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

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SUPERINTENDENT



National Journal Describes Long Beach's Successes

The new year brought renewed praise for the Long Beach Unified School District in the January edition of the *American School Board Journal*.

Christopher J. Steinhauser

An article in the journal explains why the Long Beach Unified School District continues to see "world class" gains in student achievement despite tough times.

The article, "On the Way to Great," notes that Fortune 500 Research Firm McKinsey and Co. last year included LBUSD among the world's 20 leading school systems.

"The district's performance over the last two decades – as well as the improvement it has posted year to year – has been remarkable,"

SEE SUPERINTENDENT • PAGE 34

LBUSD Counselor Receives City Prosecutor IMPACT Award



LBUSD Board of Education President Felton Williams, LBUSD Counselor Honoree Che Scott, and Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert

Douglas P. Haubert, City Prosecutor

LBUSD School Counsel Che Scott was presented an "IMPACT Award" from the Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office on January 25, 2012, in recognition of his efforts to curb truancy at Washington Middle School in 2011. He is the first school employee to receive such an award.

The IMPACT Award is given to those who, working with the City Prosecutor's Office, have made "a significant, positive impact in the City of Long Beach in the past year."

In 2011, the City Prosecutor's Office began a pilot program aimed at keeping kids in school and out of trouble. The Parent Accountability and Chronic Truancy (PACT) Program is designed to hold parents responsible when their kids miss too many days of school or get arrested and parental supervision is lacking.

Mr. Scott assisted the City Prosecutor's Office to develop and then implement the pilot PACT program
SEE CITY OF LONG BEACH, CITY PROSECUTOR • PAGE 35

Library Programs



Larry Forester
Mayor
City of Signal Hill

The Signal Hill Public Library is happy to announce a number of programs for readers of all ages from Story Time for Babies & Toddlers to Book Clubs to Nite at the Library with the author. Everyone is welcome and all activities are free.

Story Time

Story Time programs are designed to stimulate young minds by introducing literature, music and movement. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate to create a meaningful experience for the child. Snacks are

SEE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL PAGE 35

Save Middle School Sports



Randy Gordon
President/CEO
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

By Mike Murray, Director-Government & External Affairs

Ronnie Lott is considered one of the best ever to play football. If he was a running back rather than a defensive back, it's likely he'd have also been a Hall of Famer at every level he played. Ty Willingham was a great player at Michigan State, has coached at the highest levels of football including the Minnesota Vikings, Stanford, Notre Dame and Washington University.

SEE LB AREA CHAMBER PAGE 35

2012 CABE Essay Contest Winner



Marisol Uy—Fifth Grade Student
Winner of the CA Association of Bilingual Education Award
(please see Henry School page 17)

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Spring is in the air which always adds a feeling of new beginnings as the trees show signs of new growth and the dormant flowers begin to come alive. It also brings to mind student testing, a new semester and Spring Break. The Long Beach and Signal Hill public libraries have lots to offer—see their articles on the front page and page 4.

We are moving into Social Media slowly, but surely. You can follow us on Twitter and Facebook. The latest issues are always posted on our web site until the next issue is printed. Thank you for including *School News* among your reading choices.

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Covering the
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Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds



Judy Seal
Executive
Director

When one works side by side with the First Lady of Long Beach, Nancy Foster, one realizes very quickly that they are working with a person who is truly empathetic and compassionate. Nancy moves very quickly from observer to being co-present with the focus of her cause. I have had the pleasure of working with her for the last five years on the Most Inspiring Students Awards where one student from each school is honored for overcoming a formidable obstacle and going on to inspire classmates, teachers, friends and family. Each year, she and the Mayor buy the medallions for the students and stand on stage and place them over the students' heads. This year's Most Inspiring Students Awards Dinner is Thursday, March 29th.



First Lady of Long Beach, Nancy Foster

"Our children mean so much to me. I want to honor those who struggle, I want to ease the pain of those who suffer, and I want to celebrate the accomplishments of our community's children," she said for this interview.

From raising the money to open Ronald McDonald House, to helping the homeless, raising money for cancer research and treatment, Nancy Foster is co-present, fully engaged, making connections, and closing every loop along the way.

Her focus with the Long Beach Education Foundation since April 2011 is Saving LBUSD's Middle School Sports Program. She led a team of coaches, parents, students, and community volunteers to raise \$190,000 in seven weeks so that middle school athletes would have a program this academic year, 2011-2012.

"Youth need to have as many positive experiences as possible. The budget cuts to education have left our students high and dry. That doesn't mean we as a community need to do the same thing. These athletes inspire me. They come to school everyday, keep their grades up all so they can play flag football, volleyball, and other sports after school. I believe sports give them a positive outlook on life during a time of tremendous transition. You do remember being 11-14, don't you? Those are the hardest years to get through and our students need our support," she said. "Add to that, Long Beach produces some of the best athletes in the world including pro-players and Olympians. The school district's physical education curriculum leader, Joan Van Blom, is a two-time silver medalist in the Olympics and she comes from Long Beach!"

Nancy is co-chairing the Middle School Sports campaign with former NFL player and vice president of the Long Beach Education Foundation, Damon Dunn to raise the \$190,000 for the 2012-2013 school year. They have raised \$68,000 so far and are co-hosting a fundraiser with Skip Keesal on February 8th to get closer to their goal. The luncheon will feature football greats, Ronnie Lott and Ty Willingham, two of Damon's heroes. General Admission is \$50. For online donations go to: http://www.lbschools.net/Community/Education_Foundation/Donations/ and designate Save LBUSD Middle School Sports.

Attend the fundraiser with Skip Keesal on February 8th help raise funds to Save Middle School Sports. The luncheon will feature football greats, Ronnie Lott and Ty Willingham, two of Damon's heroes. General Admission is \$50.

For online donations go to:

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By Julianna Robbins, Digital Services Librarian

The Digital Bookmobile is coming to Long Beach! Find us at the 2nd Saturday Art Walk on Saturday, February 11, 2012, from 4:00PM–10:00PM. Readers of all ages will learn how to download free eBooks and audiobooks from the library, plus have an opportunity to win a Kindle Touch!



At the Digital Bookmobile event, show your Long Beach Public Library card or apply for a new one and enter for a chance to win a Kindle Touch, provided courtesy of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation.

Visitors will enjoy the interactive demonstrations and high-definition instructional videos. The Gadget Galley - featuring an iPod, Android tablet, Nook, Sony Reader, Blackberry, Windows Phone and more - will help you discover all the devices that are compatible with the library's free downloads.

Check out titles anytime, anywhere at www.lbpl.org/downloads!

The Digital Bookmobile and the 2nd Saturday Art Walk will be on Linden Avenue, between E Broadway and First Street, Downtown Long Beach.

RSVP to the Digital Bookmobile event on Facebook!

Animal Care Services Explorer Post Graduates 2011 Class

The city's animals will be safer in years to come, as they will be assisted by a new group formed last year. Working with the local Learning for Life Program at the Long Beach Area Boy Scout Council, Animal Care Explorer Post 872 was re-established last December and has just graduated a new group of explorers into their important roles of protecting the community and its animals.

Under the excellent leadership of Sergeant Louise Dubois of the City of Long Beach Animal Care Services Division, Parks Recreation and Marine Department, the explorers completed training in caring for large and small animals, field operations, investigations, emergency management, animal licensing, humane treatment of animals, and kennel cleaning. The explorers also participated in field trips, with behind-the-scenes tours of the Aquarium of the Pacific and a wildlife sanctuary.



2011 graduating class of ACS Explorer Post #872

Post 872 existed for many years at what was then the Animal Control Division, only to be disbanded in the 1970s. Michael Johnson, a staff member at the city's Health Department and a member of the adult committee of the post, recently received recognition from the Boy Scout Council for his efforts, with the hope that the re-established post will provide a conduit for youth to enter careers in animal care services.

A new academy class of explorers is forming now. Interested youth (male or female) who qualify should contact Sergeant Dubois at (562) 570-3054. Minimum requirements for applicants are: must be at least 15 and not yet 19 years of age by start of the academy; have a clean police record and good citizenship record; maintain at least a C average at school; be physically fit with plenty of stamina and courage; and be willing to devote necessary time to meetings and emergencies.

New Post 872 will assist Animal Care Services in its mission to "make Long Beach the safest large city in California for people and animals" and will provide a great learning opportunity for the community's youth.

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Nutrition Update

School Lunch: Changin' it Up!



Carol Berg Sloan, RD

I am a proponent of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and fully support what school food service directors and their staff do in local districts with limited funds. I am excited to see the changes that were proposed last year come into affect in the early part of 2012. I hope that families and students will take advantage of the new standards which include:

- Daily serving of both vegetables and fruits with a weekly vegetable requirement for dark green, red/orange, legumes, and starchy types
- Grains to be whole grains such as brown rice or buns and bread with the first ingredient whole grain.
- Milk to be either low-fat (1%) or fat-free. Flavored milk, such as chocolate or strawberry must be non fat.
- Foods that are served contain no trans fats.
- Sodium in foods and beverage must be lowered to specific amounts. For example there were no limits on how much sodium but now a middle school lunch can contain no more than 1360 mg per meal
- Total calories to be reduced via smaller portion sizes

According to the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, here is an example of "before" and "after" lunches. All new standards will be phased in over several years.

Before: Pizza sticks with Marinara Sauce, Banana, Raisins, Whole Milk

After: Chef Salad (romaine lettuce, low fat mozzarella, grilled chicken,), Whole wheat soft pretzel, Corn, Baby carrots, Banana, nonfat milk, low fat salad dressing

I have heard quite a bit of discussion both in person and on the Internet about how meals from home are so much better and no one should let their child eat at school. Nothing could be further from the truth!

Although not all parents send their children out the door with nutrition poor meals, I have seen first hand what some students bring in their lunch boxes (chips, cookies, processed lunch meats and cheese on white bread and worse).

If you have not looked at the school lunch menu in your district, do so now. You will be pleasantly surprised!

Carol Berg Sloan, RD is a nutrition therapist in Long Beach. She can be reached at cbstrd@verizon.net.

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The Holidays are Over, Oh My!

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

Yes, the holidays are over, and all the new Christmas puppies are settling and getting used to their new forever-homes. Congratulations to them and their lucky pet parents!

To create and preserve a loving environment and relationship, *now* is the time to start educating your new family members about good manners, appropriate behavior, pleasant habits and a loving bond with you that will last all their lives.

Start their education at 8 to 9 weeks of age. This is when their clever brains are like sponges, absorbing and retaining all they learn. At this age, they have not yet exhibited unwanted behavior that is hard to unlearn later.

Teach them in the gentlest way possible, and do not allow anyone to choke, yank, tug or pull them at the end of a leash. Such methods are *not* teaching tools, and all they learn is to be afraid of you—from their point of view, with good reason.

To all animals and their owners, may you enjoy the company of each other and revel in the giving and receiving love and loyalty from each other.

Happy New Year to you and all animals!

Save LBUSD Middle School Sports

Attend the fundraiser with Skip Keesal on February 8th and help raise funds to Save Middle School Sports. The luncheon will feature football greats, Ronnie Lott and Ty Willingham, two of Damon's heroes. General Admission is \$50.

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

I am sure you are asking what this means. It means that the decisions or inactions of the present will determine the fate of your future. In other words, don't be left behind because you fear change. Embracing change, as we know all too well, takes courage in order to reinvent ourselves.

Through the American Business Women's Association's (ABWA), the Women's Instructional Network (WIN) (www.abwa.org) and through technology, we are making a difference in creating stronger working women and men through five courses that provide useful information on topics relevant to today's job crisis. The topics are Résumés That Get Interviews, Interviews That Get Results, The Joy of Jumping In, The Joy of Starting Over and First Days off the Job. Your membership with ABWA includes access to WIN and more courses that make a difference and are relevant to the needs of today's job seeker.

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Real Estate Matters

FICO Scores Provide More Data to Lenders



CathyLyn Brooks

Get ready to share...no, I am not talking about your Facebook account. Many loan consumers are going to start sharing more personal information with lenders next year, ready or not.

FICO scores, the standard for determining credit risk in government backed mortgages, have been primarily based on a person's credit history. But in an attempt to develop a more well-rounded picture of a person's finances beyond credit, tools are being developed to help the lending industry learn more.

Fair Isaac Corp., or FICO, recently announced that a separate score will soon be available to mortgage lenders that includes information on payday loans, evictions, and child support payments. In the future, information on the status of utility, rent, and cell phone payments may also be included.

Recently the credit reporting companies began providing estimates of consumer income as a credit report option. And Experian this year began including data on "on-time" rental payments in its reports.

The new information could become a double-edged sword for consumers. It may open the door to homeownership to some consumers who have little or no credit histories. Or, the extra information may make a borderline borrower look even worse on paper.

Still, there is thought among researchers that consumer transparency, if it demonstrates both good and bad behavior, has its place; though many object to too much weight being given to a formulated "number" when judging credit worthiness.

Since lenders have focused on risk-based pricing, there has been a rush by credit reporting firms to provide financial companies, including mortgage banks and credit card providers, with a wealth of information on individual customers.

FICO scores have been around since the 1950s, but they didn't become a major factor in mortgage lending until 1995, when Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac began recommending their use to help determine a mortgage borrower's credit-worthiness. The score, which ranges from 300 to 850, factors in how long borrowers have had credit, how they're using it and repaying it, and whether they have any judgments or delinquencies against them.

The change comes as mortgage lenders reward the most creditworthy borrowers with low rates and tack extra fees onto loans for those with lower credit scores. A sign of the times, no doubt as lenders strive to make loans that can be repaid, and the information age rises to meet the challenge. Maintaining your credit has never been more important.

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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- **Knowledge and Skills:** It's important that you take the time to improve your skills and knowledge and even acquiring new talents or hobbies along the way. The more you know, the better off you are! You'll have a better chance of selling yourself to prospective employers in this current competitive market if you are thinking of moving jobs or changing careers. Knowledge is wealth and you're likely to enjoy life more.



