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School News

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Covering the La Habra City School District

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2017

A Proud Member of the Team



Dr. Joanne Culverhouse
Superintendent

It is both an honor and a privilege to be named the superintendent of the La Habra City School District (LHCS). I appreciate the warm welcome I have received from the Board of Education, staff, support staff, teachers, administrators, city officials, and community members. Clearly La Habra is the “All American City,” and I am grateful and proud to become a member of the team.

As the superintendent of La Habra City School District, I will be the “lead leader,”

positioning us for success by inspiring others through modeling, mentoring, and painting a picture of what is possible for our students. Being a lead leader does not happen behind a desk, and, as the superintendent, I value spending time in the classroom, and I appreciate and enjoy being actively involved in school and community events.

It is clear to me that past performance is a predictor of future success and an indicator of who you are as a person and a leader. My beliefs and values are aligned with the principles and expectations of the schools, the community, and the stakeholders. I believe in the best intentions of others and that trust must be earned through genuine relationships and a love for children.

I earned my doctorate from University of California, Los Angeles and my bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and administration at the University of Nevada, Reno. I most recently served as the assistant superintendent of human resources and the assistant superintendent of educational services in the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. I have previously taught elementary school, coached, and served as a principal at the elementary, middle and high school levels. My past experiences have also included principal positions in Sun Valley, Nevada; Hemet, California; and Laguna Beach, California.

My life experiences span the range of communities of both poverty and affluence in urban, rural, and suburban settings, and it is abundantly clear to me that parents want the best for their children, and they understand that schools are vital to their children’s success.

I want to thank members of the Board of Education, LHCS employees, community members, and every family for entrusting me with your children. I take that honor seriously and pledge my best effort to fulfill your expectations and continue to provide the best education possible to our students. We will maintain a focus of mastering academic skills while developing effective communicators, critical thinkers, and responsible and respectful members of society.

A Finalist for Educator of the Year



Dr. Susan Pritchard, from Washington Middle School, was nominated and selected as a finalist for the California League of Middle Schools Region 11 Educator of the Year award.

This honor is bestowed upon individuals who have made exemplary contributions to middle level education. The awards dinner was held on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at the Long Beach Yacht Club. Thank you to the La Habra Board of Education, Dr. Carlos, Mr. Bridgeford, Mrs. Bowen, and Mr. Petrakis for attending the event.

Congratulations to Dr. Pritchard for being nominated for this award.

LCAP Goal Setting



Teresa Egan
Assistant Superintendent

Welcome to 2017! The new year provides us with the opportunity to reflect upon our Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals from last year and to update our goals for the upcoming year.

La Habra City School District’s LCAP is aligned to the school board’s Strategic Plan, with a focus on academic excellence, business and finance, parent/community partnerships, human resources development, and school safety and student wellness. In the current LCAP, the district has described the actions and services that have been developed to increase or improve services for those we serve.

Some priorities that have been implemented in 2016–17 are continuing the gradual reduction in class size in grades K–3, the addition of academic coaches to support mathematics, additional teacher training and support in the implementation of the California State Standards, technology integration, and visual and performing arts.

In the next couple of weeks, our LCAP committee will begin to evaluate data and determine the effectiveness of the programs defined in our current plan. As we refine and update our LCAP, we will focus our attention on the extra support needed to ensure that our most at-risk students are successful in school while at the same time providing enriching experiences for our students above grade level. Our ultimate goal is to prepare our students for success in high school, college and beyond.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



Happy New Year!

By this time students are settled back into their routines focused on their academic goals. Congratulations to Dr. Joanne Culverhouse, Superintendent. We are looking forward to publishing the excellence from the La Habra School District under her leadership.

Thank you for your comments when you email your contest entries. This issue we have a seek 'n find contest on page 6.

Our next issue is April 12.

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

Curriculum Enrichment



Sheryl Tecker
Director

The La Habra City School District continues to open doors to learning through the visual and performing arts (VAPA). We have exciting news for 2017!

First, approximately 20 middle school teachers will take part in a professional-development series called Designing Artistic Literacy. The purpose is to help teachers integrate the visual arts into math, English, social science and science. Teachers who have never taken an art class before will develop knowledge, literacy and skills in visual arts and learn how to teach their content standards with the visual-arts standards.

Second, our second-grade students will soon begin their six-week music residency program with Megan Hook or Beth Susseman. Both artists use the piano to help students express their ideas and retell stories. Our third-grade students recently completed a performing-arts residency with Peter Kors, and we were delighted to see our students discover their individual artistic talents and gain a deeper understanding of the core content.

Finally, our After-School Elementary Band Program continues to expand thanks to a wonderful community partner. Members from a local church took up a donation over the holidays and raised \$1,800 for new instruments! A big thank-you to Barbara Macintosh, who organized the fundraiser, and to all the members for supporting our students.

