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School News



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Covering the Long Beach Unified School District
Serving the communities of Long Beach, Lakewood & Signal Hill

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 97

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2011

SUPERINTENDENT

Opportunities Abound for Students



Christopher J. Steinhauser

Thanks to the hard work of our employees, students, parents and others in our community, we're seeing tremendous growth in our students' college and career readiness. Recent information from the state confirms that our students made impressive gains last year, even amid unprecedented cuts in state funding for our schools. Consider a few examples:

A record 82 percent of our schools met the state's schoolwide targets on the Academic Performance Index (API) for the 2010-11 school year.

Our elementary students now perform above the state average in math in all grade levels. In English, they also perform above the state average in most grade levels.

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 34

Betty Houston Seal



(Clockwise) Betty Seal as a student at LBCC, as a volunteer for the LBCC Foundation and as a graduate of UCLA.

By Judy Seal, Betty's Daughter
Until the end, Betty Seal was a kind, thoughtful, caring person.
Betty Houston Seal
Jan. 28, 1925 – Aug. 7, 2011

Long Beach, California is unique in many ways, but the most wonderful attribute of Long Beach is its long history of raising, educating, and celebrating people who devote their lives to serving others.

Betty Seal was born at Seaside Hospital in Long Beach, California to Long Beach and Signal Hill Judge Oscar E. Houston and his wife, Annette. She attended LBUSD schools graduating from Poly High School in 1941. She went to Long Beach City College and received the Viking Award for outstanding contributions to the college. She was the

SEE BETTY HOUSTON SEAL • PAGE 35

BOARD OF EDUCATION



Mary Stanton
Member

The start of the new school year is always a wonderful time. Students are in uniform and walking to school, the football season is upon us and traffic is backed up around the schools morning and mid-afternoon. I try to think of alternate streets to drive during this mini-rush hour.

The district broke ground on the new Ernest S. McBride Senior High School located at Carson and Palo Verde. With funding from Measure A, Measure K, State Modernization

SEE BOARD OF EDUCATION PAGE 34

Recreation Club-ARC



Larry Forester
Mayor
City of Signal Hill

The City of Signal Hill offers a free afterschool program for kids in 1st through 5th grade who attend Signal Hill and Alvarado Elementary Schools. The ARC program encourages health and fitness through fun, physical activity and balanced nutrition. It is a safe, supervised environment for children to be in after school.

What do kids do at ARC? On school days, they participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity

SEE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL PAGE 32

Honoring Our Teachers



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Los Angeles County
Office of Education

Since being selected as county superintendent of schools back in July, I have enjoyed any number of "firsts." None has been more enjoyable than presiding at this year's Teacher of the Year competition and awards banquet.

The event (on Sept. 23 at the Universal City Hilton) marked a special milestone, the 30th year that the L.A. County Office of Education has paid tribute to our county's top teachers.

SEE LACO OFFICE OF ED. PAGE 32

On Time, Every Time



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

On Saturday, September 24th, over 300 LBUSD students and parents attended a Long Beach Truancy Conference with the title theme, "On Time, Every Time." It was the first event of its kind.

The offer of free school supplies attracted many of the students and parents. But when they arrived, they got a whole lot more.

Welcoming remarks by Dr. Lydia Hollie, Co-Chair of Long Beach's Weed and Seed Committee, and

SEE CITY OF LB, CITY PROSECUTOR PAGE 32

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School Resource Specialist
MEMBER SINCE 2002



Kay Coop

Founder / Publisher



This school year is well underway and this issue is one of our favorites when we highlight the principals. It is fun to learn about their backgrounds, families, pets, hobbies and goals. They all share the commitment to education and we thank them everyday.

We are pleased to introduce P.B. & Chim cartoon by Robin Auwerda on page 6. Our contest is on page 31 where we have announced the winners of the August contests.

I no longer have hard copies of the August issue; however, I am happy to email you a digital copy.

Happy Halloween & Thanksgiving!

School News

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Covering the
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Financial Tips

Safeguard Yourself from Identity Theft (Part II)



Jeffrey A. Napper
 President & CEO
 LBS Financial
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When someone's identity is stolen, the impact is not only financial and credit-wise but also emotional. It becomes very personal and for some people it feels like someone literally has broken into their home. It's best to arm yourself against being a victim than having to go through the hassle of clearing your name. Prevention and awareness are your first lines of defense against this crime that has grown globally. Below are tips to protect yourself from Identity Theft:

- **Create Strong Passwords** – Avoid using passwords that are easy to configure. Using your birth date, social security number, a series of consecutive numbers or alphabet, your first name or last name is not recommended. Instead, create passwords that contain letters, numbers and symbols. Do not share your passwords with anyone.

- **Monitor Your Credit Report** – You should monitor your credit report at least once a year. Order a free copy of your credit report from the three credit reporting agencies every year. Make sure it's accurate and includes only those activities you've authorized. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com to download your free annual reports.

- **Watch What You Share** – Your personal information such as your birth date, social security number and name can be used to open new accounts under your name. Be careful who you share it with. Shred personal documents or credit card bills before throwing them out. Also, be very careful when sharing personal information online.

- **Review Your Bills or Bank Statement Monthly** – Make it a habit to review your credit card bills or your bank statement. Review them each month to identify if there are any unusual charges or transactions.



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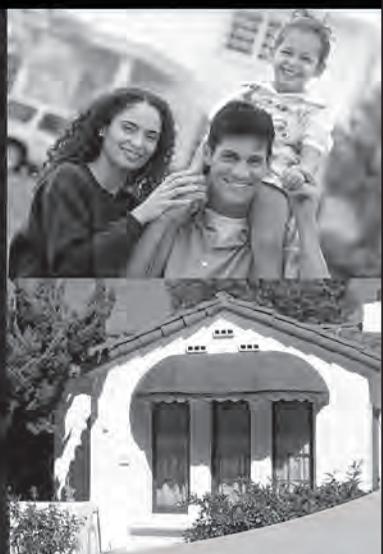
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Job Transition—Begin Preparation Now!



Lynn Drowne
National
President

By Cecile Harris Walters, National Ambassador and Vice President of the Diamonds of Southbay Chapter, Long Beach, California

History has shown that career advancement entails learning skills in order to rise through the ranks of the business where an individual is employed. In today's volatile economy, however, women need the skills and the confidence to change jobs in order to gain personal and professional satisfaction. Technology and online learning make it possible to develop your skills at your own pace and in the privacy of your home while balancing family.

The American Business Women's Association (ABWA) has always provided avenues to help women advance their careers. That is why ABWA has enhanced its efforts to assist women as they face job transitions through our Women's Instructional Network (WIN) and our new Career Connection, designed to match prospective employees with employers. WIN is an exciting, sophisticated, interactive online learning and communications tool designed exclusively for ABWA members. WIN offers a number of exclusive skills and professional development modules to prepare you for job transition and to enhance your success throughout your career. The new Career Connection at <http://careers.abwa.org> will help leverage your ABWA membership to advance your career or find a new job by giving you access to employers and employment opportunities across the country. Job seekers may post resumes and explore job listings from major employers. This resource alone is a great reason to belong to ABWA.

ABWA brings together businesswomen of diverse occupations and provides opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition.



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Saving for College

By Jeff S Yanc, LUTCF, CFP—State Farm® Agent

Since State Farm has entered the field of financial services, I'm talking with more families about planning for the future. While families almost always want to talk about retirement, their most immediate concern is saving for their children's college education. This is wise as a college education will, in most cases, be a family's second largest expense after home ownership, so it deserves careful planning. Rising college costs make saving even more important.

According to The College Board, Trends in College Pricing 2008, the average published total charges, including tuition, fees and room and board for in-state students at public four-year colleges and universities in 2008-09 are \$14,333, 5.7 percent higher than 2007-08. For private four-year colleges and universities, the same total charges are \$34,132, 5.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

If those numbers don't make you want to start putting money aside, I don't know what will. The good news is that with sound planning and a long-term outlook you have the potential, over the course of 18 years, to build up a nice college nest egg. State Farm offers very affordable, simple options you can begin taking advantage of today, including tax-advantaged savings vehicles, to help you reach your college savings goal.

You'd be surprised how even small amounts on a regular basis can make a big difference. For example, an account in which you save \$150 per month could create a nest egg of \$47,337 after 18 years. This calculation assumes a monthly investment in an account earning 4 percent annually for 18 years and does not take in to account any taxes or fees. It is also assumed that no withdrawals are made from the account.

As with any investment, saving for college takes preparation, some guidance and, in many cases, sacrifice. Americans have traditionally been more than willing to make that sacrifice to secure a better future for their children. By setting up a plan with earning potential, we can help our children fulfill their learning potential.

There is no assurance that any investment will achieve its investment objectives. The information presented in this document does not constitute tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information about your tax situation, including any state tax consequences of an investment.

Jeff Yanc can be reached at State Farm Insurance, 4087 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA. 562-595-6969.

A "New" Home Sweet Home



CathyLyn Brooks

The recession may have depressed the housing market, but new houses are still being built throughout the country. Many new homes are aimed especially at first-time buyers, according to real estate trend data.

Smaller Homes with more features: Over the past few years, homeowners have begun to downsize, choosing cozier spaces over bigger homes. According to the National Association of Home Builders, the median size of new U.S. houses fell from 2,277 square feet in 2007 to 2,135 square feet in 2009. Yet, even though the size is shrinking, the number of rooms remains the same — the size of the rooms is decreasing by about 10 percent to 15 percent, according to industry experts.

Though homebuyers are going smaller, they still want all of the bells and whistles that come with larger homes. Some of these must-have amenities include high-quality faucets, higher-end appliances, and stone or granite counter-tops.

One reason that front porches are becoming more popular again is that they help create a sense of community... Homeowners are choosing functionality over larger kitchens and more bathrooms... designers are challenged to create more efficiency with less space for consumers.

The front porch is back: One reason that front porches are becoming more popular again is that they, "help create a sense of community, something that more traditional suburbs lack," according to MSN Real Estate. However, there is another factor. Because the soft housing market has hindered the building of new housing communities, home-builders are now doing more "in-fill," which consists of adding clusters of houses where needed around existing homes, and porches can help integrate these homes with the existing community.

Energy-efficiency is a top concern: Many national builders are now offering energy-efficient homes as standard offerings, and many rated or certified through third-party programs. These builders believe these eco-friendly solutions, such as insulated walls, LED lighting, low-emission windows and Energy-Star-rated appliances, add value to their products.

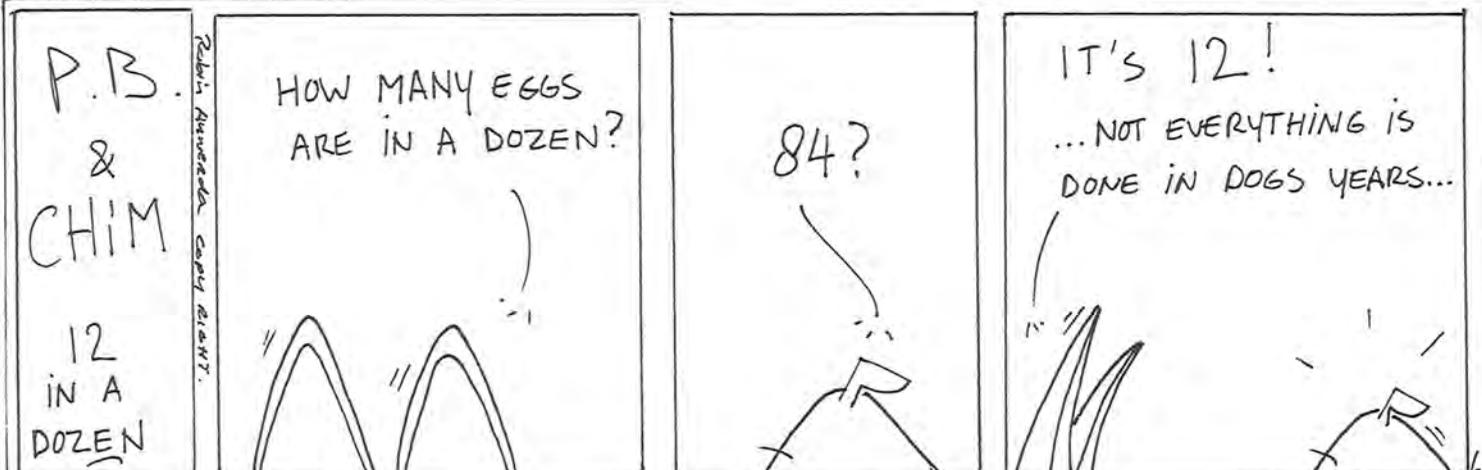
Kitchens and baths are downsized: Homeowners are choosing functionality over larger kitchens and more bathrooms, according to the American Institute of Architects, which performs a quarterly Home Design Trends Survey. However, as kitchens remain the "heart" of the home, designers are challenged to create more efficiency with less space for consumers.

CathyLyn Brooks has been a local real estate broker since 1980, earning the advanced credentials of Certified Residential Specialist and Graduate Realtor through advanced education and sales volume. She has completed the American Bar Association's approved Paralegal certification and is an instructor at UCI in the Paralegal program. She also teaches real estate related courses in the extension program. The NASD, the NYSE, and the National Futures Organization have appointed her as a public arbitrator. Her degree is in finance and marketing from the University of Southern California. CathyLyn is affiliated with Main Street Realtors and can be reached at: 562/719-2530 or cathylyn@earthlink.net Consumers should seek legal and tax advice from professionals in each field



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Please! I Think I'm Sick!

By Miriam Yarden, B.Sc., MS, APDT

A cat is notoriously talented at hiding his discomfort, ailment, pain and even serious illness. Therefore, it is imperative that we familiarize ourselves with our cat's normal looks and normal behavior to enable us to provide the appropriate medical help as soon as needed.



A dull and brittle coat that is shedding excessively can be caused by flea infestation, skin problems or even thyroid disorders. These require flea control or medical help. While cats suffer more from hyperthyroidism, which is an overactive thyroid, rather than hypothyroidism, which is an underactive thyroid, it can happen. Runny eyes and noses are, of course, causes for alarm.

Changes in litter box habits are almost always symptoms of something other than forgetting good manners or of spite. The first step is, again, a visit to the veterinarian for a general checkup, urinalysis and, if necessary, X-rays to look for possible kidney or bladder stones. Also check if the cat is straining when trying to urinate—a red flag!

Unwillingness to play, lethargy, loss of appetite and excessive drinking are all possible signs of illness. Please take your friend to his or her doctor for help without delay to restore health and enjoyment of life. Yours, too!

Buffum Pre-K Total Learning Center

2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-2431

Opening of Learning Center

By Miriam Garcia, Administrator

The Long Beach Unified School District is proud to announce the opening of Buffum Pre-K Total Learning Center (TLC). Buffum TLC is dedicated to preparing special needs preschoolers of all ability levels for Kindergarten.

The Buffum Pre-K Total Learning Center provides an age-appropriate behavioral, language, academic, play and sensory based program. The center is comprised of 15 Special Day classes with students with mild/moderate disabilities and two Intensive Language classes for students with speech/language needs. Additionally, there are two HeadStart classes on the campus. This provides an opportunity for interaction with typical peers.

Each class is taught by an appropriately credentialed teacher. Under the direction of the classroom teachers, paraeducators assist with instruction and provide support to the students. Embedded oral language skills are provided by credentialed and skilled Speech and Language Pathologists. Related Services Personnel are available on-site. Teachers and paraeducators receive on-going professional development training throughout the year.

Buffum TLC will offer a variety of workshops to parents throughout the school year. Also, there are plans to organize a PTA and provide school-wide family events.

If you are interested in learning more about our preschool, you can call 562-498-2431 and ask for Miriam Garcia, Program Administrator of Buffum TLC.



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Deadline for turning in Clean-up Report Forms is **March 2, 2012**

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Rosana Madrid-Arroyo
Principal

Mrs. Arroyo is a proud member of the Long Beach community where she has served the district since moving here in 1995. During this time she has worked as a teacher of both elementary and secondary students at campuses as varied as Garfield, Lincoln, Whittier and Cubberley. She also served as an assistant principal at Franklin. She is coming to Jane Addams Elementary School from a previous principalship at Starr King.

As a young child, she had to move many times, often to several different schools a year. Every time her family (6 children) moved her mom insisted that all the children get a library card so there would never be an excuse for not reading. Additionally, her parents instilled in her a high value upon education. Eventually, Mrs. Arroyo earned a full academic scholarship to Stanford University. She completed her Honors studies in History. She later went to Humboldt State and to Long Beach State universities to complete her teaching and administrative credentials.

It is an honor for Mrs. Arroyo to be able to serve the students and work with the teachers of Addams Elementary School. Her own children were educated in the district and she wants all students to receive the same fine education they received. She looks forward to a productive year full of academic progress and the joy of discovery and learning.

Avalon/Two Harbors *(K-12)*

P.O. Box 557, Avalon, CA 90704 • 310/510-0790 • <http://www.lbavalon.schoolloop.com/>



Angelica Gonzalez
Principal

Angelica Gonzalez comes to Avalon/Two Harbor schools from Franklin Classical Middle School. She was born and raised in Long Beach and is a proud product of Long Beach Unified District Schools—graduating from Millikan High School. She completed her undergraduate degree at USC and her graduate degree at CSUDH. She has 15 years of education experience in the district ranging from instructional aide, elementary school teacher, literacy coach and assistant principal. She is enjoying being a part of the Avalon/Two Harbors community and working towards the academic and social success of all students on Catalina Island.

Bancroft *Middle School*

5301 E. Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/425-7461 • <http://lbbancroft.schoolloop.com/>



Pamela Sawyer
Principal

Pamela Sawyer has been an educator for 30 years. A native of California, Pamela graduated from U.C. Santa Barbara, received her teaching credential from UCLA, and obtained a masters degree/administrative credential from Pepperdine University. She began her career in the Los Angeles Unified School District where she spent 10 years. In LAUSD, she was a classroom teacher, mentor teacher, Bilingual Program Coordinator, and Title I Program Coordinator.