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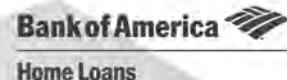
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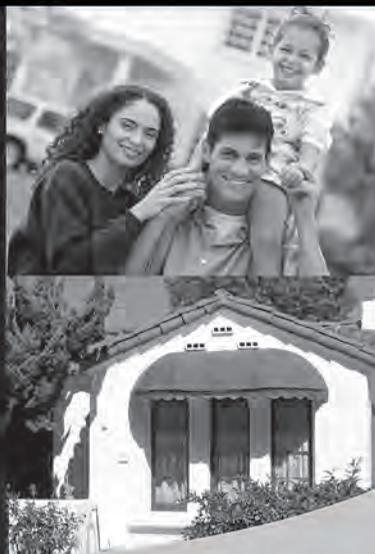


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Time Well Spent

By John Soto, WRAP Director

While most of you were enjoying your time off, the WRAP team and a select group of students were working hard honing writing and math skills. With the help of the Addams family, we were able to recruit and daily serve between 65 and 75 students who willingly gave up opportunities to sleep in and relax at home for an opportunity to better themselves as scholars.

As a team, WRAP, along with the faculty at Addams Elementary, spent two full weeks focusing on math, literature and spelling interspersed with dabs of fun. The work was tedious at times but not enough to discourage the students from achieving their goals. As fifth-grader Kawena To put it, "I really didn't like doing math facts even though it helped, but I always looked forward to playing Stinky Feet!"

During our third and fourth weeks, the students reaped the fruits of their labor. Thanks to the help of a youth service organization, we were able to shuttle the students to Carson and Studebaker to enjoy the natural surroundings and the challenge course that the organization has to offer.

"I like going because they always have cool art activities like chiseling fossils and rock climbing!" said fifth-grader Angela Orozco.

For the time being, our only measures for success are the smiles on these children's faces and their radiant positive energy. After hours of repeated math fact review, games of Stinky Feet and critical-thinking discussions through multicultural literacy, we are confident that these children's practice will be evident in their performance.

Avalon/Two Harbors *(K-12)*

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



Resourcefulness for Reading

What do you do when you teach in a school library and don't have the funding to provide enrichment activities for your students? Or if you manage a library in the County of Los Angeles Public Library system that is the recipient of the amazing

Enrichment Works grant to provide literacy enrichment to school-age students but you don't have an adequate venue? If you're on Catalina Island, you collaborate!

Teacher and librarian Donna Sharpe and public library manager Catherine Bueno have been doing just that—providing enriching and rewarding activities to school-age students in their small community. They coordinated a hamburger-themed party to kick off the Cover to Cover Reading Program sponsored by a national burger chain. They also promoted a reading incentive program sponsored by an international media corporation, which more than doubled participation. They co-hosted three assemblies in the past two years with generous funding provided by 4th District Supervisor Don Knabe.



Avalon students Rylan Flynn and Steve Hoefs meet "Matty" from Enrichment Works' program "Matty Old-Time Baseball with Chris Mathewson"

Alvarado *Elementary*

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



A Special Invitation

Every year around this time, Alvarado's office becomes even busier, which signals the time for kindergarten registration. This February, we kicked off our first day of the 2012-13 kindergarten school year by hosting a parent information meeting and a tour to follow. We met at 8 a.m. in the multipurpose room before seeing our two kindergarten models, Community of Learners and a traditional self-contained classroom.

We had another fantastic turnout, and we encourage parents to register their 2012-13 kindergarteners on or shortly after Feb. 8. Besides the tour, kindergarten parents are encouraged to join us for Open House in July, orientation and other special incoming kindergarten events.

Bancroft *Middle School*

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



Two Special Programs

Soon, fifth-graders will choose their middle school for the 2012-13 school year. Bancroft Middle School offers two special programs for students to consider.

Applied Technology Magnet (ATM): Bancroft's ATM program is one of the best in the district. ATM students take a computer class as their elective every semester. By the time they complete the program, they will have learned advanced technical skills and will have used professional software that will prepare them to enter more advanced programs in high school and college. Students create digital movies, 2-D and 3-D CAD (computer assisted drawing) designs, computer graphics and Web pages. They learn how to use the Internet wisely and to develop advanced word processing and spreadsheet skills and are introduced to new technology and ways of thinking that are consistently developing in our culture.

The Summit (GATE/EXCEL) program helps students become independent critical thinkers who are ready to transition to high school. Our school is a classroom demonstration site for the California Association for the Gifted Conference and has attracted teachers worldwide. Our exceptional GATE-certified teachers work collaboratively by grade level to help students make intellectual connections across the disciplines. Students also learn about career preparation from members of the business community on Career Day and visit local colleges with the AVID program during the school year. College is a top priority here.

Birney

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

Thomas Espinoza, Principal

No Article This Issue

Burbank *Elementary*

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

Lorraine Griego, Principal

No Article This Issue

Barton *Elementary*

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



Albert Gallo
Principal

Barton Kids CAN-CAN-CAN Care for Their Community *By Heather Evans, 1st Grade Teacher*

Community is what Barton Elementary School is all about. Barton Elementary students had a food drive and collected cans of food to help Long Beach community members in need. The students collected more than 900 cans of food which added up to more than 800 pounds of food. All of the food collected was donated to a local food bank for distribution over the holiday season. Go Barton Bears, a community school that really shows they care!



Jessie Pinedo, Joshua Carillo, Christian Conrad, Nazrie Esquivel, Chad Chhom, Ismael Correa helped to collect and organize canned goods.

Bixby *Elementary*

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



Stephanie Jones
Principal

Our Entrepreneurs

Bixby fourth-graders in room 14 hosted their annual Winter Craft Faire before leaving for winter break. This activity is the culmination of the Open Court Reading Unit "Dollars and Sense." The objective is to encourage the students to think and act like entrepreneurs. More importantly, this activity is a service-learning project, teaching students the pleasure of giving. Fifty percent of the profits from the Faire are donated to the Long Beach Rescue Mission.

The task was to make three dozen craft items to sell. The crafts had to be handmade, and no baked food items were allowed. The students were encouraged to visit craft stores, talk to family and friends, and look on the Internet and through magazines and catalogues for ideas. They were given craft-workshop time at lunch and after school, and parent volunteers, donations and support were encouraged. Students were allowed to use their own money or take out a loan from their parents or their teacher for supplies. Based on the cost of the supplies, the students determined the price for each item—mostly 25 cents to a dollar. The students had to advertise, provide all supplies needed to decorate their booth and keep their money secure. They were responsible for running their own business/booth during the Faire.

After two days of sales to Bixby staff, students, parents and friends, all loans were paid back. The students had raised enough to then donate approximately \$597 to the Rescue Mission! The Entrepreneurs were then allowed to keep the rest of the money earned. Way to go, Bixby Beavers!

Beach *High School*

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



Matt Saldana
Principal

New Opportunities

Beach High School, located on the campus of Long Beach School for Adults, has selected sophomore Jennifer Perez as its first student council president. Other students serving on the council include Vice President Alexis Megar and Thori Jackson.

The group meets each Friday with Principal Matt Saldana to learn more about leadership skills and styles and to make plans to develop the core group of students into a comprehensive high school.

One of the enjoyable duties of this group of students will be to help establish the identity of this new school by selecting a mascot, a logo, and school colors. The council intends to incorporate these items into school sweaters and other school materials.

As part of their leadership training program, the council members plan to conduct an informal survey of friends and other students to gather ideas and suggestions for the mascot, logo, and colors. The other students will also be asked to make recommendations for social activities for the school.

Beach High School, which opened in September of 2011, is providing a unique opportunity for credit-deficient students who attend any Long Beach Unified School District high school to make up their credits and get a new start toward academic success. Students who are selected to attend Beach High must be referred by their counselors.



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Bryant *Elementary*

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



Doris Robinson
Principal

Unique Learning Opportunities

Bryant Elementary School celebrated another wonderful day with the University of California, Irvine (UCI) Doctors for Diversity Program. There were 20 medical students who shared their expertise with Bryant scholars to enhance the Long Beach Unified School District College and Career Initiative. The students came in their white coats with their stethoscopes and engaged students with explanations of what it takes to become a medical doctor.

They were accompanied by Dr. Sosa-Johnson, who chairs the UCI Medical School Diversity Department. The students will be visiting Bryant four times this school year, and they will be a part of Bryant's Open House. We are so thankful for the time and energy these young medical students contribute to making a difference in the community.

Girls on the Run is in its second year of implementation at Bryant. Thirty young females in the after-school program participate in this nationally recognized program. Female coaches work with the third- through fifth-grade girls to teach self esteem, good eating habits, and the importance of exercise. This program is sponsored both in fall and spring and culminates with participation in a 5K run/walk marathon. Bryant students went to Universal City in December to take part in this wonderful opportunity. The participants receive a T-shirts and medals. Each student is required to have a buddy runner, therefore, many of the parents or family members participate. Bryant is very proud of these students!

Burnett *Elementary*

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



Lucy Salazar
Principal

Run, Run, Reindeer

By Nancy Jo Rettig, Counselor

What's the training involved for Santa's sleigh? How does the team accomplish its efficient drops in less than 24 hours for the good children all over the world? However they complete this daunting task, you must admit, those reindeer must be in awesome shape.

Perhaps they joined the Burnett School Reindeer Trot. With antlers waving and collars jingling, our junior athletes clocked in some serious miles. Ethan Patricio, a third-grader gave shout-outs to volunteers: "Thanks, water ladies, cause we don't have no more breath after running."



Adding to the excitement were celebrity sightings. Frosty was in the house—well, outside in 75-degree heat actually. But he was just the warm-up for our headliner, Santa! St. Nick's Public Relations representative, Efen Marquez, chuckled, "I liked seeing their eyes light up when they saw Santa, especially those kindergartners." Besides Rudolph's nose, those are the shiniest lights in town.

Burcham *(K-8)*

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



LaShell Diggs
Principal

Kindness to Others

December was "Interact With Kindness" month at Burcham. One special act of kindness from our students was sending care packages to soldiers who were returning home from Afghanistan. We called this our "Operation Rack Pack Barracks Project."

A letter from our PTA president, Mrs. Gibson, to the entire Burcham School family tells the story:

"Thanks to all who donated items for our Operation Rack Pack Barracks Project—an effort to welcome home soldiers from Afghanistan. We had a wonderful response and, in fact, it brought tears to the eyes of the coordinator, a local neighbor and mother of a soldier.

Donations of household items, gift cards, magazines, food and heartfelt signs were delivered to Camp Pendleton in December. The items will be used to help welcome soldiers back to America after a long trip around the globe.

Often soldiers arrive on base late at night with no family present to welcome them. Our effort will help ease their transition home. We are so proud of the generous effort our Burcham families and staff have made. Once again, thanks!!"

Butler

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



Sparkle Peterson
Principal

Bulldog News

By Monica Alas, Assistant Principal

Mary Butler MS is off to a good 2012. Students and teachers have completed the first monthlong series of an anti-bullying program. Bulldogs participated in a culminating activity consisting of a door-decorating contest highlighting their interpretation of what it means to be bully free. One winner is selected from each grade level and treated to a pizza party. Butler has also instituted a reporting system that allows students to feel at ease when seeking help from a bullying situation or reporting an incident. Under the guidance from Safe and Civil, Butler staff and students continue to strive to keep a safe and bully-free campus.

Other news highlighting Butler accomplishments include a winning boys' track team. They ended a great season, locking first place as division champions. The boys' basketball team suits up and the girls' track team warms up to what's sure to be an exciting winter season. Go Bulldogs!

Each month, students are recognized as Students of the Month for outstanding citizenship. For the month of December, there was a record 42 students recognized for showing positive attitude and encouraging others to be their best. The focus for January is recognizing All-Star Bulldogs who show ways in which they are responsible. Selected recipients, parents and guests are invited to a special assembly in celebration of student achievement. Visit our Student of the Month display in the library.

School News

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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

Lady Jaguar Leaders are Wonder Women!

Under the leadership of assistant superintendent Maggie Webster, leadership academies at the six high schools empower female students with promising academic and leadership potential. Our Lady Jaguar Leaders have made tremendous strides in academic achievement and personal enrichment, and their future is bright.

The young women are ambassadors for the district at multiple events. This semester's activities include college visits, Future Business Leaders

with Damon Dunn, women's events in the city, Principal for a Day, The Freedom's Sisters exhibit and the Unity Festival, all while attending meetings and maintaining rigorous academic programs! In fact, during the first 12 weeks of school, GPAs improved on average from 1.86 to 2.69. Disciplinary referrals decreased on an average of 3.25 per student.

"Our goal for the semester is for everyone to make honor roll!" said senior Marie Vasquez. "We are stronger together. I will go to college and become a social worker, and I know my sisters and mentors will be there for me anytime I need them."



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

Carver's Gone GATE

Well, school is now in full swing, and it is such an honor for me to be serving as the proud principal of Carver Elementary!

Each day I come to work with a colossal grin on my face. That's because I am always excited to see how our students are thrilled to be learning. They are always ready for the exhilarating academic challenges that they face each day.

Our Carver teachers are vastly skilled in working with their students, too, and it shows! From kindergarten to fifth-grade there is a great sense of rigor and excitement being introduced into each instructional day.

As part of providing a school-wide GATE program, all of our teachers have been trained in the instructional strategies they need to work with the gifted and talented minds of our young people. As a result, you may hear our students referring to themselves as Carver Scholars.

We have recently been moving into a new academic focus area that is expanding the thinking and intellect of each of our students. The children in every class and grade level are being taught to think and learn with a depth and complexity of strategies.

This is an exciting year, and we have a new, cutting edge approach to maintaining a GATE program in a small school. We are definitely looking forward to watching our little Cougars soar!

CAMS

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



Dr. Janice Filer
Principal

Impressive Achievements

California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS) has recently achieved several impressive accomplishments. The school was a finalist in the Intel Schools of Distinction Award for high school science, received the 2011 National Blue Ribbon Award, and is now certified as a Project Lead the Way Model school for our engineering curriculum.

