

UPDATE – MARCH 2018

Superintendent's Message



Bonita Unified is fortunate to be able to partner with so many wonderful individuals and organizations throughout the year. When I reflect on these partnerships, one word comes to mind—gratitude. I am so thankful for the support that our communities give to our schools to assist our students.

The most recent example of our strong partnerships was our District's 3rd Annual Parent Partnership Academy (PPA) on February 10, 2018. The PPA offered over 20 breakout sessions taught by District staff where they shared their expertise, provided strategies and addressed concerns parents had in helping and supporting their children. While I walked in and out of the sessions, it reaffirmed the importance of ensuring parents and schools partner together in the education of our students.

Additionally, every year, thousands of hours are logged in at our schools by parent and community volunteers. These volunteer hours are vital to the success of our educational programs as they enrich our student learning opportunities. In turn, this leads to family engagement and increased achievement of our students. Students witness first-hand that in our connections with each other and by working together that we are placing great emphasis on the importance of their education. For students, our partnerships help to develop their core skills; for teachers, this collaboration is a useful way of sharing knowledge; and for parents, student learning becomes consistent both at school and at home.

Further, Bonita Unified partners with two phenomenal cities, including community and parent organizations, universities, businesses, and our educational foundation. These partnerships confirm the belief that our schools are reflective of who we are as a society, and through working together, we will be able to provide schools that are inclusive, safe and enriching.

I am sincerely grateful for the thousands of volunteer hours, the generous donations, and for each parent who allows us to serve your child. Thank you for partnering with your child's teacher, school, and District to support your students.

Sincerely,

Carl Coles
Interim Superintendent

The Wall That Heals Comes To Bonita USD

Beginning March 22 through March 25, 2018, [Lone Hill Middle School](#) in the [Bonita Unified School District](#) will open its gates to residents from communities far and near giving visitors an opportunity to see the Vietnam Memorial Wall, *The Wall that Heals*. This undertaking is made possible through the hard work of San Dimas Helping Establish a Remembrance of Every Serviceperson (H.E.R.O.E.S.) organization in partnership with the City of San Dimas. At the last Board of Education meeting, Board President Chuck Coyne said, “The District is honored and appreciates being able to support this prestigious event.”

The Wall that Heals, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica & Mobile Education Center tells the story of the Vietnam War, the era surrounding the war and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This exhibition features a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and is designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

This traveling exhibit, open to the public free of charge, provides citizens with an opportunity to become immersed in the Vietnam era and provides individuals impacted by the war to find the strength and courage to continue their healing process from the war’s effects. The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

BUSD Interim Superintendent Carl Coles stated, “We are honored to host this exhibit and I encourage as many people as possible to tour the display.” He added, “The exhibition provides another important reminder of the sacrifice so many individuals have made for our country and we are proud to be able to partner with H.E.R.O.E.S. to allow our community to show our gratitude.”

The Wall will be on display at Lone Hill Middle School, 700 South Lone Hill Avenue, San Dimas beginning 10:00 a.m. on March 22 and closing March 25 at 2:00 p.m.. During this time, the exhibition will be open twenty-four hours and is free of charge. The San Dimas H.E.R.O.E.S. organization is also seeking volunteers. To volunteer for this event, information is available online at www.sandimasheroes.org.

Schools in the Spotlight

La Verne Heights Elementary

Google Visits La Verne Heights

[La Verne Heights](#) partnered with Google to bring their Augmented Reality (AR) Expeditions to their school. As a pioneer school, La Verne Heights provided every child with the unique opportunity to explore Google's new AR technology using a program that has not been released to the public. AR is more than virtual reality. It's a way to bring 3-D images of everything from fish to volcanoes into the classroom, providing children with a 360 degree view of the natural objects they are studying. It was quite a learning adventure for their students, as they were able to go on scientific adventures never before thought possible.



Photos 1-5: Students learn to use AR technology at La Verne Heights

After School Enrichment

This year La Verne Heights has partnered with two after school enrichment organizations to bring exciting educational opportunities to its students. First, Youth Science Center provides students in fourth and fifth grade with an opportunity to explore science in new and exciting ways by not only studying topics ranging from Botany to Entomology, but also by engaging students in hands-on projects and experiences. Second, ASEPKids has provided students in 1st through 5th grade with three unique enrichment programs – Chess Masters, where students learn the art of chess and compete in a tournament; Spotlight Theater, where students learn the art of improve acting and perform a skit; and Comic Creators, where students learn how to create and design their own comic strips.