Ms. Sawyer came to the Long Beach Unified School District, in 1991. She has served as an assistant principal at Jefferson Middle School, a vice principal at Cubberley K-8 School, and principal at Minnie Gant Elementary, Twain Elementary, and currently Bancroft Middle School. Ms. Sawyer prides herself on providing a safe, civil, and productive learning environment for her students. Go Beyond! Go Bancroft!

Alvarado *Elementary*

1900 E. 21st St., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/985-0019 • <http://alvarado-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Dr. Brett Geithman
Principal

Brett Geithman, the principal of Alvarado Elementary School, is proud and privileged to be a part of this innovative team of educators. He was born and raised in Bay Village, Ohio, but always knew he was a Californian at heart. After high school, Geithman relocated to California and earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Chico, in 2000. Following graduation, He took on the role of substitute teacher in Lake Tahoe and found his true passion in education.

In 2000, Geithman and his soon-to-be wife, Kristy, embarked on a five-month journey around the world to Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Thailand, Nepal, and Egypt. Upon their return, He was granted admission to the University of Southern California (USC) Master's in Counseling program, moving him to Los Angeles. However, he quickly left the program for his calling in education as a high school alternative education teacher.

After teaching in alternative education for two years, he was offered a fourth-grade literacy teaching position in Long Beach Unified School District. While teaching at Monroe K-8, Geithman earned his master's degree in education with an option in administration, from California State University, Long Beach.

In 2006 Geithman made the transition from Long Beach to Los Alamitos Unified School District as the assistant principal of McGaugh Elementary School. He then returned to Long Beach in 2008 and began his current position as principal of Alvarado. In 2009, he finished his doctoral degree in education at USC. Geithman has also served as an adjunct professor in the Master of Arts in Teaching program at USC.

Geithman and his wife are raising their three-year-old son and one-year-old daughter in Long Beach and continue their travels around the world.

Barton *Elementary*

1100 E. Del Amo Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-0555 • <http://barton-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Albert Gallo
Principal

By Andrea Chavez, 1st Grade Teacher

Albert R. Gallo has been promoted as the new Principal of Clara Barton Elementary School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from California State University of Long Beach. Albert then continued on to earn a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from California State University of Dominguez Hills.

Before entering the educational field, Albert worked as an Engineer for five years at TRW. He then traveled throughout the United States and became a recruiter for Teach For America. After his one year stint as a recruiter, Albert went on to teach Math and Science in Pasadena. Commuting closer to home, he then became a bilingual math teacher at Robert A. Millikan High School for ten wonderful years. While at Millikan he taught various levels of mathematics ranging from Pre Algebra to Geometry. He taught these courses in Spanish before the passing of Prop 227. He stayed another two years at Millikan teaching Algebra II and an elective class called Exploring Teaching. Albert then went on to be the Assistant Principal at Jefferson Leadership Academies. Since then he has been an Assistant Principal at Colin Powell Academy K-8 and Lindbergh Middle School. He also served as a Principal's Apprentice for 1 year, splitting his time between Lee and McKinley Elementary Schools. He has now been welcomed into the Barton family as Principal.

Alongside his many accomplishments, Albert has many passions. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, motorcycle riding, fishing, boating, and scuba diving.

Birney

710 W. Spring St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/427-8512 • <http://birney-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Thomas Espinoza
Principal

The 2011-2012 school year marks Thomas Espinoza's 26th year of service in the Long Beach Unified School District. Within those years, he was a Teacher Assistant (Edison Elementary), Teacher (Edison and Emerson Parkside Academy), Reading Specialist (Edison), Vice-Principal (Burbank and Lee Elementary) and Principal (McKinley and

Birney Elementary). He is excited to "bee" a part of the Birney community for a second year! Mr. Espinoza was born and raised in the East Los Angeles area to parents who emigrated from Mexico.

After graduating from Huntington Park High School, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach in 1990. Having worked as a Teacher Assistant during his college years, he caught the education bug and earned a Multiple Subject teaching credential with BCLAD (Spanish) emphasis from California State University, Dominguez Hills. In 1999, he earned a Master of Education degree in Educational

Administration from Harvard University. Mr. Espinoza resides in Long Beach with his wife and two energetic daughters (ages 3 and 2). He looks forward to another wonderful and successful school year.

Go Birney Bees!

Bixby *Elementary*

5251 E. Stearns St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-3794 • <http://bixby-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Stephanie Jones
Principal

This year, I have the awesome opportunity to serve as Bixby's new principal. I am excited to be back. Years ago, I was Bixby's Facilitator and one of the Literacy Specialists. Bixby is a great place to learn and grow.

I have been working for Long Beach Unified School District for more than twenty years. I started as a college aide! I've also been a 5th grade teacher, technology specialist, acting librarian, and vice principal. I am proud to be serving one of the best urban school districts in the country. I sometimes spend so much time at work that my loveable cocker spaniel, Christopher, and my aquatic turtle, Cleopatra Jones, spend too much time home alone!

I love Jazz and Gospel music, singing in my church choirs, and singing with a praise team called The Book Club. This summer, for the second time, we participated in the Tafesilafa'i Pacific Islander Festival at the Aquarium of the Pacific. It was wonderful! I direct the children's choir at my church, and teach the same kids for Bible Study. I'm working on becoming more active in my sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and I support the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year my favorite line is, "Those who think that only sunshine brings happiness have never danced in the rain." Have a great year!

Bryant *Elementary*

4101 E. Fountain St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/498-3802 • www.lbschools.net/bryant/



Doris Robinson
Principal

Doris Robinson's career in education has taken her in many directions. After graduating from Howard University and the University of LaVerne, her educational career began in Atlanta, GA as a high school teacher with the Atlanta Public School System. Among her many past job titles, she includes attendance assistant with LBUSD, director of attendance for Paramount Unified School District, taught Child, Family and Community at Long Beach City College, teacher with Los Angeles Unified School District, counselor for Long Beach Unified School District, and vice principal of Newcomb Academy, Hamilton Middle School, Hughes Middle School and Grant Elementary School. She is currently principal of Bryant Elementary School, where she has led staff members and students for six years.

Doris has served as community vice president for Junior League of Long Beach and has served on the Board of Trustees for the Long Beach Museum of Art, the Public Corporation for the Arts, and Cedar House for Abused Children. She was also a charter member and the organizer for the Long Beach chapter of Jack and Jill of America, where a scholarship has been named in her honor, president of the Harbor Area chapter of Links, Inc. and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She was named Music Intelligence Neural Development (MIND) Institute's Principal of the Year for 2005-2006, the same year the institute named Bryant as School of the Year.

Doris has three children, all of whom are graduates of Long Beach Unified School District. She is also a proud grandma to one granddaughter and one grandson. Doris also enjoys reading, traveling, sports, dancing, and the outdoors.

Burbank *Elementary*

501 Junipero Ave., Long Beach, CA 90814 • 562/439-0997 • <http://bbk-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



Lorraine Griego
Principal

Lorraine Griego is beginning her fifth year as Principal at Luther Burbank Elementary School. She served as Vice-Principal at Roosevelt Elementary School for the previous three years. Lorraine's induction into the LBUSD family was way back in the 1970s when she worked as a Housekeeper at US Grant CDC program in North Long Beach. She also spent over five years working at Grant Elementary School as a College Aide. Ms. Griego then spent a total of 26 wonderful years working at Roosevelt Elementary School. She began her work there as an Instructional Assistant supporting students in the Title I Reading and Math Computer Labs.

After earning her college degree Ms. Griego was assigned to a Bilingual 3rd/4th grade teacher at Roosevelt. She taught 3rd grade, 4th grade, a 4th/5th combination in both Bilingual and English only classrooms. Lorraine spent one year as the Lead Teacher for 4th and 5th grades at Washington Middle School when the District changed Roosevelt to a K-3 site. She returned to Roosevelt the following year as a 4th grade teacher, but left the classroom to serve as a Language Arts Specialist and Parent Liaison. It was during this time that she returned to school and earned her Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Lorraine was then joyfully promoted to Vice Principal at Roosevelt.

Griego spent her elementary school years in Los Angeles, California and moved to Long Beach in Junior High. She attended Stephens Junior High School on the westside of Long Beach and is a proud graduate of LB Poly. Her children have blessed her with three grandchildren, two are in Dual Immersion (English/Spanish) programs and one of whom is a Sophomore at Poly! She feels very fortunate to have landed at Luther Burbank Elementary School where she works with a great team. The Burbank School Community is expanding outside its fences with Rose Park and the 4th Street Neighborhood Associations and she hopes that Luther Burbank Elementary School will become the hub of this wonderful community in Long Beach.

Butler

1400 E. 20th St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/591-7477 • <http://lbutler.schoolloop.com/>

Sparkle Peterson, *Principal*

Thank you principals
for your commitment to education.
— School News staff

Burcham *(K-8)*

5610 Monlaco Road, Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-2685 • www.lbburcham.schoolloop.com/



LaShell Diggs
Principal

Ms. LaShell Diggs is beginning her 7th year as Principal of Burcham K-8 School. She has worked in the Long Beach Unified School District for 19 years. During that time she served as a third grade teacher, master teacher for student teachers, mentor teacher, elementary math coach, program facilitator, Human Resource Services manager, vice principal (Whittier Elementary) and principal at Mary Butler K-8 school. She attended college at CSULB where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree, teaching credential, Master's of Arts degree, and Administrative Credential. Ms. Diggs loves her role as Burcham's Principal and looks forward to another great year of teaching and learning!

Cabrillo *High School*

2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/951-7700 • http://lbcabrillo.schoolloop.com/



Dr. Elio Mendoza
Co-Principal



Alejandro Vega
Co-Principal

By Rick Lamprecht, Dean of Students

Cabrillo High School Co-Principals Dr. Elio Mendoza and Alejandro Vega are proud of the accomplishments of the still growing school. Mendoza, in his 6th year at school, notes a sense of pride in the community, and a culture of high expectations. Vega, who is starting his third year as Co-Principal, adds that "each and every day, The Cabrillo Promise is becoming a reality for all of our students."

Among the accomplishments Vega and Mendoza are most proud:

More students than ever are taking Advanced Placement Exams (AP) and the percentage of students passing are greater than ever.

Cabrillo is one of a select few high schools nationally to be an AVID National Demonstration School.

Our newest Magnet program, Project Lead the Way, is a nationally recognized Certified Engineering program.

ACCESS, our 9th grade Academy, is in its second year, preparing our students to be successful in high school and beyond.

The Cabrillo Promise: By the time students graduate from Cabrillo High School, they will have been enrolled in, supported in, and will have successfully completed, an Advanced Placement, Honors, Accelerated, or Concurrent Enrollment College Course.

Carver *Elementary*

5335 E. Pavo St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-2697 • www.lbschools.net/carver/Carver_Elementary/carver_Home.html



Jennifer Rodarte
Principal

Ms. Rodarte has been working in the Long Beach Unified School District since 1999. She began her career in Long Beach at Bret Harte Elementary School as a third grade teacher of both Intensive Structured English classes for English Language Learners and GATE/Excel Classes for the Gifted and Talented Learners.

Prior to becoming the principal at Carver Elementary School, Ms. Rodarte served Long Beach Unified School District as an elementary school vice-principal at Bret Harte and Dooley. One of her most treasured experiences at Carver has been leading the staff through the journey of becoming a California Distinguished school. Last year, she enjoyed participating in Carver's fabulous school activities such as their fall festival, school carnival, and their exhilarating talent show. This year, Ms. Rodarte will lead her school through the process of being an official G.A.T.E. school. She is so proud of the hard work her school community contributes to the scholarly atmosphere at Carver. She is honored to be a part of such a well-regarded learning environment.

Burnett *Elementary*

565 E. Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/595-9466 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/burnett/



Lucy Salazar
Principal

Lucy Salazar, the principal of Burnett Elementary School, has been with Long Beach Unified School district since 1996. Her interest in an educational career started when she was a college aide at a middle school in San Diego. The joy of working with young minds and eager students stayed with her. Salazar received her bachelor's degree in liberal studies from San Diego State University and earned a master's degree in educational administration and an administrative credential from California State University, Long Beach.

Salazar's career in Long Beach began as a third-grade teacher at Lafayette Elementary School. Aside from teaching at Lafayette, she also served the students and teachers as a literacy specialist, a Title 1 facilitator and a vice principal. In 2004, she moved to Whittier Elementary School to continue her work as a vice principal, where she enjoyed two great years. Now in her 14th year in the district, Mrs. Salazar looks forward to beginning her fifth year as principal of Burnett Elementary School. "It has been rewarding to work with such hardworking and dedicated teachers and staff," Salazar said. "Seeing the happy faces of students on a daily basis lets me know I'm doing what I love! Students at Burnett are so happy to be learning and making great friends!"

During her time away from Burnett, Salazar enjoys spending time with friends and family. "Having a loving husband, great siblings, awesome friends and the best parents, I feel like the luckiest person! They keep me strong and recharged for the work I do on a daily basis." Salazar has also enjoyed getting to know the parents and the community of Burnett. "Our community is very proud of all the successes enjoyed in the past and looks forward to many more in the future," Salazar added. "Everyone at our school makes sure students look forward to school each day, and I thank each person who makes Burnett a great place to learn, work and play!"

CAMS

1000 E. Victoria St., Carson, CA 90747 • 310/243-2025 • www.californiaacademy.org



Dr. Janice Filer
Principal

Dr. Janice Filer is in her fifth year as principal of the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS). Prior to serving as principal of CAMS, she served as CAMS assistant principal for seven years and as a CAMS teacher for three years.

Dr. Filer began teaching in the Long Beach Unified School District 32 years ago at Hamilton Junior High School. While in Long Beach Unified, Dr. Filer has taught in grades kindergarten through adult school. Prior to teaching in Long Beach Unified School District, she taught in the Compton Unified School District. Her positions have also included language arts specialist, program facilitator, mentor teacher, summer school principal and elementary assistant principal in another district. In addition, she has taught at Long Beach City College in the ESL Department, California State University Long Beach in the Educational Psychology and Administration Department and on the California State University Dominguez Hills campus in the Teacher Education Department and the Educational Administration Department.

Dr. Filer received her Bachelor of Arts degree from California Lutheran University, a Masters of Arts in Education from California State University Long Beach, and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Southern California. Dr. Filer has served as a reader for UCLA freshman applications and as a dissertation committee member for USC and Pepperdine University. Currently, she is a board member for Region 14 of the Association of California School Administrators and is a member of the National Association of University Women. In 2010, Dr. Filer was named secondary principal of the year for region 14 which covers the South Bay area districts by the Association of California School Administrators.

Dr. Filer is the proud mother of two college graduates. Her daughter is a high school teacher and her son a law school graduate. She and her husband have been married for 34 years. "I am proud to have been in education for the past 35 years. At a very young age, I knew that teaching was all I would ever want to do with my life. I am fortunate to serve in such an honorable profession."

Chavez *Elementary*

730 W. Third St., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-0904 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/chavez/



Kimberly Weber
Principal

Kim Weber feels honored to be the Principal at Cesar Chavez Elementary School. This is her fifth year as principal at Cesar Chavez and her 18th year in the Long Beach Unified School District. Prior to coming to Chavez, she was the principal at Kettering, Vice Principal at Webster, and a teacher at Burbank Elementary School. Kim is a native of Napa, CA and moved to southern California to attend UC Irvine. Knowing that she wanted to be a bilingual teacher, she earned a BA in Spanish and later attended CSULB to earn a multiple subject teaching credential. Kim later went to CSU Dominguez Hills to get her MA in Administration and an administrative credential. "I am fortunate to have a wonderful, supportive family who make every day a joy!" says Kim. "My husband works at the newest school in Long Beach – Dooley, and my two sons attend schools in LBUSD." She is looking forward to another successful year at Chavez. "We are eager to continue to work with the students and their families to make every sure the students reach their goals!" She feels very fortunate to be surrounded by such a caring and capable staff.

Constellation *Community Middle School*

620 Olive Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-7181 • http://constellation-school.org

Daphne Ching-Jackson
Executive Director

Daphne Ching-Jackson is the executive director of Constellation Community Middle School, a public charter school with a successful 17-year track record in Long Beach. She joined the team at Constellation in 1999 as the marketing and fund development director and has served as executive director for the past nine years.

Though Constellation is her first experience in a school setting, her contributions to the school are ultimately benefiting the students. Partnered with the school's curriculum director, who takes responsibility for student issues and the educational program, Daphne helps staff members achieve classroom and school-wide goals. Her responsibilities include staff management and fiscal accountability.

Daphne is a familiar face in the Long Beach community. Prior to joining Constellation, she was the executive director of Leadership Long Beach for two years and for Cedar House, a child abuse treatment agency, for five years. She also handled community affairs for St. Mary Medical Center. Daphne truly believes in the spirit of volunteerism. Her volunteer leadership positions have been as an officer or Board member for the Long Beach Day Nursery, CAMEO, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Executive Women International, Long Beach Branch, and the Chamber of Commerce's Women's Council.

Cubberley

3200 Monogram Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-8810 • www.lbcubberley.schoolloop.com/



Terri Jarels
Principal

In her 21st year in the Long Beach Unified School District, Terri Jarels begins the Fall as Principal of Cubberley K-8 School for the second year. Previously, as Terri Rennard, Mrs. Jarels was the assistant principal at Cabrillo High School for three years and Principal at Mary Butler School. Mrs. Jarels has also been an Assistant Principal at Jordan High School and Hoover Middle School. She taught history and Spanish at Marshall Middle School. She has been a part-time instructor in the credentialing program at California State University, Long Beach, for many years, teaching courses in intercultural education and curriculum, assessment, instruction and classroom management. Terri loves to travel, and recently visited Cambodia and Viet Nam.