Upcoming VAPA Opportunities include a joint presentation of an entertainment corporation and Las Positas students: *The Lion King* on March 8 and 9 at 7 p.m.

For more information on VAPA opportunities and how you can get involved, contact Sheryl Tecker, director of Programs and Assessment, or your school principal.



Has your child been diagnosed with or identified as having a learning difference such as dyslexia?



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El Cerrito *Elementary*

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



Emily Szary
Principal

A Continuing Journey

“A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.” This Chinese proverb sums up most of our Scotties’ days here at El Cerrito.

While paving the road by providing our students with the essential skills and innovative abilities they need for college and career readiness, the current Transitional Kindergarten class at El Cerrito also represents the high school graduating class of 2030. This is an amazing fact that educators must consider every day when they prepare our students for the future.

We are committed to producing confident, self-directed learners in a highly motivating student-centered environment. Through collaboration, we provide a solid foundation to meet each student’s individual needs, while guiding them to become independent problem-solvers, active learners, and responsible and productive citizens.



Pictured is a group of our Transitional Kindergarten students participating in breakout EDU. By taking steps collaboratively, they were able to complete their journey and open the box. When given the opportunity and support to do so, no journey is unattainable!

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Arbolita *Elementary*

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



Rosamaria Murillo
Principal

Our Close-Knit Family

At the busy beehive of Arbolita Elementary School, we take on each school day as a challenge to be the best that we can be! The beginning of 2017 is really the middle of our school year, and we enjoy this chance to reflect on all the wonderful learning and activities we have been able to accomplish.

Arbolita’s Dual Immersion Academy has grown, with two dual-immersion Spanish classes at every grade level. Arbolita is also very proud of the progress and achievements we have made by implementing a Common Core State Standard-aligned curriculum and instruction that will prepare our students to meet the challenges of a 21st-century world.

Additionally, we greet each day as a renewed opportunity to engage with our community and our students’ families even more. Our community liaison, Mrs. Jarrin, works daily with individual parents and parent groups to find innovative ways to empower and include our families in their students’ educational journeys.

We will soon begin enrolling students for the 2017–2018 school year, and we look forward to continuously improving our instruction and service to our students, their families, and our community. As one parent said, “You all treat us like we are family!” And we are a close-knit, honored family of students, families, and staff members who are united to make sure every one of our students succeed! Here’s to a great 2017!

Imperial *Middle School*

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



Cathy Seighman
Principal

PBIS Really Stands for ‘Success’!

The positive climate at Imperial fosters enthusiasm for learning, motivation to do well and a connection to school, all of which contribute to success. Through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), students are exposed to proactive strategies for creating a positive school environment. Since PBIS’s implementation, we’ve seen an increase in academic success and a reduction in disciplinary issues.

As part of the PBIS approach, students are rewarded

each trimester for academics, behavior and citizenship. At the end of our first trimester, over 300 students enjoyed a special performance by the Chinese Acrobat Group. At the end of the performance, students sat anxiously on the edge of their seats to see if they would win one of the many donated raffle prizes—would it be school spirit gear, gift cards or maybe a brand-new bicycle?

Modeling and reinforcing social and academic success are important steps of students’ educational experience, and ones we value.





City of La Habra, Community Services Recreation Division

101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562-383-4205 • lahabraca.gov

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The City of La Habra's 16th Annual

Spring Family Eggstravaganza

with Helicopter Easter Egg Drop

Saturday, April 15, 2017

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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- 9:50 a.m. - 7-8 years
- 10:05 a.m. - 9-10 years & 11-12 years
- 10:20 a.m. - Teens & Adults

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Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt

Thursday,
April 6th, 2017

6:00-8:00 p.m.
\$20 per person

For Kids

ages 7-13 years

at Westridge Golf Club
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Pre-registration is required & is limited to 300 participants.



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* 1K Kiddy Run (Ages 6-9 yrs.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$20 (Thru March 3, 2017) \$25 (After March 3, 2017)
* 5K Run/Walk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30 (Thru March 3, 2017) \$35 (After March 3, 2017)

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Ladera Palma *Elementary*

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



A Year of Opportunity

This new year is bringing great and exciting things to Ladera Palma. Our school continues to foster and push towards even greater growth in its strong traditions and beliefs, and of which we are very proud today. So in 2017 we are extending

opportunities for our Scholars to learn, experiment, and practice coding!

So what is coding? Coding is what makes it possible for us to create computer software, apps, and websites. Your browser, your OS, the apps on your phone, Facebook, and this website are all made up of codes.