Walk-A-Thon

The La Verne Heights 21st Annual Walkathon is May 23, and this year's theme is 3,2,1 BLAST OFF! Last year, La Verne Heights raised \$45,422 to support the outstanding programs in place at LVH – including field trips, Meet the Masters Arts program, and the Accelerated Reader program. Also, because of the generosity of our community and PTA, fourth and fifth graders are now 1:1 with technology. La Verne Heights is reaching out to local businesses and individuals to support this year's fundraiser. Please contact the school office at 909-971-8205 if you are able to support La Verne Heights.

Fall Activities

In October, the La Verne Heights PTA had its annual carnival, and this year's theme was "Halloween." Students came dressed in their favorite Halloween costumes and enjoyed inflatables, games, and lots of yummy treats. Principal McKee even beat Jack Skellington in a pie eating contest.



Photo 6: LVH parent Kenny Murray dressed as Jack Skellington with Principal Patrick McKee

La Verne Heights transformed the month of October to Socktober to support Kid President's campaign to collect socks for those in need. La Verne Heights collected 3,124 pairs of socks, which were donated to Shoes that Fit.



Photo 7: Mrs. Garcia's second grade class who collected the most socks -- over 900 pairs!

Shull Elementary

Shull Sharks Succeed Spectacularly at the Spelling Bee

The District Spelling Bee is always quite a fun event with schools throughout the district competing for the distinction of having the top speller. Many students dedicate quite a bit of time to studying their lists and practicing their skill of spelling under pressure. This was a particularly successful year for [Shull Elementary](#) as the top four places in the District-wide competition. Sudheshna Narala was a repeating first place winner, followed by Martin Suarez in second place, Kianush Zamiri in third, and Giuliana Rios in fourth. Many thanks to Mr. Robert Conditt for coordinating the event for Shull. Congratulations to all!



Photo 8: Martin Suarez earned second place, Sudheshna Narala earned first place, and Kianush Zamiri earned third place in the Elementary Spelling Bee

Shull Celebrates the 100th Day of School

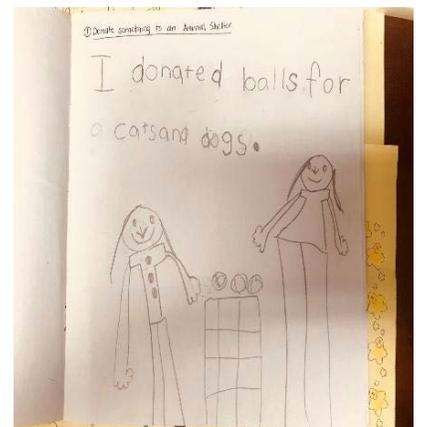
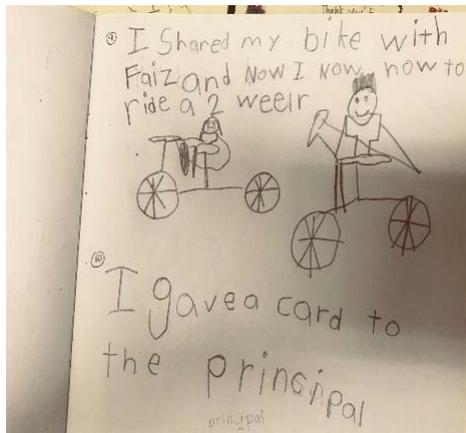
Every so often Shull students get a glimpse of spirit activities that many secondary students enjoy. Last month, Shull students celebrated the 100th day of school. Kinder students enjoyed a great many counting activities such as making a necklace with 100 pieces of cereal, adding 100 spots to a picture of a dog, as well as turning in their prized 100th Day of School Projects. There were many creative ideas. Kinder through 5th grade got into the spirit of the celebration by dressing like they were 100 years old. It was quite a fun and celebratory spirit day.



Photos 9-10: Students Shelby Scharbach and Keaton Aceves dressed as 100-year olds.

Shull Tackled “The Great Kindness Challenge”

Our Shull Sharks showed that they are all heart during “The Great Kindness Challenge.” They went out of their way to commit acts of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King. Altogether Shull students recorded over 4,800 acts in the one week. Varying from placing flowers with kind notes to show appreciation to neighbors, doing chores for neighbors, writing letters of appreciation to school officials, firemen, and police officers, to just being kind to each other. The lists went on and on. It was an honor to watch families and students so excited about being kind. Students are awarded weekly for committing acts of kindness around the school, however, it was wonderful to see our kindness extended to the whole school community.



Photos 11-13: Shull students share notes from their Great Kindness Challenge

PTA Family Nights are a Hit at Shull

PTA has worked diligently this year to strengthen the school home partnership and create enrichment opportunities for all students. In January, our PTA hosted the popular Family Art Night which featured author Meadow Griffin. Meadow came and shared her story of how she became an author. In addition, she treated students with a read-aloud from one of her recent books, and led students in a directed draw of two of her favorite characters.

