



Superintendent's Message

Dear Bonita Unified Community,

Our students and staff gave us plenty to celebrate in the first two months of 2026, as they returned to campuses focused, motivated, and ready to continue building on the success of the first half of the school year.

This time of year offers meaningful opportunities to see our students grow, both in and out of the classroom. From literacy events that bring families together, to student performances, academic competitions, and athletic accomplishments, our students continue to demonstrate dedication, creativity, and resilience. These experiences reflect the strength of our learning community and the many ways our students are supported in reaching their full potential.

Just as important are the moments that remind us of the compassion and connection that define Bonita Unified. Whether celebrating milestones, supporting one another through challenges, or coming together at school events, our community continues to demonstrate what it means to live "The Bonita Way."

I want to thank our teachers, staff, and families for the care and commitment you show our students each day. Your partnership creates the foundation that allows our students to succeed and thrive.

As we look ahead to the months to come, I am excited for the continued achievements, opportunities, and milestones that await our students and District community.

Sincerely,

Matt Wien
Superintendent



DISTRICT NEWS

Bonita Unified Teachers Receive Support with San Dimas Rotary Club Mini-Grants

The Rotary Club of San Dimas continued its annual tradition of supporting Bonita Unified teachers by awarding mini-grants totaling \$3,200 during the February 4 Board of Education meeting, which will help fund special projects and classroom learning.

This year's recipients included Jessica Truax and Jared Pugh of San Dimas High School, Kevin Amegin of Lone Hill Middle School, Robin Torres, Brooke Wharton and Kristina Alexander of Gladstone Elementary, and Taylor Greene of Ekstrand Elementary. Grants will help cover sports medicine competition fees at San Dimas High, as well as supporting additional classroom projects and hands-on learning opportunities across other BUSD schools. [Read more.](#)



Roynon Students Rally to Celebrate Classmate Completing Chemotherapy

Roynon Elementary School's South Campus community came together to celebrate fifth-grader Aubriella Estrada as she returned to school after completing her final round of chemotherapy, marking an emotional milestone in her cancer journey. As she rang the bell at the hospital signifying the end of her chemotherapy, her classmates cheered her on through Zoom as they prepared a welcome for her return to campus. When Estrada returned to Roynon on February 12, she was greeted by second- through fifth-grade classes holding signs celebrating the end of her chemo journey.

BUSD Extends Times for Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten Programs

Bonita Unified School District is expanding its early learning programs with extended Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten class times, beginning in the 2026-27 school year. Transitional Kindergarten will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., while Kindergarten will be offered from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., providing students with additional time for foundational learning and hands-on exploration. Prospective families are encouraged to contact their school of interest for additional information or visit the [BUSD website](#) to enroll.



EXCELLENCE in the FOUR As

At Bonita Unified, we emphasize the **four As: Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities**. Below are some recent examples of how BUSD students, teachers and staff are demonstrating excellence in these areas.

ACADEMICS



BUSD Culinary Students Work to End Student Hunger at 'Taste of the NFL' Fundraiser

Bonita Unified ProStart culinary students rubbed elbows with Michelin-starred chefs and National Football League (NFL) legends – while contributing to the fight to end student hunger – during Taste of the NFL 2026, held during Super Bowl weekend in San Francisco.

The event raised \$2.2 million for GENYOUth, a nonprofit focused on ending student hunger and expanding access to school meals and physical activity programs, with the

funding expected to support nearly 150 million meals for students nationwide.

BUSD students were the only Southern California ProStart representatives at the event, and worked alongside renowned chefs while serving as sous chefs and gaining hands-on experience in both front-of-house and kitchen operations. [Read more.](#)

Students Excel at BUSD Math Field Day, Advance to County Competition

Five BUSD student teams will advance to the Los Angeles County Math Field Day after their success at the District's annual Math Field Day, held February 28 at Lone Hill Middle School, which challenged 88 students in grades two through eight to a day of collaboration, critical thinking, and competition. Students completed two team rounds followed by an individual round and were evaluated using a county rubric measuring teamwork, collaboration, attention to detail, and use of mathematical language.

"It felt amazing when they called our name for first place," Shull Elementary fourth-grader Ethan Yomate said. "Our practices really helped us prepare for the questions today. We had to figure out fractions, perimeter and area as a team."