Cleveland *Elementary*

4760 Hackett Street, Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-7552



Teresa Montoya
Principal

Teresa Montoya is the new principal at Cleveland Elementary School. Mrs. Montoya and her husband have four grown children and three young granddaughters. They have lived in Lakewood for 30 years.

Mrs. Montoya always knew she wanted to be a teacher and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona. Her first teaching assignment was in second grade in Guam where her husband was stationed in the Navy.

Mrs. Montoya had her first experience in LBUSD as a VIPS and PTA parent when her children were at Riley Elementary. Her 23-year career as an employee of LBUSD began as a substitute teacher and then as a kindergarten teacher at Lincoln and Whittier Elementary schools. After her completion of the Master of Arts in Education at CSULB, Mrs. Montoya became a literacy specialist at Whittier. Her career then took her to the position of Program Facilitator at Burcham Elementary and then to Program Specialist with the PALMS Office. Mrs. Montoya transitioned into administration as Vice Principal/Program Facilitator at Webster Elementary and completed her Master of Education in Educational Management at the University of La Verne. Mrs. Montoya was the principal at Burroughs Elementary School for the last five years.

Mrs. Montoya is looking forward to working with the staff, students, and families at Cleveland Elementary this year. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, leisure reading, and active involvement at St. Pancratius Church.

Book Today

Mr. Scales, the litter-free Lizard, is back for the new school year!

Lunch with a Lizard is a fun, educational, litter-awareness performance for K-3rd grades and is available FREE to all LBUSD elementary schools in Long Beach.

To book a performance at your school, visit www.litterfreeLB.org

Read all about it. LBUSD Principals, Program Coordinators and Teachers have posted comments on Mr. Scales' blog wall.

Visit www.litterfreeLB.org/blogwall to read what they've been saying or post a comment. (You must be a LBUSD Principal, Coordinator or Teacher to post)



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Dooley *Global Studies Magnet School*

5075 N. Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/997-2655 • www.lbschools.net/dooley



Gerardo Gloria
Principal

Gerardo Gloria has been in education for 33 years-27 years in Long Beach Unified School District. He began working in Long Beach in 1984 at Roosevelt Elementary School, teaching a second grade class. He later switched to kindergarten for two years. Gloria moved to John Muir School to teach first- and third grades for three years. He became a language arts specialist for Burbank Elementary the following year. He then became an assistant principal for three years at Marshall and Stanford Middle Schools.

Gloria became the principal at Patrick Henry School in 1994. Then he made a complete circle, arriving as principal at John Muir Academy. Several of the teachers at Muir still remain from when he taught there. "It was a pleasant homecoming to work with my colleagues again," Gloria shared. "It has been a fast 29 years so far, and I look forward to many more exciting and eventful educational experiences with my students." Gloria has also taught at California State University, Long Beach and School for Adults. Principal Gloria was at John Muir Academy for 11 years in which time he made Muir into a K-8 school. He looks forward to an exciting adventure at Dooley.

Franklin *Classical Middle School*

540 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-4952 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/franklin/index.htm



Maria Pilar Perossio
Principal

My name is Pilar Perossio and I am thrilled to be back at Franklin Classical Middle School. I see myself as part of a wonderful team. We have an incredible group of highly qualified teachers that are not only dedicated, but go above and beyond to bring the very best to our students and community. Our support staff is equally as dedicated and hard working. Being bilingual has made it easier to connect with the Latin families in our community. Franklin has a wonderful group of parents that dedicate their time to our school. One of our school goals is to continue to grow the parent involvement group because we see it as an integral part of the educational system.

I've worked in all levels of education and am passionate about working with all students and families. We had some wonderful gains this past year at Franklin due to the hard work of the entire staff and community. I am personally looking forward to continuing our growth and enjoying many more successes. I believe in my students and work extremely hard to ensure that they are prepared for the future. We at Franklin hold our students to incredible standards and have the highest expectations because they are scholars that can meet the challenge. My daily goal is to inspire students to believe that they are entitled to nothing but the very best and to teach them how to set and reach their goals.

Edison

625 Maine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-8481 • http://edi-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/



Richard Littlejohn
Principal

Richard Littlejohn has been a Long Beach Unified School District employee for 13 years and taught in the City of Philadelphia, PA for 3 years. He has served as a first, second, fourth, fifth, and combination teacher, a literacy specialist/coach, and a district trainer in Language Arts for Reading First! He served as an assistant principal at Washington Middle School and is looking forward to his 4th year as principal at Edison Elementary School.

Richard Littlejohn earned his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine (UCI). He attained his Master's Degree at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) in Educational Administration. Richard believes that his experience with amazing teachers and literacy coaches from Reading First Schools in LBUSD provided for his readiness for the position of Principal. Richard is appreciative of his time as a district trainer because of the amazing discussions and ideas shared by teachers and coaches during the trainings!

"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery." — Mark Van Doren. The idea of discovery-based learning is the key to the future. Richard believes in providing students experiences through discovery and motivating students to learn more through tapping into their curiosity and natural wonderings.

Richard is thankful that he gets to work with students and teachers every day. His mission is to equip all students with the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the future. He appreciates student and teacher creativity that makes every day special. Richard believes that working with students is the best job in the world!

Emerson *Parkside Academy Charter*

2625 Josie Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/420-2631 • http://eme-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/



Margaret Kerns
Principal

Maggie Kerns began her career in the Long Beach Unified School District as a college aide and has held the positions of teacher, reading specialist, program facilitator, district staff developer, administrative assistant, and principal. She has been involved with LBUSD her entire life, she attended Tincher, Hill, and Wilson.

Mrs. Kerns began her college career at Long Beach City College then went to California State University, Long Beach, earning her BA and MA and finally the University of California Irvine for her post graduate leadership credential. She loves her new job as the principal of Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School because the students are wonderful – hard working, smart, and respectful. Emerson's teachers are creative, caring, and collaborative; the support staff is professional and diligent, and fabulous to work with; and the parents are helpful, committed and extremely kind.

Mrs. Kerns believes the school's success is a product of a winning school community and she is proud to be part of the Emerson Family.

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Gant *Elementary*

1854 Britton Drive, Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/430-3384 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/gant/index.htm



Jeff Wood
Principal

Southern California native, Principal Jeff Wood continues to give back to the community in which he was raised. Mr. Wood attended public school at all levels in Long Beach, beginning with preschool at Long Beach City College, attending LBUSD schools Burcham, Marshall, and Lakewood High School before returning the LBCC and then Cal State Long Beach earning his Bachelor's degree in business as well as credentials in teaching and administration.

Although intending to make a career of the business world, Wood found he enjoyed working with children at a local non-profit agency. For many years, he continued working with families with children ages preschool through high school. After a brief move to the Eastern Sierras working in the outdoors, Wood returned in 1996 to begin teaching. He has taught at both Sutter Elementary and Riley Elementary schools with summer assignments at International, Madison, and Sutter Elementary Schools before transitioning into administrative and support positions within the District.

"Over the years, I have worked to have a positive impact in educating young people to be responsible, productive, positive members of the community in which we live," Wood said. "I remember some of the most influential teachers of my career and the confidence and beliefs they helped me develop. I strive to have the same positive impact on the young people I encounter every day."

Wood continues his dedication to educating students in a safe, comfortable, and challenging environment. Raised in a strong family environment, he learned the importance of respect and responsibility at a young age. He believes each student learns best in a supportive family-type environment, with challenging expectations and an attitude of mutual respect and responsibility.

As partners in education, parents, students, teachers, and community members each play an important role in educating today's youth, the leaders of tomorrow. Join us in making a difference in the lives of young people.

Gompers *(K-8)*

5206 Briercreech Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-2285 • http://lbgomper.schoollloop.com/



Kelly Ludden
Principal

Educator Colleen Wilcox once said, "Teaching is the greatest act of optimism." Both my personal and professional experiences have given me reason to be optimistic about the power of a great public education. I am proud to be part of a profession that gives so much to enrich the lives of students, and leads them to successful and fulfilling futures.

I was born in Chicopee, Massachusetts and was fortunate to have extraordinary teachers throughout my education. My parents always held teachers in the highest regard, and stressed the importance of learning. They were both avid readers, and books were never in short supply. I knew from an early age that I could set no higher goal for myself than to aspire to be a teacher.

I attended Westfield State College and majored in English with a minor in education. My first teaching assignment was at a high school in my hometown. I soon moved west to California to explore new challenges and opportunities. I was lucky enough to secure a position teaching 8th grade at Bancroft Middle School. I later taught 6th grade English and E.L.D. at Hill Classical Middle School, and served as a curriculum coach at Jackie Robinson. My first administrative assignment was at Cubberley K-8. I then spent four wonderful years as principal at Kettering Classical Elementary School.

I am thrilled to be moving to Gompers K-8 where I will have the opportunity to work with students in both elementary and middle school. I look forward to working with the talented staff and committed community there to continue the tradition of excellence and achievement.

Fremont *Elementary*

4000 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814 • 562/439-6873 • http://fre-lbusd.ca.schoollloop.com/



Matt Hammond
Principal

Having made this area home for many years, Matt Hammond, principal at Fremont Elementary School, has been a student at MacArthur Elementary School, Bancroft Junior High School, and Lakewood High School. From there, he attended Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. Prior to becoming principal at Fremont Elementary School, he worked as a college aide, a teacher at Riley and Gant Elementary Schools, a program specialist in Human Resource Services hiring teachers, and a vice principal at Newcomb, Signal Hill, Stevenson, King, and Whittier Schools.

Many individuals who have crossed Hammond's path through the years have been a source of encouragement and inspiration. His elementary school principal who gave Matt many growth and leadership opportunities, music teachers who with patience and creativity fostered an appreciation of music in his life, school administrators who modeled and paved the way to see new career horizons, and many classroom teachers who were continually assisting in each educational step along the way have had a positive impact on his life and career. Going into this year as principal at Fremont Elementary School with its long-standing tradition of excellence and valuable community involvement, the journey continues to be filled with memorable moments and inspirational individuals.

Garfield *Elementary*

2240 Baltic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/424-8167 • http://garfield-lbusd-ca.schoollloop.com/



Donna McKeenan
Principal

I am proud to say that I am a California native, born and raised in Santa Maria. I came to Long Beach to attend CSULB, graduated from there and was hired in the Long Beach School District in the year 1979. Needless to say, 32 years later I am still here and feel blessed to work within a district that cares so much about their students, families and employees.

I have had the privilege to work at many different schools in various positions from teaching all grades at the elementary level to holding almost every support position including my current position as principal. At each of these different schools, I have worked alongside talented and caring groups of people as well as being supported by many in each role I had.

When I'm not working I enjoy reading, traveling and visiting with good friends. I have been part of the same book club for the past 25 years and have experienced many different types of books. I have quite a large collection of frogs which grab students' attention each time they visit my office.

Garfield has been my home for the past seven years and I have enjoyed every minute of it. The community is wonderful and the students eager to learn. The Garfield Staff is made up of individuals that are determined to make a difference in the lives of the children they serve and I am proud to work along side them each day.



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Grant *Elementary*

1225 E. 64th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-4616 • <http://gra-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



Mona Cook
Principal

The 2011-2012 school year will be my fourteenth year as a school administrator for Long Beach Unified. This will be my sixth year as the site administrator for Grant Elementary School. Prior to coming to Grant, I was the principal of Naples Bayside Academy for five years. Before serving at Naples, I was the vice principal of Gompers and Patrick Henry. I worked as a classroom teacher for LBUSD for 13 years including K, 1st, 2nd, K/1 combo, and 5th grade. My teaching school sites included Bret Harte and MacArthur Elementary School.

I earned my Masters of Administration and Administration Credential from Cal State Dominguez Hills; my Bachelors Degree in Liberal Studies and Teaching Credential from Cal State Long Beach. I also attended Long Beach City College where I received my Associate Degree. I graduated from Brethren High School. Attended Hamilton Middle School and first through sixth grade was at Grant Elementary School. It is an amazing privilege to now be the principal of my elementary school. I arrive to work each day excited about the future of Grant. The teachers and support personnel are each engaged and committed to helping each of our students reach their full potential. The atmosphere at Grant Elementary School is one of tremendous hope and promise. Together we are building a strong foundation for higher education.

This year I will be celebrating 27 years of marriage to Pastor Bill Cook (a former LBUSD administrator and teacher). We have a wonderful daughter, Rachel, who graduated from the University of Redlands. Rachel is now pursuing her Masters Degree in Communicative Disorders from Cal State Fullerton. This summer Rachel was married to Ryan Finigan, a student at UCI.

Rachel and Bill are also products of the LBUSD system. Bill graduated from Jordan High School and CSULB. Rachel attended MacArthur, Bancroft, and Wilson Classical High School. We have a proud and long tradition – living and working in Long Beach.

Hamilton *Middle School*

1060 E. 70th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-0302 • <http://lbhamilton.schoolloop.com/>



David Downing
Principal

The 2011-2012 school year marks David Downing' fifth year as principal of Hamilton Middle School. His previous administrative assignments for Long Beach Unified include positions at Millikan High School and Sutter Academy. For two years, David was principal of Oak Middle School in Los Alamitos.

The 2010-2011 school year brought numerous honors for students and staff at Hamilton. Hamilton's API score improved by 42 points this year, and with nearly 200 students enrolled in Algebra, 70% scored proficient or advanced on the CST. The girl's volleyball team became All-City Champions, defeating Rogers Middle School in the final. And for the second time in three years, Hamilton was awarded the Howard Lyon Sportsmanship Award. Following two first place finishes in robotics tournament competition at CAMS, Hamilton scholars traveled to Orlando Florida, where they competed against over 450 teams from 15 countries in the VEX Robotics World Championships. Hamilton continues to partner with CSULB and the Fairfield YMCA in the YES! Program, a three year grant providing academic tutoring and mentoring, digital media classes, monthly events at CSULB, and summer academics with the 49er Sports camps, also held at CSULB.

Mr. Downing commented, "It is an honor to be serving an outstanding community of parents, students and staff at Hamilton. I am proud of our accomplishments this past year, and am excited about the increasing variety of academic and enrichment opportunities we are providing for students." "In partnership with parents, community members, and colleagues at Hamilton, my goal is to provide academic excellence for students in a safe and welcoming environment." Having been born and raised in Long Beach, Mr. Downing attended LosCerritos Elementary, Hughes Middle School and Poly High School. David holds bachelors and master's degrees in music from CSULB, and a masters in educational administration from CSU Dominguez Hills. Mr. Downing's three sons also attended LBUSD schools and are now young adults. His eldest son serves as a middle school physical education teacher in Santa Fe Springs. As a classroom teacher, Mr. Downing has experience at the elementary, middle school and high school levels in both regular and special educational settings. His last full-time teaching position was in the English department at Jordan High School in Long Beach, where he also served as department chair. He left Jordan High to serve as a full time consulting teacher in the Peer Assistance and Review program for LBUSD, partnering with consulting teachers, providing staff development and coaching for teachers at all grade levels. In addition to his administrative role, Mr. Downing continues to work with schools as a trainer, facilitator and staff developer in the areas of communication, team building, conflict management, classroom management and pedagogy.

Harte *Elementary*

1671 E. Phillips St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-0333 • <http://harte-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Scott Tardibuono
Principal

Scott Tardibuono is enthusiastic about entering his fifth year as principal of Bret Harte Elementary School!

Mr. Tardibuono, who has been employed with the Long Beach Unified School District since 1996, is a dedicated, bilingual leader in education who is committed to increasing the achievement level and learning potential of each student.

His career began as a teacher in both the primary and intermediate grades at McKinley Elementary, where he later went on to serve as its intervention specialist and vice principal.

In addition to acting as summer school principal at several sites, he was most recently the vice principal at Addams Elementary before he moved into his current role.

Mr. Tardibuono was born and raised in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. He received his bachelor's degree in Spanish from Bucknell University in Lewisburg before relocating to Southern California. He then received his master's degree and administrative credential at CSU Dominguez Hills.

In his free moments, Mr. Tardibuono enjoys spending time with his wife and young daughter. They like taking walks, going to Disneyland and traveling. Mr. Tardibuono anticipates another exciting and successful year working with the students, staff and parents of the Bret Harte community.



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Henry *(K-8)*

3720 Canehill Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-3754 • <http://henry-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Claire Alvarez
Principal

Mrs. Claire Alvarez is embarking upon her sixth year as principal of Patrick Henry K-8 School. She hails from the East Coast, where she earned a bachelor's degree in history from Brown University. Upon graduation she joined Teach For America and taught the second grade in Houston, Texas.

Her postgraduate work includes a master's degree in education with an emphasis in curriculum and instruction from Chapman University and certification in educational leadership from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Mrs. Alvarez began her teaching career in Long Beach as a first-grade teacher at Addams Elementary where she continued as a program facilitator and vice principal.

In her six years as principal at Henry, Mrs. Alvarez has been most impressed by the willingness of the teachers, staff and parents to provide the very best educational opportunities for all students. "Everyone in our school community goes the extra mile for students, with no excuses," she says. "This is why Henry was named a 2008 California Distinguished School and a 2011 Title 1 Achieving School. Our students continue to make strong academic gains in a learning environment that is engaging and family-orientated."

This is the second year that Henry offers the Two-Way Immersion program for 6th-8th graders. Students at the middle school level learn academic content in both English and Spanish.

Through the transition from a K-5 to a K-8 system, Mrs. Alvarez emphasizes that education is all about high expectations. She firmly believes that, "When a community comes together to do great things for kids, the sky is the limit in terms of what students can achieve." She is honored to be serving the Henry community and its mission to guarantee the academic success of students living in our diverse society.

