

MEET OUR NEW PRINCIPALS...



Sylvia Cadena, Yorbita Elementary. Cadena has been a member of the Rowland Unified school district since 1990. She began her career as an Instructional Assistant at Nogales High School. Her first teaching assignment was at Northam Elementary, where she taught for 10 years. She served at Villacorta

Elementary as a Literacy Coach for two years and a Learning Director for four years. Cadena holds both a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and a Masters of Arts in Education Administration from California Polytechnic University, Pomona. While at Villacorta, Cadena worked closely with Principal John Martinez. Martinez has described her as an exceptional educator who has a profound commitment to serving the needs of students and has a remarkable talent for working with others. "It is an honor to serve the Yorbita community as their principal. I look forward to becoming a 'Yorbita Cheetah!'"



Celia Munguia, Northam Elementary. Munguia has served as the Learning Director at Northam Elementary School since 2009. Before that, she served as a Program Specialist at Northam and Ybarra Academy. She was a Bilingual Teacher at Northam for three years and

earned the 2008 Puente Hills CBE Teacher of the Year and 2007 Northam Teacher of the Year Awards. She has her Bachelor of Arts in Business Merchandising from California State University, Los Angeles and Masters of Arts in Education Administration from California State University, Pomona. She is currently working on her Doctorate Degree. "I am excited to once again be part of Northam Elementary School and Rowland family. I look forward to working collaboratively with the staff to ensure that all students receive a world class education at Northam Elementary School."



Dr. Sergio Canal, Nogales High School. Dr. Canal has been serving in the field of education since 1992, and the last 11 years in the Baldwin Park Unified School District. He has had extensive leadership positions at the elementary, middle and high school levels. He has led successful programs within the context of comprehensive and continuation high schools, alternative programs, middle, and elementary schools. Most recently, he has earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of Southern California. According to Dr. Canal, "These

experiences have highlighted the need to view education with a global lens as our students compete with students abroad for coveted positions in higher education. Education has provided me a wealth of opportunities that I hope to create for others."



Carlos Ochoa, Giano Intermediate. Ochoa has been with the Rowland Unified family since the beginning of his career in the field of education. He served as an Instructional Assistant, Teacher, Program Specialist, Learning Director and Interim Principal. During that time, he has been honored as the Certificated Employee of the Year at Giano, Los Angeles County Bilingual Directors Association Outstanding Administrator, and received the American Literacy Award. His credentials include a Master's Degree in Education from California Polytechnic University, Pomona with a Curriculum and Instruction emphasis, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Irvine in Sociology with a minor in Spanish Literature.



Karen Magana, Alvarado Intermediate. Magana has served as the Learning Director at Alvarado Intermediate since 2009. She came to Rowland after serving as a Literacy Coach and Assistant Principal at the middle school level in Little Lake School District. Magana holds both her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and her Masters of Arts in Education Administration from California State University, Los Angeles. During the past four years, Magana has worked closely with Principal Ying Tsao, who retired in June. Tsao and teachers have

described her as a hardworking, dedicated leader ready to lead Alvarado to the next level. "I'm very excited to continue to serve the Alvarado Community and be part of RUSD."

Jellick Students Make Their Mark at Rowland Heights Library



Jellick 6th Grade Class with Teacher Nancy Buck and RH Librarian Jeff Jarrett.

It was a hot day as students from Jellick Elementary walked again to the Rowland Heights Library. This time, instead of their monthly research visits, they were bringing a special gift to the staff. "You are part of an amazing tradition today – you are number 19 – to come here and donate funds to make this library even better, once you leave Jellick," said 6th grade Teacher, Nancy Buck. Each May, students make and sell key chains and snacks for a quarter. The students were filled with anticipation as Mrs. Buck held a giant check that would soon show how much money they raised.

The kids gasped and everyone clapped their hands as the amount of \$422 appeared. Children Services Librarian, Jeff Jarrett, beamed as they learned the grand total of donations made over 19 years had passed the \$7,000 mark. That's a lot of key chains!

