



## Weekly Wildcat News

September 12, 2016

Happy Monday Wildcat Families,

The teachers, staff and I are so excited to meet all of our families this Thursday, September 15th during our Back to School Night. This important ritual marking the beginning of the school year allows all of our families to learn more about Alta Vista and their child's classroom. Teachers will share their goals for the class and your child, as well as their teaching methodology and style. Parents will learn how best to support their child throughout the school year and how to support the classroom. Although our teachers would love to personally connect with each and every family, our time together is limited, so if you have specific questions and input about your child, we ask that parents email the teacher directly. Our teachers will meet lots of people and families on Thursday, and we want your questions and concerns to not be forgotten.

Just a few reminders for our families:

- Back to School Night is an adult-only event. There is no supervision for students on campus.
- The online registration window through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal closes this Friday, September 16th. The Parent Portal can be found at <https://ic.rbusd.org/campus/portal/redondo.jsp>. All families MUST complete the registration process so that the school has updated contact information for your child in the event of an emergency. Online registration also includes your child's photo release for the yearbook, acknowledgement of the parent/student

handbook and more. Can't find the letter that was sent home with your child?  
Please call the Alta Vista main office.

The Parent Portal Tutorial is available at the RBUSD  
website: <https://www.rbusd.org> under *Parents and Students, Parent Portal*.  
Click the orange **"HELP"** button on the lower right side on the Infinite  
Campus sign-in screen if you need a quick lesson in navigating the website.

- Thank you to everyone for helping to support getting your child to school on-time and ready for morning exercises. Just a reminder that if your child is not in line for morning exercises at 8:15am, they will be directed to the main office to sign in and receive a tardy slip.
- Interested in an after-school class or program for your child? All flyers are on our website on the home page.

***Important Dates this Week:***

Monday, September 12th - First Day with our PE teachers

Wednesday, September 14th - LIFT, SDC PK Pupil Free Day

First Day of Kindergarten Double Days - PM Kindergarten students report at 8:15am

Thursday, September 15th - ***MINIMUM DAY and Kindergarten Double Day - PM Kindergarten reports at 8:15am***

**Back to School Night**

**5-6 CDC/PreK,**

**5:30-6:00 Grades K-2 classroom presentations**

**6-6:30 General Parent Meeting in the Cafeteria**

**6:30-7 Grades 3-5 classroom presentations**

**7pm Fifth Grade Science Camp Informational Night**

Saturday, September 17th - Heal the Bat (see flyer below)



**HEAL THE BAY  
CALIFORNIA COASTAL  
CLEANUP DAY**

**Alta Vista Elementary School**

Saturday, September 17, 2016  
8:30 am—11 am

Come together with over 10,000 volunteers worldwide on Saturday, September 17th to clean up our beautiful California coastline. It will be a day of fun and community service as we clean up the Redondo Beach Pier and learn about the importance of keeping our beaches beautiful.

Students will need the following:

1. Garden gloves
2. Closed-toe shoes

**Where:** Redondo Beach Pier—140 Coral Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277

Email Ms. Ruvalcaba: [nruvalcaba@rbusd.org](mailto:nruvalcaba@rbusd.org) to confirm attendance.  
Use "Heal the Bay" in your subject line.

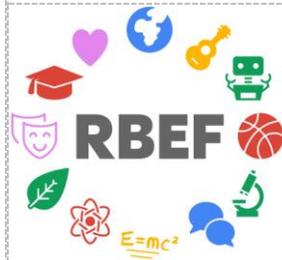


Shopping helps Alta Vista earn money! When you shop at South Bay Galleria and submit your receipts at Guest Services, it helps our school earn between \$250 and \$2,500.

Simply bring your original receipts from any purchase made at South Bay Galleria to Guest Services (Level 1, North Wing). Schools receive five (5) points for each dollar spent in non-department stores and two (2) points for every dollar spent in department stores. Qualifying receipts can be logged anytime during the

program! Every receipt is logged, stamped and returned.

Did you receive an electronic receipt? Visit [shoppingpartnership.com/southbay](http://shoppingpartnership.com/southbay) to submit a receipt sent to you from a retailer via e-mail, text or app. Remember to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. Anyone can support AV in the Galleria School Rewards Program!



Our Kids.  
Our Community.  
Our Legacy.

## The Redondo Beach Educational Foundation

Another school year is upon us, and we have much to be excited about for our kids and the upcoming year. We launch this week with the RBEF Investor Drive, designed to raise funds, awareness and volunteer participation for RBEF, without which our kids would be left without critical programs in areas such as college prep, world-class science, arts, music, counseling, and athletics.

Our world-class schools *rely* on RBEF to fund these programs. These programs are designed to create the most well-rounded kids in the South Bay, and they need your support.

