CENTER

Certificated: Courtney Mickey
Classified: Sean Fasig

In addition, May was an opportunity to celebrate these individuals at the District's end of the year celebration and at the Teacher of the Year events. I want to thank the Chambers of Commerce and Rotary Clubs of La Verne and San Dimas for hosting the Teachers of the Year celebration dinners. Both cities of La Verne and San Dimas place great emphasis in supporting our schools, and it is amazing to see the number of community members who come out to honor our teachers. During the events, guests were able to watch videos about the teachers who were honored. These videos are available to view on the District's website at <http://bonita.k12.ca.us>.

Respectfully,

Carl J. Coles
Superintendent

Schools in the Spotlight

Gladstone Elementary

Kindergarten Circus

Gladstone had their annual Kindergarten Circus to introduce the community to the grandeur of an era gone by. This annual event began 49 years ago as an opportunity for students to perform in public as well as to bring the school community together. The circus is always held in the spring and is the highlight of the school year that brings staff, students, and the kindergarten community together. Students wore bright costumes dressed as circus animals and circus performers that brought smiles to all who attended. We are excited and looking forward to next year's 50th Kindergarten Circus in March 2019!



Student Jace Watkins performs as a circus lion



Gladstone students Charlotte Onyshko, Matthew Salazar and Vince Sweis as Gladstone circus clowns



Ringmaster Riley Drake leads the circus

La Verne Heights Elementary

Camp Nawakwa

Spring marks such an amazing time for students at La Verne Heights Elementary School. Fifth-graders jumped into spring by attending science camp at Camp Nawakwa. This three-night outdoor science school experience included both Adventure Days and Environmental Days. Students enjoyed activities like archery and climbing as well as lessons about plants, animals, and the environment. “It was very adventurous, and we interacted with nature more. We got to use the outdoors like a big classroom,” said fifth-grader Camryn Van Valkenburgh. Student Brianna Kinsey said, “It was fun to connect with nature. We learned real world stuff out in the woods!”



Fifth-graders from La Verne Heights enjoy Camp Nawakwa

Step Up to Writing

Students are working hard on building their writing skills. Teachers use a program called “Step Up to Writing,” where students learn how to develop a topic with key details. As early as kindergarten, students begin the writing process, and they continue to build upon these skills at each grade level. By the time students reach the upper grades, they can write multiple paragraphs. First graders who have mastered their reading fluency extend their composition skills by writing book reports. One report choice for students is writing a letter to a favorite author. First-grader Kayleb Silveira wrote to Dan Gutman, the author of books like The Genius Files and My Weird School. Dan Gutman wrote Kayleb back, telling Kayleb “It’s kids like YOU who inspire them. Tell all your friends that I say hi, and keep reading lots of books...ESPECIALLY MINE!”



LVH student Kayleb Silveira shows a favorite book

LVH Walkathon

La Verne Heights Elementary School is extremely proud of the outstanding partnerships they have with local businesses, families, and the La Verne community. Each year, this can be seen through the support they receive during their signature fundraising event: *Walkathon*. This year’s Walkathon was held on May 23, and the theme was “3-2-1 Blastoff.” The PTA held a kickoff during the March Student of the Month assembly. The goal was to raise \$42,500 to support the amazing programs in place at the school, including transportation for field trips, Accelerated Reader incentives, school assemblies, technology, Meet the Masters art program, the annual talent show, and so much more. This year’s Walkathon was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

Oak Mesa Elementary

Read-A-Thon

During the week of April 16th, Oak Mesa's PTA coordinated a fun and successful Read-A-Thon. Students from grades K-5 participated, many of whom encouraged their parents and family members to read as well. Thanks to their hard work, Oak Mesa's PTA raised \$10,000! As an incentive, the students from the grade level who read the most words will get to spray Principal Steven Patterson with Silly String at the end of the year. The third-grade students won the challenge by reading the most words, and they are looking forward to covering their principal with Silly String.

State Testing

Third through fifth-grade students participated in state testing during the weeks of April 23 through May 9th. All students tested in English language arts and mathematics, and fifth-graders additionally tested in science on May 9th. The feedback from teachers and students was positive as students were excited to demonstrate the skills they learned over the year. Students also enjoyed the incentives of an extended recess and special drawings during testing days for simply trying their best. Way to shine Owls!

Oak Mesa Chorus and Music Express

Students, parents, family, and community members were in for a treat on Monday, May 7th at the BCA as they received the gift of great music. Oak Mesa students joined other elementary schools in singing hits from the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s. Both their music and choreographed moves were amazing to watch! Music Express took their show on the road as they traveled to Knott's Berry Farm on May 11th.



Music Express performs

Celebrations

As the year comes to an end, families are invited to celebrate Oak Mesa students who will be recognized for meeting their Accelerated Reading Goal, Character Counts challenge, and re-designation through the English Language Program on Tuesday, June 5th.

On Thursday, June 7th, Oak Mesa will celebrate fifth-grade students, recognizing them for their academic achievements as they will promote to the sixth grade. Best of luck to them as they begin their newest journey to middle school!

Roynon Elementary

Roynon Raccoon Run

The First Annual Roynon Raccoon Run took place on Friday, March 30th. This event was the PTA's main spring fundraising event of the year. Students spent the month of March gathering donations and sponsorships for the big day. The Raccoon Run took place on the southside of campus with students in grades K-1 and 2-5 running on separate tracks. The morning began with a motivational ceremony led by student-athletes from Bonita High School, and staff from the local Red Dragon Karate led the warm-up exercises. Students wore their grade level colored Roynon Raccoon Run shirts, gifted to them by PTA. Students had fun running with friends and staff while raising money for our PTA to support programs at Roynon. The event was a huge success, raising \$44,181, with over 80% of students who participated in gathering donations. This was a new school record! PTA will use the money to support field trips, assemblies, and technology on campus. In the next several months, an electronic marquee and a water bottle filling system for students will be installed on campus thanks to the generous donations of PTA, made possible by the success of this year's Roynon Raccoon Run. The success of this day could not have been accomplished without the countless volunteer hours of the Roynon community, as well as the support of our entire school staff. It was truly a community event and we look forward to our second annual Roynon Raccoon Run next year.



Volunteers prepare healthy fruit snacks for students to enjoy after the Raccoon Run



Kindergarten student Lily R. takes the lead from her fellow kindergarteners

STEM Family Night

Roynon Raccoons hosted their first annual STEM Night recently. Families participated in various science, technology, engineering and math activities. The night began with Educational Technology teacher, Matt Vaudrey, who presented strategies to families for working through difficult tasks. Teachers ran activities for the students and their families such as coding, 3 Act Math, breakout boxes, giant bubbles and floating boats with a load of pennies. Bonita High School CSF students volunteered their time to help the students and the local Mathnasium of La Verne also provided math puzzles for students to work on. It was a great event for Roynon and we are looking forward to next year.



Mrs. Sandoval gets enveloped in a bubble



Fifth grader, Jared Z. tries to build the tallest tower with his dad



Mr. Vaudrey talks about the Growth Mindset