"I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart to all of you guys. You have no idea how special this is. **Because of you and your wonderful teachers, we know for a fact that more than 600 books have been added to the library collection thanks to Jellick 6th graders!** There is no other school that does this and we have a very special bond with Jellick."

He then asked the students for his "shopping list" – the kids shouted out their favorite books as he quickly scribbled them down. Before school starts, Jarrett has fun purchasing as many books as he can with the donated funds. He then makes a special effort to visit Jellick classes with a mini new book display in the fall so the next sixth grade class can see what the students before them accomplished.

Out of 84 libraries in Los Angeles County, the Rowland Heights Library is constantly ranked as the busiest library in the system. "I have worked in other libraries and there is something special about this community, a respect for books, for education. We are so happy to service this community," said Jarrett.

4 RUSD Schools Named State Honor Roll Schools



Four Rowland Unified School schools – **Alvarado Intermediate, Blandford Elementary, Stanley G. Oswalt Academy and Ybarra Academy of Arts and Technology** – received the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) as 2012 Honor Roll Schools Award.

CBEE Star Schools are schools with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a significant increase in grade-level proficiency over four years for all sub groups. Alvarado Intermediate, Blandford Elementary, and Ybarra Academy of Arts and Technology received this award.

Scholar Schools are high performing schools without significant levels of socio-economically disadvantaged students. Stanley G. Oswalt Academy received this award.

STEM Schools are schools with significant populations of socio-economically disadvantaged students that have shown a higher performance in math and science. Blandford Elementary received this award.

Pictured above, left to right: Alvarado Principal Ying Tsao (now retired), Oswalt Academy Principal Kevin Despard, RUSD Board President Cary Chen, Ybarra Academy Principal Annette Ramirez, and Blandford

SCI Girls of RUSD...

Imagine waking up in your college dorm room, attending robotics class and then taking a field trip to the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory... but wait, you are only 13 years old!

This summer, **Mariah Barrios and Brianna Lau (Oswalt Academy) and Lauren Aguilar and Maya Vasquez (Telesis Academy of Science & Math) were selected to attend the AAUW Tech Trek Science and Math Camp at Whittier College June 16-22.** The students received an \$850 scholarship from the Greater Whittier Area Branch of the American Association of University Women to attend the science and math camp that is designed to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in young girls who will enter eighth grade in the Fall. It features hands-on



Oswalt Student Brianna Lau learning about Mars at Tech Trek Camp.

activities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and related subjects. The selection process was extensive and took several months. Teachers from Oswalt and Telesis nominated 16 girls and submitted reasons for their recommendations. Next, the girls had to write an essay, "How I will use Math and Science to Make the World a Better Place" and each was interviewed by a panel of AAUW members.

"This was the first year that Rowland Unified students were offered the scholarship opportunity and we couldn't be happier or more proud of our students," said Lisa Anne Buckmier, Ed.D., 8th Grade Math and Science Teacher at Oswalt Academy. "For seven days, students camped in a college dorm, were exposed to career



Telesis Student Maya Vasquez with her family.



Telesis student Lauren Aguilar.

fields, studied core classes for four hours daily, and took extraordinary field trips to places like the Rio Hondo Observatory and even a cadaver lab," said Buckmier, who was a previous "Dorm Mom" at the camp.

"My favorite field trip was to Long Beach where we got to meet with a marine biologist and take samples and observe creatures from the ocean," said Lauren Aguilar from Telesis Academy. Life-changing is the word Aguilar says over and over. "One of the things that changed my life was the women panel, where all these amazing women spoke about their jobs and how they became experts. When I heard the forensic scientist, I was so amazed; it really blew my mind! A new mystery every day to solve. I like that and now I want to



Oswalt Student Mariah Barrios with students at TechTrek.

become one!" Mariah Barrios from Oswalt Academy was a little nervous. It was her first time attending a camp. "But after a few days, I didn't want to go home! My favorite field trip was the Columbia Memorial Space Ship Center in Downey where we experienced a Mars space ship landing simulation and we got the chance to fly in one," said the young scientist, who has plans to become a Pediatric Endocrinologist. "I have always liked science. I like experiments and to do investigations on why the world looks like it does. This camp was so much fun!"