Also, CAMS students competed at the Health Occupations Students of America state leadership conference in Sacramento, and 13 students competed in the national competition, where two students received medals. Interested students participate in the University of Southern California (USC) Pharmacy Explorers Program held on our campus. Participants attend monthly presentations regarding pharmacy careers. CAMS participated in the USC Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) regional competition at USC as well. CAMS placed first in algebra/geometry and algebra, placed second in pre-calculus, algebra, and model science, and placed third in algebra/geometry, model science, glider, and manila folder bridge.

CAMS Robotics team participated in the San Diego Regional Competition and ranked 13. The team also participated in the Los Angeles Regional Competition, where they were ranked 31 and were selected to join the eighth-seeded team in alliance for the playoffs. In addition, our VEX Robotics Team has qualified for the 2012 Robotics World Championships, to be held in April.

We are also proud to report that CAMS hosted the second annual Regional Introduction to Engineering Design Challenge, sponsored by Project Lead the Way. Three CAMS juniors took fifth place; three sophomores placed second and later placed first at the state competition in San Diego.

Established in 1990, Zinsmeyer Academy is a California State certified, nonpublic, nonprofit, fully accredited Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) school, that provides excellent academic and vocational education services to children needing small class sizes and individual instruction and tutoring.

The school is co-ed, grades 4 through 12, offers CIF basketball, baseball and track/cross country.

For enrollment information:
Contact Lisa Butcher at 562-961-6109

The program includes:

- Individual tutoring
- Small class size, student/teacher ratio of 5.5 to 1
- Direct instruction strategies
- A safe, consistent daily routine with breakfast & a hot lunch provided



Zinsmeyer Academy

a division of

ChildNet Youth and Family Services, Inc.

4223 East Anaheim Street
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Chavez *Elementary*

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



Kimberly Weber
Principal

Families Brighten the Neighborhood with Art

On each of two Saturday mornings, approximately 100 people from the school and community worked together to paint murals on four-foot pieces of plywood. The art, inspired by students' drawings, school events, and locations around the city of Long Beach, was carefully drawn on each of the boards by our parent volunteer, Connie Taylor, and our counselor, Mrs. Millar.

The Saturday morning volunteers were treated to coffee, donuts, pizza, and water while they worked to paint the 80 boards.

Each of the boards now hangs along the walls of the construction site for the new Los Angeles County Superior Courthouse. When the construction is finished, the boards will be returned to Chavez School, and we will have them hung on our walls and in our gym. A huge thank you to the families and staff members who made this such a positive experience and for brightening up our neighborhood!



Cleveland *Elementary*

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



Teresa Montoya
Principal

Monthly Spirit Assemblies

Coming onto Cleveland Elementary School's playground during a monthly spirit assembly will give you a warm and welcoming feeling. Music plays while students carry out chairs and line up on the playground. All first- through fifth-grade students, staff members, and many parents are in attendance.

Under the supervision of Ms. Torres, the school counselor, and Mrs. Neff, the student council advisor, our Cleveland Elementary School Student Council officers lead our activities. An officer leads the Pledge of Allegiance and the school song. Student council officers also make important school announcements and assist with the distribution of certificates.

Students are recognized by Mrs. Montoya for passing reading benchmarks. Ms. Torres presents certificates to students who have been recognized for displaying the monthly character traits: citizenship, fairness, caring, responsibility, tolerance, trustworthiness, respect, and perseverance.

Students are also rewarded for earning Good Slips, which are collected in the office, and winners' names are drawn for each spirit assembly. Good Slips are earned for completing work, following directions, listening politely, following classroom and playground rules, picking up trash, playing nicely, helping another student, and demonstrating other kinds of helpful and generous behavior.

Classrooms earn Cleveland Cash for perfect attendance. The two classrooms with the highest amount of Cleveland Cash at each spirit assembly are awarded banners to keep in their classrooms until the next assembly.

At the conclusion of each spirit assembly, students move back to their classrooms to the tune of an upbeat and energizing song played by Ms. Torres.

Constellation *Community Middle School*

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

Daphne Ching-Jackson
Executive Director

Our Finest March

Thirty Constellation students and their parents marched in the Martin Luther King Parade in January. Everyone loved the idea of marching north on a street named for the legendary civil rights leader. How often can you do that without auto traffic?

Constellation students chanted about the school, and a few really fit and venturesome students did handstands to the delight of parade audiences. It was recognition for the school that everyone reveled in. Parents and supporters cheered along the parade route to the delight of the students. The announcer at the grandstand spoke about the school's ability to offer a nurturing educational environment at the small public charter school. A good time was had by all. After all, who doesn't like a parade!



Cubberley

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



Terri Jarels
Principal

Future Engineers

By Kristine Dassero, MESA Club Advisor

This year Cubberley K-8 School's middle school students had the opportunity to participate in Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Club. MESA is a nationally-recognized program which provides academic support to students to assist them in the areas of math and science.

The Cubberley MESA Club students meet weekly and participate in hands-on activities which allow students to problem solve or innovate new ways to construct a solution while staying within the specifications of a project. For example, after learning about the physical forces that relate to flight, including lift, drag, weight, and thrust, the students

constructed balsa wood gliders. Currently students are focusing on civil engineering. They are building bridges out of craft sticks and will be testing the strength of their designs.

The MESA Club students are looking forward to participating with other area middle school students in the MESA Day preliminary events to be held at California State University, Long Beach in March.



Interaction between the students while working on a project.

Edison

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



Richard Littlejohn
Principal

Energize!

Activity equals school energy! The holiday season came with a fury, and our Edison students and staff members definitely enjoyed their first post-Thanksgiving school days.

The Turkey Trot kicked off the festivities as students prepared their bodies and put them to the test during preliminaries. The top competitors were even able to compete for pies to take home for their Thanksgiving dinners! More than 140 students received participation awards for their great efforts in this event.

The students also worked hard to prepare for their final projects and exams as Trimester 1 came to a close. This is evident by our Edison site average, which increased by a whopping nine percent on the District ELA Trimester 1 Exam, as compared to last year. What a remarkable and significant achievement!

The staff and students are absolutely energized by this success. We attribute it to our consistency and focus on Content Standards-Based Instruction, teacher collaboration, increased parental involvement, and a positive and balanced safe-and-civil school management system.

We all know that academic success provides opportunities for the future, but we cannot forget to feed the mind and body. Now that we have brand-new bike racks on campus, we are also encouraging our students to ride their bikes safely to school and with a bicycle helmet. Our principal has even taken a pledge to be healthy, save the earth, and bike to school at least twice a week!

So ride safely and work hard!

Emerson

Parkside Academy Charter

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



Margaret Kerns
Principal

Walking Through History

By the Fourth Grade Team

In December, Emerson's fourth-grade scholars, many in costume, waited anxiously to participate in Walk through California, an interactive retelling of California's history. For weeks, scholars prepared themselves by defining "expert words," researching a question and practicing public speaking skills.

Scholars assumed "time-machine positions" as they embarked on a journey through California's history. At each stop, scholars participated in dramas, dances and music that took them to the time of the first Californians, the mission era, Mexican Independence, American arrival and the California Gold Rush. While participating, scholars listened carefully for their expert word. When their word was used, scholars taught everyone about their research.

In the end, scholars traveled back to modern times by building a giant relief map of California. Scholars expressed that this was the best "at school" field trip they've had. Best of all, Emerson fourth-graders walked away with knowledge, appreciation and enthusiasm for history.



A walk through California by the 4th grade team

Dooley

Global Studies Magnet School

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



Gerardo Gloria
Principal

Our Newscasters Learn Real TV Skills

Under the careful direction of teachers Christy Boss, Elane Parker and Ana Patterson, 21 fourth- and fifth-graders at Dooley Global Studies are real-life news broadcasters!

The 10-minute monthly newscast keeps students up to date on the latest Dooley happenings: student interviews, principal reminders, classroom news and announcements of upcoming school events. The student producers, directors, photographers and set designers meet weekly before school to review their duties for the upcoming monthly broadcast, which is aired live with some portions prerecorded. On the day of the broadcast, students run audio and sound checks before the newscasters read their scripts.



"The Dooley News" is a great way to celebrate all the activities around the school. Students can be seen around campus armed with video cameras or taking photos of a particular event, which the newscasters report on during the broadcast.

The news program helps expose Dooley students to different career options and build good communication skills.

A+ PROGRAM

Your School Can Win a FREE "Aquarium on Wheels" Visit!

How? By using "Clean-up in a Box" to host litter clean-up events at your school. This activity can be ordered online and is **FREE** to all K-3rd grade teachers at LBUSD schools in Long Beach.

The school sending in the most Clean-up Report Forms before **March 2, 2012** will win a free, five-hour visit from the Aquarium of the Pacific's "Aquarium on Wheels". Also, Report Forms from the winning school will be used in a drawing to determine which lucky classroom wins a \$500 cash prize.

This activity is a great opportunity to teach about the impacts of litter and to introduce your students to the concept of service learning.

Visit www.litterfreeLB.org for more information or to order your box!

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Franklin *Classical Middle School*

540 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-4952 • www2.lbusd.k12.ca.us/franklin/index.htm



Maria Pilar Perossio
Principal

AVID Students Prepare for the Future

By *Hend Khalafalla, AVID Teacher/Coordinator*

Students in the AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) program have embarked on an exciting journey into their plans for the future. They began the school year learning about how Cornell notes and collaborative study groups can be used in their content-area classes.

Students in AVID are also continuously learning how to be leaders at the school as well as in their careers; each week, two AVID students teach a lesson on colleges and careers. Currently, they are deciding and discussing where they would like to be in 20 years. They have begun to determine the costs of mortgage payments, utilities,

child care and the transportation that they desire. This new information has broadened their outlook on how much education they truly need in order to not only own material items but also feel happy every morning when they wake up for work in the career of their reality.



Gant *Elementary*

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



Jeff Wood
Principal

Our Readers are Tomorrows Leaders!

Reading is the foundation for learning, and our PTA supports every child reading every day in many different ways. What does Gant do that's different?

One of our many PTA activities is the monthly used book sale. The Used Book Sale, managed by the amazing Sarah Derrick, enables students to buy gently used books at a very reasonable cost—25 cents per book. Mrs. Derrick sets up in the early-morning hours to provide students access to many titles or varying reading levels. We even have a special table for grown-ups.

Have your children save their allowance and visit our Book Sale? Five books for one dollar—you can't find a better bargain anywhere. Remember—Readers are Leaders!

Fremont *Elementary*

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



Matt Hammond
Principal

Technology Enrichment Now

One of the special programs we have at Fremont Elementary is the Technology Enrichment Now program. Kindergarten through fifth-grade students use the computer technology lab to complete projects that enhance and enrich the core curriculum. Students have access to tools to collect, analyze and clearly communicate information to produce their own product using skills learned through the years. Technology is a vital component in the learning process, and the Fremont Technology Lab provides the necessary skills for students to be successful now and in the future.

Students sharpen their technology abilities and at the same time have previously learned skills reinforced and enriched year after year. Kindergartners and first-graders become familiar with the computer and its programs, creating projects that utilize computer drawing, typing, graphics and more. Second-graders become familiar with Microsoft PowerPoint by creating a slide show about one of their field trips where they are adding their own text and transitions. Third-graders use a variety of tools for word processing, graphing, digital photography, projects and presentations. Fourth-graders can take PowerPoint a bit further by creating a book report slide show. These fourth-graders are adding photos, scanning text connections and including information from online research about the book's author. Fifth-graders research American history online and create a brochure, re-creating and scanning historical items into it and manipulating each piece to their liking.

The computer lab is active and continually changing to teach students the technology needs that will keep them up-to-date and well equipped.

Garfield *Elementary*

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



Donna McKeenan
Principal

Learning About Governing

The Garfield Student Council is made up of two students from all of the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms. Each one of these students is elected by their classmates and approved by their teacher to be a part of this group.

The group's role is to provide an opportunity for student voices to be heard in regards to school programs and expectations. It meets monthly with the principal to discuss various issues and projects.

Our parking valet system is one of the projects that these members help support. Each morning they assist our parents in dropping off the students at school. A specific area of the campus on Hill Street has been designated as a "safe" drop-off point in the morning. The student-members help open car doors safely and quickly so that the other children can exit onto the safe area of the playground.

Every morning these students also work with the principal to help make announcements about the important school news of the day. They are also some of our school leaders too, and act as good role models for the other children.

The students also learn about governance and the nature of political offices. They even assist in developing various service-learning opportunities for our general student population and community.

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Gompers (K-8)

5206 Briercrest Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-2285 • <http://lbgompers.schoolloop.com/>



Kelly Ludden
Principal

Generous Gators Give Graciously

Like most schools in the district and across the country, Gompers K-8 celebrates the holiday season by giving to those who are less fortunate. This year our students and their families chose the City of Lakewood's Project Shepard as the recipient of their efforts.

Project Coordinator Tracy Spencer set a goal of collecting enough food and cash donations to complete 50 dinner boxes. These would contain all of the food items needed for holiday meals, including supermarket gift cards for perishables. She approached the donations differently by assigning specific needy families to the students. This way each class could provide a full box or more.

The Gompers students responded by donating enough money and items to fill 65 boxes! The classes that collected the most items won a movie party. Mrs. Tilton's first- and second-graders donated the most items for the lower grades, while Mrs. Evans' third-graders topped the upper-elementary grades.

The winning middle school class was Ms. Rock's. While the party was fun, the students agreed that their reward for participating was the help they gave to others. Maslyn Patrick, a third-grader from Mrs. Evan's class, said that, "I felt good about helping people who did not have anything for the holidays. We had fun at the party, but we all gave because it felt good to help."

The Gompers Gators look forward to their next opportunity to help our community.

Harte Elementary

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



Scott Tardibuono
Principal

Get Fit!

The race track at Bret Harte Elementary School will be a happening place on Friday, February 17. The upper playground will be the site of the first annual Fit-a-Thon. All day long, students from kindergarten through fifth grade will be walking and jogging their way to fitness and earning money for the school. These funds will be used for future field trips and other school ventures.

