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School News

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Covering the La Habra City School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

APRIL 2015

Educating the Whole Child for the 21st Century



Dr. Susan Belenardo
Superintendent

We live in a global economy that requires our students to think critically and creatively, communicate clearly, and work collaboratively with others. Along with a strong foundation in reading, writing, math, and other core subjects, the Four Cs are vital to our lifelong success in the 21st century. Additionally, to prepare our students to be responsible citizens who are

prepared for the modern workplace, we cannot overlook the importance of character education and citizenship. In addition, the benefits of physical education in developing a healthy lifestyle and the importance of the arts in developing students' creativity and innovation cannot be overlooked.

In the La Habra City School District, we are proud of the rigorous, comprehensive educational program we are providing for our students. All staff members are trained in the Common Core State Standards and are encouraged to implement instructional strategies that have been proven to result in student success. Staff is also trained in the use of technology to support instruction



Students demonstrating their learning at the District Community Showcase.

and student learning. Students are encouraged to demonstrate the Four Cs in their daily classroom work and engage in project-based learning experiences. Students share their learning with others, resulting in a deeper personal learning of the underlying concepts.

Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Program at all of our schools provides students with the training and support to be respectful global citizens. PBIS uses proactive, research-based strategies to teach clearly defined behavioral expectations. These expectations are reinforced throughout the entire school community, developing students' self-regulation, self-confidence, and responsibility skills, skills that prepare them for success both today and in the future.

Through our many community partnerships, we are able to further enhance our programs in physical education and the arts. Through grants from Kaiser Permanente and St. Jude Medical Center, we have been able to introduce Fit Kid Centers at all our kindergarten through fifth-grade schools. A Fit-Kid Center is a ready-made physical activity program appropriate for a child's level of development. Fit-Kid centers are equipped to provide students with a rigorous 20-30 minute engaging exercise program that also supports developing the Six Cs.

See EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD • Page 5

Supporting Positive Behavior

By Patsy Martin, Special Education Director

Successful world citizens must be responsible for their own behavior and respectful to others.

The La Habra City School District utilizes Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to reinforce positive, pro-social behaviors. Special assemblies or other recognitions encourage students to practice good behavior and positive interactions with others.

The Student Ambassadors program, which is supervised by school psychologists, encourages leadership, service, and positive



citizenship. The Sierra Vista Student Ambassadors conducted a Random Acts of Kindness campaign and recorded 96 acts of kindness in one month! They have challenged Walnut Elementary School to do the same. Las Positas Elementary School is

ready to take on the challenge next.

Our school psychologists also utilize programs like Skillstreaming and Second Step to teach specific social skills. Many sites also offer Lunch Clubs or other social-skills groups to help our students learn and practice positive behaviors to help them become successful world citizens.

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Arbolita *Elementary*

1001 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2352 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Rosamaria Murillo
Principal

Integrating Meaningful Curriculum

At Arbolita, we are very committed to educating the whole child. What this means to us is that we do want our students to achieve high levels of literacy in reading, writing and mathematics but we also want to help our students see how these skills apply to other subject areas.

We strive to integrate our core subjects such as reading, writing, math, science and social studies with many activities that incorporate the arts, health and PE. Our teachers collaborate to create learning experiences that will help our students see connections among the different disciplines. For example, we use many art activities to motivate our students' writing. Also, many PE activities lend themselves to incorporate and reinforce mathematics and science concepts. Students can act out plays to show what they know about concepts in science and social studies. This year, we have made great strides in incorporating health and PE for our students through our weekly 100 minutes of PE and monthly Harvest of the Month tastings.



El Cerrito *Elementary*

1051 N. Hillside, La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2340 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Emily Szary
Principal

Whole-Child Education

Each and every day, our El Cerrito Scotties are supported, challenged, and engaged in enhanced learning opportunities to promote future success.

Twice a week, all students visit our new Fit Kid Center for whole-class and small-group physical education to promote the importance of a healthy and fit lifestyle. Students are infused with technology both in the computer lab for activities such as ST-Math and with creative and collaborative projects on their iPads. Teachers regularly incorporate various modes of art into their instruction, allowing students to express their learning in unique and creative ways through project-based learning that culminates in student performances. Next year, El Cerrito's full-day kindergarten model will



extend learning opportunities, promoting greater depth of knowledge.

At El Cerrito, we focus on the future success of our students. Our safe and supportive environment engenders student confidence and competence on the road to college and career.