Rowland Unified would like to thank the Quaker Chemical Company, Raytheon, Whittier Host Lions, Whittier Rotary, AAUW member volunteers, and donations made to make this experience possible for our students. Visit <http://www.aauw-tech-trek.org>.

NOGALES LAUNCHES NEW STUDENT TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY



Nogales High School has launched a new student academy called C.O.R.E. — Creation of Revolutionary Education. What makes this academy unique is the integrated approach to technology and the classroom learning experience. Students share the same teachers in select academic and elective courses. All courses are A-G, which means participation will qualify a student for a CSU/UC school.

“What is exciting about the academy approach is that it allows for better relationship-building between staff and students,” said Nogales Vice Principal Dr. Brandon Martinez.

“Teachers can design an instructional experience that is rigorous in nature and relevant to the lives of students. Multiple subject areas intersect. An assignment can start in an English class and end in the Biology or World History class. This program also incorporates the four Cs for 21st Century learning— Critical thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Communication. Through the use of Edmodo and Google Docs, students and teachers are collaborating 24/7.”

C.O.R.E. offers students in grades 9 -12 an opportunity to purchase Google Chromebooks by Samsung. Chromebooks are laptops that rely on web-based applications versus a traditional laptop, and for a much lower price (priced at \$279). Students are allowed to bring their own devices if they meet the established criteria.

Nogales English Teacher and C.O.R.E. Coordinator, Wendy Mumaw, brings a wealth of experience implementing classroom technology. “Students are able to share innovative learning experiences with friends and be prepared for college-level work during their time with C.O.R.E.” Call (626)965-3437 ext. 3720 for more information on C.O.R.E.



STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR SCHOOLS WITH NEW ROWLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MOBILE APP

Download FREE for your iPhone or Android Device

Customize the news from RUSD and school(s) you care about most and access it on your phone or mobile device — iPhone/iPad or Android! Download it for free. On Google Play or Apple Store, search for Rowland Unified School District. Features include:

- **School News and Calendar:** Add events directly to your mobile calendar!

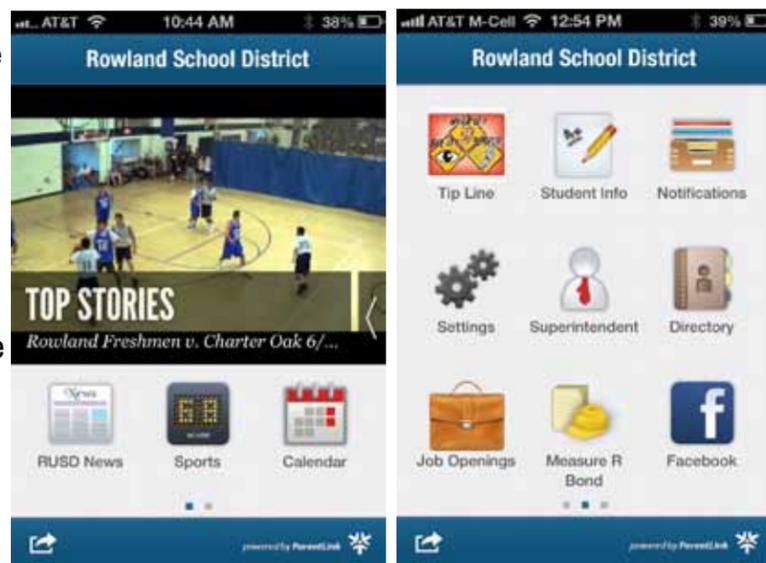
- **High School Sports News:** Choose the sport and school you want to follow!

- **Translation Feature:** Pick your language to view information.

- **Helpful Resources:** Student Information, Cafeteria Balance, School Notifications, School Directory, and More!