Mrs. Alvarez is the mother of three children. Not only is she a "soccer mom," but she is also an avid soccer player and fan. Her hobbies include reading, tennis and travel. She credits her former principal mentors, and the support of the Long Beach Unified School District, for inspiring her to be an educational leader.

Hoover *Middle School*

3501 Country Club Drive, Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/421-1213 • <http://lbhoover.schoolloop.com/>



Dr. Avery Hall
Principal

Dr. Avery Hall received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from UC San Diego. She began her career with the LBUSD as an elementary teacher with a Standard Teaching Credential and a Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential.

While teaching elementary school, Dr. Hall continued her own education, received a Pupil Personnel Services Credential and began working as a Counselor in the LBUSD. Dr. Hall was promoted to Elementary Vice Principal and soon became Assistant Principal at middle and high school levels. Dr. Hall continued her education at Pepperdine University receiving a Master of Arts in Education

Degree, an Administrative Services Credential and a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) Degree. Once again the district promoted Dr. Hall to Principal of Lindbergh Middle School. Dr. Hall has experience in both traditional and year-round calendar educational programs. Hall's experience in Long Beach has given her the opportunity to work with students from diverse socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. She implemented changes that have brought about positive climate and proven academic results. Those who have followed the steady rise in academic achievement during the tenure of its principal Dr. Avery Hall would not be surprised.

Dr. Hall is beginning her second year at Hoover Middle School, parents, students, faculty and staff look forward to another successful year at Hoover.

Hill *Classical Middle School*

1100 Iroquois Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-7611 • <http://lbhill.schoolloop.com/>



Sophia Griffith
Principal

As I reflect back over the years, there are countless individuals who have made a strong impact in my life. Many of these people I have encountered during my thirty-five years in the Long Beach Unified School District, both as a student and as an educator. My parents and my teachers taught me the importance of respect, being a productive citizen, and taking advantages of opportunities. My mentors have continued to support me in enhancing my leadership skills and professional growth.

My life's mission is to make a difference in the lives of others. As principal of Hill Classical Middle School, I believe I am able to accomplish this mission. I strive to be a positive example for students, parents, teachers, and staff members. Despite the many challenges that we all are facing in education, we must persist in the district's mission, "To support the personal and intellectual success of every student, every day" as the core of the work that we carry out. I am deeply committed to continuous improvement and the belief that all children are capable of learning and achieving at high levels.

The experiences I have had in LBUSD, as well as during my undergraduate and graduate studies, have prepared me well for my leadership responsibilities. I am proud to be a part of a diverse school that provides all students with rigorous and challenging instruction, while also allowing the exploration of music, technology, fine and performing arts, and foreign language. Our students also have the opportunity to join high-interest clubs, receive daily character education, and provide service to the greater community.

I am looking forward to a phenomenal school year, leading Hill Classical Middle School to new heights, while making a difference in the lives of thousands of people!



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Holmes *Elementary*

5020 Barlin Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/633-4427 • <http://hol-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



Luana Wesley
Principal

As the principal of Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary School, Luana Milburn Wesley is continuing to build upon the standard of excellence at the school.

Wesley grew up in New Orleans and attended Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where she received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Her career in education began in Caddo Parish Schools in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she taught kindergarten and fourth grade. In her third year of teaching, she represented the state of Louisiana as Rookie Teacher of the Year.

In 1990, she relocated to California and immediately began working for the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) as a first-grade teacher at Starr King Elementary School. Her career in LBUSD continued with positions teaching first, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Wesley was an instructional program facilitator for seven years at U.S. Grant, Sutter, and Colin Powell Academy.

As a school administrator, Wesley has served on several district-level committees. This school year marks her ninth year as a LBUSD administrator, seven of those as an elementary school principal at Clara Barton Elementary and now Holmes Elementary.

Wesley's work in education has focused on providing an environment where all children can excel. She involves herself in every aspect of her school community and maintains a strong focus on the school's instructional programs. Open and ongoing communication is a key element in the effective relationships she establishes with students, parents, and staff.

Wesley and her husband live in Lakewood, CA with their twins. Weekends are spent enjoying track & field, dance, and the activities of a busy family.

Hughes *Middle School*

3846 California Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0831 • <http://lbhughes.schoolloop.com/>



Dr. Sally Gregory
Principal

Dr. Sally Gregory is beginning her second year as principal at Charles Evans Hughes Middle School. She most recently served as program administrator for the high school office. Dr. Gregory also served as principal at Avalon/Two Harbor Schools (K-12) on Catalina Island and activities director for Wilson Classical High School. Previously, she was a classroom teacher and coach at Lakewood High School. Prior to her employment in the Long Beach Unified School District, Dr. Gregory was a counselor for couples and families in Oregon.

Dr. Gregory grew up in Palo Alto, CA, and attended UCSB where she met and married her husband of 36 years. She received her Bachelor of Science in Sports Medicine at Pepperdine University, a Master of Science in Counselor Education at the University of Wyoming, and a Doctorate in Education Leadership at Azusa Pacific University. Dr. Gregory's daughter, a graduate of Stanford University, is a realtor and entrepreneur and her son is employed as a mechanical engineer in Santa Barbara. Her husband, a retired college volleyball coach, is a teacher in the district.

Dr. Gregory is looking forward to her continued work with the Hughes staff and community to inspire students to achieve goals consistent with their individual talents and continue the mission for excellence in all areas of learning.



Hudson *(K-8)*

2335 Webster Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/426-0470 • <http://lbhudson.schoolloop.com/>



Cathleen Imbroane
Principal

This is Mrs. Imbroane's second year as principal at Hudson K-8 School. Born and raised in Gardena, California, Imbroane attended a private K-8 school and graduated from North Torrance High School. She then received an associate's degree from El Camino College and a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California, Los Angeles. (Go, Bruins!)

Imbroane's first teaching job was working with junior high students at the same K-8 school she attended in Gardena. While teaching private school, she completed a single subject teaching credential in English at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). She was then hired by the Long Beach Unified School District to teach language arts at Long Beach's Polytechnic High School. While teaching at Poly, she also had the opportunity to advise the award-winning Spirit Leaders. Imbroane spent five years at Poly, while finishing her administrative services credential and her Master's Degree in Educational Administration at CSULB. Imbroane was promoted to assistant principal at Herbert Hoover Middle School in Lakewood. She spent more than seven years at Hoover before becoming the principal of Monroe K-8 in 2007. She was at Monroe for three years and is now at Hudson K-8 School, Home of the Hawks.

"I have served the Long Beach Unified School District since 1994 and look forward to many more years in this wonderful school district," Imbroane said.

International *Elementary*

700 Locust Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/436-4420 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/intl/



Kimberley Baril
Principal

Kimberley Baril has been an educator since 1981, serving as a bilingual elementary teacher, district mentor teacher, a state trainer for the Early Intervention for School Success (EISS), program facilitator, vice principal, administrative assistant and principal. For the past eight years she has served as the principal at International Elementary School where she and the IES staff have received numerous accolades and awards including California Distinguish Schools, Achieving Schools, and National Center for Urban Transformation Excellence for their outstanding work towards closing the achievement gap and creating proficient students.

As a product of the Long Beach Unified school system, Kimberley started at Tincher Elementary School, then moved to Hill Junior High School, and graduated from Wilson High School. She received her bachelor's degree at California State University, Long Beach, followed by a master's degree and two teaching credentials from California State University, Dominguez Hills and her administrative credential from University of La Verne.

Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

750 Euclid Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/438-9904 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/jefferson/index.htm



Brian Moskovitz
Principal

As the new principal at Jefferson Leadership Academies, Brian Moskovitz is excited about the opportunity to lead a middle school. Committed to establishing a strong sense of community and collaboration, Mr. Moskovitz believes in making staff, students, and parents feel welcome, and feel a part of the success of our school. In addition to his work at Jefferson, Mr. Moskovitz serves on the board of the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers (ALBEM) and as a member of LBUSD's negotiations team.

When he's not working, Mr. Moskovitz is an active participant with his two sons in Boy Scouts. He and his wife of 14 years love Long Beach and the diversity within the city.

In all, Mr. Moskovitz is a strong believer that all students, regardless of cultural or economic backgrounds, can achieve at a high level. At Jefferson, we will prove him right!

Jordan *High School*

6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-1471 • www.lbjordan.schoolloop.com/



Shawn Ashley
Principal

Shawn Ashley, at his request, is the new Principal at Jordan High School. He asked to have the opportunity to go to North Long Beach to work at the Long Beach High School which has the greatest potential. Jordan has the unique situation of being located in a section of Long Beach which is made up of strong, hard-working middle class families who understand and appreciate that it takes hard work to achieve the American Dream. He has no doubt that Jordan students can compete with the other Long Beach High School students both academically and athletically.

Prior to being transferred to Jordan he was the principal at Poly High School for 15 years. In addition he has been the principal at Franklin Middle School and before that Washington Middle School. He was trained as an elementary school teacher which was his first position in Long Beach. He then became an assistant principal before becoming a principal. He has been in education for 33 years. Shawn Ashley has said over and over, "I have the best job in America. Everyday I get to work with happy, smart kids. Everyday we laugh together and talk and I get to have an impact on student's lives."

Shawn Ashley is a Poly graduate as is his wife of 36 years Sylvia Meza. Sylvia is a kindergarten teacher at Naples Elementary. They have five children. His favorite memories of being a high school principal is, "Graduation night is a great moment in every student's life. The families are so happy and proud. On that night I must get 300 hugs and thank yous from students, mothers and fathers."



Jay Camerino
Principal

Jay is excited about his first year as Principal at Jordan High School. He is eager to be a positive and influential force on campus. He served as principal at Gompers K-8 and Eisenhower Elementary School in Garden Grove. Jay was also an assistant principal at Poly High School, Washington Middle School, the Prep Academy and Lincoln Elementary School. He was a bilingual math and science teacher at Rogers and Washington Middle School. He was born in Tijuana, Mexico and grew up on the west side of Long Beach. He attended Riley Elementary, Hoover Junior High and Lakewood High School.

Jay continued his studies at CSULB, CSUDH and USC. His wife is the principal at Starr King Elementary School and they have two daughters. The oldest is starting third grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School and the other is nine months old probably starting another diaper change right now.

King

145 E. Artesia Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-1232 • http://starring-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/



Cecilia Santos-Camerino
Principal

Cecilia Camerino is proud and honor to have been assigned Principal at King Elementary. She is not new to Long Beach Unified School District. She served as a principal at Patrick Henry Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School in Long Beach. She was born in New York and is bilingual. She received her Bachelor of Arts and Master degree at CSUDH. Most recently, she received her doctorate degree at USC. Her husband is the principal at Jordan High School. She has two beautiful daughters. The oldest is in third grade at Patrick Henry Elementary School and her youngest just turned 9 months.

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

550 Silvera Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/598-9486 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/kettering/kettering.html

Deborah Anderson, Principal

Keller *Elementary*

7020 E. Brittain St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8851 • http://keller-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/



Marjean Hughes
Principal

Our principal, Marjean Hughes, is a native of the Long Beach-Lakewood area. She attended LBUSD schools; Gompers Elementary School, Bancroft Middle School and Lakewood High School. After high school graduation she attended Long Beach City College, transferring later to Cal State Long Beach to complete her BA in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Speech Communications. She continued on to achieve her Masters degree in Education Administration.

From an early age, Marjean's love for children has been the motivating force in her career choices and she has spent her career working in some capacity with children. Marjean has worked for the Long Beach Unified School District in various positions including Teachers Aide, Classroom Teacher, Specialist, Facilitator, and Vice Principal. She has been instrumental in beginning innovative programs at various schools. Marjean has a special fondness for the arts. She strongly believes in the importance of exposing students to the arts and making it possible for them to experience the arts as an integral part of their education.

In addition to her ongoing professional contributions, she has also raised three children and she remains involved in a variety of community charities. By her words and actions, Marjean continues to demonstrate her strong commitment to our children and our community. Hughes is a STAR principal!

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1950 Lemon Ave.
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For information on our WRAP sites, please call 562.570.3554.

Burbank Elementary, 501 Junipero Ave.; Edison Elementary, 625 Main Ave.; Garfield Elementary, 2240 Baltic Ave.; Grant Elementary, 1225 E. 64th St.; Hudson K-8 School, 2335 Webster Ave.; Lafayette Elementary, 2445 Chestnut Ave.; Lee Elementary, 1620 Temple Ave.; Los Cerritos Elementary, 2335 Webster Ave.; Starr King Elementary, 145 E. Artesia Blvd.

LB ROC (Recreation on Campuses): Supervised after school and weekend activities on designated campuses. This is a free, drop-in, non-custodial care program offering activities such as arts and crafts, games, sports tournaments and minor excursions. This program is funded in part by the Community Development Block Grant.

For information on our ROC programs, please call 562.570.3561.

Burnett Elementary, 565 E. Hill St.; Garfield Elementary, 2240 Baltic Ave.; Lincoln Elementary, 1175 E. 11th St.; Starr King Elementary, 145 E. Artesia Blvd.; Stevenson Elementary, 515 Lime Ave.



Youth Sports

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Address: 5871 E. Los Arcos, Long Beach, CA
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Lafayette *Elementary*

2445 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/426-7075 • www.lafayette-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/



Wendy Thompson
Principal

Wendy Thompson's diversified assignments over the past 23 years have been instrumental in preparing her for her new role as Principal at Lafayette.

Ms. Thompson graduated from Central Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She began teaching in 1986. Her years of classroom experience included teaching a variety of grades K-7. In August 2001, she became a Literacy Specialist providing intensive intervention for struggling readers. She also supported teachers through in-class coaching and school-wide staff development on assessment-driven, research supported strategies that developed teachers' content knowledge and procedural expertise in addressing the needs of diverse learners.

In 2007, Ms. Thompson received her Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Concordia University. She then served as Program Facilitator, Acting Vice Principal and Learning Director at Addams Elementary. She was actively involved in coordinating school-wide interventions, collaborating with teachers to review data and refine instructional plans; planning and facilitating parent trainings and developing partnerships with local business and community organizations to support school goals. She successfully co-wrote a \$7,000 grant from Edison International to provide Addams' with parent literacy and math nights.

Ms. Thompson has received the Golden Apple Award from the Teacher's Association of Long Beach and the Outstanding Teacher Award from the English Council of Long Beach. She is passionate about education and the success of every Lafayette child.

Lee

1620 Temple Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/494-5101 • http://lee-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/



Caroline Nemeč
Principal

Ms. Nemeč has been an educator for over 16 years having taught both elementary and middle school students. Ms. Nemeč is bilingual and lived in Pachuca, Hidalgo Mexico for three years.

When Ms. Nemeč is not working she enjoys spending time at the beach. When asked what it is like to be the Principal of Lee, Ms. Nemeč said, "The Lee Elementary School staff is totally committed to rigorous instruction leading to high academic achievement. At the same time, the entire Lee staff is able to balance the strong drive for success with a wonderful sense of fun. The teachers are extremely professional and incredible collaborators.

I am looking forward to another fun-filled successful school year."

Ms. Nemeč attended Emerson College in Boston, MA and received her Masters degree from CSULB in Educational Administration and Leadership. She is currently a resident of Long Beach.

Lakewood *High School*

4400 Briercrest Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/425-1281 • www.lblakewood.schoolloop.com/



Mario Jimenez
Co-Principal

Mr. Jimenez began his educational career as a Special Education Adapted Physical Education Specialist with the Long Beach Unified School District in June of 1981. He taught Adapted Physical Education, Physical Education; and coached Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball and Boys Volleyball. In the Fall of 1993 he was assigned to Assistant Principal of Jordan High School as a teacher on special assignment. In February of 1994, Mr. Jimenez left the LBUSD to become Assistant Principal of Valencia and Esperanza High School's in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District. He returned to the Long Beach Unified School District in July of 2007 as Principal of Jordan High School and is honored and excited to begin his new assignment as Co-Principal of Lakewood High School.

Mr. Jimenez is eager to be part of the tradition of excellence at Lakewood High School and will strive to continue to develop the successful programs and school culture that Lakewood provides its students.

Cheryl Cornejo, *Co-Principal*

Lincoln *Elementary*

1175 E. 11th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-5005 • www.lbschools.net/Lincoln/Home.html



Christi Granado
Principal

Like many educators, Christi Granado always dreamed of being a teacher. She was inspired by her great aunt, who was a teacher, and her former sixth-grade teacher, Mrs. Ross. Granado received her K-12 education in the Long Beach Unified School District. After graduating from Lakewood High School, she earned a Bachelor's Degree and teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. Four years later, she pursued a master's degree in school counseling from the University of La Verne. Still thirsting for knowledge, Granado obtained her credential in school administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Granado's teaching career began in elementary school, where she taught fifth and sixth grades. Several years later, she became an elementary school counselor, and she was soon assigned as an attendance specialist to work with students who did not attend school on a consistent basis. "Visiting students' homes gave me a very different perspective about the lives of children in our schools," Granado said. "I learned that we have to understand where students are in life before we can take them where they need to be. This gave me new insight about the true meaning of being a teacher." Her career took another turn when she was offered the opportunity to be the administrative assistant to the deputy superintendent. She quickly learned the importance of knowing how to navigate resources to help schools and children. Most of all, the job taught her that establishing positive rapport with all stakeholders of the school community is the key to success.

Granado has served as the vice principal at Roosevelt Elementary School and the principal at Tucker School, and she is currently beginning her fourth year at Lincoln Elementary School. "I am wowed by the commitment of the Lincoln staff and what they do to help students succeed," Granado noted. "Recently, I came across a quote by W. B. Yeats that reflects my thoughts about the role of educators: 'Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire.' I see my role as the one who carries the torch to keep that fire burning."



Lindbergh *Middle School*

1022 E. Market St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/422-2845 • <http://blindbergh.schoolloop.com/>



Connie Magee
Principal

Connie Magee has been with LBUSD for the last 20 years. She started her teaching career with fifth-grade students at Cubberley. She then moved to the computer lab for a year, before switching to seventh grade teaching science, English and Fine Art.