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Spring is here and the end of this school year is in sight. It has been a pleasure publishing the excellence from this District and we appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices.

Our next issue is October 14, 2015. Until then have a wonderful, fun summer. Don't forget to make reading part of your activity choices. Next school year we'll look forward to continuing to bring you the news from the classrooms. Common Core, technology in the classroom...the whole-child education.

Have a great summer!

Imperial *Middle School*

1450 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2344 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Cathy Seighman
Principal

Cultural Exchange

Imperial Middle School is off and running in 2015! The arts continue to be a teaching tool and are infused in all content areas. Throughout our campus, one can see students in social studies producing a play, science students creating cosmetic products, and math students demonstrating their mathematical knowledge using visual arts.

In January, Imperial students had the unique opportunity to welcome Chinese exchange students to our school. Twenty students from China were paired with Imperial students to shadow their daily adventures at school. Students worked hand in hand with their Chinese "buddies" to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and be creative. This was a wonderful opportunity for both groups to develop a deeper



understanding and appreciation of their very different cultures. We are currently developing a summer program to continue this process of cultural exchange, and we are looking forward to more students being involved.

School News

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Covering the
LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Ladera Palma *Elementary*

2151 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2348 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



George Lopez
Principal

Staying FIT

Providing opportunities to develop the whole child in education is what we do at Ladera Palma! We take great pride in ensuring all scholars have avenues and proper tools in order to stay FIT. We are taking part in a St. Jude grant along with the Orange County Department of Education who have been instrumental in creating our FIT center. Staying FIT is half the equation; we also offer our scholars lessons on healthy food choices provided by the Nutrition Food Network. Our scholars are also exposed to many of the fine arts. Thanks to the Segerstrom Center of the Arts for bringing theater, music, and dance to all our scholars! At Ladera Palma, we strive for academic excellence by providing support to developing the whole child.



Las Lomas *Elementary*

301 Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2353 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Pam Cunningham
Principal

A Well-Rounded Education

The Las Lomas staff is committed to helping our school's kindergarten through second-grade students become well-rounded individuals.

In addition to giving our children the foundational skills they need to become successful readers, writers, and mathematicians, we also seek to educate the "whole" child by providing them with the opportunity to be physically fit, technologically skilled, and environmentally and nutritionally aware.

Our community partnerships – such as with the Children's Museum of La Habra, Kaiser Thriving Schools, St. Jude, and the OCDE – enable our students to learn the importance of conserving water, or taste a variety of good fruits and vegetables, and even keep physically fit in our new Kid Fit Center.

We are also able to bring technology to our school through the second-grade 1:1 iPad program. Students can use this great new tool to write stories, work on their ST Math program, and interact with education-based apps.





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Las Positas *Elementary*

1400 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2356 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Mike Klewer
Principal

Growing New Skills

What does educating the whole child mean? At Las Positas Elementary School, it means we believe in educating students to compete in an increasingly competitive world, using 21st-century skills and the four Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are vital subjects and must be taught to students. They don't, however, need to be taught in isolation.

Take our school garden as an example. You may think that students plant and water seeds, watch them grow, harvest them, and eat the vegetables. While all of this is true, much more happens behind the scenes. Our garden can be used to teach basic principles of math, including measurement. How far apart should the seeds be planted? How many pounds of vegetables will the plants yield? How many hours of light do the seedlings need per day? Health lessons can include the benefits multiple servings of fruits and vegetables in a healthy diet. Students can study the difference in calories between six ounces of kale and six ounces of potato chips or investigate how much more kale they can eat for an equal number of calories when compared to potato chips. In science, they might hypothesize and test the minimum amount of water needed for the plants to grow or explore what kind of growing medium works best for the particular plants they are planning. Also, students researched which plants would attract monarch butterflies, so they planted milkweed. Now we have several stages of monarch butterflies in our garden, from caterpillars to chrysalis to full-grown butterflies.

Educating the whole child is not just educational jargon; it's about allowing students to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic using 21st-century skills. The whole child is infinitely more successful when he or she is engaged in the process rather than just sitting on the sidelines.

Walnut *Elementary*

625 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2369 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Susan Goellrich
Principal

Community Counts

Walnut is the school that has been located "on the boulevard" for 66 years. Many community members in fact have attended Walnut in the past.