- **RUSD Safety TipLine:** Call (626) 513-8958 to report any safety issues or email/text or send photos directly from the App and it will be sent to the Rowland Unified School District, School Police Department. Tips can be sent anonymously or with contact information.

RUSD E-NEWS: Don't have a smart phone? Sign up for RUSD E-News delivered to your email. Visit www.RowlandSchools.org or contact Gina Ward in the RUSD Communications Office at (626)854-8352.



Spotlight on Completed Modernization Projects



Rowland Elementary: Beautiful landscaped areas and each classroom features the District standard Learning Walls, new power and data outlets, lighting and ceiling repair/replacements.



Oswalt Academy New Upper Grade Building. Principal Despard in New Science Laboratory Classroom.



New Nogales High School Library



New media center with skylights, Career Technology Education Classroom, technology research stations, and many reading areas.

Business Community Invited to Connect with Students November 14



The award-winning Career Certification Program in RUSD prepares students at both Nogales and Rowland High Schools for college and the workforce with real-world experience and the chance to earn a certificate at graduation in one of six different career pathways: *Arts & Communications, Business, Family & Consumer Science, Health & Medical Services, Public & Human Services, and Technology.*

Connections to the Future is the annual event coordinated by the School to Career Program. Senior seminar students from both Nogales and Rowland High Schools interact with business and community leaders to learn professional employment skills. The entire event is coordinated by student leaders.

You are invited to join us on November 14 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Nogales High School! Business and community leaders are encouraged to share their business experiences with our students! A complimentary lunch is provided and this year's keynote speaker is David Aaker, IOM, an internationally recognized motivational speaker and trainer in customer service. **Please R.S.V.P. to this event by contacting Yvonne Palazuelos in the RUSD Superintendent's Office at (626) 854-8304. For more information on the Career Certification Program and others ways businesses can be involved with providing internships, mentoring and more, visit <http://careerpathways.rowland.k12.ca.us>.**

SANTANA TEMPORARILY MOVES TO LA SEDA COMPLEX Community Invited to Open House Oct. 16



Santana Principal Guillermo Muñoz with students. The Community is invited to Santana's Open House on Wed., Oct. 16 from 5-7 p.m.

Santana High School has been temporarily relocated to the La Seda Complex (located at 341 S. La Seda Road in La Puente) while evaluations are being made for modernization upgrades.

Due to the complexity of the original Santana High School campus, the relocation to La Seda may be for an extended period. Santana High School is a California Model Continuation High School that serves approximately 260 students from both Nogales and Rowland High Schools.

“Santana is a beacon of hope for students and I am really proud of the work the kids and our staff do here,” said Santana Principal Guillermo Muñoz. “When students are embraced by the staff, they ‘flip the switch’ and go from non-academic focused kids to believers who are committed to making better choices. Our students are motivated, and with a variety of student support services, we help them achieve the skills and credits they need to graduate.”

Santana houses **HOPES**, an independent study program which serves the entire District. If a student enrolls in a school later than one month into the semester, has attendance issues, is struggling at the comprehensive sites due to the size of campus, or is credit deficient and not yet 16, s/he can attend HOPES to catch up. After being successful, students are able to return to their respective school sites.

Students from either Santana High School or HOPES can also use the APEX Online credit recovery program which can be used at home and/or on weekends, and then take exams administered by a teacher in a supervised classroom.

Also on campus is the **ACCEPT Program** (Academy Center for the Continuing Education of Pregnant/Parenting Teens) that serves approximately 20 students. “We help teen parents by enrolling their children close-by in a state-certified preschool program while the teens learn the tools needed to be successful parents and also continue their education,” said Muñoz. “Students also assist with the infants and toddlers in our LIFE (Learning in a Fun Environment) Child Development Center, which is also a day-care center for District staff, if space is available.” Visit www.santanahs.org for more information.

Part of the La Seda Complex is now leased for the business offices of the **La Puente Valley Regional Occupational Program**, a collaborative career technical education program that serves Rowland Unified School District, Bassett Unified School District and Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. Visit www.lpvrop.org for more information.