RBEF's ***Investor*** drive **is taking place September 14th through September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Across the district, much has taken place during the summer and many of our kids are off to achieve their big dreams (many made possible in part by RBEF). In the coming weeks, we will bring you these stories and ask if you have a story yourself of a child, teacher, alumnae or community member that is special or has had an impact. We'd love you to share these stories with us.

However, our focus for the next 2 weeks is on the Investor Drive, and **WE ARE ASKING YOU**

**TO PLEASE INVEST in OUR KIDS BY  
DONATING TO RBEF BETWEEN NOW  
AND September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

We need every family to invest in our kids and help RBEF provide programs that allow our kids the opportunity to access the world-class programs RBEF provides. We are asking you to please consider investing \$500 in our kids through RBEF to help achieve our goal of raising \$500,000 district-wide. You can make a one-time donation or pledge to make monthly contributions and any donation amount is welcome.

Go to RBEF.org to make your contribution to our kid's future. If more convenient, you may also drop off a check at your school's office. Please join us in supporting RBEF.

Your support *today* will have an everlasting impact on Our Kids, Our Community, and Our Legacy. Thank You!

Remember, investments can be made as one-time contributions or in monthly installments and any amount is appreciated. For as little as \$20 a month, your family could make a significant difference for our kids, our community, and our legacy. To invest, come visit the school office or go to [www.rbef.org](http://www.rbef.org).



## **Alta Vista 5th Grade BAND**

RBUSD offers a fantastic opportunity for 5th grade students to learn how to play a band instrument. The Band teachers are Mrs. Yvonne Zoetewey and Mr. Eric Buchen. We are excited to invite you to sign your child up for this wonderful program. The sign-up as well as FAQ's and other important Band information can be found on our website

at <http://www.rbusd.org/5thgradeband>

Simply fill out the Band Sign-up Google form. Band instruction at Alta Vista will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. We will begin preliminary instruction this Friday, September 9th for all interested students. Please no instruments at this time, we will begin with instrument instruction on Friday, September 23rd.

If you have trouble accessing our forms, a traditional paper sign-up has been provided to your child's classroom teacher.

Please direct your questions to [ebuchen@rbusd.org](mailto:ebuchen@rbusd.org) and/or [zyoetewey@rbusd.org](mailto:zyoetewey@rbusd.org)

# Become a Walking School Bus Volunteer **ONLY ONE HOUR** a week!

## What is a Walking School Bus (WSB)?

WSB is a group of children walking to school with one or more adults.

## Volunteer Responsibilities:

Walk a designated route at a scheduled time/day, picking up pre-registered children along this route and walking them to school safely. The **time commitment is only a minimum of 1 hour/week**. You get to decide your schedule!

## Who can volunteer?

Adults 25 and older

## Where are the routes?

A route can start anywhere (even at your house), as long as it is a designated Safe Route to School.

## Steps to become a volunteer:

- Contact [youthservicesinfo@bchd.org](mailto:youthservicesinfo@bchd.org)
- Attend mandatory WSB Volunteer Training (1 hour)
- Pass volunteer screening (Background Check and TB Test)

## Attend the Walking School Bus volunteer training!

**Date:** September 14, 2016

### Choose a Time:

Morning Session: 9:30am

**OR**

Afternoon Session: 12pm

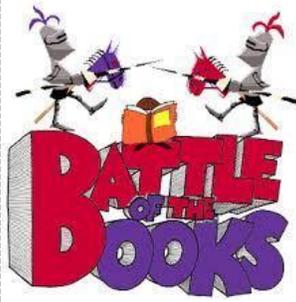
**Location:** 514 N. Prospect Ave.  
Beach Cities Room, Lower Level  
Redondo Beach 90277



To learn more, visit  
[bchd.org/WalkingSchoolBus](http://bchd.org/WalkingSchoolBus)



514 N. Prospect Ave., Suite 102, Redondo Beach, CA 90277 • 310-374-3426



## Battle of the Books is Back! - See attached list

In which book is there a school that was built with thirty classrooms, one on top of the other? If you've read Sideways Stories from Wayside School, you know the answer. And, if you remember that Louis Sachar is the author of the book, you can earn an extra 2 points for your team.

Each year, the Battle of the Books in RBUSD ends with a lively evening of students answering questions about the books they have read during the school year. It is a competition and one team is named the Battle of the Books Champion, but the real goal of the program is to encourage our students to read and to support the love of reading.

The Battle of the Books in RBUSD is based on the national program America's Battle of the Books and the book lists are available on the website ([www.battleofthebooks.org](http://www.battleofthebooks.org)). The book lists change annually. The lists are organized by grade level and each list contains a few books that are easy to read, as well as some that the students may find challenging.