Students will be asked to collect pledges from family and friends to support them as they walk or jog as many laps as they can within their grade level's allotted time. Students will be able to earn a

number of prizes, ranging from free homework passes to pizza parties and amusement park tickets. Individual and classroom prizes can be earned, so all students will have an opportunity to win a prize for raising money and getting fit!

Family members are welcome and encouraged to join us on campus that day to cheer on their children as they strive to become "Harte Healthy." For more information on how to help your child obtain pledges, a list of prizes students can earn, or the time your child's class will be participating, please contact your child's teacher or the main office.

Are you
looking for me
for the contest
on page 34?



Grant Elementary

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



Mona Cook
Principal

Thank you Give and Grow

Thank you for the things you did to improve our school at U.S. Grant Elementary. I really appreciate what you did to the Guidelines for Success. I love the idea that you put the Grant Guidelines for Success where we have our flag assembly. I love the murals that you painted, you put Mr. Eagle and you painted brilliant paintings of people working and kids learning new things everyday to grow up and have a good education. I like the benches that you created outside and the paintings that you did on the benches. I love the new P.E. equipment that you put for us to play on. You made our school, Grant, a better place to be educated. Everyone loves the things that you put. Students really love all the effort that you put in it. Thanks for your act of kindness. Sincerely, Student



Henry (K-8)

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



Claire Alvarez
Principal

2012 CABE Essay Contest Winner

By Marisol Uy (picture on front page)

Learning Spanish to me means opening a door to a whole new world. Not many people in the United States have had my experience and I wish I could share what I know with everyone.

To begin with, I did not always speak Spanish. My parents enrolled me in the Patrick Henry Dual Immersion Program. At first it was difficult. I remember my first day in kindergarten. I was so afraid because the teacher would ask me a question in Spanish and I had no idea what she was saying to me. I didn't know how to answer her. All I knew were my colors and numbers. But as time went by, it became easier. Now I can think and communicate in Spanish with confidence. But part of being bilingual is not only speaking the language, but learning the culture too. I have learned that the Latino culture has many contributions. While learning Spanish, I also learned many dances in Ballet Folklorico, such as flor de maiz and cumbia. I can also appreciate famous artists such as Frida Kahlo and people who made a historical difference such as Cesar Chavez. All of these contributions helped me better understand the Spanish language and Latino culture.

When I grow up I plan to work for the United Nations. I will be able to communicate with other people because many countries speak Spanish. I plan to help people and make a positive difference in this world.

I am proud to be bilingual. I feel like can accomplish anything!

Hamilton *Middle School*

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



A Path to the Future

This year, in collaboration with CAMS, Hamilton has launched a Cal-HOSA JUMP program. JUMP is a middle school program that is designed to prepare students to explore possible careers in the health care industry.

Hamilton's JUMP chapter works closely with CAMS to accelerate and encourage our students who are in both science and health care classes. Many of Hamilton's JUMP members are also enrolled in a forensic science class taught by Helen Ahn.

David Downing
Principal

The Health Occupations Students of America, or HOSA, provides a unique program to assist individual students with leadership-skills development, physical, mental and social enhancement, job readiness, employment, self-worth, motivation and empowerment.

The Hamilton JUMP members have an opportunity to participate in career exploration through guest speakers, field trips and mentorships between CAMS and our school. JUMP students learn teamwork strategies, leadership values and a positive work ethic.

International *Elementary*

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

Kimberley Baril, *Principal*

No Article This Issue

Hill *Classical Middle School*

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



Sophia Griffith
Principal

Students Support Children

By the Hill Classical Middle School Student Council

In his past December, the Hill Classical Middle School Student Council sponsored a fund-raising event to purchase toys for young patients in Millers Children's Hospital. Students donated money or bought inspirational silicone bracelets for this great cause. With the money raised, the student council went on a field trip to a local store and loaded up on goodies. With the several hundred dollars collected, they bought toys, games, craft items, and stuffed animals.

The gifts were delivered to the children in time to spread some Christmas cheer. "It was a fun experience, and we are hoping to do it again in the future to support other local charities," said student council member Yasmeen Golden. "It was great to know that we could spread some cheer to children who had to spend the holidays in the hospital. We really did enjoy it!"



Hoover *Middle School*

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



Dr. Avery Hall
Principal

Parent Night Brings Greater Involvement

By Rebecca Fast, Teacher

Hoover Middle School's Accelerated Learning and Performance by Students team (ALPS) recently hosted a wonderful night for our parents. Its purpose was to bring them together to discuss how they can help students achieve success during middle school and beyond.

The parents were able to choose which workshops they wanted to attend, or those they thought most beneficial. After meeting in the library for a brief overview, the parents who wanted to brush up on basic GATE strategies attended "Depth and Complexity 101." Others chose to learn about Socratic Seminars. Here they observed sixth-grade students participating in a lively discussion about the oil spills along the Gulf Coast.

Another option for parents was learning how to better use the district's online grading program called "School Loop." But the most popular session of the night was a class on how to prepare students for the Accelerated High School programs.

This new format was a huge success. Parent Cindy Melvin commented that, "Although I have a sixth-grader, learning now about the high school process was very informative. This will give our family the planning advantage on getting admitted to the best high school programs."

Based on parent requests and input, our ALPS teachers are already planning to offer more parent classes during the spring semester.

2012 LITTER STINKS PERSUASIVE POSTER & VIDEO CONTEST

Get students involved in this contest and their community.

Students create an anti-litter poster or video that convinces people to keep Long Beach litter-free!

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Holmes *Elementary*

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



Luana Wesley
Principal

News Broadcasters

Holmes Elementary School broadcasts the “Holmes Hound Update News” every Friday morning. These news broadcasters come from students in grades 3-5 who show an interest and talent for news reporting. Students have been broadcasting the news since October and they have been planning and collecting exciting news stories to present to the entire school. The students are learning how to speak clearly and incorporating tools and props in their media presentation. This student led activity is a great learning experience for all students who participate and the learning opportunity is exposure for the students who may want to become the leaders of tomorrow’s journalistic world.



Hudson *(K-8)*

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



Cathleen Imbroane
Principal

Toy Drive Winners!

In November and December, Hudson School was given the opportunity to participate in a toy drive sponsored by a worldwide home-furnishing corporation. Hudson School represented the city of Long Beach in a contest to donate the largest number of soft toys. Our school competed for a chance to win \$1,000.

The contest was held from in November and December. Participants had to purchase soft toys at the Carson branch of the corporation and put them into a participating school’s bin at the store’s exit. The school with the most toys received \$1,000. Hudson School contributed over 1,200 soft toys, thereby winning the contest.



All toys that were donated—over 1,500 in total—were donated to a Long Beach children’s hospital. For every toy donated, the corporation donated one euro to two global children’s charities. Go Hawks!

Hughes *Middle School*

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



Dr. Sally Gregory
Principal

Holocaust Survivor Visits

By David Michaels, 7th Grade English Teacher

Eighth-grade classes at Hughes Middle School recently finished reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* in their English classes. English teachers Stacy Collins, Gina Bowley and Roberta Williams invited Holocaust survivor Laura Hillman to campus to tell the students her story. During the Holocaust, Ms. Hillman survived eight concentration camps, including Auschwitz Birkenau. She was one of over 1,100 Jews freed by Oscar Schindler.

Students at Hughes were profoundly moved by Ms. Hillman’s

presentation. Afterward, many stood in line to meet Ms. Hillman, take her picture and get her autograph. The library was overflowing with eighth-graders who were anxiously looking to check out and read Hillman’s book, *I Will Plant You a Lilac Tree*. According to eighth-grader Vanessa Chavez, “It was touching but sad at the same time. It makes me realize that governments need to make greater efforts to end genocide worldwide.”



Nina Hojdat with holocaust survivor Laura Hillman

Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

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



Brian Moskovitz
Principal

VIVA La Bike!

Stop the traffic for VIVA Long Beach! In December, Jefferson Leadership Academies (JLA) and its science department partnered with Tony Cruz, Bike Ambassador for the City of Long Beach and former criterium national champion and U.S. Olympian. Mr. Cruz and the department team—Geoffrey Shidler, Vanessa Balderrama-Van Dyke and CSULB student teacher Tamara Flores—share a passion for teaching students to live an active, healthy lifestyle through cycling, eating healthy foods, and athletic discipline.

“Partnering with the JLA Science Department is a perfect match,” said Marisela Moreno, science department chair. VIVA La Bike’s mission is to integrate the California Science Standards for Motion and Forces by connecting to “bicycle science” while promoting healthy lifestyles through the health standards, including reducing teenage obesity and preventing teenage diabetes.

The riding component of VIVA La Bike is in phase II. Phase I took place in 2010–11 with BikeLongBeach.org, in which our students worked with Charles Gandy and the City of Long Beach to suggest safe routes to and from school. Approximately 30 students, parents, teachers and Mr. Cruz’s protégés took part touring the neighborhoods and bike paths of Long Beach Districts 2 and 3, supported by mini-lessons about bicycle maintenance, rules of the road, nutrition and health. Future lessons will cover bicycle science.

VIVA La Bike participants link up with the City of Long Beach’s desire to be the “Most Bicycle Friendly City” in the country while reaping the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. If you see us on the road, please slow down, proceed with caution and share the road!

Jordan *High School*

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



Shawn Ashley
Principal



Dr. Jay Camerino
Principal

New Opportunities for Graduation

Next year Jordan High School will open J-Plus. This new extension is designed to allow our students the ability to earn more credits, and have the opportunity to graduate on time with their class if they have somehow fallen behind.

J-Plus will be a separate campus on Susana Road near Artesia Blvd, the site of the old Jordan Freshman Academy. Although J-Plus is still on the drawing board, it is due to open in September of 2012 with sophomores, juniors and seniors in attendance.

The students who attend J-Plus will take three classes a day for 90 minutes each. The students can also take additional credit recovery classes through an independent study packet system.

The average Jordan student can earn 60 credits per year, but those who attend J-Plus can earn 80 credits. This gives them the opportunity to graduate early or complete the classes that they struggled with prior to entry.

Because our students will only take three 90-minute classes a day, they will be completing them twice as fast. A full year of classes will thus be completed in one semester. Having only three classes allows students to focus their attention on three subjects instead of the regular six.

Students who take classes at J-Plus are also eligible to participate in all of the regular high school activities, just like the main campus. They will be able to earn a Jordan diploma, participate in the band and athletics, and attend the Jordan prom.

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

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

Deborah Anderson, Principal

No Article This Issue

King

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



Dr. Cecilia Santos-Camerino
Principal

Pay It Forward!

We are so grateful to the schools and organizations that helped support our families during this past holiday season. The Naples Elementary School's PTA adopted our school as their own and provided our families with an abundance of toys, clothes and other gifts.

We are also thankful to Gompers K-8 School's PTA and Girl Scout Troop 3453 for helping out. Troop 3453 ran a food drive and collected over 40 baskets of food for our families!

In addition, the Bethune Transitional Center, which has supported our school for years, also contributed gifts to families in need. The Center even sponsored our school on a field trip to Millikan High where the PEACE Academy hosted a day of fun activities and food.

Our King Staff also adopted several students and provided them with special gifts to help make their holiday season memorable.

The Volunteer Center, South Bay-Harbor-Long Beach, Operation Teddy Bear donated backpacks to all of our first-grade students and then read a story about volunteering. It made a great impression on them.

Finally, Councilmember Neal from our own District 9 and our local fire station spent the morning with our first-grade students to join in on the fun.

We are so grateful to all of the wonderful community organizations that are making a difference with their generosity and mentoring. This has further built the kind of character in our students that will make them want to "pay it forward" and give back to their community when they become successful!

Keller *Elementary*

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



Marjean Hughes
Principal

Our Legacy

Keller Elementary School has served the children of Long Beach for 58 years. During this time it has served the community well by providing every student with a strong foundation for future success. Our own current teacher Ms. Roberts, and past teacher Ms. Grantham, both attended Keller as youngsters.

Unfortunately, due to budget cuts and declining enrollment, the Long Beach Board of Education approved the closure of Helen Keller Elementary School in June of 2012.

Our staff and community are committed to continuing the high quality instructional programs we have at Keller, and want our students to leave with lasting memories and lifelong friendships. Currently the students enjoy our



Reading Garden, Family Dance and such special programs as "Lunch with a Loved One" and Spirit Assemblies.

Keller's legacy will be celebrated with various events beginning from March to June. Please contact the school office if you would like to be on the mailing list for our celebration of Keller's legacy, at (562) 421-8851.

Lafayette *Elementary*

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



Wendy Thompson
Principal

NCUST Award Finalist

Lafayette Elementary School has been named a finalist for the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) 2012 National Excellence in Urban Education Award.

Among thousands of urban schools throughout the nation, 49 presented applications documenting that they met the rigorous criteria for the award. The 49 schools are the center's Honor Roll Schools for 2012. Among those 49 impressive schools, 27 (including Lafayette) presented superior evidence of excellence and were named finalists.

Approximately 12 schools will be selected as 2012 award winners. NCUST will conduct a one-day site visit to the school in February. During this visit, they will look for evidence of high achievement, rigorous curriculum, excellent instruction, and enthusiastic engagement. The schools which show the greatest evidence of these elements will be the winners.

The NCUST executive director, Joseph Johnson, Jr., said, "In many respects, this was the most competitive field of applicants we have ever reviewed. If every school in America served diverse populations of students as well as the National Excellence in Urban Education Award schools, achievement gaps would be eliminated. You should be proud of the difference they are making in the lives of the students they serve and their role as a model for urban schools throughout the United States."

We are very proud of our students, teachers, support staff, parents, and community. The collaboration between all stakeholders at Lafayette continues to provide students with an excellent environment in which to grow and thrive in all aspects of their education.

KAMPS / ACTIVITIES FOR KIDZ

Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine

2760 Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815 • www.lbparcs.org

New Spring Classes for Youth & Teens

This spring Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine has great new classes for youth and teens. The spring "Recreation Connection" is available on line at www.lbparcs.org for course descriptions and locations and registration information.