ROWLAND LAUNCHES PARENT COMMON CORE TOOLBOX



What does the Common Core mean for your child? More time to focus on college and career readiness! The Common Core State Standards set grade-by-grade learning expectations for students in grades K-12 for Mathematics and for English Language Arts and Literacy. They are clear, consistent and high-learning goals that focus on preparing students for college and career success to compete in the global economy. The high standards are consistent across states and provide parents, teachers, and students a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, and mathematics in school.

Teachers, parents, school administrators and experts from across the country, together with state leaders, provided input into the development of the standards. The federal government was NOT involved in the development of the standards. The standards establish what students need to learn, but they do not dictate how teachers should teach.

Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms. There will be tests that will be aligned to the standards and replace existing end-of-year state assessments that will be available in the 2014-15 school year.

To view videos, resources, and find out by each grade level what students should be learning in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics, visit the PARENT COMMON CORE TOOLBOX on each RUSD school website or at www.rowlandschools.org under Parent Resources.



Did You Know?

Construction on the Nogales Street Grade Separation and Roadway Widening Project has begun to build a bridge to carry trains over Nogales Street, an underpass for vehicular traffic, and the widening of Gale Avenue and Walnut Drive North from a single lane in each direction to two lanes.

Nogales Street is expected to be closed for construction in Summer 2014 for 24 months after a detour route with temporary rail crossing is built. Most work will take place on weekdays between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Construction is anticipated to be completed in Summer 2016. Please check the ACE Project website www.theaceproject.org for up-to-date information.

Measure R 2012 Community Update from Superintendent Frutos

Dear Rowland Unified Community:

Thank you to our community for your support in passing Measure R 2012, which passed with 67.7% yes votes, 12.7% over the required 55% approval rate. Passage of Measure R allows the Rowland Unified School District to continue to update school site facilities and provide students with 21st Century learning environments. Proceeds from the \$158.8 million Measure R Bond will be used to construct permanent classrooms to replace aging and temporary facilities at Rowland High School, Nogales High School and Stanley G. Oswalt Academy. Bond revenues will allow for the construction of new facilities and the renovation of electrical and power systems to accommodate the latest technology, increase school energy efficiency, repair deteriorated roofs and ceilings, and modernize remaining classrooms at schools across the District.

Series A General Obligation Bonds, sold on July 9, 2013 in the amount of \$50 Million, will provide proceeds to begin construction and renovations. The District received a very high credit rating (AA-) due to its stable budgets and strong financial position. The bonds are tax-exempt, current-interest bonds, with principal maturing over a 30-year span, 2014-2043. Given the low interest rate environment, the bonds were sold with an all-inclusive cost of 4.7%, which is a very favorable rate in the current bond market.

The District has formed the Measure R 2012 Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC). Members are individuals who represent local businesses, parents, the senior citizen community, and PTA. The Committee serves in an advisory role and reviews quarterly expense reports to ensure that bond proceeds are expended only for the purposes set forth in the ballot measure.

What's Next? The Series A Bond funds will be used for the Rowland High School revitalization project. **We are excited to share below the preliminary architectural concept designs of Rowland High School shared with the Board of Education on September 10, 2013.** The Rowland High School Principal, staff and school community will be invited to participate with their input. This process will take a few months. The architect then will incorporate all suggestions and render drawings for the Board of Education's review and approval. The Board has the final authority to request changes and to approve the final design and plan. The District anticipates the project to start in midyear 2014.

We will continue to keep you informed and hope our community takes advantage of the many ways to stay connected with RUSD -- download the Rowland Unified School District Mobile App, sign up for RUSD E-News, ask questions in our new Rowland Responds section at www.RowlandSchools.org, or simply contact us at the District Office to help answer questions you have.

Thank you for your continued support of RUSD Schools and Students!