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ATHLETICS



Bonita Unified Students Close out Winter Season with CIF Successes

Bonita Unified winter athletics delivered another standout postseason, led by San Dimas High School's girls water polo team securing its second CIF championship in two years. After winning Division 4 last year, the Saints moved up to Division 3 and continued their dominance against stronger competition, capturing the title and advancing to the CIF State Playoffs in March.

Winter teams across the District joined in the postseason success, with Bonita High's girls soccer team advancing to the fourth round of CIF, boys basketball reaching the second round, and both girls basketball and boys soccer earning playoff appearances. San Dimas High School saw girls basketball, girls tennis and girls volleyball qualify for CIF postseason play. Siblings Mike and Aubrey Baeza were named CIF champions in wrestling for San Dimas High, placing first and second, respectively, in their brackets and Masters and advancing to the state championships.



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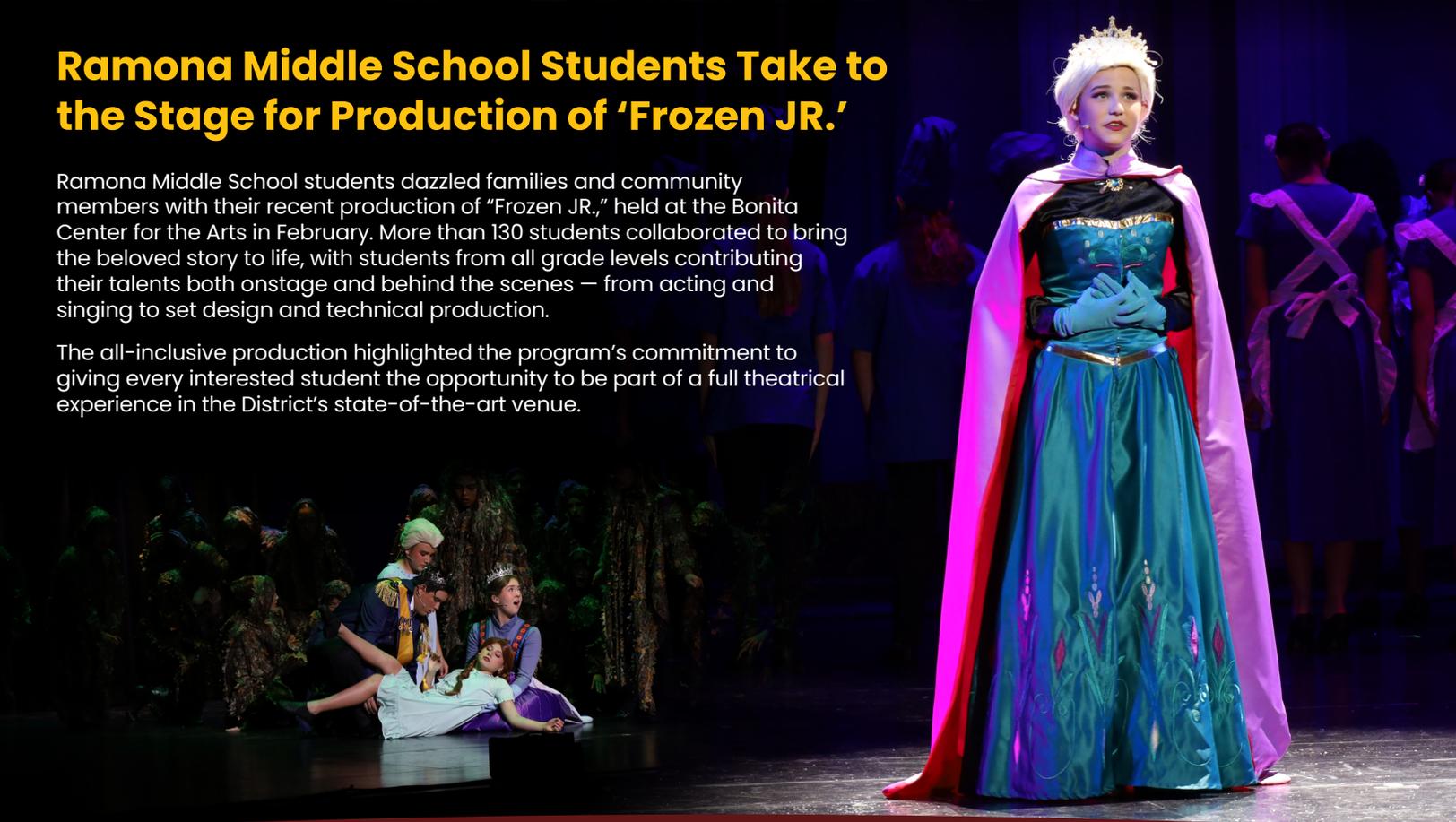
ARTS



Ramona Middle School Students Take to the Stage for Production of 'Frozen JR.'