At the beginning of the school year, the students are provided with a list of books and encouraged to read as many as possible. There are 36 books on the 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade list. In order to participate in the school battles, 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students must read at least 12 books on the list. Every year, there is at least one student who manages to read every book on the list!

The majority of the preparation for the battles involves independent reading, but Alta Vista also provides opportunities for students to meet throughout the school year to discuss the books the students have read. Students may share thoughts and ideas, write summaries, and create illustrations for the books, but actual battle practice is limited to one meeting in March. The battle practice meeting is intended to familiarize students with the battle types and to discuss strategies for team work. Adults are not allowed to coach students during the battles. Questions provided by America's Battle of the Books are used only for the school and district battles, and not for

practice.

Check out our special Battle of the Books display in our library to locate books more quickly or see attached list for book details.



### **PTA will be at Back to School Night!**

PTA will be set-up outside of the cafeteria from 5:30 – 6:00, and again from 7:00 – 7:30 on Back to School Night on September 15th. Please come early to sign-up for PTA, make a donation, and purchase your Wildcat Gear. Emergency Kits and Valet Placards will also be available.

Free gifts (except T-shirts), for donations made by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, will be available for pick-up at Back to School Night. T-shirts and other Wildcat gear purchases made through Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> will be delivered to classrooms by mid-October. See details on membership drive promotion below.

### **Let's hear your ROAR! Join PTA Today!**

Alta Vista PTA is excited to announce our 2016-2017 Back to School Membership Drive! Join PTA today for only \$10 and make a flat fee contribution starting at \$50 and receive a FREE gift! (see attached flier for details). Your donations are critical because there will NOT be a Fall catalog fundraiser this year, and the Fun Run is not until Spring! Your donations help support over \$112,000 of funding for programs such as Hands on Art, field trips, assemblies, teacher educational funds, and much, much more!

Donations can be made and PTA memberships, Wildcat gear and Yearbooks can be purchased at our web store at <https://AltaVistaPTA.myschoolcentral.com>, at Back to School Night, or by completing and submitting the attached 2016-2017 PTA Order Forms and returning them to our front office or your teacher.

### **Volunteer Opportunities: Alta Vista Needs YOUR help!**

Alta Vista has a variety of volunteer opportunities – there is something to fit every schedule. Our programs simply cannot

exist without your volunteer support. Please see attached Volunteer Opportunity Descriptions and Sign-up form. Please either submit the attached form to your teacher, or go paperless and complete the school's online Google Forms Classroom Directory & Volunteer Sign-up at <https://goo.gl/forms/1J7yspq6WO2Mstjz2>

### **Ruby's Diner Fundraiser – Sept. 21st**

Our first family restaurant event of the year will be Wednesday, September 21st from 11:00 to 9:00 at Ruby's Diner in the Redondo Beach Marina. That's right, you can go for lunch too! Just bring the attached flyer and Alta Vista PTA will get 20% of the proceeds. See you there!

### **Mandatory Room Parent Meeting – Sept. 27th**

All room parents are invited to join our mandatory room parent meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27th in the cafeteria at 8:30 am. We'll be covering the most updated room parent guidelines so it is important that you please attend. If you are unable to make it, please contact our Room Parent Coordinator, Josie Herbert at [avpta.roomparents@gmail.com](mailto:avpta.roomparents@gmail.com) so that we can make other arrangements.

### **NEW - Reflections Art Contest Workshop - Sept. 28th**

Reflections is a National PTA art program. This year's theme is "What's Your Story" and there are multiple categories including visual arts, dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition and photography. See attached flyer, rules and entry form. PTA will be hosting a workshop in late September or early October. Please stay posted for more information.

### **First PTA Meeting of the year – Sept. 30th**

Please mark your calendar for the 1st PTA Meeting of the year on Friday Sept. 30th at 8:00 am in the cafeteria. We will only have 5 membership meetings this year, so please don't miss out! This is a very important meeting as we will be approving the budget for the current school year. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Also, all PTA members will

receive a FREE gift, compliments of the PTA!

### **Ways to Connect with Alta Vista PTA**

Check out our website at [www.AltavistaPTA.org](http://www.AltavistaPTA.org) and Like us on our **new** Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/altavistapta>

Stay tuned for upcoming new ways to connect with us!

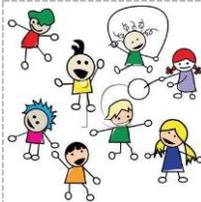


## **College-Going Corner -**

Start College Conversations Early

Experts believe, that if possible, parents should introduce their child to the prospect of college as early as elementary school.