Youth

Kids ages 8 to 12 can learn Break Dancing techniques on Saturdays from March 10-31 at North Long Beach Center, 2311 South Street. New music classes include Ukulele (ages 5-7) on Tuesdays, Glee Club (ages 7-14) on Thursdays, and Beginning Piano (ages 7-12) on Wednesdays. Ages 13 and up can also learn beginning piano techniques in "Adult Piano on Wednesdays. Vocal Work out for ages 15 and up is offered on Thursdays and will cover breathing, tone and articulation. All music classes are held at Jammin Music at 4228 Atlantic.

Budding young scientists ages 5-12 will love collecting fingerprints, exploring gravity and solving crimes in "Fun – Damentals of Science on Mondays at Heartwell Park.

Teens

New Skills

Driver's Education classes will be available on March 3, April 7 and May 5 on line to prepare teens to take their driver's test. Teens can also take SAT Prep and Test Strategies at El Dorado Park West on Saturdays from April 7-28 and May 5-26. See teen classes at www.lbparcs.org.

Jewelry Making

Teens ages 14 and up can take jewelry making at Wardlow Park. Hoop Dreams Earrings on Saturday March 24 will focus on earring shapes, sizes and styles. Teens can reuse old jewelry and work with natural materials in "Recycled Finery Jewelry" on Saturday, April 21. Each month in the spring a different session of "Designs for the Senses" (ages 14 and up) demonstrates the use of new and refurbished beads and materials to make jewelry. Finally, ages 13 and up can create something beautiful for moms at the Beaded Brunch Mother's Day Jewelry Workshop on Saturday, May 12.

Dance

Ages 14 and up can socialize and get fit at Beginning Cha Cha on March 24 and 25 and at Beginning Ballroom Foxtrot on Saturdays from April 14 and 21. Both classes will be held at El Dorado Park West. Ages 14 and up can learn Jitterbug Swing, Salsa and Cha Cha on Sundays from February 26 to April 1 at the Psalm 30:11 School of Dance, 530 E. 4th Street at Atlantic. The family can dance together at the all age Family Hoe Down featuring the Cotton Eyed Joe and other hoe down fun on Friday, May 11 at Recreation Park.

Visit www.lbparcs.org or visit your local park community center or City library to pick up a copy of the spring "Recreation Connection."



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Note-ables

Songs from the Baobab



Kate Karp

This beautiful collection is one that parents may play even if the children aren't home, particularly if they were fans of Miriam Makeba or were blown away by the South African group Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Paul Simon's *Graceland*. The set includes a CD and a colorfully illustrated book by French children's book artist and illustrator Élodie Nouhen; it includes lyrics, explanatory notes translated into English, and geographical information that shows children that Africa isn't one large country but 54 independent ones, with different languages spoken throughout.

On the disc are lullabies, game songs, and nature anthems, all to be sung to or by children. The lullabies calm and amuse crying, upset children through rocking and movement. In light of the hard lives that so many African children endure, it isn't surprising that the greater part of the songs falls into the lullaby category. A lilting shepherd's flute threads plaintively through "Yum-maa yehii jaabe," (Your Mother Has Gone to Search for Jujubes); in the song, the child's mother is absent, and the singer tells the child that the mother was out hunting fruits. Orphaned African children are often taken in by other families; "In Ga" and "Faatime Hawwaa" tell of the sadness of children who know that they aren't as valued as are the birth children.

There are joyful songs as well. "Îtä Zâke" translates from the Sango tongue to "Frère Jacques"; it was taught as a "time to wake up" song in Central African French schools. Game songs include "Kabuye Kanjye" (My Little Pebble) with clear instructions for playing a stone-passing game, and there is a Togo version of "This Little Piggy," titled "Eya Bé" (He Says).

A best-seller in France, *Baobab* is set to tell its stories on this continent. Welcome it into your home, heart and ears.

Kate Karp is an editor for *School News Roll Call* and a freelance writer and editor.

Magic Book Garden

Family Reading Time



Rozanne Lanczak
Williams

Would you set aside just 20 minutes a day for a special family activity if you knew this would greatly increase your child's reading skills and overall enjoyment of reading? A friend of mine, Lisa, is a second grade teacher and she and her high school teacher husband have a kindergartner and a second grader. Lisa was concerned because she couldn't get her son, the second grader, to read on his own. So she and her husband decided to begin Family Reading Time, a quiet time for each family member to read something of their own choosing. Since both parents work full-time and the kids have lots of activities, this was no easy feat. But Lisa, being a teacher herself, understands the power of modeling in the learning process.

The rules are simple: Turn everything off! That means no telephone calls, TV, iPods, electronic games, etc. Everyone in the family chooses something to read. Even pre-readers can enjoy a book by looking at the pictures. That's what Lisa's kindergartner did before she started to bring little books home from school that she could actually read on her own. Don't be concerned if your child picks books that you think are too easy. Practice with easy books will increase confidence and improve fluency.

Set a time to begin. 20 minutes is a good start, but you can adjust the time that fits your schedule. You might have your kids help you make a sign for your front door that says, Shhhh! Family Reading Time is in Progress.

Relax and enjoy your reading time! As a parent, this might be the only time you get to read the newspaper or an actual novel.

Remember, Family Reading Time should not replace Read-Aloud Time. This is the irreplaceable warm and fuzzy time, usually around bedtime, when you read to your children, typically from books slightly harder than their reading level.

Family Reading Time models your interest and love of reading. And because you value reading, your children will too.

Rozanne Lanczak Williams, a former teacher, is the author of more than 200 books for beginning readers, parents and teachers. Visit her Web site: www.magicbookgarden.com

On The Run Stress Fractures



Dr. Doug Richie

Sometimes, a dull aching pain on the top of the foot may represent the beginning of a serious injury. Stress fractures in the bones of the feet can occur in runners of all ages and sometimes lead to long term disability. These injuries seem to be on the rise with the popularity of barefoot running and “minimalist” shoes.

The bones of the feet are subjected to tremendous bending forces during running and somehow seem to adapt and perform miraculously despite the punishment they receive. Sometimes, however, the applied stress exceeds the capacity of the bones to strengthen and adapt. This will occur when a runner suddenly increases the length or intensity of their training sessions. The sudden increased stress will cause the bone to crack or fracture.

Stress fractures in the feet do not always begin with extreme pain. Many runners will unknowingly continue running with a fracture assuming that the dull ache they feel will soon go away. The metatarsal bones across the ball of the foot are the most common location of stress fractures in the feet. The pain is almost always felt across the top of the foot.

Usually a stress fracture begins with a microscopic fracture which will not show on x-ray. It may take two weeks until the healing process of the fracture will finally be visible on the x-ray. Therefore, whenever there is a suspicion of a fracture, rest is always the best advice. Once diagnosed, most stress fractures heal with immobilization in a special boot. However, the runner will usually miss at least 4 to 6 weeks of training. Prevention, through better training techniques is the best remedy for stress fractures of the feet.

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APRIL 5-9



PARK DAY CAMPS

A whole week's worth of fun for kids ages 5-12 April 5-9, from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. at Stearns Champions Park, 4520 E. 23rd St. Apply at park beginning February 1. Extended hours available, call park for more information at 570-1685.

SPRING BREAK WORKSHOPS

Join the staff at El Dorado Nature Center for great vacation fun April 5-9. Morning sessions from 9:30-11:30 a.m. are for K-1st grade students. Afternoon sessions from 1-3 p.m. are for 2nd-4th grade students. Fee is \$10 per class. Register at the Nature Center, 7550 E. Spring Street. Call 570-1745 for workshop descriptions.

SPRING AQUATICS CAMP

For Children ages 5-12 from April 5-9. Activities include canoeing, kayaking, arts & crafts, games and excursions. The camp will be held at Leeway Sailing Center, 5437 E. Ocean Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for \$150. Extended Day Care is available - call for more information. Registration will be conducted by mail. Registration materials will be available on March 1. Call the Aquatics Office at 570-1888 to request materials.



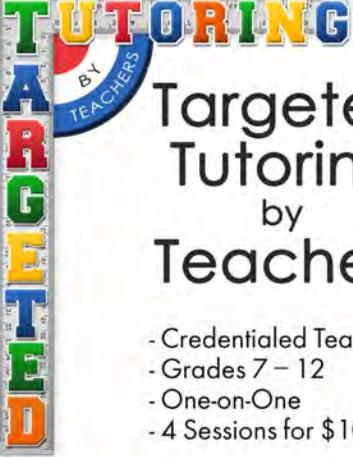
RANCHO ADVENTURES

Thursday afternoons, 4:15-5:45PM

The Rancho Los Cerritos Adventure youth program adds historic chores and games to a fast-paced tour of the site's 1844 adobe house and gardens and helps young visitors understand what daily life was like on a 19th century California rancho. Ongoing. \$3/person; reservations required. The Rancho is located at 4600 North Virginia Road, Call 570-1755 for information and to register.

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Ask Dr. Shari

Boundaries Deflect Negativity



Dr. Shari Sweetnam

Dear Dr. Shari,

A few weeks ago, on the morning show we heard you talk about boundaries in a way we had never heard before. You were talking about what you allow near you, in terms of attitudes. I would love to teach my kids about this, It is so important. I want them to grow up with this kind of attitude and strength. Could you share your chalk-line story again? —Jonathan Y.

Dear Jonathan,

Sure thing! The idea of having boundaries is about more than just protecting you from your surroundings. Your boundaries (what you allow around you) are actually defining of you. In large part, they determine who we are and what we become. Few of us realize that self perception and self esteem hinge on the boundaries that we have in place. What we tolerate, when we speak up, and what we stand for are indicators of our value system. They determine who we are. I admire your commitment to teaching your children this and I would be happy to run that story again!

My Chalk Line:

There a lot of kids in my neighborhood. I love kids, they know that. When we are home, there are kids in my garage, playing with toys, shooting hoops, painting and playing games. It is a high-energy good time, as it should be with kids around. On occasion, an altercation will break out. Someone might say something mean, a disrespectful comment might float, out or someone might even pull out a negative attitude. This is when I take out the chalk. I draw a half circle around the front of my garage. I let everyone know that within the circle are all of the good attitudes. I tell them that everyone is respectful and appropriate in the circle. Everyone has a great time in the circle and everyone is welcome here. However, if you are carrying negativity, inappropriateness, or the slightest amount of doubt of whether you can be respectful to everyone within the circle, then you are asked to step on the other side of the chalk line until you decide that you are more interested in being a part of the atmosphere in here.

It's a decision that you get to make. You are welcome to take on whatever attitude suits you outside of the circle and no one (in here) will say a word about it, but you can only bring the best of you inside. We hope you choose to stay in here, because it is so fun. . . and we like having you in here.

I take this very seriously. I escort children to the other side of the line, when necessary. I let them know that the rules do not bend. It is the only way I can promise kindness and respect within the circle...All of the kids know this.

The truth is, Jonathan, I really enjoy watching the expression of a kid who has been escorted outside of the chalk line. It is always the same. They stand there, for a moment, looking in... and you can just see them thinking...

“It’s so much fun in there... I would so much rather be in there...and they want me in there... and all I have to do is respect everyone? I can DO that.”

Each one of us needs to draw this circle. We have to carry an attitude of “You are welcome near me, with your goodness, your respect, your positive energy, but otherwise I will have to ask you to stand outside of my chalk line.” By tolerating less than this, you are diminishing who you are. By allowing negativity into your world, you are cheapening the experience of being near you. The party isn’t as fun, there aren’t as many smiles, you become eroded and have less to offer.

You know the people who have a chalk line because you wouldn’t dare bring your negativity around them. You love being near them. The energy is high, the attitude is great. It’s a wonderful place to be.. and its your call.

Thanks for bringing it up Jonathan, It is one of the greatest values you can teach your children.

Dr. Shari is the founder of the “Brainpower” program for schools, Author of “*The Learning Toolbox - Memory Skills for Everyone*” used in schools nationwide, “*Inspiring the Love of Learning*” and “*The Algebra Toolbox - The UN MATH Solution*” in schools Fall 2011. Dr. Shari is a syndicated columnist, radio host and author of over 200 articles on the topics of Learning and Memory. Contact Dr. Shari at info@doctorshari.com. For a schedule of radio and television appearances see www.doctorshari.com.

Lakewood *High School*

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



Cheryl Cornejo
Co-Principal



Mario Jimenez
Principal

A Student of Merit

By Erin C. Charles, Merit Scholar Counselor

Rebecca Wyborski is one of many high-achieving students at Lakewood High School. For three years in a row, Rebecca has earned the Merit Scholar Student of the Year Award. The National Merit Scholarship Corporation commended her for being among the top three percent of the 1.5 million students who took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT).



Miss Wyborski takes advantage of the opportunities for growth available at Lakewood. As the vice president and secretary of the Kerygma Club, Rebecca leads events to spread the Christian faith. She is also treasurer of Glee Club, a member of the Creative Writing Club, and a four-year member of California Scholastic Federation (CSF), SHARP, the Principal's Honor Roll, and the Straight A Club. She practically taught herself how to play the flute and has earned the third chair flautist position in our symphonic winds program.

Becky is involved in activities outside of school and is most proud of her ability to run marathons. As a member of Parkcrest Church High School Leadership Team, she participates in mission trips to Native American reservations, visits battered women's shelters, makes blankets for underprivileged children, works at local food banks, and fund-raises to provide clean water in Africa. Monthly, she sends a child in Peru a handwritten letter and \$30 to attend school. Rebecca is also a leader in her home. Because her mother is handicapped, she must take charge of household duties and be extremely self-sufficient. With a 4.45 grade-point average, we are proud to call her a Lakewood High Lancer!