Ramona Middle School students dazzled families and community members with their recent production of "Frozen JR.," held at the Bonita Center for the Arts in February. More than 130 students collaborated to bring the beloved story to life, with students from all grade levels contributing their talents both onstage and behind the scenes — from acting and singing to set design and technical production.

The all-inclusive production highlighted the program's commitment to giving every interested student the opportunity to be part of a full theatrical experience in the District's state-of-the-art venue.



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BUSD Color Guards Deliver Strong Performances at WGASC Competition

Bonita Unified's color guard teams delivered strong performances at the Winter Guard Association of Southern California (WGASC) competition, hosted at Chino High School in February. Bonita High School's color guard earned third place in the SAA division, while San Dimas High School's JV and varsity teams each earned first place in their respective divisions.

WGASC competitions bring together scholastic color guard teams from across Southern California to perform choreographed routines that combine dance, flag work and theatrical elements in an indoor competitive setting.



Bonita PTA Presents Annual Reflection Art Awards at January Board Meeting

The Bonita Council PTA recognized nearly 20 student artists during the January 7 Board of Education meeting as part of its 2025-26 Reflections Art Awards program. Centered on this year's theme, "I Belong," the annual program invited TK-12 students to submit original works in six categories: dance/choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts. More than 100 Bonita Unified students participated, with first-place honorees selected by PTA council leaders.

Oak Mesa Elementary School:

Tiffany Liu (dance/choreography; film production), **Katelyn Chen** (dance/choreography), **Sophia Wong** (photography), **Irene Liu** (photography), **Clio Gao** (visual arts)

Grace Miller Elementary School:

Isabella Martinez (dance/choreography), **Bailey Pfahler** (film production), **Michael Martinez** (film production), **Juliette Arnold** (music composition), **Jade Arnold** (music composition), **Jordan Scotford** (music composition), **Julia Palacios** (visual arts)

La Verne Heights Elementary School:

Kayla Bolen (literature), **Kimaya Deokar** (visual arts)

Lone Hill Middle School:

Saanvi Patra (dance/choreography)

Ramona Middle School:

Evan Liu (film production), **Landon Liu** (literature), **Kathy Ding** (music composition)

Bonita High School:

David Scarborough (visual arts)



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ACTIVITIES



Bonita Unified Students Define Excellence at 20th Annual District Spelling Bee

Bonita Unified students demonstrated their spelling skills and composure during the District's 20th Annual Spelling Bee on February 2, when 56 elementary students competed in multiple rounds at the Bonita Center for the Arts. In the end, Gladstone Elementary fifth-grader Ally Abad earned first place, followed by fellow Gladstone fifth-grader Maddox Macias in second and Shull Elementary fourth-grader Sophia Salvador in third, marking the fourth consecutive year a Gladstone student has claimed the District title.

Abad's achievement reflects Bonita Unified's strong culture of literacy and student achievement. An avid reader, she has read more than one million words this school year and will go on to represent the District at the Los Angeles County Spelling Bee. [Read more.](#)



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Allen Avenue Community Celebrates Creativity with Family Paint Night

Dozens of families gathered at Allen Avenue Elementary School for an evening of color, creativity and connection during the PTA's Family Paint Night in February, when students and their loved ones followed step-by-step instructions to create an "I Love You A-Lot!" axolotl painting while enjoying cake and time together. The event, hosted by Allen Avenue's Parent Teacher Association, aimed to provide students and families with the opportunity to build strong connections and explore creative expression.



Shull Family Reading Night Strengthens Literacy and Family Engagement

Shull Elementary School welcomed families into its library for its first Family Reading Night of 2026, creating an evening focused on strengthening literacy skills while reinforcing the school's culture of academic excellence and family partnership. Students and families gathered to read together, while older student volunteers helped lead the experience by reading aloud to younger classmates, fostering a welcoming environment that encouraged a love of reading.

Family Reading Nights reflect Shull's belief that literacy development extends beyond the classroom and thrives through strong school-home collaboration. [Read more.](#)