In February, Junior Girl Scout Troop 564 led students in a Family STEAM night. From egg drops to a light show, the night was a success enjoyed by all. It was most fun seeing our fourth grade girls leading the night dedicated to STEAM.



Photo 14: Shull students Savannah Meredith and Alivia Beltrame enjoy Family Art Night

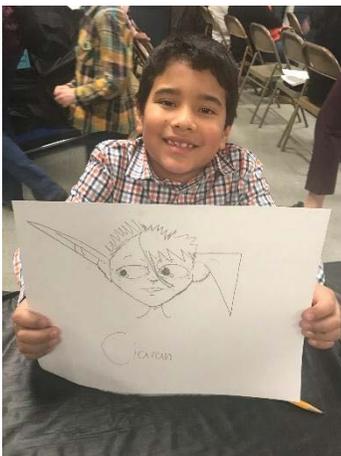


Photo: Student Renzo Quintanilla shows his artistic talents



Photo: Author Meadow Griffin poses with 5th grader Lauren Miranda

Ed Jones Center

Chaparral Students Participate in Mock Trial

In a three-week interdisciplinary standards-based unit of study, [Chaparral High School](#) 11th grade students recently participated in a mock trial. Mock trials are designed to help students develop critical and analytical thinking skills, improve communication skills, and learn about our judicial system. Students gain exposure to their responsibilities as members of our society while engaging in both the English Language Arts and Social Science Literacy Standards.

Students in Courtney Mickey’s U.S. History class and Lori Frank’s Junior English class spent two periods each day immersed in content centered on topics such as: constitutional rights, specifically the 14th Amendment, landmark Supreme Court cases, and various modes of persuasion. As the unit evolved, students progressed from reading and analyzing verdicts of Supreme Court cases that have impacted their life in some way to being introduced to a “mock” or hypothetical case for which the verdict was to be determined. The case, which centered on the 14th Amendment, gave students the opportunity to collaborate with their peers while applying their newly developed skills. Students were assigned a role and then played out that role in the trial of the hypothetical case. Students reflected on the implications of the case, assessed their participation and mastery of the standards and how it has strengthened their ability to become lifelong learners in a Socratic seminar following the verdict.

“It was incredibly impressive to see our students’ growth throughout this learning experience, but especially during the trial. They were able to clearly and concisely express their ideas, cite evidence, refute claims, and articulately present counterclaims. This is a great example of a project that requires students to make connections between the content areas of English and social studies, think critically, apply their knowledge, and effectively collaborate,” said Principal Christine Black.

Teacher Courtney Mickey who is just getting started in her career had this to say, “Seeing the level of engagement and dedication I had from not just ‘some,’ but all juniors over the course of the mock trial was the most rewarding experience in my career thus far. The students came to our mock court prepared, dressed professionally and excited to demonstrate their newly developed critical thinking and public speaking skills.”

Chaparral Teachers Awarded San Dimas Rotary Mini-Grants

The San Dimas Rotary awarded two teachers from Chaparral High School with \$500 mini-grants. Jannet Valdez, who teaches the Introduction to Computers class, applied for a grant to purchase a kit that will enable students to build complex, smart robotic car that can be controlled using a mobile phone via Bluetooth. Ms. Valdez said “Last year I started incorporating introductory coding and robotics in my class. The kids enjoyed building a mini robot out of a soda can that is powered by the sun. This year, I would like them to expand on it and build more challenging robots. Building robots incorporate computer skills, mathematics, and engineering, and also builds teamwork and comradery. It will help students learn about electronics, programming, and robotics. I’d like to thank the San Dimas Rotary for providing us with a mini-grant to be able to continue to fund projects like this.”

Steven Wright, senior at Chaparral said, “I enjoy the feeling of creating something out of nothing. We created a robot out of a can and now we will be building a more complex one. I like hands on projects.” “I was never really interested in computers or building stuff until I had the opportunity to build my own robot in this class,” said fellow classmate Jeremy Lynch

Government teacher Zachary Gross submitted his application for a grant to help offset some of the travel expenses for an upcoming field trip for 20 of senior students who will be visiting the State Capitol. During the trip, hosted by Senator Anthony Portantino, students will tour the Capitol building and have a chance to see government at work. “We’ve been incredibly fortunate to have been given an opportunity to take a tour of the Capitol building with our state Senator Anthony Portantino. This field trip will tie in perfectly with our learning objective related to how a bill becomes law and will make our lawmaking process more comprehensible. San Dimas Rotary’s generous grant will support an once-in-a-lifetime chance to walk the halls with a real-life Senator,” said teacher Zachary Gross. Students are looking forward to their field trip to the State Capitol. “It will be very interesting to hear about government from someone on the inside and Rotary’s grant helps make it possible,” said senior student Elias Jennings.