Lincoln *Elementary*

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



Christi Granado
Principal

Student Council Asks Students to Show They Care

Caring is the trait of the month at Lincoln and Student Council has selected a great way to have students show how they care about others. Lincoln students are supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma society in the Pennies for Patients drive. Students will be collecting pennies. The money that is raised will be given to the society to assist them in cancer research, education, advocacy, and patient services. Students who raise over \$50 and classrooms with the highest amount collected will have an opportunity to win a prize. We wish every student good luck in making every penny count for this special Pennies for Patients drive.



Members of Student Council promote Pennies for Patients.

Lee

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



Caroline Nemec
Principal

Lee Elementary Movie Night

Lee Elementary School's Fourth Night at the Movies was January 27th, 2012. Lee Elementary School families have been enjoying free movie nights sponsored by our very own WRAP Program. Parents and students share a special time with their children and staff. The movie shown was Kung Fu Panda. It was another fantastic night at the movies!



Lindbergh *Middle School*

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



Connie Magee
Principal

Winter Fair Celebration

The Lindbergh students and staff enjoyed a fun-filled day well into the winter break! Those students who had kept 80 percent of their behavior points for the quarter were treated to a special afternoon of fun and activity.

Teacher booths included a variety of food, drinks, winter crafts and games. Some of the favorites were a gift booth where students could purchase and wrap gifts for their families, and talking-photos with Santo the Santa. Reindeer races, musical chairs, three-legged races, soccer goals and the basketball shoot-out kept students active.



The Lindbergh ASB raised over \$1,200 from this event. Students who did not keep their points enjoyed an afternoon of character education instead, with a discussion about keeping points for the next fair. What a great way to end a successful beginning to the school year!

Lindsey *International Studies Magnet*

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



Stephanie Dunn-Cooper
Principal

Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

Last October our Lindsey students contributed to their community by holding a canned food drive.

The items were collected during their first-period classes. After researching various local organizations, the student council chose to donate the food to the Long Beach Rescue Mission. The Mission provides food, clothing and guidance to the homeless and less fortunate members of our community.

The school also held a special assembly to highlight global and community awareness of poverty. Its goal was to introduce our students to the key challenges that face the struggle against world poverty.

Guest speakers included Dale Neal from the Long Beach Rescue Mission and motivational speaker Schea Cotton. They stressed to Lindsey students the impor-

tance of giving back to the community.

That day our students and staff members wore a white uniform shirt to bring uniformity and attention to the eradication of poverty both globally and locally.



Longfellow *Elementary*

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



Laurie Murrin
Principal

New Friends

The Longfellow Elementary School Lions started off this school year with many fabulous celebrations, including Moms 'n' Muffins and Back-to-School Night in September, a Halloween costume parade in October, and our annual PTA Harvest Festival in early November.

This year's events were extra special because we welcomed the students and personnel of Burroughs Elementary School into our Longfellow family. Due to the closing of Burroughs, Longfellow has added approximately 150 children to its enrollment, as well as first-grade teacher Annette Rosenlof. Judging by the attendance and smiles at these events, our new enrollees already feel part of the Lion's Pride.

Third-grader Sidnee Justice said of her new school, "I miss my old one, but Longfellow has been good so far."

Classmate Jake Howard added, "There are good things here at my new school."

Rosenlof, who taught at Burroughs for more than 11 years, said her transition to Longfellow has been most delightful. "I am delighted to be a new Longfellow Lion," Rosenlof stated. "I have received such welcoming warmth from my first-grade team."

Also new is cafeteria manager Christina Lopez, who said her work is going well, but she misses her old school.

Working at night with equal diligence is veteran Burroughs custodian William Faulk, who keeps our site cleaned and prepared for each new school day. "Longfellow is a nice school with a nice staff and principal. And it is closer to my home!"

Helping on the burgeoning Longfellow playground is Nyvon Torres, a Burroughs transfer. With all the added students, she is a great help in maintaining safe and sane recesses.

With our 25th Annual Turkey Trot celebrated in November, chorus concert in December, and many more events planned for this new semester, our Burroughs newcomers have judged their new school home to be one of the very, very best!

Long Beach School for Adults

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



Matt Saldana
Principal

College Ready

The Long Beach Family Literacy Program, which has been providing literacy services to Long Beach families since 1992, has received a \$25,000 grant to help Hispanic and other families prepare for college.

Awarded by the National Center for Family Literacy, the funds will be used to provide outreach to local Long Beach families about ways to finance and gain acceptance to college. The on-site programs will be held at Caesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, and McKinley schools. The program includes the use of a comprehensive set of interactive, bilingual resources, which will be available online.

"This goal of the grant is to strengthen Long Beach Family Literacy's ability to help families and Latino youth prepare for college and help shift this population away from the mind-set that college is too expensive," said Roberta Lanterman, Family Literacy Director.

This effort will ensure that more adults are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education and that parents are well prepared to inform and nurture the educational aspirations of their children. The programs offered are designed so that two generations of Latinos and others will be in the best position to be part of the nation's ambitious goals of career readiness and college attainment by preparing ahead of time.

The interactive tools, *On Our Way: Educational Tool Kit for Families* (*En Camino: Herramientas educativas para familias*), are available at no cost in both English and Spanish. They can be accessed at www.familit.org/myfamilygoestocollege.

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

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



Donald Beaver
Principal

Third grader Bobby Perez combines academic achievement along with athletic success. He also writes great poems. Los Cerritos is very proud of Bobby and his success!

Pangaea by Bobby Perez, 3rd Grade

"Here I come to save the day!" Scratch!

This isn't a story about a super hero. This is a poem about a "super continent" called "Pangaea."

When our earth was one continent 200 – 250 million years ago and dinosaurs roamed the earth.

The thought of humans, hmmm, still evolving or waiting for its birth.

Changing weather, natural gases, magma dragging, the earth crust shifting, meteor showers, and volcanoes popping.

You better run dinos, the raptors are chopping... chop, chop, chop!

Different plants, tiny ants, one sea surrounding Pangaea and millions of years of evolution.

Will earth ever change again? Pollution, nations fighting and natural disasters, earth is constantly changing as long as it's in motion.



Bobby Perez poses with some of his wrestling awards.

MacArthur *Elementary*

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



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

Lakewood Rotary Club Comes Through!

By Melissa Rentchler, School Librarian

In December, the Lakewood Rotary Club presented a \$1,000 check to the MacArthur school principal and librarian! The funds will be used to purchase elementary-appropriate high-interest fiction and nonfiction books for our school library!

The Lakewood Rotary Club was highlighted in the presentation as an organization whose community service includes showing their caring by supporting our students' English language arts skills. Caring was a schoolwide emphasis during the months of December and January. It's important that students are aware that adults who are not teachers, administrators or staff members at our school still care for them despite their own family responsibilities and careers.

Through the financial support of service groups like this, our students still manage to have access to new and exciting reading materials. We thank Lakewood Rotary Club for their generous contribution to MacArthur School!



Mann *Elementary*

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



Wanda Oliver
Principal

Where Learning Meets Fun!

On Feb. 10, parents are invited to attend class with their children from 8-8:20 a.m. Teachers will share tips for increasing achievement, review key grade-level content standards, and teach a strategy that parents can use at home when completing homework or extension lessons. Mrs. Oliver will host a principal's chat in the cafeteria afterward, and refreshments will be served. This event is held several times throughout the year to keep our parents up to date on campus happenings and give them the opportunity to ask clarifying questions about instructional skills and strategies.

Our students are working hard, but we must take time to laugh and have fun! Fourth-grader Cole Whitaker came up with the idea to have a comedy contest. On Feb. 23 during the lunch period, students in grades 2-5 can compete for the title of Comedian of the Year. Students will prepare their own jokes and present them during a playground assembly. The winners will be announced Feb. 24 during our morning assembly.

On March 2, we will celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Parents are invited to come and eat a breakfast of green eggs and ham with their children in the school cafeteria in honor of Dr. Seuss's classic *Green Eggs and Ham*. The cost of the breakfast for adults is \$2 per person. No advanced ticket purchase is necessary.

After breakfast, parents are invited to visit their children's classrooms to participate in various reading activities. This will be a fun-filled morning!

Madison *Elementary*

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

Armando Duenas, Principal

No Article This Issue

Lowell Bayside *Academy*

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



Samuel Platis
Principal

Flush with Success

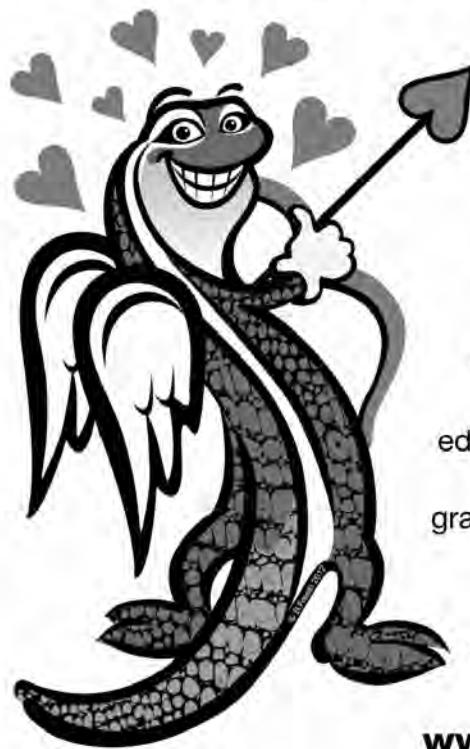
The 100th day of school is a milestone to reflect how well we've given our students a world-class education. We do this by maintaining safety and security, implementing quality research-based curricula, and collaborating. And we're succeeding!

Our first trimester assessments show progress at each grade level, and our Lowell Sea Star Scholars continue to exceed proficiency rates at the national, state and district levels. This would not be possible without the dedication of our staff, students and families.

Equally important, our school and community have a rich tradition of maintaining a safe, secure, respectful and peaceful learning environment. This year, Lowell is part of a districtwide Safe and Civil Schools Program, a research-based and proactive data-driven curriculum. Based on feedback from students and staff, our first area of focus for the Safe and Civil Program is proper, safe behavior while using the school restroom. Before winter break, each grade level attended a brief presentation of restroom behavior expectations and were given a chant to remind them of four things that need to be done when using the restroom: "Go, flush, wash, leave!" This elicited some giggles from the students, and you may be giggling right now, but I think we'll agree that nothing is more important than knowing that our children are safe throughout the day. Our teachers have committed to revisiting our bathroom expectations periodically, and we'll keep data to see how we're doing.

We look forward to continuing to work together to fulfill our mission of educating every child, every day.

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and visiting
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schools.**

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Marshall *Academy of the Arts*

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



Michael Navia
Principal

An Artistic Transformation

By Lisa Marie Weyh, Teacher

Marshall has officially embarked on its first year as the new Academy of the Arts. Classes such as art, chorus, drama, and dance have been added to the master schedule. Due to this change, the majority of students now have the opportunity to take two electives. "I am very excited that Marshall Middle School has made this transformation," explained the principal, Michael Navia. "Our hallways will soon be filled with song, music, and visual art."

Leading this transformation are a team of experienced arts advocates: Charles Erdhal, instrumental music; Alyce Ohl, choral music; Lisa Marie Weyh, dance; and Ronald Harmon, art. This group is passionate about the arts and working hard to put Marshall on the map for quality arts education.

Highlights for 2011–2012 include choral and instrumental music concerts, dance class showcases, a residency from the Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre, and a musical production of "Once Upon a Mattress."



Beginning dance students at Marshall Academy of the Arts learn team building skills through creative movement.

Millikan *High School*

2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/425-7441 • [www.lbmillikan.schoolloop.com/](http://lbmillikan.schoolloop.com/)



Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo
Principal



Monica Daley
Principal of
Instruction

German Students Rock the Auditorium

By Katie Hickox, English Department

Antje Peterie's German students didn't have to be assigned to practice their nouns and verb tenses the other day. Peterie's pupils sang each word in unison to the tune of a popular German band.

The band Madsen played in Millikan's auditorium this fall before a throng of high school students from throughout Southern California. Millikan hosted a total of 20 different schools,

for a total of 1,450 students, from as far away as San Diego County, according to Peterie, who coordinated the visit. The visit was part of a tour facilitated by the Goethe-Institut, a German cultural center.

"For my students, it does not get any more authentic than this," said Peterie. "My students, in all four levels, learned a ton of German by discussing and interpreting the lyrics in class." A four-person band, Madsen describes its lyrics as a blend of pop, rock and punk music.



McKinley *Elementary*

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



David Taylor
Principal

Christmas Elves

By Christy Cleveland, McKinley Counselor

On a Friday in December, about 75 students from CSULB visited our first-grade classrooms. Each student from CSULB sat with one of our McKinley first-graders to talk about college and write a letter to Santa.

The next Friday, a group of 75 elves came back to the first-grade classrooms to make Southern California snowflakes. The college students brought along some guy with a white beard dressed all in red! He had a giant sack of gifts specific for each student. The excitement could not be contained, and a loud first-grade roar could be heard all the way to the North Pole!

Merry Christmas to all and to all our elves: Go Beach!



GO BEACH!!!

Monroe *(K-8)*

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



Mark Curran
Principal

Tigers on the Run

What a great program LA84 put together in December with the Run-4-Fun event at Griffith Park!

LA84 is a non-profit group that was started after the 1984 Olympics to help get more young children involved in running. The course they chose is a nice winding hilly one that is 1.25 miles long and runs through a portion of Griffith Park. The event involved boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. The students ran in separate races according to age and grade.

In order to qualify, our own middle school students participated in three timed trials held during their physical education classes. These trials were an 800-meter run, a 1,000-meter run and 1,600-meter run (1 mile). The fifth-graders were also able to participate. They practiced three times a week during their lunch recess.

Three of our students gave some extra effort and scored in the top 10 of their divisions. In our 11 and under girl, Annie Mason took ninth place out of 226 girls. In our 11 and under boys, fifth-grader Daniel Bautista scored a second place, and sixth-grader David Garcia took first place out of 220 boys.

A total of 1,226 runners competed in the Run-4-Fun. What a great event this was, one that involved so many of our elementary and middle school students from Los Angeles county.

Kudos goes out to LA84 from the Monroe K-8!