Is coding too advanced for our Scholars? Never! With our STEM programs moving forward, our Scholars are also being provided time to sing and/or perform their newly learned abilities in front of their favorite person, which could be a parent, teacher, school principal, etc.

Once again, we look forward to 2017 bringing us greater opportunities to build upon our strong traditions and beliefs.



Contest!



This chicken is somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to: Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com Please put LaHabra in the subject line.

Your entry must be received by March 15, 2017. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations
Christa Tea and Xavier Marron
Winners of Our October Contests

Las Lomas *Elementary*

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



Pam Cunningham
Principal

The New Year's Well Underway!

January has brought the students and staff of Las Lomas back to school excited and ready for a brand-new year! With a brand-new year come new year's resolutions and many exciting learning opportunities for the students and staff to explore.

The teachers have been busy designing and planning standards-based lessons to engage and stretch their students' creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration skills. As I walk around

the classrooms, I observe the students' high level of engagement and excitement for what they are learning. They're as eager to see what their teacher has planned for them as they would be waiting for the first burst of candy to fall out of a piñata!

Whether it's learning how to blend sounds to make words, practicing sight words, reading, writing, doing ST math, or working in cooperative groups to figure out how to solve a problem, there's definitely a buzz of learning throughout the Las Lomas campus!



Las Positas *Elementary*

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



Mike Klewer
Principal

New Year's Resolutions

A new year traditionally brings New Year's resolutions. But where did New Year's resolutions originate?

Babylonians made promises to their gods at the beginning of each year that they would return borrowed objects and pay off their debts. The Romans began each year by making promises to the god Janus, for whom the month of January is named. Thus New Year's resolutions morphed into the tradition many of us practice at the beginning of each new year.

Almost everyone makes resolutions. Some of us keep them through January. Others make it until February or March. It is the rare person who keeps a resolution for an entire year.

Our fifth habit in the Leader in Me program asks our students to "seek first to understand, then to be understood." It reminds students—and adults,—to spend more time listening to what others are saying. Too often we are more concerned with formulating our responses rather than listening to what others are really saying. If we listen more to understand more, we will better comprehend what others are trying to communicate.

Listening is a skill that needs to be practiced. You listen with your ears, of course, but also your eyes and your heart. We have two ears and one mouth. Maybe we are actually supposed to listen twice as much as we talk!

Seeking to understand before we are understood is a resolution worth keeping all year long.

Walnut *Elementary*

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



Susan Goellrich
Principal

It's a New Year at Walnut!

Celebration is in the air at Walnut School as we start 2017. Walnut students are excited to be back at school and ready to learn. We celebrate learning by starting the year cleaning out and making sure we have the appropriate materials in our AVID Elementary notebooks. Students have begun taking our mid-year assessments and we look forward to celebrating the learning that has occurred during the first half of the school year. We kicked off the year with having our FIBO Art Assemblies and Workshops learning about Monet. We celebrate the completion of our first remodeled classrooms, media center and computer lab. Three third grade classes were able to start back after Winter Break in their new classrooms. We look forward to using the Media Center and Computer Lab in the near future.



Sierra Vista *Elementary*

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



Anna Dorado
Principal

New Year, New Happenings

At Sierra Vista School, we begin 2017 with some new opportunities for our parents. Students attain greater academic success when the parents are involved in their education. Our goal at Sierra Vista is to provide more and varied ways in which parents can support their children academically, socially, emotionally, or physically.

We began in January with a new series of parent workshops held in conjunction with our sister school, Ladera Palma. The goal was to teach parents how to cook and eat in ways that can better support healthy food habits. Also this month, we are continuing with our "No Excuses University Parent Orientations," which teaches parents how they can support college readiness at home for each of our students. These orientations also inform parents about the ways in which they can further support their children and become more involved in the parent academies.

We will be kicking off our first workshop with the topic of goal-setting and increasing student confidence and self-esteem to help achieve academic success. These new happenings at Sierra Vista will not only aid our parents in attaining the skill sets they need to assist their children, they will ultimately provide our students with the support they need as well. We look forward to getting a great start to the 2017 year!

Washington *Middle School*

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



Mario Carlos
Principal

Pollution Eliminators

Washington Middle School is proud to introduce our Pollution Eliminators, who are continuing the legacy of service-oriented learning started last year by our award-winning Water Guardians. Guided by Dr. Pritchard, this team created a Community Clean-Air Action Plan Campaign, which is replicable within our district and around the state.

The first step in this project to address our environmental issue was to research climate change, the greenhouse effect, carbon footprints, and the impact of human activities. The plan also includes school outreach and educational approaches to understanding the greenhouse effect and climate warming. Students teach their peers how to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the air, with the hope of lowering our school's carbon footprint by at least 15 percent.

In 2017, Washington students will continue to apply Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) concepts and skills in real-life contexts.



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