

# Press Release

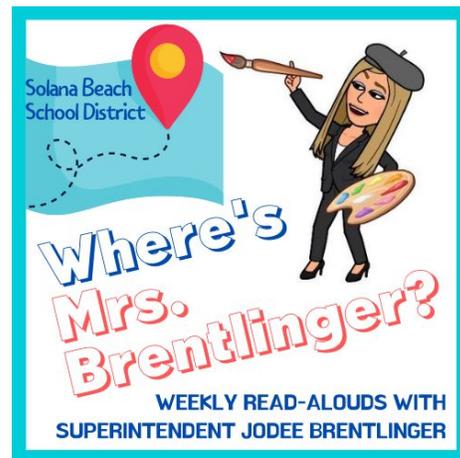
SOLANA BEACH SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Creating ‘Where’s Mrs. Brentlinger?’ Read-Alouds, District Superintendent Is Finding New Ways to Connect with Students

SOLANA BEACH, CA (December 14, 2020) – When schools reopened in the [Solana Beach School District](#) in September, Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger could not wait to begin visiting school classrooms and reconnecting with students and staff, while adhering to all of the district’s above and beyond health and safety mitigation measures. Yet, Mrs. Brentlinger wanted to do even more, so she combined her love of teaching and reading with a new way of engaging with students on a district-wide level. This led to the creation of weekly read aloud videos, “Where Mrs. Brentlinger?”



With a nod to the well-known illustrated book series, “Where’s Waldo?”, the superintendent challenges students to identify where she is in the district while reading a weekly story. She creates one video for primary grades and one video for upper grades, and the first correct respondents receive that week’s book for their school libraries. Using a green screen for the unknown location, Mrs. Brentlinger speaks to students as if sitting at the front of each classroom, while hoping to build connections and share a love of books.



[Watch a clip from a recent Read Aloud.](#)

“I’ve received emails and ‘thank you’ cards from students, and teachers, saying how much they appreciate the ‘Read Alouds’ and this truly helps me keep going,” said Superintendent Brentlinger. “This year has had so many ups and downs, and these wonderful stories and illustrations provide a brief respite and oftentimes a new, much-needed perspective on life.”

Following a read aloud video in which the superintendent encouraged students to create their own art masterpieces, Carmel Creek School teacher Kathy Shaffer’s second grade class combined a lesson in art with the reading (*photo: left*).



Solana Pacific School teacher Becky Riley said her sixth grade classes watch Mrs. Brentlinger's read aloud videos both in person and simultaneously on Zoom, and then discuss the book. "The students enjoy guessing the school sites the superintendent uses as virtual backgrounds!" said Miss Riley. "My student, Chase, was one of the first to guess 'live' during her visit to our classroom early in the fall. He followed her down the hall to guess the location....accurately!"

The pandemic has certainly created challenges for education professionals throughout the world; however, passion, imagination, and determination are helping educators connect with students in new ways that will likely continue even after the pandemic subsides. "Driving through the neighborhoods in our district and when I see students on the playgrounds, or even when I enter our classrooms, I receive the warmest greetings and students know my name," said Mrs. Brentlinger. "It gives me a great sense of joy that we can create a link among our 2,800 Onsite and Online Scholars at a time when personal connection is needed more than ever."

For more information, please contact Superintendent Jodee Brentlinger at the District Office.

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