Muir Academy

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



It Takes A Village

By the Fourth- and Fifth-Grade Team

The teachers at John Muir Academy understand that effective education requires a team effort. Before the culmination of each year, the teachers gather to reflect on and plan for the following years' lessons in science and social studies. Each instructor is assigned an area of expertise: life; Earth; physical science; or early civilizations. In this way, teachers are able to plan and deliver clear, concise lessons that integrate a variety of mediums, such as video, diagramming, experimentation, modeling, and mapping, including Thinking Maps® and depth and complexity icons.

Lori Clark
Principal

The students rotate among all of the fifth-grade teachers. In this way, the teachers not only get to work closely with each of the fifth-grade students and their parents, but the children also begin to understand the discipline and organization that accompanies the rotation of classes that they will encounter in middle school.



Naples Bayside Academy

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



Fifth Grade Celebrates the Ellis Island Experience

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses..."

Naples 5th graders experienced Ellis Island first hand in a simulation held in the auditorium on Wednesday, December 14th.

Long lines, endless waiting, detention, day-long tests, and interrogations awaited each of the "immigrants" garbed in jackets, shawls, and hats as they hoped to be admitted through to the United States.

Students came to appreciate the hardships faced by many of their ancestors as history came alive thanks to wonderful parent volunteers and the 5th grade team Mrs. Strauss and Mrs Rodgers.

Elizabeth Flynn
Principal



Newcomb Academy (K-8)

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



Exploring the World through Language

By Scott Wells, Instructor – Computer Lab

Three years ago, I contacted an renowned language program and asked what would be involved in bringing their software to the Newcomb School community. I taught Japanese for 10 years at Robinson School and wanted to encourage Newcomb students to develop their linguistic skills.

Under the program, individual students and family members sign up for a one-year, online subscription. Those who sign up must have high-speed internet. Subscribers can access the program online from any computer in the world. Newcomb students and family members are able to study at home, at school, or while taking a break at work. The cost is \$110 per person, which is far less than the normal price. If you have any interest in bringing this program to your school site, please contact me at swells@lbschools.net.

Gray Lange Jr.
Principal

Under the program, individual students and family members sign up for a one-year, online subscription. Those who sign up must have high-speed internet. Subscribers can access the program online from any computer in the world. Newcomb students and family members are able to study at home, at school, or while taking a break at work. The cost is \$110 per person, which is far less than the normal price. If you have any interest in bringing this program to your school site, please contact me at swells@lbschools.net.



Taylor Hinkle learns Spanish

Polytechnic High School

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



Joseph Carlson
Principal of Instruction



Victor Jarels
Co-Principal

Heard Nationwide

ESPN recognized Poly's girls' track team for winning four state championships in a row and presented them with the 2010-11 Powerade Fab 50 award for ranking as the number-one team in the nation, at Vets stadium in November during halftime at the Poly vs. Cabrillo football game.

"This was one of Poly's finest teams, and we are so proud of each and every one of the girls," said girls' athletic director Crystal Irving, "They are now part of the rich history not only at Poly High School, home of scholars and champions, but also the country."

This national recognition raises the awareness of Poly's already established athletic prowess.



Poly continues to provide students with many different platforms for success. No matter what the students' contribution to the school as a whole, every student plays a role in creating the rich diversity and variety of interests that are found at Poly.

Powell *Academy*

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



Wendy Claffin
Principal

Bigger and Better

One of Powell's favorite annual traditions is the Family Math Festival, which takes place in January. Here our students, parents and Powell staff members get together in the gym for a fun-filled evening. Through friendly competition they participate in a carnival-type setting to help solve a variety of math puzzles and challenges.

For instance, do you know what makes a stronger shape, the cube or the pyramid? What does the number of inches from your wrist to your elbow equal: the length of your foot or the size of your hat?

The students compete for prizes and excitement as they learn different math concepts and strategies like estimation, ratio, place value, problem-solving, geometry and graphing.

To encourage our students to try all of the different math games, they are each issued a passport to enter the evening's event. Each time they participate in



a math game they receive a stamp on the passport to confirm their participation. Once the passport is completed the students receive a free homework pass for that night.

Everyone is a winner at this event, which grows bigger and better each year!

Reid *High School*

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

Barbara Lindholm, *Principal*

No Article This Issue

Riley *Elementary*

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



Stacy Sanchez
Principal

A Sweet Start

Happy New Year! We started off January running at Riley Elementary School! Our annual candy bar fund-raiser was a sweet beginning. Last year we were able to purchase projectors and document cameras, professional development books for teachers, books and student whiteboards for classrooms, prizes for testing, and so much more! This year, we again appreciate your help and look forward to enhancing our classrooms to increase student learning with even more books, technology, professional development for teachers, and more!

Thanks to all those that came to Dad's Donut Day on February 3. As usual it was a packed house, and we enjoyed combining it with Sports Day to get everyone inspired for Super Bowl Sunday!

We so enjoyed meeting future Roadrunners at the District Education Celebration! We hope you have submitted your school of choice applications. Each year gets better at Riley, and we would love for you to join our family! Our fifth-graders are filling out their middle school applications and are preparing for the fun of the end of the year. But there is still a lot to learn!

We have so much to be thankful for at Riley—friendly and patient neighbors and community members, dedicated and supportive parents, our dedicated and excited PTA, our passionate and hardworking teachers and staff, and the fabulous students who make Riley the best place to learn and grow!

Prisk *Elementary*

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



Cindy Young
Principal

Safe and Civil

In keeping with the Long Beach Unified Schools District's mission of providing the best education for every student, every day, Prisk Elementary School has started a new program based on the Safe and Civil School Model. This three-year commitment will allow staff to make data-driven site procedures, decisions, and strategies, which will provide a positive impact on the climate and safety of our school. The staff is currently collecting data on common areas, including the cafeteria, playground, and hallways, to develop a more concise set of procedures and guidelines for teachers, students, and parents. You may have already seen students using the silent signal in the hallways as they move about campus. The signal involves the use of two fingers in the air (the peace sign) and one finger on the lips. This is the sign of our Pioneers Embracing Peace (PEP) squad.

With the support of our counselor, Trish Ross, Prisk now has 50 student conflict managers, who were selected due to their leadership abilities. These student managers follow a regular duty schedule and report to both the primary and intermediate playgrounds. They are responsible for assisting with conflicts through a procedure called Fair Fight, in which they walk and talk their peers through misunderstandings that may occur on campus. The conflict managers have voluntarily given their lunch periods to participate in six training sessions, which provide the knowledge base necessary to support their peers. The program is not only a great way to foster a physically and emotionally safe environment for all students, it is also a lifelong benefit to help our students learn to resolve conflicts appropriately.

So, if you see students with visors and clipboards, be sure to thank them for their hard work and dedication to our school site safety procedures and for having a positive impact on the climate and safety of our school.

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

The Science and Arts of Education

After gathering and analyzing data about student achievement, a school-wide plan has been developed using effective teaching strategies, academic interventions, and curricula development to: increase all students' math proficiency rates on the California Standards Test (CST); improve all students' ability to write at a high level; and enable students to pass challenging classes the first time.

At Renaissance High School, teachers are responsible for their students' successes and failures. Departments create action plans that address the formative and summative student data while incorporating the district's reform initiatives. A school-wide critical academic focus is to increase the math proficiency rate on the CST.

Also, counselors and teachers use test scores and grades to guide student placement in challenging courses, but at no time are students denied access. It is the policy at Renaissance that it is better for a student to struggle in a challenging class than to be locked out of the learning. Student achievement in challenging curriculum is directly connected to the students' ability to write at a high level, which is another school-wide critical academic focus.

Budget cuts reduce opportunities for students to repeat or recover credits due to lack of teacher quota and targeted interventions in prerequisite courses. Therefore, a third school-wide academic critical focus is to insure that all students pass challenging classes the first time around.

Increased math proficiency, writing at a high level, and passing challenging classes the first time will ensure that graduating artists at Renaissance will continue to be admitted to top universities.

Robinson *Academy*

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



**Dr. Damita
Myers-Miller**
Principal

Fall Harvest Festival

True fun and excitement was in the air during our annual Harvest Festival in October!

Sponsored by the Recreation Department, this event is a family affair in which our parents and students can enjoy the many food booths and game activities that are available. A favorite of the crowd was our “spooktacular” haunted house. Maybe next year Dr. Miller will be in the dunk tank!

Our ASB understands that to be able to lead, you must also be willing to serve and support those in need. So they recently sponsored a school-wide food drive in which 100 boxes were filled to the brim with canned food and non-perishable items. These materials were delivered to a local community charity in the Wrigley Association district.

Jackie Robinson Academy students participated in the 24th annual Martin Luther King parade in Long Beach. Students from various school programs were well represented, such as the ASB, MESA, MALE Academy, AVID and cultural dance performers sponsored by the Recreation Team.

Our students were excited to be representing the school, and to show their JROB pride in having a true American hero and namesake, while also honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Roosevelt

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



**Dr. Christopher
Lund**
Principal

ELAC Leadership Team

Our new English Learner Advisory Council (ELAC) Leadership team has done an excellent job in their new positions. Together, they have planned and facilitated three ELAC meetings with over 100 parents each. They have taken their responsibilities very seriously and have represented Roosevelt in a professional and exemplary manner. We are very proud of their hard work and thank them for their service to our community. Keep up the great work!



**ELAC Leadership team Kemarak Kong, Abad Rosas, Estela Salinas,
Martha Torres, Margarita Rodriguez and Margarita Vasquez-Rodriguez**

Rogers *Middle School*

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



Tom Huff
Principal

Making the Choice to be a Better Parent in 2012

As the principal of Rogers Middle School, I'm sure you would agree with me that our most precious resource, bar none, is our children. As parents and educators, let's make it our Number One priority to do everything we can to change the world by raising sound, responsible, reliable, loving children. To that end, let us commit to these New Year's resolutions:

As a parent:

I choose to allow my child to learn from his/her mistakes

I choose not to do for my child what he/she can do for him/herself.

I choose to realize that childhood is a challenging time, and I will be more patient.

I choose not to yell, scream, hit my child, or be angry all the time.

I choose to be consistent in disciplining my child.

I choose not to put unreasonable expectations on my child.

I choose not to constantly criticize my child. I understand that a child thrives on encouragement and is damaged by endless criticism.

I choose to model for my child integrity, kindness and being a loving person.

I choose not to take my love away no matter what my child does or doesn't do.

I choose not to try to be a perfect parent. I understand the importance of modeling for my child that doing your best is good enough.

I hope that the 10 resolutions above will help you to develop a positive relationship with your child. Embrace this time because it is an unrepeatable gift.

Thank you for supporting my efforts to help parents raise children that are responsible and respectful of others. May the New Year bring peace and happiness to all. Best wishes for 2012.

Signal Hill *Elementary*

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



Lauren Price
Principal

Stocking Stuffers

Signal Hill teachers were given 45 minutes and one challenge: Decorate this stocking in any way you'd like with whatever materials you have on hand!

In that short period of time, teaching staff created six 3-foot-tall holiday stockings, which were then stuffed with goodies that students could use. Jumprobes, playing cards, board games—even a KITE were stuffed into these stockings. Students were then given an opportunity to purchase tickets from Student Council in order to win the special stockings.

Six lucky students went home with more than they could carry, and Signal Hill Student Council raised over \$500.

Signal Hill teachers really are the VERY best out there!

Thanks to Yvette Streeter and the 2010-11 Jane Addams staff for sharing their fun holiday idea!



Stanford *Middle School*

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



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

Offering 'Sound' Choices

Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation, and a pinch of creativity. —Bo Bennett

Stanford Middle School is brimming with excitement, inspiration and motivation driven by that pinch of creativity! The "0" period PE class allows pupils to take two electives. In many cases, we have students in chorus and instrumental electives or both art and music classes.

Altogether, 38 percent of our students are enrolled in music. We have a 103-voice boys' choir, three girls' choirs and one advanced mixed choir. On the instrumental side, we offer Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of band and orchestra.

Before winter break, fifth-graders from Prisk, Gant, Bixby and Emerson walked to our campus to attend an assembly celebrating the sounds of the season. Before entering the auditorium, they enjoyed the talents of a string ensemble; inside, they were treated to a variety of choral and instrumental pieces.

Our choral students are currently in the practice phase of our spring musical, *Seussical the Musical*, to perform in March. These performers are concentrating on scene study, dance numbers and singing up a storm!

Another creative outlet on campus is our journalism class. We recently learned that our 2011 yearbook was named as one of 13 middle school print finalists for the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Crown Award. The CSPA recognizes excellence in student journalism in areas of content, design, coverage, photography and writing. The award will be presented in March 2012. Congratulations to Kurt Victor and his yearbook students!

Stevenson *Elementary*

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



David Zaid
Principal

Winter Wonderings?

This winter our school site was filled with wonderings and questions when a Secret Santa delivered gifts to all 770 students. The smiles and giggles of happiness that each hand-wrapped gift generated warmed everyone's hearts. This was further proof that Santa's workshop is located in Long Beach and not the North Pole, as most of our students had previously thought!

During the winter break we had 25 Stevenson families in need who were able to receive toys for their children and a bag of groceries, including a turkey. Each family was grateful, and the smiles on their faces lit up our hallways.

Stevenson was also buzzing with cheer as its students performed in our Winter Concert, Suzuki Strings Concert, and first-grade Christmas program. Our dedicated and talented parents, staff and community members all made sure that we are a place filled with "stars."



Stevenson has another winter wondering and great experience planned in February, as the weather forecast is predicting a playground filled with snow. It looks like our Stevenson stars are bringing the North Pole to Long Beach!

Stephens *Middle School*

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



Diane Prince
Principal

"Enjoying Their Prize"

Eleven Stephens Middle School students, and their Principal, Diane Prince, pose in front of their "ride" to lunch. These students were the top sellers in Stephens' Fall Fundraiser.

"It was exciting", said 6th grader Peter Palac, "and big enough to have a party in". Most heartening was the consensus among them that "it felt great supporting my school!"