Ruben Frutos

More Than \$2.7 Million in Savings For Our Community From RUSD Bond Refinancing

The Rowland Unified School District completed the sale of \$29,515,000 in refunding bonds this week, at an all-inclusive interest rate of 3.93% (including financing costs) without extending the final payment date of the original bonds. The District was able to capitalize on low interest rates and market conditions to refinance most of the outstanding Election of 2000, Series B Bonds to save taxpayers \$2,721,044. This is equivalent to 6.88% of the original debt service on the bonds. Only Current Interest Bonds were sold, no Capital Appreciation Bonds (CABs).

"The District continues to be diligent, as a steward of taxpayer dollars, as we are committed to providing quality education to the students in our communities," Rowland Unified Superintendent Ruben Frutos commented. "In light of significant funding shortages by the state, our District is able to take advantage of historic low interest rates and save taxpayers a significant amount of money."

The bonds were assigned strong ratings of Aa2 / AA- by national rating agencies Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's respectively. The ratings reflect the District's stable tax base, healthy reserve levels and a history of prudent fiscal management. Investors responded favorably to the District based on the ratings as well as the District's performance in previous bond financings.

The District continuously monitors its outstanding bond debt to identify refinancing opportunities to save money for local taxpayers. The next series of bonds eligible to be refinanced is the Election of 2006, Series A, which should generate attractive taxpayer savings in approximately two years.



Do you have a question about RUSD you want answered?

The District will launch a new monthly section on the District website called, **Rowland Responds**. Our community will have the opportunity to submit questions or concerns about RUSD and our staff will respond. Answers will be posted every month at www.RowlandSchools.org.

Our goal is to provide a community system to answer questions about the District in a very transparent way and on a regular basis.

Thank you for your interest in RUSD!

Ruben Frutos, Superintendent of Schools

First Look at the FUTURE ROWLAND HIGH SCHOOL...



Initial Architectural Concept Designs of Rowland High School - Courtyard View and Front Street Entrance

Thanks to our community, the Rowland Unified School District is working on plans for a modernized John A. Rowland High School to be built with Measure R 2012 funds. The proposed renovations will mark a major shift in the outward appearance, student life, educational offerings, community interface and the 21st century readiness of the Rowland High School campus.

At the September 10, 2013 Board of Education Meeting, the following initial conceptual designs from the architect were presented. The District Facilities Team, Rowland High School Principal Mitch Brunyer, and a school team have been working closely with the architects to provide input and feedback on initial designs for the Rowland High School Project. Below are highlights at this initial stage:



New Classroom Building

career center, a computer lab and three dividable classroom spaces to accommodate testing, guest lecturers and general instruction.

New Multipurpose Room/"Hideout": Located across the breezeway and just to the east of the new office building, the new multi-purpose room/"Hideout" has entries from the outside. The new building and parking lot make it ideal for both daytime and after-school events.



Join us on October 22, 2013 at 6 p.m. in the Hideout.

NEXT STEPS: The Rowland High School Concept Designs will go through a series of evolutions as details are finalized by the Rowland High School team and the Board of Education. The next step in the project is to align the scope and budget with the programs, site and community needs. A proposed timeline will be presented in the upcoming weeks and updated as the project specifications are finalized and approvals are secured.

FALL 2013

NEW RHS AQUATICS CENTER TO BREAK GROUND



Drawings courtesy of Architect Adolph Ziemba AIA & Associates

The Rowland High School Aquatics Center project will update the more than 40-year old pool at Rowland High School and build a new Aquatics Center facility to serve the community. It is not funded with General Bond funds.



The Rowland High School Aquatics Center will feature:

- New plaza entrance.
- Expanded pool that will feature 12-lanes for competitions and will serve more students and community members.
- A covered viewing area.
- A larger pool deck for general use.
- New outdoor showers, bathrooms and changing facilities.
- A new digital score board and lighting-Infrastructure built-in for future solar technology.
- Pool will feature the latest filtering equipment, using less chemicals.

NEXT STEPS: Anticipated Board of Education review and awarding of contract on October 8, 2013. Construction to begin immediately after. Construction will take between 9-12 months.

ROWLAND FUTURES