In this day of high-stakes testing, our school still remembers the importance of not forgetting about the community in which we live. By educating the whole child, we are actively preparing our students for the opportunities of today and tomorrow.

The installation of our new Fit Kids Well Center, as well as our partnership with a local cultural arts institution, are some good examples of the kind of opportunities that Walnut students have to explore their interests in physical fitness and the arts. For example, Mrs. Olsen, our district vocal music teacher, provides music instruction to the students. Our mother/son and father/daughter dances also encourage family involvement.

Walnut School is committed to continuing to educate the whole child, and in the heart of La Habra!



Sierra Vista *Elementary*

1800 E. Whittier Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2359 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Anna Dorado
Principal

Artistic Partnership

Recently, our school began a partnership with a cultural center in Fullerton, which allows our students to receive lessons from trained artists and specialists in various areas of the arts. This year our fourth-grade students, who are learning about Native Americans in social studies, have been able to create their own original pieces of coil pottery using similar techniques to the Native Americans. They will then be taking a field trip to the cultural center to fire their clay pots. In addition, our fifth-graders, who are studying the American Revolution, will discover

the different elements of print making and how influential the printing press was in early America. They will then have the opportunity to create their own designs and visit the cultural center to see a real printing press.



Thanks to these community partnerships, we have been able to provide a visual arts experience that our students will never forget.

Washington *Middle School*

716 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/960-2374 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Mario Carlos
Principal

Whole-Child Education

Just one moment in time and an opportunity are sometimes all that are needed to realize one's talent, passions and interests.

Providing ample opportunities across different areas and disciplines are crucial to ensuring that all children are able to recognize and build upon interests, talents and passions. At Washington Middle School, it is our goal to provide a well-rounded education to the "whole child." Along with our strong core programs and integration of technology, students also participate in art, music, theater and performing arts. During the school day, sixth-grade classrooms have successfully integrated music as well as performing arts into instruction.

In addition, advanced-computer classes use state-of-the-art technology to design and create digital content. After-school programs offer ample opportunities as well. Through strong parent support, students participate in mariachi music, choir, art and anime, animation, and graphic design using Adobe software.

At Washington Middle School, we will continue to develop and provide programs to ensure that our students are able to discover what might have otherwise been unrealized talents.

Programs & Assessment

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

New Cultural Partnership



Sheryl Tecker
Director

Educating the whole child includes developing students' appreciation and understanding of art history. In a newly developed partnership with a nearby historic cultural center, all of our district's fourth- and fifth-graders will complete a project-based learning experience that reinforces history and visual and performing-arts standards.

In fourth grade, students are pondering about how the process of making pottery differs today from that of the early Californians. They ask what clay pots and their use reveal about early California culture. Students in fifth grade are learning

that the printing press was a revolutionary invention that allowed rapid communication of a message and impacted the outcome of the war. While learning about typesetting and plate etching, students will question the positive and negative effects of mass communication in our society today. Both fourth- and fifth-grade students will visit the center to explore how museum curators display art to tell a story and make an impact on visitors.

These project-based learning units have come alive with the art history expertise provided by the cultural center. Students benefit from hands-on art lessons and activities led by professionals in the field. Fourth-graders will create, paint and fire a coil pot, while fifth-graders will print an original handbill on an authentic printing press. A Native American flautist and a Ben Franklin historical character perform at each third-through-fifth-grade school to round out the experience for our students.

We are thrilled to provide this opportunity for students to visit this historic center, learn from professional artists, create an art project, and appreciate the role of art in the past and today.

Educational Services

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

The Whole Child



Teresa Egan
Assistant
Superintendent

La Habra City School District's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) Committee has been very busy. Our team has learned about the purpose of the LCAP and the laws governing the document. We have evaluated data and have begun to determine the effectiveness of the programs defined in the LCAP. Our team is in the process of determining the needs of our most at-risk students in the upcoming years.

We have dedicated many of our LCAP resources to providing support for our neediest students in the areas of reading and mathematics. We must ensure all of our students, even those who are most challenged, receive a balanced education.

Also, research has reported that students who "move more and eat healthy" perform better in school. In our proposed LCAP, we have allocated valuable resources to developing a comprehensive physical education program to support our students in kindergarten through fifth grade. This program will be aligned to the state standards and be supported by credentialed physical education teachers. Our new physical education program, combined with our Fit Kids Centers and lessons in healthy eating, will help our students to develop healthy habits that will last a lifetime.