After Cubberley, Connie was a district science standards coach, working with new and experienced science teachers. She started her work in administration as an assistant principal at Franklin Middle School. She stayed at Franklin for three years and then moved to Hoover as an assistant principal. She has served as principal of Washington for the past 6 years. This year will be her first as principal of Lindbergh.

In her free time, Magee enjoys surfing, snowboarding, running, golfing, and spending time with her family. She finished her dissertation on the experiences of new principals in challenging schools, earning her doctorate in Education Administration from CSULB, May 2011.

Long Beach School for Adults

3701 E. Willow Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/595-8893 • www.lbschools.net/lbsa/



Matt Saldana
Principal

Matt Saldana, current principal at Long Beach School for Adults, is happy to announce that LBSA is now hosting a new and exciting program for high school students, call Beach High School. This program, located on the LBSA campus is designed to provide 10th grade students (11th and 12th may also attend) with an opportunity to make up credits, and return to their former high school. Along with this new program, Mr. Saldana is also responsible for the job training programs at the campus, and is very involved with the Expanding Pathway's/Linked Learning programs at the high schools.

A native of Catalina Island, Matt left the island after high school to attend community college. After completing his associate's degree at Golden West College, he attended California State University, Long Beach, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Industrial Education. He next earned a master's degree in education from La Verne College. He also has completed a certificate in school business management at the University of Southern California. In this special program, he learned the ins and outs of successful school operations-from food services to transportation.

Saldana served as the principal of Avalon's K-12 school for several years before returning to the mainland to work.

When he's not busy with his principal duties, Saldana likes to camp, fish from his boat, refurbish old cars, and refinish furniture. He holds a commercial fishing license to fish for lobster and is an avid sports man, with a special love for baseball.

Saldana and his wife, Valerie, have a blended family of five children-Yannick, 27, Cherizar, 25, Eiton, 23, Alexa, 17, and Santana, 14. As a family, they spend many of their vacations enjoying the sports and fun on Catalina, and visiting points of interest in the beautiful state of California.

Lindsey *International Studies Magnet*

5075 Daisy Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-6451



**Stephanie
Dunn-Cooper**
Principal

From the School

As our students, new and returning, arrived at school on September 8, they were warmly greeted at the gate by our principal, Stephanie Dunn-Cooper. This is Mrs. Dunn-Cooper's fourth year at Lindsey, having previously served as Cabrillo High School activities specialist, Stephens Middle School learning director and assistant principal at Hughes Middle School.

Mrs. Dunn-Cooper has a bachelor's degree from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a master's degree and administrative credential from the University of La Verne. She is a true Long Beach native, having attended local elementary, middle and high schools in our city.

When recently asked about the upcoming school year, Mrs. Dunn-Cooper enthusiastically replied, "I am looking forward to an exciting and productive 2011-12 school year. The staff and I have been collaborating and working all summer to ensure that our students are challenged and stimulated with a rigorous, interesting and meaningful curriculum starting on the first day of school. We are also looking forward to exposing more students to the International Baccalaureate methodology of learning as well as to help them become internationally minded individuals."

Longfellow *Elementary*

3800 Olive Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0308 • <http://longfellow-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Laurie Murrin
Principal

"It is with great pleasure that I begin my first year as principal of Longfellow Elementary School," said Laurie Murrin. "I have received a wonderful, warm welcome from the entire Longfellow community and have quickly learned why the Longfellow Lions are the very, very best!"

Mrs. Murrin grew up in Sierra Madre, California and moved to Long Beach 32 years ago when she married her husband, a Long Beach native and Millikan graduate. Mrs. Murrin's two children also went through LBUSD schools. After graduating from Pasadena High School, she attended the University of Southern California where she earned her bachelor's degree, teaching credential, and master's degree. She later attended the University of California, Irvine where she earned her administrative credential.

Most recently Mrs. Murrin served as principal at Lowell Elementary School for the past nine years. Prior to that she held positions at Kettering, Los Cerritos, and Newcomb in the roles of classroom teacher, technology teacher, reading specialist, program facilitator and as an administrator for the Office of Special Education. In her free time she enjoys yoga, hiking, and traveling.

Mrs. Murrin looks forward to her work with the Longfellow School Community. It is her goal to foster a strong collaborative culture in which teachers, staff and parents work together to provide each and every child the opportunity to develop his or her talents to the fullest extent possible. "I believe that every member of the school community can make a difference in the lives of our children." Mrs. Murrin looks forward to the new school year, which she knows the Longfellow School community will meet with a whole hearted commitment to teaching every child, every day.

School News



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Los Cerritos *Elementary*

515 W. San Antonio Drive, Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-6337 • <http://loscerritos-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Donald Beaver
Principal

Los Cerritos Elementary School principal Donald Beaver began his career with the Long Beach Unified School District in 1988 as a teacher at Hi-Hill Outdoor School. He then moved to John Muir Elementary School where he taught fifth grade. After being reassigned back to Hi-Hill he left the LBUSD to take a leadership role with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools. That position was as Program Supervisor for an outdoor school located in Tulare County. But Long Beach was beckoning him once more. Upon returning to LBUSD, he served as vice principal at Bret Harte Elementary School for two years before being named as principal at Naples Bayside Academy. He spent two years as principal for the District's outdoor schools at Hi-Hill and Camp Oakes and is now in his third year as principal at Los Cerritos Elementary School.

He is a Long Beach resident and graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a degree in Political Science. He completed his administrative credential and Masters program from CSULB also. Mr. Beaver has a wife, daughter, and two pet dogs. He enjoys walking the dogs, bicycle riding, hiking, and reading.

Having a highly visible and active school community at Los Cerritos is a wonderful thing says the principal. "I am looking forward to continuing all of the scholarly achievements of our Roadrunners at Los Cerritos. It should be a great year for everyone," said Mr. Beaver.

MacArthur *Elementary*

6011 Centralia Street, Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-3588 • <http://macarthur-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

Juan Gutierrez is the principal at Douglas MacArthur Elementary, home of the mighty Eagles. Mr. Gutierrez has two young, adorable boys at home and an incredible wife who takes care of them and supports her husband in everything he does. The family spends time together on early-morning runs, bike rides, walks, trips to the beach, vacations and, of course, visits to Dodger Stadium to watch a good ball game.

Mr. Gutierrez began his career in the district in the early '90s at Cleveland Elementary School as a classroom college aide. He immediately knew that teaching was what he wanted to pursue as a career, so he jumped right into the classroom as a fourth-grade bilingual teacher at Grant Elementary School. "It was like a dream come true: teaching, connecting with children, collaborating with teachers, meeting and educating parents, getting involved in school committees, and going home knowing I had touched the lives of children," Mr. Gutierrez said.

Mr. Gutierrez later pursued his master's degree and administrative school credential. Later, he was asked to join the district's office of special education as a team leader. Two years later, he joined Garfield Elementary School as vice principal. Mr. Gutierrez cites Garfield School as the place where he learned leadership and what it takes to move a school toward success.

After 14 years of working with students, parents, staff and the school community, Mr. Gutierrez still looks forward to the challenges of being an effective school leader. He said that this has not been an easy job to do, but with staff's positive energy and the phenomenal support of parents, this will be another successful year! If you're ever around town, check out our school. We welcome all who appreciate the great work we do for our children.

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Lowell Bayside *Academy*

5201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-6757 • <http://lowell-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Samuel Platis
Principal

Sam Platis is beginning his first year as principal at Lowell Elementary School. He most recently served as administrative assistant in the Middle and K-8 Schools Office in the LBUSD. At the age of 18, while in college, Mr. Platis began his work in the District as an aide at what was previously known as Tincher Elementary School. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at the University of California at San Diego, as well as his Masters in Education at the University of California at Berkeley, he returned to Long Beach to work in the school system that he grew to love. In Long Beach, Mr. Platis fondly recalls his service as a Kindergarten teacher at Jane Addams Elementary, a first grade teacher at Bixby Elementary, a categorical programs instructional facilitator at Clara Barton Elementary, a program specialist in the Office of Special Projects Services, and a vice principal at Elizabeth Hudson K-8 School.

Mr. Platis comes from a family of educators. In addition to his mother and sister, his yia-yia (grandmother, in Greek) taught at a school for orphans in post World War II Greece. Using sticks to teach language arts and rocks to teach math, her experience reminds Mr. Platis that with determination, perseverance and creativity, there are no challenges that can't be overcome.

Mr. Platis and his wife have been blessed with two loving young boys, who bring joy, clarity and perspective to their lives.

Madison *Elementary*

2801 Bomberry Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-7731 • <http://madison-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>

Armando Duenas, Principal

Armando Dueñas is beginning his second year as principal of Madison Elementary School. He served as vice-principal at Lee Elementary for the previous four years. His educational career began as a participant of the Long Beach Unified District Bilingual Internship Program. He taught bilingual and general education classes at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th grade levels, and held various positions outside the classroom such as a specialist and facilitator.

Armando grew up in San Jacinto, CA, and attended CSUSB, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts. He also attended CSUDH, where he earned a Master of Science. He is a resident of Long Beach and enjoys spending time with his family, bike riding and surfing on the weekends. Armando has two young daughters, and his wife is an educator.

Armando is excited about working in the Lakewood community. He will continue to focus on creating a culturally positive school climate where all stakeholders are given equal responsibility towards closing the achievement gap and where the focus is on high standards and on educating the whole child.



Mann *Elementary*

257 Coronado Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/439-6897 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/mann/home.html



Wanda Oliver
Principal

For the past 11 years, Wanda Oliver has been the principle of Horace Mann Elementary School. Wanda began her career as a Special Education teacher at Lowell Elementary and Rogers Middle School in Long Beach. She served as a Facilitator and Program Special in the Office of Special Education for seventeen years. During her days as a facilitator, Wanda was instrumental in developing the RSP model for LBUSD and the procedures for implementing PL-94-142. In addition, Wanda served on various curriculum committees and task forces. After leaving the field of special education, Wanda was assigned to Jane Addams

Elementary School as Vice Principal where she served for two and a half years. Her next stop was Webster Elementary School where she was the principal for four years.

Wanda grew up in Los Angeles, California and attended California State University Los Angeles, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Child Development and a Masters of Arts Degree in Learning Handicapped, and various teaching credentials. Wanda enjoys spending time with her family, reading, working in various church activities, and watching or attending sports activities. Wanda is married and has two adult daughters.

Wanda is excited about the growth that Horace Mann has achieved and looks forward to continuing to work with the parents and Bluff Heights community members. The theme this year is Teamwork Makes the Dream Work—by John Maxwell. Wanda believes that the theme will become reality with the continued support of all of their stakeholders.

McKinley *Elementary*

6822 N. Paramount Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/630-6200 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/mckinley/index.htm



David Taylor
Principal

Returning for his second year as principal at McKinley Elementary School, David Taylor has worked in LBUSD for 18 years. In years past he was principal at Franklin Classical Middle School and Tucker Elementary School and vice principal at Whittier Elementary School. Earlier in his career in Long Beach, he worked in the district office as an Assistant Director of Special Projects Services and as a Program Specialist in the Program Assistance for Language Minority Students – PALMS Office.

Mr. Taylor taught first grade and kindergarten in the Spanish transitional bilingual program at Florence Avenue Elementary School in the late 1980s in Los Angeles Unified School District.

Prior to working in K-12 education, he worked briefly in international banking as a loan officer for the now defunct Security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles. He was born in Pasadena, California in the time of rotary telephones and ice boxes, and attended public school in Pasadena and Altadena California. He's a graduate of the University of Southern California where he majored in History and took many Philosophy classes too. While teaching in Los Angeles, he attended California State University, Los Angeles, where he received his bilingual teaching credential, and got his Masters in Educational Administration at California State University Long Beach – Go Beach!

He is married and has children who attended LBUSD schools – a daughter, a Wilson and Columbia College graduate, and a son, a Poly graduate, who is a freshman at the University of San Francisco.

A resident of Lakewood, Mr. Taylor is active at his parish church, St. Pancratius, and enjoys an occasional game of racquetball, tennis, and golf.

Marshall *Academy of the Arts*

5870 E. Wardlow Road, Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/429-7013 • http://lbmarshall.schoolloop.com



Michael Navia
Principal

It was Michael Navia's experience as a college aide at Marshall Middle School in 1990 that solidified his love of teaching. Before that, his goal was to become a university communications professor.

"I got to experience firsthand the rewards of teaching, and I got to learn from some of the best teachers at Marshall, including Kathy Cruz and Kevin Maddox," Navia said. "I will never forget what an encouraging person Mark Zahn was as a facilitator. He encouraged all of his college aides to go into teaching."

Navia became a substitute teacher in the district and other neighboring districts while he studied English and earned his teaching credential at California State University, Long Beach. He went back to Marshall, this time as an English teacher, in 1992. Navia's additional duties included coaching basketball and football and being a disc jockey for school dances. "I loved every minute of every day at Marshall," Navia noted.

After earning his master's degree and administrative credential from the University of La Verne, Navia became the assistant principal at Hoover Middle School. "I was a little nervous, but the Hoover community was so welcoming, and all of them wanted the best for the students," Navia said. "I learned a lot from them and still call them from time to time for advice."

In 2000, Navia was promoted to principal at Cubberley School. "It was a tough transition at first because I was so young. Luckily I had such a wonderful and professional staff and a supportive family that carried me through the first few years," Navia said. "The parents, staff and students at Cubberley are truly dedicated to success for all students."

Last fall, Navia returned to his roots to become principal at Marshall. "It's like the American dream, starting as a college aide here and eventually being assigned as principal. The staff here is incredible and so dedicated to our kids and community."

In September of this year, Marshall opened as Marshall Academy of the Arts. With a lot of hard work and effort from so many people, Marshall has become a visual and performing arts school adding chorus, drama, dance and video production to the elective choices.

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Millikan *High School*

2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/425-7441 • www.lbmillikan.schoolloop.com/



Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo
Principal

By *Katie Hickox, QUEST English Teacher*

Parents and other visitors to Millikan High School frequently comment on the open door to the left hand side of our high school's lobby. Our principal, Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo, always seems to have time for a word with teachers, students, and parents. This is no easy feat in a campus with more than 4,000 students, but he makes it look that way. Dr. Cornejo's administrative team put Millikan "on the move," earning our school rising test scores and recognition from *Newsweek* magazine's annual tally of top high schools.

Here is the "word" on our chief Ram. Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo has deep academic roots in Long Beach. With three children active in community sports and schools, and a position running Ram High, Dr. Cornejo can often be seen cheering in the sidelines of local athletic events. An enthusiastic supporter of Milli-Can, Millikan's award-winning club targeting at-risk students, Dr. Cornejo brings unique experience to the campus through his work as a Long Beach coach, teacher, administrator, and parent. Dr. Cornejo earned his doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of La Verne in 2000, and obtained a masters degree in Educational Administration from Cal State Long Beach in 1991. An English major at CSULB, Dr. Cornejo earned both a bachelor's degree and a teaching credential at "The Beach." He is a graduate of Saint Anthony High School and Saint Maria Goretti Elementary School. He kicked off his teaching career in 1984 as a reading teacher in Barstow, California at Kennedy Middle School. Later, he transferred to Apple Valley High School in Apple Valley, California. He enjoyed a stint as an English teacher and a junior varsity wrestling coach. In 1988, Dr. Cornejo joined Long Beach Unified School District as a reading teacher at Franklin Middle School. He became an assistant principal at Millikan in 1991, and became principal of Reid High School in 2000. A designer and implementer of the Renaissance Career Academy, Dr. Cornejo returned to Millikan as co-principal in 2002.

Dr. Cornejo met his wife, the former Cheryl Shultz, at Franklin. She is a co-principal at Lakewood High School. They are the proud parents of Zachary, Kaitlin, and Nicholas. In addition to their school and sports activities, the Cornejo family enjoys camping, traveling, and their membership at Saint Cyprian's Catholic Church.



Monica Daley
Principal of
Instruction

Dressed in Millikan gear and khaki pants, Monica Daley, our Principal of Instruction, seems to inspire school spirit in nearly every campus activity and classroom. Whether she's supporting our cheerleading squad by wearing their blue and gold t-shirt or visiting classrooms to support instruction with an upbeat note, Ms. Daley shows her Ram pride every day.

With 15 years as principal of Hughes Middle School and Newcomb Academy, Ms. Daley has deep roots in the community as a resident and educator. She has the unique advantage of working with former students and staff as well as Rams new to her.

Her career in Long Beach schools spans 34 years. She came to the district as a teacher's aide at Burnett Elementary School in 1976. While working as a classroom aide on weekdays and a ticket seller at Disneyland on weekends, Ms. Daley earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at California State University, Long Beach. After graduation and then student teaching at Kettering Elementary, she began her teaching career at Starr King Elementary School. After five years teaching third and fifth grades at King, she accepted a transfer to Kettering Elementary School and another fifth grade teaching position.

Although she enjoyed her years in the classroom, she became interested in school administration. She earned her master's degree in educational administration from CSULB. After accepting a temporary position as an administrative assistant in the District Superintendent's office, she worked as a program specialist in the Assistant Superintendent's office.

While both of these opportunities allowed her to develop knowledge of the "workings" of the district, she was anxious to get back to a school site where she could continue her work with students, teachers, and parents. In 1995, she was assigned as principal of Newcomb Academy where she enjoyed eight years. She was principal of Hughes Middle School for seven years.

Now in her second year at Millikan, Ms. Daley seems to own a shirt or sweat-shirt from nearly every academy, club, or sport on campus. She is proud to see Millikan once again lead the district in its percentage of improvement as measured by the Academic Performance Index. As student test scores on the California Standards Test have placed Millikan among Long Beach's top high schools, Ms. Daley has also focused on supporting our Advanced Placement program, where many of her former Hughes and Newcomb students now prepare for college.

