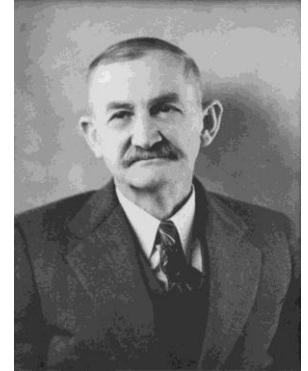




PRESS RELEASE, OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rialto Unified School District
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Levi A. Bemis Elementary School Commemorates 50th Anniversary

In 1966, it was simpler time in the City of Rialto; there were no cell phones and no VCRS. Newspapers, black and white television sets and radio were the only form of mass communication/entertainment in the nation. Fifty years ago, in 1966, **Levi Alvin Bemis Elementary School**, located at 774 East Etiwanda Street in Rialto, also opened its doors to the first elementary students.

On Thursday, November 17, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Bemis Elementary School will celebrate its 50 years of instruction to thousands of students, spanning five decades.

Bemis Principal, **Danielle Osonduagwuike**, has been making plans with Bemis staff and students for months. “We are excited about our 50th year anniversary called, *Celebrating Our Past and Transforming Our Future*,” she said. “Our students and staff members have been honoring the decades of the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s by dressing up and learning about the inventions that have helped to transform science, technology, and every day activities that we enjoy today. Our attendees will be able to participate in our celebration of the past with our Invention Convention display, held in our library.”

The Eisenhower High School Jazz Band, under the leadership of Band Director, **Mr. Todd Noden**, will provide the reception music. The color guards from Rialto High School, under the leadership of **Lt. Curtis Durham**, will join the ‘Bobcat’ Student Council members at 5:30 p.m., as past and present ‘Bobcat’ staff and students will share and enjoy memories and presentations in dedication to our school and staff.

According to Principal **Osonduagwuike**, the celebration will not end on the evening of November 17, as additional activities for students, staff, and parents have been planned for the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Bemis was born in San Bernardino in 1861. His family moved to the City of Rialto 1862. Mr. Bemis was a true pioneer of the Rialto area, even before the City was established. He helped run cattle on the Rialto bench, and later with two of his brothers, started a citrus nursery business. Mr. Bemis planted his own grove with trees from the nursery. He was the Zanjoe (*in charge of water distribution*). On August 28, 1891, Mr. Bemis married Sadie May Files. The couple raised three children; Roy Bemis, Eva M. Bemis, and Theodore Bemis. Mr. Bemis died on October 11, 1938. Both he, and his wife, are buried in Rialto Park Cemetery, which he helped to incorporate.

For more information on Bemis Elementary School’s 50th Anniversary, please contact **Principal, Osonduagwuike** at (909) 820-7916, ext. 5.