In addition, we are bringing back the arts in education. We have dedicated funds in the LCAP to support some of the programs described in our arts strategic plan. From working with the Muckenthaler Performing Arts Center to our art showcases and more, we are dedicating precious resources to providing enriching activities for the students in La Habra.

As we refine our LCAP, we need to focus our attention on the extra support needed to ensure our most at-risk students are successful in school. In addition, we need to remember that we are teaching the whole child as we continue to provide a balanced education for all.

Business Office

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

Measure O



Karen Kinney
Chief Business
Officer

The La Habra City School District is excited to share the district's facility-implementation plan made possible by bond funds from Measure O. The plan incorporated improvements for each of the district's school sites and established strategies for educational-program development, including middle school academy programs and an innovative technology program to provide wireless improvements and iPads to students and teachers at all school sites over time.

Phase I of the program is well underway, with many projects already completed and remaining middle school improvements expected by the fall of 2015. Phase I included Academy upgrades at Washington and Imperial middle schools; technology upgrades that include mobile computing devices, wireless-network enhancements and modern telephone systems; roofing repair and replacement at critical locations; and improved energy efficiency and deferred maintenance.

Phase II will be starting in the near future with upgrades to Walnut Elementary School, including improved interior-learning environments, improved energy efficiency, deferred maintenance and technology upgrades at other district schools.

Child Welfare and Wellness

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

Kindness is the Key



Mike McElroy
Coordinator

We always need to encourage our children to treat each other with kindness and respect. Because the topic of bullying has been in the news lately, we also need to talk to them about it in order to make sure they can recognize the act when it happens.

Bullying by definition is unwanted and aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. It can be in person, through a text message, or displayed in social media. But if we can encourage our students to do what they love, and participate in the kinds of activities, hobbies and interests that will improve their confidence and self-esteem, they can develop a strong core of friends who will help shelter them from these unwanted behaviors.

We also need to make sure our children know that bullying is not to be tolerated in society, and especially not in our schools. We need to open the lines of communication so that our students can knowingly report incidents of bullying to their teachers, school staff members, or parents.

As adults, we need to be good role models for our children. We need to show them that being kind to others can make a difference. Most importantly, we must learn to model the types of behavior that will send them the clear message to, "beat bullying with kindness."

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD • From Page 1



Dr. Susan Belenardo
Superintendent

Similarly, our local partnerships with the Muckenthaler Cultural Center and the Children's Museum at La Habra help us in providing our students with access to the arts. We have also worked in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education and developed an Arts Advantage Plan to ensure that students have the opportunity to explore and pursue their interests in the visual arts and performing arts. Becoming a member of the Arts Advantage Network provides opportunities for teachers to be trained in strategies to infuse the arts into the curriculum.

All students who have access to challenging and engaging academic programs are better prepared for further education, work, and civic life. These components must work together to develop healthy, responsible, respectful citizens. In the La Habra City School District, we are educating the whole child to prepare our students to take their places in the 21st century. In this issue all staff members are sharing their work to support these efforts.

Technology in Special Education Classrooms



Dr. Al Mijares
Superintendent

As you know, the digital revolution has arrived. New forms of technology continue to evolve with great benefits to our schools, especially special education classrooms. The OCDE Special Schools and Services Program has been innovative in the use of technology at every level to improve instruction and student learning. Our Special Schools and Services Program provides technology support and services to both staff and students. Students are provided with individualized technology to effectively meet their needs as 21st century learners.

Web-based instruction utilizing mirroring strategies has increased student engagement leading to increased independence and greater ownership of learning. Schools have implemented the Touch2Learn (T2L) program which uses mobile devices such as the iPod Touch, iPad, and mini iPad. In addition, SMART technology and projection are used to enhance learning. In 2011, the T2L Program was recognized as an Apple Exemplary Program. Since that time, the T2L program has continued to advance instructional technology in each special education classroom.

Ongoing professional development is provided to special education teachers and support staff to implement web-based instructional technology. This year, all the Speech-Language Specialists are completing training as Certified Assistive Technology Specialists. This will provide students and families with

expert support for use of Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) at school and home. Students with severe speech or language problems rely on AAC to supplement or replace speech.