Pleased that our two Small Learning Communities, PEACE and COMPASS, earned Career Technical Education certification, Ms. Daley is now assisting all campus SLCS in an effort to make our teaching linked students' career and college aspirations. Truly it is Millikan that is fortunate to have such a "spirited" Principal of Instruction!

Monroe *(K-8)*

4400 Ladoga Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/429-8911 • http://lbmonroe.schoolloop.com/



Mark Curran
Principal

Mark Curran is in his second year as principal at Monroe K – 8 School. He has been an administrator in the Long Beach Unified School District for many years. He served as vice-principal at Tincher Preparatory Academy, a principal apprentice at Colin Powell Academy, and an assistant-principal at Jefferson Middle School. Mr. Curran was a teacher in LBUSD for 19 years. He taught at elementary, middle and K-8 schools. Mr. Curran represented LBUSD as a Teacher of the Year recipient in 1990. He was also a mentor teacher for the district.

Mark Curran grew up in Southern California and earned his Bachelor of Arts and teaching credential at California State University Long Beach. He completed his Masters degree in Educational Administration at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Mark Curran has made his home in the city of Long Beach. He is married with four children, who all attended LBUSD schools. He enjoys running, going to the beach, and spending time with his four grandchildren.

Mark Curran is looking forward to having a wonderful year working with the staff, students, and parents at Monroe School. His goal is for all Monroe students to have an outstanding educational experience and continue to work together with the Monroe community.

Muir *Academy*

3038 Delta Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/426-5571 • http://www.lbmuir.schoolloop.com/



Lori Clark
Principal

Lori Clark is beginning her first year as the principal of Muir Academy. Previously, she was the principal of Jefferson Leadership Academies for five years, the principal of Minnie Gant Elementary for two, and Buffum elementary for four years. Lori was also the Vice Principal of Mary Butler School for three years and an administrative assistant to Karen De Vries in the Area B office for one year.

Her classroom experience includes three years at Burnett Elementary where she taught fourth and fifth grade EXCEL and for years at Mary McCleod Bethune School, the transitional program for homeless students in the LBUSD. At Bethune, she taught grades K-8 in a one-room schoolhouse setting when the program was housed in the Catholic Charities Family Homeless Shelter. She found it to be one of the most unusual and rewarding experiences of her professional life.

Lori grew up in Laguna Beach, CA, and attended Willamette University in Salem, OR, where she earned her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance. She sang professionally for eight years while working on her teaching credential at CSULB. She later received her Masters degree in School Counseling at University of La Verne.

Naples Bayside Academy

5537 The Toledo, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-0489 • <http://naples-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/>



Elizabeth Flynn
Principal

Miss Flynn is excited about being the new Principal of Naples Bayside Academy and is looking forward to working with the active Naples community.

"I love Naples Bayside Academy", says Miss Flynn, "Naples has a great combination of dedicated and involved parents, stellar teachers and bright students that are excited about learning." Naples school has a small town feel where you know every child. It has a private school feel in a public setting. Miss Flynn is working closely with the Naples PTA and Foundation to ensure that children have a lower class size and a state of the art educational experience that ensures that students are ready for college and a great future. Miss Flynn is dedicated to continuing to offer a variety of unique events and daily programs to keep children involved, engaged and excited about learning. Miss Flynn was amazed at the wonderful academic growth in test scores this year. She is proud of Naples Distinguished School Title.

In her spare time Miss Flynn enjoys playing tennis and sailing. She is an avid reader and she plays classical guitar. She likes to travel throughout the world. She has taken a safari in Africa and excavated bones with Doctor Leaky. She has lived with a Japanese family in Japan where she helped prepare a traditional Japanese wedding and once got stranded on a desert island near Java. Traveling and experiencing different cultures helps you think and problem solve in different ways. She uses those problem solving skills everyday.

Miss Flynn is excited about working with all members of the wonderful Naples community in building positive school experiences for their children.

Newcomb Academy (K-8)

3351 Val Verde Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/493-3596 • <http://lbnewcomb.schoolloop.com/>



Gray Lange Jr.
Principal

Starting his fifth year as a principal and his first year as principal at Newcomb Academy, Gray Lange is exactly where he wants to be. After his service in the U.S. Army, he moved to Long Beach to attend California State University, Long Beach and obtained a bachelor's degree in business finance. He worked for a number of years in sales and marketing management for several national firms and traveled extensively throughout the United States. As a result of parenting demands, Mr. Lange left the corporate world and started his own company in Long Beach, which is being run today by the oldest of his five sons, all of whom are Long Beach Unified School District graduates.

Lange's education background started as a substitute teacher for the Long Beach Unified School District. He enjoyed substituting so much that he went on to complete his teaching credential, a master's degree in technology and education, and an administrative services credential. Gray Lange taught science and math at Marshall and Lindbergh Middle Schools before becoming an administrator nine years ago. "I still miss the classroom and the interaction with students," Lange noted. "However, being the principal at a K-8 school has been my goal, and I feel really fortunate and proud to be the principal at Newcomb. I am looking forward to a fantastic year working with the students, staff and parents of the Newcomb community."

Polytechnic High School

1600 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-0581 • <http://lbpoly.schoolloop.com/>



Victor Jarels
Principal

After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley, Victor Jarels moved to Long Beach, California, and fell in love with it immediately. Victor started his teaching career at Jordan High School in 1990, was then a Dean of Students at Narbonne High School in 1994 and returned to Long Beach Unified in 1996, where he plans to stay. During his career, Victor has been a Social Studies Teacher, Football Coach, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal and Principal. Victor was fortunate enough to be given the chance to open the Jordan Freshman Academy and to be the Principal of the recently closed Hi Hill Outdoor School. Those were two very special opportunities for him and he treasures them both. Victor is married to Terri Jarels who is the Principal at Cubberly, and has two exceptional step daughters in both Noelle and Vanessa.

Victor cherishes being the Principal at Long Beach Poly. It truly is an exceptional high school that has outstanding students, a tremendously hardworking staff and a long tradition of dedicated community participation. Once a Jackrabbit, always a Jackrabbit!!



Joseph Carlson
Principal of Instruction

Long Beach Poly Co-Principal Joe Carlson graduated from St. John Bosco, Long Beach City College, and CSULB. He is married to Long Beach Jordan Head Counselor, Debbie Hughes. Joe has two children, stepson Jeff Montooth, who teaches Government and Economics at Poly, and daughter, Katie, who teaches 1st Grade at St. Marks Catholic School in Alta Loma. In addition, his family includes daughter-in-law Amy, a Biology teacher at Poly High School, and four year-old grandson, Ben. Joe spent his first 16 years in LBUSD at Long Beach Poly, where he taught a variety of subjects, served as Activities Director for two years, was Boys' Athletic Director and Dean for the PACE, CIC, and PacRim programs for a decade, and concluded with a year as Assistant Principal. While at Poly, he also coached the Girls' Cross Country team and the Track team distance squad for fifteen years. In 2008, Joe began a three year stint as Principal of Avalon Schools on Santa Catalina Island.

Before working for LBUSD, Carlson's employment history includes 10 years as Long Beach Marathon Executive Director, four years as the managing partner of a running store in Belmont Shore, as well as teaching and coaching at LBCC, CSULB, and the Anaheim Union High School District. Joe looks forward to partnering with Co-Principal Victor Jarels in supporting the Long Beach Poly students and staff over the coming years. He enjoys Poly's diversity, and he awaits the opportunity to contribute to its long history of academic, athletic, and creative achievement.



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Powell *Academy*

150 Victoria St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 310/631-8794 • <http://lbpowell.schoolloop.com/>



Wendy Claffin
Principal

Mrs. Claffin is pleased to serve as the principal at the Colin Powell Academy for Success. Mrs. Claffin completed her Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Manitoba, Canada. After teaching in a K-8 school located on the land of the Reindeer people in northern Manitoba, Mrs. Claffin moved to Long Beach. While teaching at Hudson Elementary School, Mrs. Claffin completed her Masters in Education Administration at Cal State University – Long Beach and graduated magna cum laude with special recognition on the Graduate Dean's List of University Scholars and Artists. She then served as a program facilitator and grant coordinator at Washington Middle School. Mrs. Claffin completed her 2nd Tier in Administration at the University of LaVerne. During this time, she served as vice-principal; first at Whittier Elementary School and then later at Barton Elementary School. After assisting with a special project coordinated through the Offices of the Superintendent, Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development, and the PALMS Office, Mrs. Claffin returned to Hudson to serve as the principal before coming to Powell.

Mrs. Claffin recently celebrated her 26th wedding anniversary and is looking forward to planning her son's 7th birthday celebration. She is an avid reader and loves riddles, poems, and mathematical puzzles. Her favorite riddle right now: How come the gingerbread boy didn't have any friends? Because he had a crummy attitude. Powell students soar to success because they have a great attitude and great attendance which leads to great academic success. Mrs. Claffin is proud to be a Powell Eagle. Go Eagles!

Renaissance *High School for the Arts*

235 East 8th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/901-0168, Ext. 7233 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Renaissance/



Mark Zahn
Principal

As founding principal for Long Beach Renaissance High School for the Arts, Mark Zahn has focused the vision, designed curriculum, and developed a school culture that enhances the quality of life of the students, their families, and the community. At Renaissance Arts, creative teachers promote positive social change and continual improvement in student achievement scores.

In 1971, Zahn was hired by Robert Ellis, the principal at Hughes Junior High School, as a college aide. Zahn quickly realized that teaching is a performing art, and education is an institution that makes a positive impact on society. A graduate of California State University, Long Beach with a major in philosophy, he started teaching in 1973 and spent seven years at Whittier, King and Addams Elementary Schools. In the classroom, he developed effective lessons and used data to measure student achievement. He returned to Hughes Junior High School from 1981-1988. Collaborating with a group of talented teachers and using art to motivate learning, the arts faculty at Hughes implemented interdisciplinary projects, which included teachers in history, English, visual arts, home economics and theater. The results were 27 plays in seven years. Productions of "Black Elk Speaks" and "1984" seamlessly crossed over into many core curricula. Leaving the classroom in the late 1980s with a master's degree in educational administration, Zahn helped strengthen the curriculum of the Alternative to Gang Membership program at all middle schools in the district. Economic times were hard, gang violence was rising, and families were struggling to survive. In 1990, he was assigned to Marshall Middle School as a Title I/English Language Development facilitator and became versed in federal and state categorical funding rules and regulations. After 36 years, he still enjoys working with teachers who provide instruction that is rigorous and relevant. Zahn has been an administrator for 18 years and an assistant principal for 10 years at Jefferson and De Mille Middle Schools and Millikan High School. His first semester as a principal at Millikan opened with the 9/11 World Trade Center attack. From 2002 to present, he has transformed a struggling urban high school into a premier arts institute. At Long Beach Renaissance High School for the Arts, "Success is an Art."

Prisk *Elementary*

2375 Fanwood Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-9601 • <http://prisk-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Cindy Young
Principal

By Marybeth Murray, Teacher – Prekindergarten

Cynthia Young is a dynamic educator and administrator with a great deal of experience in the academic community. Currently serving as the principal at Prisk Elementary School, Young has previous experience, including serving as Program Administrator of Strategic Planning and New Principal Support for the district, where she provided K-12 classroom and administrative training in Baldrige Continuous Improvement Strategies and developed the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) strategic plan, as well as a balanced score card for the district and seven pilot schools.

Before that, she served as the director of Emerson Parkside Academy, where she worked tirelessly with the teachers to ensure the success of the school and brought \$650,000 in grant funding in just three years. Academic success is priority for the students at Prisk, and this coming school year will continue to bring growing academic success.

For the 2011-2012 school year, Prisk's overall goals are to make a five-percent gain across all academic areas, with a concentration on writing. "Teacher collaboration and data analysis are very important components of my work and work beliefs," Young shared. "We will work closely with district writing efforts to examine our current program, make the necessary modifications, and implement the adapted program with the support of continued staff development." Young believes that education is about ongoing, continuous improvement, thinking outside the box, looking at each child as an individual, and doing whatever it takes to meet each student's individual needs. Young encourages teachers and support staff members to accept the challenges posed by the current economic climate and meet them head on with innovative strategies that will ensure every student becomes successful to the maximum extent possible.

Reid *High School*

2153 West Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/989-2098 • www.lbschools.net/reid/Home.html

Barbara Lindholm, Principal

Riley *Elementary*

3319 Sandwood St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-9595 • <http://riley-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Stacy Sanchez
Principal

Stacy Sanchez said that for the last five years, it has been an honor and a privilege to work with the Riley students, staff, parents and community. "All members of the Riley staff continue to demonstrate the utmost professionalism and expertise in the field of education," Sanchez said. "The sense of teamwork amongst all members of the staff, parents, and community is part of the reason we continue to grow as a school site." Even though our district and state are in tough budget times, Riley continues to utilize all available resources to ensure academic success for all! Student success in all areas is Sanchez's highest priority. Riley's Academic

Performance Index (API) continues to grow and test scores continue to improve because of the hard work and dedication of teachers, staff, students and parents.

Sanchez returned to Riley in February 2006. Previously, she had been a kindergarten, first-grade and fourth-grade teacher; literacy specialist; vice principal; and Reading First Administrator for the district office. Her return to Riley, where she was formerly the vice principal, was joyous; she said that it truly felt like she was coming home! She has had a fantastic journey in all her roles in the Long Beach Unified School District. Sanchez is dedicated and committed to Riley, and to her husband and two young daughters. "They give me the strength and inspiration to be the best I can be," she said. "I am devoted to my family, and ensuring they are happy, healthy and successful as well! Sanchez looks forward to yet another wonderful year with many reasons to celebrate!

Robinson Academy

2750 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/492-6003 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/robinson



Dr. Damita Myers-Miller
Principal

The mission to teach was not always a clear and concise path to follow. It was through the day-to-day interactions in the schools as a motivational counselor to at-risk youth at Gompers Secondary in San Diego Unified School District that Damita Myers realized her mission to become a teacher. The duties and responsibilities of counseling middle school youth who had been labeled “at-risk” underachievers, lacking in self-esteem and confidence in school, helped her come to the realization that she needed to become a change agent within the schools by being the needed African-American role model and teacher who could understand the students’ needs and develop them for the future.

As a classroom teacher, Damita was committed, motivated and had a true desire to develop and nurture minds. She wanted her students to leave with a positive self-image about themselves and their connections within society at large. “My days as a classroom teacher often made me think about the various ways in which I could assist in building the educational capacity of my students to assist them in becoming productive members of society,” Damita stated. Although she loved teaching and helping young people, she began to feel she could affect more lives—both students and their parents—in an administrative role. Damita’s duties as a school district administrator have afforded her varied experiences and a clear understanding of the operations of the school system. Her positions have included: activities director, summer school principal, vice principal of a K-8 school, acting principal and administrative assistant to the elementary superintendent. “It is an honor to serve in America’s Best Urban School District—Long Beach Unified, and serve as the principal for the students of Robinson K-8,” Damita said.

Roosevelt

1574 Linden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-1888 • http://roosevelt-lbusd.ca.schoolloop.com/



Dr. Christopher Lund
Principal

Dr. Christopher Lund received his B.A. from Northwestern University in 1991. He began his career in education with Teach for America working in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Lund worked as an elementary school teacher and coordinator before receiving his M.S. in Administration from Pepperdine University. He completed his doctorate at the University of Southern California, completing his dissertation on minority and low-SES achievement in charter schools.

Dr. Lund has been recognized by the City Terrace Coordinating Council, the Fordham Institute and the Broad Foundation for his leadership in education and his improvement of student achievement. Dr. Lund also served as a principal fellow with the Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh. He has served as a principal for 12 years in Los Angeles and Long Beach Unified is also a professor in the Doctoral Leadership Program at Pepperdine University.

Rogers Middle School

365 Monrovia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/434-7411 • www.lbrogers.schoolloop.com/



Tom Huff
Principal

Tom Huff, the current principal at Rogers Middle School, grew up in Long Beach and attended Emerson Elementary School and Stanford Junior High School and graduated from Millikan High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Whittier College and a master’s degree from Pepperdine University. Huff began his teaching career at the elementary level and has worked as an elementary vice principal, a middle school vice principal and an elementary principal. He has been in the Long Beach Unified School District for 37 years and has seen numerous changes in education over the years. “

As a school administrator, I believe there is no greater adventure than the individual path to knowledge and understanding,” Huff noted. “The real joy of the job comes from knowing that, as educators, we can and we do make a difference in children’s lives.”

Signal Hill Elementary

2285 Walnut Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8170 • http://signalhill-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/



Lauren Price
Principal

We are pleased to present the principal of Signal Hill Elementary School, Lauren K. Price! Mrs. Price is beginning her second year at Signal Hill and is looking forward to continuing the tradition of high levels of student achievement! Mrs. Price was born in Los Angeles to two public school educators. She graduated from a public High School in LAUSD and is a definite believer that students in public schools are capable of receiving an extremely high quality education!

Immediately after graduating high school, she left California to attend Spelman College in Atlanta. After receiving her B.A. in English, she joined up with Teach for America, a national teaching corps dedicated to placing teachers in communities with teacher shortages. Needless to say, Mrs. Price feels extremely grateful to have been placed in LBUSD! She began her teaching career at Bret Harte Elementary, where she spent 12 years teaching in various grade levels and as a reading specialist and program facilitator. Mrs. Price decided to pursue an administrative credential and went on to become vice principal at Newcomb Academy, where she remained for one year before being promoted to principal at Los Cerritos Elementary. After four wonderful years at Los Cerritos, Mrs. Price arrived at Signal Hill, ready to tackle a new challenge with great enthusiasm.