We aren't suggesting families start discussing grades, majors and grade-point averages, but rather a more holistic approach wherein parents and families can take advantage of all of the local college campuses and what they have to offer. Sporting events, museums, camps and other cultural events will allow your child to start imagining themselves going to college, which can help to reduce anxiety years in the future. The early introduction to college campuses and events allows children to see colleges as important to the community and demystify what can otherwise be a scary place.



## **Volunteering on Campus**

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Alta Vista! We invite parents to be actively involved in our school and believe volunteers are an asset in supporting students.

We care about the safety of our students and staff, so all volunteers in RBUSD must apply and be approved before they can begin to volunteer at a school site. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at a school site, please read over the **Volunteer Handbook** and fill out the necessary forms. Please return the completed forms to your child's school office.

The school site will collect a copy of your Identification and TB Test, if necessary. This procedure must be followed for every volunteer each school year, even if the person was authorized to volunteer in previous years.

School personnel use the California Department of Justice database website to check a volunteer's status as a registered sex offender. The only acceptable result is "Your search returned no results."

A school principal must authorize the volunteer. Under California law, a principal may not authorize a person to volunteer if the person has been convicted of a violent or serious felony or if they are a registered sex offender.

## Student Absences

Just a reminder that all student absences need to be reported to our main office at 310-798-8650 every day that your child is going to be absent. Our office calls all of the families of absent students if we do not hear from you by 10am.

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Our district is happy to announce a new consolidated site for all district flyers featuring community events. Please [click here](#) to view all of the latest flyers available to families and our community. Looking for a flyer specific to Alta Vista and our after-school programs?

[Click here](#) to be directed to our home page that houses all of our latest flyers.

### Important Dates for the Next Few Weeks:

- Wednesday, September 14 - LIFT SDC PK/K Pupil Free Day
  - First Kindergarten Double Day
  - RBEF Donor Drive Begins
- Thursday, September 15 - MINIMUM DAY, Elementary Back to School Night
- Wednesday, September 21st - Ruby's Restaurant Night
- Tuesday, September 27th - 8:30am Room Parent Meeting in AV Cafeteria
- Wednesday, September 28th - Reflections Workshop 1:30-5:30pm
- Friday, September 30th - 8am PTA Meeting
- Monday, October 3rd - Local Holiday, No School
- Wednesday, October 5th - 5:30pm RBUSD State of Education at RUHS Auditorium
- Friday, October 7th - PTA Movie Night 6pm
- Wednesday, October 12th - Local Holiday, No School
- Thursday & Friday, October 13th - 14th - Hands on Art Training in AV Cafeteria
- Thursday, October 20th - 10:30am Great California Shakeout

- Sunday, October 23rd - Skechers Friendship Walk
- Monday & Tuesday, October 24th & 25th - School Pictures Day
- Wednesday, October 26th - LIFT Pupil Free Day
- Thursday, October 27th - MINIMUM DAY - Staff Professional Development
- Friday, October 28th - 8:30am Halloween Parade
- Monday, October 31st - NO SCHOOL, Teacher Professional Development Day
- Wednesday, November 2nd - LIFT Pupil Free Day, LIFT OFF Double Day
- Thursday & Friday, November 3-4 - Hands on Art Training in AV Cafeteria
- November 7 - 10 - Fifth Grade Science Camp
- Thursday, November 10th - Reflections Contest Entries Due
- Friday, November 11th - No School, Local Holiday

**Ways to Support Alta Vista:**

- Join the PTA!
- Consider donation to the Redondo Beach Educational Foundation. Go to [www.rbef.org/donate](http://www.rbef.org/donate)
- Student absences cost the school \$38 per day per child. Families are welcome to repay that cost directly back to Alta Vista if able.
- Do you shop Amazon as much as I do? Try Amazon Smile instead! Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and designate Alta Vista PTA and a portion of all your purchases will go back to support our school.
- Looking to purchase a new lunchbox or lunch gear? Go to [www.mightynest.com](http://www.mightynest.com) where 15% of your purchases will go directly back to Alta Vista.
- Don't forget to collect and return your General Mills Box Tops for Education. Every boxtop is money for our school!
- Go to [mycokerewards.com/school](http://mycokerewards.com/school), enter your Coca-Cola product codes and donate to our school. Our school can redeem the points for much needed physical education equipment.
- Keep collecting your Galleria receipts! Just shop and log receipts from any South Bay Galleria stores and restaurants until December 31, 2013. Receipts can be logged at Guest Services anytime during the program. Remember to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to log their receipts. Anyone can support AV in the Galleria School Rewards Program!
- Stopping by Jamba Juice on a warm summer day? Just show the PTA Jamba Card when making a purchase.

Have a wonderful week,

Mrs. Wildes