Technology enhances every aspect of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) classes, including using sign language via videophone service and interpreting services when needed. The DHH program is currently previewing web-based programs to enhance instruction across the curriculum. The program also uses specialized technology for testing and analyzing students hearing and amplification devices. Every classroom includes a teaching workstation, computer, sound system, document camera, iPad mobile cart, and interactive White Boards. All classrooms are fitted with audio and visual alert systems for emergency notifications. Most classrooms are equipped with sound field technology to assist students with residual hearing. DHH students enrolled in general education classes are provided real-time note taking services via classroom technology.

OCDE is committed to supporting our teachers in order to integrate technology and enhance teaching and learning for all students. Through innovative teaching practices, there is no limit to what technology in special education classrooms can accomplish, especially to assure that our students are college and career ready and successful.

Going Green! Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.
When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com (Please put LH in the subject line)

Entries must be received by June 15, 2015
From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

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| Carpool | Future | Reduce |
| Compost | Garden | Renewable |
| Conservation | Healthier | Resources |
| Difference | Impact | Respect |
| Eco Friendly | Low Waste | Responsibility |
| Efficient | Planet | Reuse |
| Emissions | Process | Solar |
| Energy | Protect | |
| Environment | Recycle | |

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Congratulations to Dakota Nelson Winner of the February Contest!



City of La Habra Recreation Division

562-383-4205
101 W. La Habra
La Habra, CA 90631



Get "SUPERcharged" for Summer at La Habra Active Day Camp

Summer is almost here, and that means FUN, new friends, and exciting adventures! Sign up for La Habra Active Day Camp, a 10-week Summer Day Camp. La Habra Active Day Camp is designed to give kids ages 4-12 years old an active and fun experience in a safe environment, while exploring, learning and enjoying new adventures! Highlights include: Excursions, Beach Days, Water Days, Movie Days, Assemblies, Guest Speakers, Art Lessons, Fun Fitness, Enrichment Packets, Games, and More!

DATES: Monday thru Friday (June 8th to August 14th)
7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Extended Hours) • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Regular Hours)
Regular Hours: \$130/week • Extended Hours: \$150/week

Swim Lessons - \$60/Session

The La Habra Swim Program was developed to teach children water safety in calm, safe and a fun environment. We follow the American Red Cross *Learn to Swim* approach, implementing the stepping stone method which places children into the appropriate skill level classes for the quickest possible progression. Class sessions last for two weeks, and are held Monday-Thursday in 40 minute sessions. Visit www.lahabraca.gov for class descriptions and schedule.

OPEN SWIM



The City of La Habra's pool facility at La Habra High School will be open to the public for recreational swim Monday-Thursday from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., beginning on Monday, June 8th.

Admission is \$2/Adults (18+) & \$1/Kids (17 and under)

Fun Fridays: Every Friday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., the Aquatics Program will host an hour of fun, interactive games and activities for participants. All swimmers are welcome and encouraged to join! Additionally, hot dogs will be added to the snack bar on these Fridays.



Dive-in Movies

at the La Habra High School Pool



May 29th	Big Hero 6
June 12th	Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day.
July 31st	Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2
August 14th	The Muppets: Most Wanted

Admission is \$5.00/person, limited registration available; register early, as we are expecting to sell out.

Save the Dates

April 17th	Movies in the Park, "Planes: Fire and Rescue"
April 24th	Kids Night Out
May 15th	Movies in the Park, "UP"
May 22nd	Kids Night Out
May 29th	Dive-In Theatre, "Big Hero 6"
May 30th	Aquatics Swim Testing Open House
June 6th	Mother Daughter Tea
June 11th	Concert in the Marketplace
June 12th	Dive-In Theatre, "Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day."
June 13th	Father Son Fishing Derby
June 18th	Concert in the Marketplace
June 19th	Movies in the Park, "Dolphin Tale 2"
June 25th	Concert in the Park
June 26th	Kids Night Out
June 27th	Daddy Daughter Dance
July 4th	Fourth of July Celebration
July 9th	Concert in the Park
July 10-11th	A Night at the Museum
July 16th	Concert in the Park
July 17th	Movies in the Park, "Annie"
July 23rd	Concert in the Park
July 24th	Kids Night Out
July 27th-31st	Itty Bitty Summer Week
July 31st	Dive-In Theatre, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2"
August 14th	Dive-In Theatre, "Muppets Most Wanted"
August 14-16th	Family Camping Trip
August 21st	Movies in the Park, "Big Hero 6"
August 28th	Kids Night Out



For more information or to register, please call 562-383-4205 or visit us at 101 W. La Habra Blvd.



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