During her spare time, Mrs. Price enjoys spending time with her husband, two soccer-playing children and their 3-year old Siberian Husky, Layla. She loves to read, and is a member of a book club for ladies that meets every month! She is looking forward to an exciting and productive year with her students and their families!

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Stanford *Middle School*

5871 E. Los Arcos St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/594-9793 • www.lbstanford.schoolloop.com



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

Like many other Long Beach Unified School District principals, Kathleen Cruz was born and raised in Long Beach. She began her academic career at Burbank Elementary School and, after attending St. Matthew's Elementary, spent one year at Jefferson Middle School and graduated from Wilson High School. She enrolled at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) and majored in journalism, thinking she would pursue a career in public relations or newspapers. During her junior year, however, an assignment in a high school English classroom changed her direction.

Cruz graduated from CSULB, completed her student teaching, and accepted her first position as an English and journalism teacher at Montebello High School in the Montebello Unified School District. After completing her reading specialist credential and earning a master's degree in reading, she began teaching reading to struggling high school students. During her 15 years at Montebello High, she taught ninth through 12th-graders, operated a computer lab focusing on language arts, oversaw programs and testing for second-language learners, and managed site state and federal budgets as a project director.

In 1996, Cruz sought a job closer to home and was hired as a facilitator at Marshall Middle School. She returned to CSULB for her administrative credential and was soon appointed as vice principal at Marshall. In 2003, she was transferred to Stanford Middle School as a learning director.

Cruz has been married for 29 years to Joe Cruz, also a Wilson HS alumnus. They have three children, Brendan, Caitlin and Peter all alumni from LBUSD schools as well. Cruz appreciates the support of a strong Stanford community. "We have a creative, hard working teaching staff, support personnel who allow us to concentrate on academics, students whose focused efforts have resulted in award winning sports teams, decorated vocal and instrumental music groups and an amazing academic tradition, and families who support us in every way they're able."

Twain *Elementary*

5021 E. Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8421 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/twain/home.html



Ellen Ryan
Principal

Since August of 2007 Ellen Ryan has had the honor of serving as Principal of Twain Elementary School. She absolutely loves being the principal at Twain and can't wait until school starts again so she can get her hugs and big smiles from her students. She has been employed with the Long Beach Unified School District for 14 years. She began as a Home Economics teacher at Hamilton Middle School in 1991. In 2000, Ellen headed to Hill Classical Middle School. For one year, she was the Intervention Specialist, assisting struggling students. The following year she became Assistant Principal.

Besides her experiences in Long Beach, she also taught Home Economics in high schools and middle schools back east in New Jersey and Maryland. Her expertise is Home Economics is cooking. For a short stint, she took a corporate job and landed the position of National Educational Sales and Marketing Representative for SHARP Electronics. Ellen earned her Bachelor's of Arts from Montclair State University in New Jersey and her Master's Degree from California State University Long Beach in Educational Administration.

In her free time, Ellen enjoys lots of outdoor activities like going to the beach, stand up paddle boarding, boogie boarding, diving, racquetball and jogging. To relax, she has long coffee sessions with friends, cooks, and spends time with her dog, Miso.

Stephens *Middle School*

1830 W. Columbia St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-0841 • http://lbstephens.schoolloop.com/



Diane Prince
Principal

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I start the 2011 school year at Stephens Middle School. I look forward to returning to the middle school level, to work with the dedicated teaching, support staff and parents at Stephens, who go the extra mile for "all" students to achieve their best academically and behaviorally.

My career with Long Beach Unified School District began in 1990, as a teacher, then as a specialist and now as an administrator. I received my Bachelor of Science degree, teaching credentials and Masters of Science from California State University Fullerton. Dr. Seuss wrote *All the Places You Will Go*, well for me-there is nothing more exhilarating than going to school everyday. New to the administrative team at Stephens this year are Assistant Principal-Hugo Figueroa and Assistant Principal-Susan Laffiche, who join Counselor-Keisha Scott.

Stevenson *Elementary*

515 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/437-0407 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/stevenson



David Zaid
Principal

Prior to becoming the principal at Stevenson, David Zaid served the Long Beach Unified School District as a college aide, teacher, specialist, facilitator, program specialist in Special Projects, and administrative assistant in the Elementary Office.

David Zaid is a product of Long Beach and graduated from Poly's CIC program and Cal State Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He went on to pursue a Masters in Education Administration and has received a variety of awards including Educator of the Year in April, 2011 by the 100 Black Men of Long Beach.

More than his accomplishments, David Zaid would like you to know that he intends to lead with the listening ears of a friend, the skillful and dedicated hands of a teacher, the nurturing heart of a parent, and the sincere desire to educate, empower, and inspire. He has an innate ability to see obstacles as opportunities and he believes that similar to an artichoke, you can peel away adversity and discover genius at the heart of students. He believes in the ability of children, he believes in the power of education, and he believes in this community and city. Mr. Zaid believes that principals are the heartbeat of the school and it takes vision, commitment, courage, and resilience to lead and support the personal and intellectual success of every student every day.

Tincher *Preparatory School*

1701 Petaluma Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/493-2636 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/tincher/home.html



Dr. Kelly An
Principal

Kelly An, Ed.D. has been employed with the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) for many years and has served in many capacities. She has been a college aide, a teacher for LBUSD, an assistant principal at Jackie Robinson Academy and principal at Holmes Elementary. She is currently the principal of Tincher Preparatory School.

Kelly earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies and her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from California State University, Long Beach. She completed her doctoral studies in organizational leadership in 2005 at the University of La Verne. Her doctoral dissertation was entitled, "A Study of Factors Contributing to Job Satisfaction Among Administrators of Regional Occupational Centers and Programs in California."

Kelly looks forward to working alongside the students, staff and community of Tincher as they implement various programs which support the personal and intellectual success of every student every day. She credits her career success to the many wonderful LBUSD students, who provided the impetus and motivation to succeed through their unending quest for growth and achievement.

Washington *Middle School*

1450 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-2434 • <http://lbwashington.schoolloop.com/>



Shivaun Williams
Principal

Shivaun Williams spent the first 10 years of her career in elementary school. There she developed skills in working with at risk learners. As a classroom teacher and as an administrator Shivaun was able to work directly with students as well as work with new and struggling teachers. In 2005 she made the move to middle school and found that she enjoyed working with adolescents and preparing them for high school. Still working with at-risk learners, she is committed to providing opportunities to her students regardless of the obstacles. She is very excited about her move to Washington and is looking forward to working with the Washington Community.

In her free time Shivaun enjoys spending time with her three children and reading. She has a Masters in Educational Administration and holds an administrative credential from California State University Dominguez Hills.

Whittier *Elementary*

1761 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-6263 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/whittier/



Edward Garcia
Principal

I'm very excited to begin my eighth year as Whittier's Principal. Whittier is very fortunate to have a staff of caring and dedicated teachers and support staff. My early years were spent in the South Bay. For most of my elementary years, I attended Eshelmen Avenue Elementary School in Lomita. My family moved to Long Beach during my sixth grade year. I attended Hughes Junior High School and Lakewood High School. After high school I moved on to Long Beach City College, where I earned an AA Degree in Liberal Studies. I then attended CSU Dominguez Hills where I earned a Bachelors in Liberal Studies, a Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, and a Masters in Curriculum/Teaching. I earned my Administrative Credential at CSULB.

My career in the Long Beach Unified School District began shortly after I graduated from high school. I worked as a college aide at John Muir School. During my time at Muir, I learned a lot about teaching from the great teachers I worked for. My teaching career began as a student teacher at Stevenson and Whittier Schools. After finishing student teaching, I spent seven years as a fifth grade teacher at Bryant School. After I left Bryant, I spent three years as a fourth grade teacher at Alvarado School. After Alvarado, my next assignment took me to Burnett, where I spent two years as vice principal. This year, I begin my eighth year as Whittier's principal. The teachers, support staff, and parents make Whittier a great place for kids.

I come from a family of LBUSD employees. Shout out to my mom, Billie Jo Garcia, who has worked for Nutrition Services for over 30 years! She currently serves as Burnett's Cafeteria Supervisor.

Willard *Elementary*

1055 Freeman Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/438-9934 • www.lbschools.net/willard/



Kevin Maddox
Principal

Willard Elementary School Principal Kevin Maddox started in Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) as a sixth-grade teacher at Bixby Elementary School and later MacArthur Elementary School. He then moved to Marshall Middle school as a reading specialist. Maddox's next step was as a program facilitator, overseeing two multi-organizational grants involving LBUSD, the Long Beach Police Department and the Long Beach District Attorney's Office. He next was assigned to help open Jackie Robinson Academy. After a year at Robinson, Maddox was promoted to vice principal. In 1997 he left LBUSD to work in the Antelope Valley as a middle school assistant principal and elementary school principal. He returned to LBUSD in 2003 and was assigned as principal to Webster Elementary. In 2009, he moved to Willard Elementary.

Webster *Elementary*

1755 W. 32nd Way, Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-6568



Maria Martinez
Principal

At Webster, we are excited and ready for the new school year! We are looking forward to continued growth and success, and we are eager to jump into the 2011-2012 school year with our returning school leader, Ms. Martinez.

Before coming to Webster, Ms. Martinez served as Principal Apprentice at Signal Hill. Prior to her service at Signal Hill, Ms. Martinez served as Vice Principal at two LBUSD Elementary schools, Edison and Lincoln. She has also served as a Cotsen Mentor, Literacy/Math Specialist, and a classroom teacher. She is passionate about education and enjoys watching every child grow and succeed, both academically and socially.

Ms. Martinez states that she is "delighted to continue to work with our Webster community to achieve remarkable results." The Webster community is excited to have her here! She brings much knowledge and experience with her and together, we will continue to work towards academic achievement for all students!

Wilson *Classical High School*

4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/433-0481 • <http://lbwilson.schoolloop.com/>



Sandy Blazer
Principal

Sandy Blazer was born and raised in Long Beach and attended Long Beach schools. She began her career in Long Beach Unified School District in the fall of 1994. In her first 11 years in the district, she served as principal of Minnie Gant Elementary School, principal of Stanford Middle School, Director of General and Special Education Services, and Co-Principal of Wilson High School. Following Wilson, she was named Chief Academic Officer of Green Dot Public Schools in Los Angeles and New York City. After four years with Green Dot she has returned "home" to serve once again as Co-Principal of Wilson High School in 2009. Sandy lives in Long Beach with her daughter Tayler, a freshman at Wilson, and her son Scott, a 7th grader at Rogers.



Gonzalo Moraga
Principal of Instruction

As I begin my first year as Principal of Instruction at Wilson High School, I'm very thankful for the opportunity, and proud to work in the Long Beach Unified School District. I'm also very fortunate to return to my Alma Mater and help lead Wilson, along with an outstanding staff, on a path of academic success and student achievement.

My journey with LBSUD started when I arrived from Chile at the age of 13 and enrolled at Hughes Jr. High. I went on to graduate from Wilson High School and then continued my education at CSULB. I received my Bachelor's, Master's and teaching credential degrees from CSULB. I started working for LBUSD in 1985 as a college aide at DeMille Middle School, and went on to teach History and Spanish at Hill Middle School. I continued my work as a Facilitator at Webster Elementary and moved to an administrative position at Franklin Middle School in 1997. I was Vice-Principal at Signal Hill Elementary until 2003 when I became Principal at Stevenson Elementary School. I enjoy working with students, teachers and the community. I'm a strong believer in our public schools, and know that education is the way to reach the American Dream.

On a personal level I have two daughters enrolled in LBUSD schools and my wife is a professor at Loyola Marymount University. I love to travel, study about history, restore antiques, watch soccer, watch the Lakers, and spend time with my family.

Four for Four



F. King Alexander
President

U.S. News & World Report has ranked California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) the fourth best public regional university in the western United States in its 2012 edition of "America's Best Colleges Guide."

It is the fourth consecutive year CSULB has been ranked fourth best public university in the West, a region that includes 13 states from Texas to California to Washington and includes Alaska and Hawaii.

"In spite of these difficult fiscal times, Cal State Long Beach continues to deliver the quality education and service that captures the attention of *U.S. News & World Report*. Our attention to the economic concerns of our students and their parents is also reflected in the university's rank as fifth in the west in terms of least debt load upon graduation, which makes us very proud," said CSULB President F. King Alexander. "These rankings reflect the hard work and dedication to our students that are demonstrated by faculty and staff every day at Cal State Long Beach."

In the "Least Debt" category, CSULB ranked fifth lowest among regional universities in the west with 38 percent of its graduates leaving the campus with an average debt of \$10,787. The campus' average debt load of \$10,787 ranked 11th lowest in the nation among all regional universities, and its percentage of graduates with debt (38 percent) was fourth lowest among all regional universities nationally.

CSULB's up-to-date *U.S. News* ranking comes on the heels of other recent rankings from other publications, including a "Best in the West" designation from *The Princeton Review* and a top 10 national ranking in conferring bachelor's degrees to minority students by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*.

The 2012 "Best Colleges" package provides a thorough examination of how more than 1,400 accredited four-year schools compare on a set of up to 16 widely accepted indicators of excellence. Among the many factors weighed in determining the rankings, the key measures of quality are peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving.

Child Development Center

4310 Long Beach Blvd., suite 200, Long Beach, CA 90807
562/422-6868 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/district/departments/middle_and_k-8/child_development.asp

Gant Kids' Club



Lauren Shaw
Director

By *Jimmitra Crawford, Kids' Club Supervisor*

Gant Kids' Club provides before and after school child care for students in kindergarten through 5th grade at Gant Elementary. At Gant Kids' Club we strive to provide all students with a safe and enriching environment while engaging them in a multitude of activities.

Our theme-based activities include daily arts and crafts, sports, outdoor games, and a quiet study hall. We also offer weekly specialty clubs. These clubs allow our students to gain knowledge and skill in a variety of arenas. Previous clubs have included jewelry making, scrapbooking, cooking, basketball, dance, and drama. Our specialty clubs are often culminated with exciting finales, such as project display events, tasting parties, and live performances. These events are widely attended by our Kids' Club children and families.

As we kick off our new school year, we look forward to creating fun-filled days for our students. We will continue to provide our awesome traditional activities and introduce some new and exciting adventures and events that are sure to "wow" our students this school year.

September Song-and Dance



Dr. Terri Mendoza
Principal

By *Tiffany Bagnol, Senior*

While some schools are barely starting, here at Saint Joseph High School, activities are in full swing. During the Freshman BBQ, the freshmen from Saint Joseph and our brother school, St. John Bosco, were able to socialize and have fun. They were able to meet new friends and reunite with their old ones while enjoying jumpers, music and a fiesta-themed party. The freshman fun continued into Welcome Week, when they were able to bond with their Senior Sisters. Each day was a different theme filled with excitement and memories. They enjoyed their time together, and the seniors were able to share stories and advice with their freshmen sisters for their upcoming years as high school students.

The fun continued at the Welcome Dance, where the young gentlemen from Bosco were able to meet and dance with the lovely ladies of our school. The dance was a big hit, and the dance floor was packed the entire night as the students came together to dance to hits like the "Cupid Shuffle."

Gracefully Stepping Up

The seniors and the freshmen won't be the only ones having fun this month, as the sophomores and juniors begin a new year filled with activities specifically designed for them. The juniors are waiting in anticipation for the arrival of their coveted class rings. The ring ceremony will be a proud moment for their parents as they walk up to receive their symbols of eternal sisterhood and recognition as upperclasswomen of SJHS.

The sophomores, no longer the youngest girls on campus, are assuming their roles as leaders for the freshmen to follow. They are embracing the challenges of new classes, a harder curriculum and a more demanding social life. The sophomores as well as the entire student body were able to reflect on these impending changes during our first Liturgy. Ms. Leon led the masses with her beautiful voice, and Father Henry—or Papa Henry, as he is affectionately known on campus—gave a concise homily that left the students feeling inspired.

The beginning of the school year was filled with many activities for the students to enjoy. With the rest of the school calendar packed with events, the students at Saint Joseph High School are sure to stay busy as well as academically challenged by a quality and qualified staff that nurtures each young woman to "become all of which woman is capable."

Contest!!

Where's Ethan?

Ethan's picture is hidden in an advertisement somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page number to: kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

(Please put **LBUSD** in the subject line)

Your entry must be received by November 15, 2011. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Thank you for reading *School News Roll Call!*

Congratulations to our August winners:

Leslie Smith & Doug Fleisher



On Time, Every Time



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

CONTINUED • FROM PAGE 1

Councilman Dee Andrews introduced the event and set the tone. The message was clear — that education can prepare a student for a job in a competitive economic environment, but one cannot get the benefit of that education unless one is regularly attending school.

Superintendent Chris Steinhauser also got the attention of the crowd by announcing the benefits of the Long Beach College Promise: each LBUSD graduate who attends LBCC after high school will receive free tuition for the first semester. Remarkably, those who maintain minimum grades for two years will also receive admission to a University of California school or California State University, Long Beach.

Next was a panel discussion with City Prosecutor Doug Haubert and Nader Twal of LBUSD, moderated by attorney Marc Rothenberg. However, the stars of the panel were three high school students who told their stories about truancy and falling behind in school.

Students in the audience were transfixed by anecdotes of how the high schoolers creatively ditched class, and why they did so. Each speaker, however, explained that in the end their acting out and missing school just put them further behind. Working to catch up in school is a lot harder than in school.

Attendees also heard from legal experts, like Nancy Theberge, Deputy Public Defender; Lydia Bodin, Deputy District Attorney who heads the Abolish Chronic Truancy (ACT) program; Superior Court Judge John Lawson, and Juvenile Court Referee Claire Vermillion.

To round out the program, there followed break out sessions where audience members could meet in three small groups led by Dr. Rick Tebbano, LBUSD's Truancy Coordinator; Lt. Ty Hatfield, Long Beach Police Department's Juvenile Division; and Marisol Ibanez, of Poly H.S.'s PAAL Program. The small groups allowed audience members to ask questions and give officials feedback on the causes of truancy.

Realizing that truancy problems are often the result of poverty, lack of child-care, healthcare problems and other issues, the conference organizers also held a Resource Fair upon adjournment of the Truancy Conference. Community based organizations set up tables and provided information for parents.

The Truancy Conference was an experiment. Never before had Long Beach students and parents come together to get this much information from judges, prosecutors, school officials, and juvenile officers. Based on the initial feedback, the experiment was a success and organizers are looking to return next year with an even better program.

After-School Recreation Club – ARC



Larry Forester
Mayor

CONTINUED • FROM PAGE 1

and on non-school days, 90 minutes of physical activity. They try out a variety of sports and activities such as soccer, basketball, track and field, martial arts, dance and yoga. The ARC offers arts and crafts and free play. There is also a 30 minute "Homework Club" every day except Fridays. The kids also eat a healthy snack each day and will learn how to prepare healthy snacks and meals at home.

Safety is our #1 priority! All children are picked up at school and walked to the Youth Center by ARC staff. They are supervised at all times and will not be permitted to leave the program unless they are signed out by an authorized adult. All staff have experience in working with children, are CPR/First Aid certified and participate in regular training. Most of our staff have or are pursuing degrees in Recreation & Leisure studies, Education or other related fields.

The free program is available from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Extended morning hours are offered during off-track periods from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday, for \$37 per week for residents and \$42 per week for non-residents. There may be optional activities offered throughout the year that may require an additional charge such as field trips or special events.

For more information, please contact the City of Signal Hill Youth Center at (562) 989-7325 or visit www.cityofsignalhill.org. Have fun, be healthy!

Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242
562/922-6360 www.lacoe.edu

Honoring Our Teachers



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

CONTINUED • FROM PAGE 1

It also marked a homecoming for me, after many years in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, including the last dozen as superintendent. I grew up in East L.A., graduated from Montebello High School, and began my own teaching career in the Baldwin Park and Rowland unified school districts.

Before coming to LACOE, I was privileged to serve on State Superintendent Tom Torlakson's Transition Advisory Team, charged with drafting recommendations for improving public education in California. You will not be surprised to learn that our key recommendations included several measures designed to encourage and support high-quality teaching.

Fortunately, we are blessed with wonderful teachers in L.A. County, around 75,000 out there right now, doing the most important job in the world. The purpose of the County Teacher of the Year competition is to honor some of those teachers by example, and all of them by extension, along with the wonderful profession they practice.

This year's sixty-nine district nominees, as well as the top county winners—the "Sweet Sixteen" chosen by a jury of their peers—are certainly worthy representatives. Each, it is clear, is one of those special teachers we all remember—the ones who inspire and demand our very best.

These are the teachers who are making a positive difference in young lives each day, and who stay forever fresh in memory. We honor them one day each year, but their students will honor them for a lifetime.

Congratulations to them all!

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July, 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nation's largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children.

Season Begins Saturday, November 12th, 2011



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Westerly School

of Long Beach (K-8)

Nonprofit, Nonsectarian Independent School
2950 E. 29th St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/981-3151 • www.westerlyschool.org



Chris Rodenhizer
Head of School



Kalim Rayburn
Assistant
Head of School

The mission of Westerly School is to develop each child's full potential intellectually, emotionally, morally and physically.

Like most schools, Westerly School has a mission statement that helps guide the school in its approach to educating students. As an independent school, however, the school is free to develop its own curriculum, choose its own faculty and community of families and endeavors to create and provide a unique educational experience for its students.

Connected to the mission is a set of core values that could best describe as the school's approach to living that mission. Below are Westerly's core values and an example of how those values play out at the school site.

We believe in nurturing the whole child through a complete education, developing each individual's intellectual, artistic, socio-emotional, and physical talents.

In addition to a strong academic program, delivered in a variety of ways to reach the variety of students' learning styles, Westerly's faculty integrates the arts, moral choices, foreign language, and physical education to give students a liberal arts-based education that helps them be more creative thinkers and well-rounded learners.



Eighth grade mentors working with their Kindergarten mentee—Students often find inspiration working outdoors

We believe in igniting a lifelong love of learning through a foundation in arts education and creative approaches to teaching and learning.

In the art studio, students in the Lower School (grades K-5) work on montages that incorporate an autobiographical scene, integrating poetry. The school will showcase these pieces along with many other works in the Spring during the Lower School Art Exhibition.

We believe in celebrating the differences in viewpoint, culture, and capabilities of each individual child.

In middle school advisory, students work with a faculty advisor in small groups to discuss common issues affecting all teenagers. Opinions are shared and discussed and understandings are cultivated in an emotionally safe environment.

We believe in engaging students through meaningful service opportunities to illustrate the value of giving back to the community.

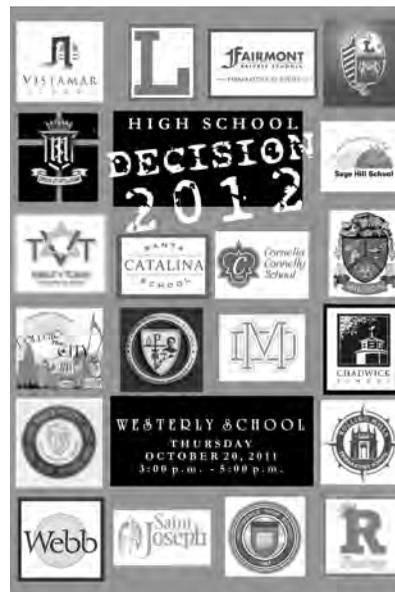
Westerly middle school students take charge of their own service learning projects by researching causes or needs in our community, discussing which of those needs strike a collective chord with the group, and set about providing assistance.

We believe in cultivating a strong sense of self and confidence in each student supported by an environment where it is safe to take academic and emotional risks.

Second grade poets host an all-school Poetry in the Park on Westerly's campus during the spring. After writing and publishing their poems, the students present them in front of the entire school community, sing songs with their 5th grade mentors, and read to special guests who come to hear and discuss the students' poetry.

We believe in illuminating the joys of learning through a balance of project-based instruction that focuses on hands-on experiences and real world connections.

As part of their studies in the garden unit, Westerly kindergarteners learn about photosynthesis and the vital role it plays in the growth of plants. The young scientists then plant a sunflower garden, make hypotheses on how well their plants will grow, compare and analyze why the plants grow at different rates and to different heights, and chart the process.



Westerly School Hosts "Decision 2012" for Area Middle School Students

Area middle school students and their parents are invited to attend "High School Decision 2012" on Thursday, October 20 at Westerly School from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to hear 21 representatives from area high schools talk about their programs. The event at 2950 East 29th Street, Long Beach, is open to all.

Decision 2012 is designed to help middle school families make informed decisions about high school selection by helping them to understand the various options. There will be short presentations by high school representatives and an opportunity for families to gather information and ask questions.

There will be representatives from public schools, such as the Long Beach Poly PACE and CIC programs along with Wilson High School Distinguished Scholars. In addition, area independent and charter high schools are attending, including Chadwick School (Palos Verdes Peninsula), Loyola High School (Los Angeles), Fairmont Preparatory Academy (Anaheim), Cornelia Connelly School (Anaheim), Mater Dei High School (Santa Ana), Lutheran High School of Orange County (Orange), Rolling Hills Preparatory School (San Pedro), Servite High School (Anaheim), Sage Hill High School (Newport Coast), Vistamar High School (El Segundo), Saint Joseph High School (Lakewood), Tarbut V'Torah School (Irvine), The Webb Schools (Claremont), Rosary High School (Fullerton), St. John Bosco High School (Bellflower), and Colegio New City School (Long Beach), Providence High School (Burbank) and Santa Catalina School (Monterey).

For further information, visit Westerly's website at www.westerlyschool.org. To RSVP, please contact Dr. Kalim Rayburn, Westerly's Assistant Head of School, at krayburn@westerlyschool.org or call (562) 981-3151.

Education at Westerly Includes Parents and Community

Westerly's strong academic and enriching program extends beyond that intended for students. A series of parent and community education evenings celebrates its first with a presentation and discussion entitled, "Keeping Our Kids Safe on The Internet" with award winning author Danielle Tiano.

All parents are invited to attend this free event on Thursday, November 3, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Westerly School, 2950 East 29th Street, Long Beach. Childcare will be provided for school age children with reservation, compliments of the Westerly PTO.

Danielle Tiano believes in helping parents and children overcome today's obstacles to live healthy cultivating lives. Ms. Tiano's book series, *Beyond Your Words*, are used as a tool to open the communication line between "tween" children and their parents. Her series covers many subjects that today's adolescents' face, such as technology addiction, childhood obesity, and self-image. It is Ms. Tiano's belief that parents and children need to become aware of what they are undergoing. Her unique story telling abilities allow her to use her books to assist in creating honest discussions in a clear unbiased manner.

As we prepare our children for the 21st Century, providing them with technology is a must. It is also our responsibility to ensure we do this in the safest way possible. Join us for an evening where parents will walk away feeling empowered with the tools needed to keep their children safe on the internet and guide them as they learn how to manage all of this technology.

Westerly School is a non-profit, non-denominational independent school serving students in Kindergarten through 8th grade located on a wooded five-acre campus in Long Beach.

Visit the Westerly Campus!

Come and experience Westerly firsthand at one of our upcoming Community Visits: October 11, November 1, December 6, and January 10 starting at 9 a.m. To make a reservation, contact our Admission Office at 562-981-3151 or admission@westerlyschool.org.





Christopher J. Steinhauser

Our middle schools posted some of LBUSD's largest gains in achievement last year, with many schools increasing their APIs by more than 40 and 50 points, progressing ever closer to the state's ultimate goal of 800 on a scale of 1,000. Our emphasis on eighth grade algebra is paying off, as 200 more eighth graders attained proficiency in algebra last year compared to the prior year.

Our high school graduation rate is now higher than the state's, and our dropout rate is lower. Four high school programs here have now attained the prestigious Linked Learning certification.

The certification effort, headed by educational nonprofit

ConnectEd, assures that our high schools are combining rigorous academics with real world experiences that prepare students not only for college, but also for high-paying, high-demand jobs. Our certified programs include the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, the ACE Academy at Jordan High School, and the COMPASS and PEACE academies at Millikan High School.

We have achieved these successes, and so much more, by working together toward the common goal of providing all children an equal chance at a great education, no matter their color, language, disability or station in life. This year we'll build on these successes through our College Promise partnership with Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach, our North Long Beach Initiative and many other efforts. Our work will be difficult, but as we continue to give our best to our children, I am confident that we will continue to see gains in student achievement.

Stay informed on our progress by visiting lbschools.net frequently, and be sure to click on the Twitter icon for daily updates.



Mary Stanton
Member

& Career Technical Education Funds, we are building a small school designed for an innovative program of rigorous coursework focusing on three high-demand fields: Health/Medical, Law Enforcement/Legal Services, and Engineering. The school will partner with LBCC and CSULB to offer our students the best education our community can provide. Opening date is fall 2013.

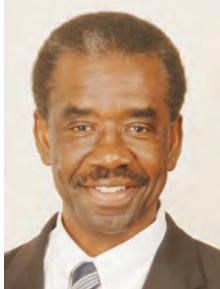
This year we have a new Transitional Kindergarten program for students who are about to turn 5. TK offers this young child a two year kindergarten program designed to enter 1st grade ready to succeed. The classes are located throughout the district. Go to lbschools.net and click on Transitional Kindergarten for more information.

Last spring we identified a group of African American students about to enter Jordan. These young men spent time living on the Claremont College campus, where they were mentored by college students and completed a rigorous math class. These men will continue to be mentored throughout the year. Based upon the reaction at the close of the course, each student felt success and will be well prepared for Jordan math classes and beyond.

here are many new faces in North Long Beach. At Jordan we have Shawn Ashley, Jay Camerino and Debby Hughes from Poly. Also at Jordan Freshman Academy Charles Acosta joins us from Lakewood High. Please welcome, Gerardo Gloria to Dooley, Connie Magee to Lindbergh, Laurie Murrin to Longfellow, and Cecelia Santos-Camerino to King.

Welcome back and don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions www.lbschools.net/Board of Education.

Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education

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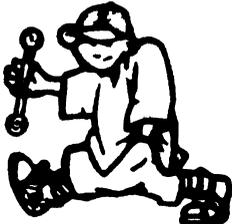
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first elected woman student body president of Long Beach City College in Spring 1943. "She was a trailblazer as a student at LBCC," said Ginny Baxter, Executive Director of the Long Beach City College Foundation, when notified of her passing. "Her leadership continued with work in her career at Long Beach Unified School District." While in college, she spent several months in Mexico City, taking classes, and becoming bilingual in Spanish. She continued her education at UCLA. She married her best friend, William (Bill) Seal in 1947. They were a few weeks shy of their 64th wedding anniversary at the time of her passing.

She became a teacher for LBUSD. She soon became one of Newcomb Academy's most popular teachers, teaching first and second grades followed by several years teaching 7th and 8th grade English and Spanish. The district saw leadership qualities in her and asked her in 1975 to serve in LBUSD's Central Office to design and implement the district's bilingual and English as a Second Language programs.

"Betty was a true pioneer in reaching out to the immigrant communities, and alerting all of us early on to the rich contributions that they would make to Long Beach," said Carl Cohn, former LBUSD Superintendent of Schools, after hearing of her passing. "We were all in her debt when it came to making our schools better."

After the fall of Cambodia on April 17, 1975, Long Beach would become home to the largest Cambodian community outside of Cambodia. The timing was perfect for a leader like Betty Seal. Her deep understanding of child development, rigorous education, and personal philosophy guided her through the process of designing programs throughout Long Beach Unified School District for not only Cambodian children, but children from around the world. Her focus was not limited to academic achievement. She had a strong belief that to reach one's goals, you must know who you are, where you come from, your culture and traditions. She did much to preserve the traditions of Cambodia throughout her life.

In 1981, she coordinated the district's response to the large number of Cambodian children enrolling in the Long Beach Unified School District. She was determined to give children the best education possible no matter their first language or culture. She provided professional development to teachers throughout the district. She designed and implemented the Assignment Center, now called, International Student Registration (ISR) program, where immigrant students are assessed in their primary language for their academic levels in mathematics, language development, and school readiness. Once assessed, ISR matches students to district programs that are best suited to ease the transition to a new country, culture, and language while providing outstanding instruction in all academics including English.

She hired highly educated people from Cambodia, like Mr. Lay Kry, Mr. Yom Pich, and Mr. Mory Ouk, to teach and design curriculum for the children. They worked with her to create the first bilingual Khmer-English program in California, the South East Asian Learners (S.E.A.L.) Program. "Mrs. Seal is very, very special to me," said, Mr. Kry after her passing. "She led her programs with love. We all wanted to create the best education system in the world for immigrant children. I think we reached our goal. She worked very, very hard for the Cambodian community, recording traditions of ours including our dancing, our spoken language, and our alphabet from first generation refugees for generations to come. She showed us respect by learning about our culture, by letting us lead programs for our children, and by involving herself in our lives and transitions into life in Long Beach."

Mr. Phisamuth (Eric) Kim, who came to the United States in 1981, works for ISR today, said, "Thousands of Cambodian children received outstanding educations because of the dedication of Mrs. Betty Seal. We are grateful to her for the love she showed our children and parents." She sent parents to her husband, Bill, a counselor at Long Beach City College. They made quite a team.

Blanche Brewster Cannady, retired LBUSD Assistant Superintendent, Elementary met Mrs. Seal while both worked in the Central Office. "She wasn't only a gifted education leader, she was a gifted community leader."

Betty Seal retired from LBUSD in 1985 and continued her commitment to Long Beach becoming an avid volunteer for the Long Beach City College Foundation, the LBCC Friends of Languages club, the Greater Long Beach Chapter of the American Red Cross, P.E.O., and as a sustainer for the Junior League of Long Beach.

By 1989, I had not only worked for my mother's programs in LBUSD, but I was finishing a Masters program in Linguistics at CSULB and studying my own mother's work in my courses. "You should have seen the faces of my college classmates let alone the professor when I brought my mother in to teach a class on the benefits of English as a Second Language and Bilingual Education. No one made the connection when I asked the teacher if I could bring in Betty Seal as a guest speaker."

The professor asked, "If you have a way to reach her, by all means, yes!" I told Mom she was a celebrity and she laughed as she designed her lesson. When I introduced her, I referenced articles about her work that we had recently read. I finished by saying, "I am happy to introduce my mother, Betty Seal. Everyone's jaw dropped. My eyes teared up with pride. I have been blessed to be her daughter and truly honored to work and volunteer alongside her throughout my life. There has never been any problem too difficult for either one of my parents to fix."

"As we look at the challenges we face in education and society, we can use Betty Seal's life as a roadmap to recovery," said Mike Murray immediate Past President of the Long Beach Education Foundation, LBUSD's fundraising arm. "All we need is her commitment and courage."

She is survived by her husband, William B. Seal, her daughter Judy Seal, grandsons Dylan, Reed, and Sean, her son the Rev. Canon Christopher Seal (Gae), granddaughters Moorea, Alexandra, and Isabella, daughter, Nancy Pryor (Dan), grandson, Andrew, wife Alyson, great grandchildren, Jack, Finn, and Claire, grandson Jonathan and wife, Jane, grandson David and wife Lori who will soon deliver another great grandson.

Resolved by Assembly Member Bonnie Lowenthal and Senators Alan S. Lowenthal and Roderick D. Wright, that they join the family and friends of Betty Seal in celebrating and revering the accomplishments and legacy of a loving and caring individual who lived life to the fullest, whose generosity was extended to everyone without hesitation or expectation of reward, and whose spirit will live forever in the hearts and memories of all her loved ones. Members Resolution No. 1669.

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