The money raised from fundraisers support student body activities and programs.



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

Ahead of the Curve

Tincher Preparatory School has always prided itself on parent engagement and use of technology to increase student achievement. In celebration of being named one of six National Demonstration Schools for the Verizon Foundation, Tincher hosted an evening for the entire family.

The evening began with a fund-raising dinner, with proceeds going to support the acquisition of new technology. The main event was the visiting mobile classroom equipped with the newest educational technology, including dual-interactive boards, student response systems, and wireless capabilities. Students and their parents had the opportunity to test drive the equipment and preview the upgrades being installed in a majority of



Tincher families enjoy an evening of interactive technology at Tincher's recent Parent Engagement night.

classrooms starting in January. Parents also participated in an interactive parent training on the Thinkfinity Web site and free educational resources available to them.

The program, held in our newly upgraded elementary technology lab, was an opportunity to showcase the new equipment purchased by Tincher's PTA.

Twain *Elementary*

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



Ellen Ryan
Principal

A True Gem

There were many sad faces at the PTA and faculty meetings when I announced that Gabriel Russi, one of our Top Dads of Great Students (DOGS), will no longer be assisting in the computer lab. He was offered a wonderful job opportunity in North Carolina.

Why such sad faces? Without Gabriel, we would have closed our computer lab completely. For the past few years, he has organized and trained volunteers. He also set up the lab, including all the documentation needed when computers were not functioning. It took lots of time and a patience.

Besides assisting in the computer lab, he also was an integral part of so many of the DOGS activities, from playing a pig in “The Three Little Pigs” to taking charge at the Valentine’s Day dance.

When he came to tell me about the job opportunity, I felt like I was losing a member of my staff. His leadership and commitment to students will not be forgotten. Staff members’ sentiments say it all.

“Gabriel Russi embodies the philosophy of Top DOG!” said Kathy Mitchell. “He’s a great role model for our students—professional, courteous and positive.”

“Gabriel Russi will be greatly missed,” shared Laura McDonald. “He is so patient and always willing to do what is needed. He has such a wonderful approach to teaching the students the basics and assisting teachers with lessons.”

Principal Ryan added, “Mr. Russi is a gem and a half!”

Webster *Elementary*

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



Maria Martinez
Principal

Working Together

By B. Gutierrez, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher

The Webster Elementary School staff works to improve collaboration across general and Special Education classes to better serve all students. Ms. Qualls, our pre-kindergarten Special Day Class (SDC) teacher, works hard to create special events which can be shared by all students. In November, younger SDC students were invited to trick or treat in upper-grade general education classes. An egg hunt is planned for the spring. Ms. Qualls also hosts a weekly sing-a-long for students of all abilities to have fun together.

In September, four Special Education teachers were added to the Webster staff, which increased SDC on campus from three to the current seven. In these classrooms, students are provided with additional support to access the general curriculum. Some students at Webster join general education classes for part of the day. Students from general education programs can also spend part of the lunch period helping their friends in the SDC classes. The Webster staff is working to create a supportive learning community for all students.

The Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Act of 2004 requires schools to educate all students in the least restrictive environment. Many schools practice “inclusion,” which involves educating students with special needs in the schools and classrooms they would otherwise attend to the maximum extent appropriate. Special services are then provided to the child in the regular classroom.

Washington *Middle School*

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



Shivaun Williams
Principal

Winter Fest

By 7th-Grade Students

On December 23, our day last of school before winter break, Washington Middle School experienced an awesome festival—the Winter Fest! This festival was a blast for both students and staff. The tone of the fest was set by the musical tunes of an orchestra, which included one of Washington’s very own teachers, Mr. Popperwell.

The Winter Fest was filled with a variety of activities for students to participate in, such as: a marriage booth, where students were able to obtain candy rings once they were “married” to someone special; an arts and craft table, where students were able to create their very own bracelets or necklaces; and a video game room, where students could compete against one another playing popular video games.

In addition to the activities, there were lots of refreshments: hot chocolate, brownies, pizza, popcorn, nachos, and hot dogs. Although there was plenty to do, the best part of the Winter Fest was that both students and teachers were able to spend free time out of the classroom getting to know each other. All-in-all, the winter fest was a success. Washington raised a little more than \$500. A big thank you goes out to Washington’s Winter Fest Committee and Associated Student Body for their hard work.

Whittier *Elementary*

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



Edward Garcia
Principal

We Take Bullying Seriously

By Cheryl Seagren, Counselor

Last year a fourth-grade student came to the office crying hysterically. He was being teased by his classmates on and off the playground, and hated coming to school.

This really concerned us here at Whittier. Our passion is to provide a safe and nurturing environment where students can grow socially as well as academically.

In order to create this security we now provide a number of anti-bullying programs. Our teachers give anti-bullying lessons monthly. The students have also written their own classroom definitions of bullying and discuss what they see in movies, video games and on TV. They also role play what to do if either they or other students are being bullied.

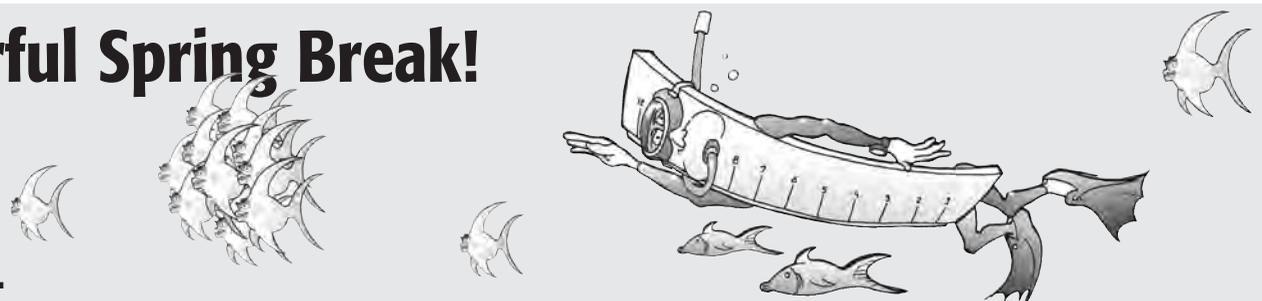
Each fall the YWCA also visits the fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms for a 45-minute lesson on bullying prevention. This is followed up by a spring visit to reinforce the concepts. The YWCA also holds a special workshop for Whittier parents to teach them how to help students who are being bullied or who are bullying others.

There is a happy ending to this story of the fourth-grade student. He learned to identify his friends and spend time strengthening his relationships. The administrators also talked to the students who were doing the bullying as well as their parents.

This young man is now a fifth-grader, and he appears to be happy and enjoying school. It is encouraging to know that there can be a positive resolution to the problem of bullying.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

Our next issue is April 11.



Willard *Elementary*

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

Fall Fun

By William Diaz-Brown, 4th-Grade Teacher

Willard Elementary celebrated the fall with its annual Harvest Festival, an after-school event for the students and community. Grade levels provided gift baskets for a fund-raising raffle. Winners walked away with board games, movie tickets, a new bike, school supplies and many other goodies.

Students enjoyed a large inflatable horizontal bungee-cord run, cotton candy, games of chance, and music. Local businesses donated food, and many parents and staff volunteered their time. Thank you to a fast-food franchise for juice, a local restaurant for hot dogs, teachers and parents who volunteered, the Willard PTA and Julia.



Kevin Maddox
Principal

Wilson *Classical High School*

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

Baking for Charity

By WWCHS Loudspeaker Reporter
Mary Failing, 11th Grade

When hearing about or seeing the shirts for the Cupcake Club at Wilson, one might expect that their entire aim is focused on baking and eating their own pastry creations. But there is more to this club than meets the eye.

In addition to making and eating cupcakes for themselves, as a service learning club they also bake for charitable causes. While helping a hefty

list of organizations like Clothes the Deal, Project Achieve and Precious Life, they still have enough time and cupcake batter to go around to help support events and teams around the school.

Currently they are sponsoring Melissa Olmeda in the "Mr. and Ms. Bruin" competition this coming February, as well as the "Cupcake Crusaders" dodge ball team.

When asked about her favorite aspect of the club, Co-President Brooke Bierman confessed that it is, "The creativity that the members put into their cupcakes, and the variety of people. Not only do we have creative girls to bake for us, but many water polo boys are the most dedicated bakers."

Now that the secret is out that even our fierce water polo boys can bake some mean cupcakes, don't be ashamed to stop by every Friday for lunch in Room 170. Here you can eat amazing baked goods, help out in the community, get some awesome shirts with cute cupcakes on them, and earn your Gold W Points.



Sandy Blazer
Co-Principal



Gonzalo Moraga
Principal of Instruction

Buffum Pre-K Total Learning Center

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

Holiday Show

Miriam Garcia, Administrator

By Nicolle Topp and Sharon Barker, Pre-K SDC Teachers

Buffum Pre-K Total Learning Center (TLC) celebrated the holidays with a winter show for their parents. Eight classes of three and four-year olds brought to life the holiday spirit by singing and dancing traditional holiday tunes and finger plays for their families. The first annual holiday extravaganza went off without a hitch when Miriam Garcia, the school principal, played festive seasonal music on the piano welcoming families into the auditorium. The children were adorable in their reindeer antlers, Santa hats and dreidel costumes. The show's celebration ended with the students and audience participating in a joyful rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas/Hanukah/Kwanza."

St. Joseph High School

5825 Woodruff Ave., Lakewood, CA 90706 • 562/925-5073 • www.sj-jester.org

First Semester a Success!



Dr. Terri Mendoza
Principal

It has been a month since the second semester of school began, and things have already been hectic here at Saint Joseph High School. The New Year brought not only a fresh start in classes but also a new set of activities for students to enjoy.

To start off the year, the students gathered for the Semester Awards Assembly to recognize those who excelled in their classes first semester. It was nice to see the smiles of the students who went up to receive their award.

After the assembly, following tradition, student body president Tiffany Bagnol made a speech reflecting on the first semester of school. Her speech highlighted the main events of the semester and focused on many of the achievements accomplished as a community. She talked about how we raised over \$13,000 for the CHOC foundation and used that as an example to show how successful we are when we work together.

Take Time for Spirit!

After officially saying goodbye to the first semester of school at the awards assembly, the students continued the month with fun activities. The following week, the juniors and seniors had their first official powder puff meeting. The gathering rallied up both classes for the game, which will take place in March.

The Jesters had another chance to show their class spirit at the winter sports rally. The Minute to Win It-themed rally included brief yet exciting games to get everyone pumped up for our brother school's basketball homecoming game against Mater Dei High School.

The sophomores of both Saint Joseph and Saint John Bosco students were also able to enjoy their own share of class activities with their Sophomore Lock-In. The Lock-In, a dance for only sophomores, is a traditional Saint Joseph and Saint John Bosco class activity that is meant to unite the sophomore class of both schools.

The first month of the second semester of school has been filled with activities. With only four more months of school left to go, I'm sure the students of Saint Joseph High School will be busy juggling school and their extracurricular activities.

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

Health and Hobbies



Lauren Shaw
Director

By Anthony Wesley, Coordinating Teacher

Burbank Child Development Center (CDC) has a well rounded program for preschool-age children and kindergarten through fifth-grade students who attend Burbank Elementary School. Burbank CDC preschool has both full-day and half-day schedules. Our before- and after-school care program is an extension of the regular school day and provides activities that include homework time, outdoor sports, games, and thematic lessons.

Our students are currently learning the importance of having a well balanced diet. They are learning the food groups and exploring new foods. All three programs are experiencing interaction with healthy foods and how to prepare them appropriately. The preschool children are tasting many different types of fruits and vegetables. They are learning what they like and dislike. In school-age care, the students are making smoothies with fruits and vegetables.

As we prepare all participants for an enriched and balanced life, we are striving to teach them the importance of a healthy environment, so that all children can learn the impact a healthy diet will have on their future lives.

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

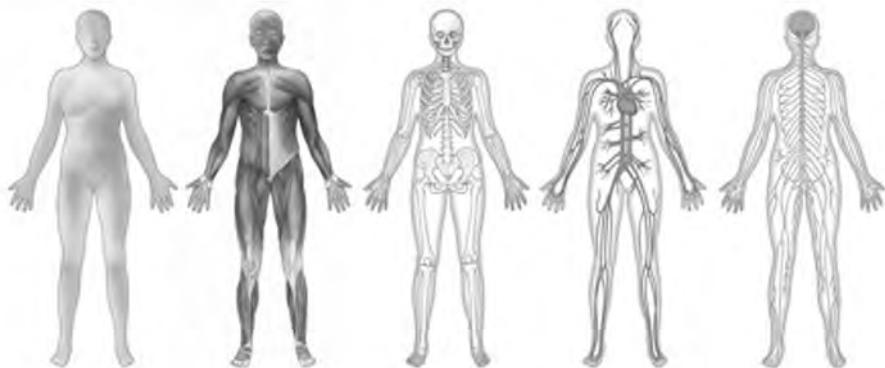


Kalim Rayburn
Assistant
Head of School

The Westerly Difference

The mission of Westerly School is to develop each child's full potential academically, emotionally, morally, and physically. Each and every day the school delivers on its mission in any number of ways. Academically students are engaged in a curriculum aligned with the Common Core Standards and State Standards, yet the delivery of that curriculum is what sets Westerly apart.

Projects are one of the hallmarks of the Westerly program. On a given topic, such as the human body recently for 5th graders, students were challenged to act as interns for a major university's medical school. In teams, they participated in a webquest whereby they researched a chosen body system and became mini-experts on their chosen system. After completing their research, they then had to present to their fellow classmates the results of their findings through an iMovie or video, Power Point, or some other visual. The challenge was for each group to convince their classmates why their chosen body system was the best body system and why the body could not survive without it. Beyond the academic component, Westerly students were challenged to work in groups, integrate technology, and exercise written and oral communication skills – all skills students need to be successful in college and the workforce.



Fifth graders research and debate which body system is the best.

Westerly students are not only academically fit, but they are physically fit as well. All students receive physical education, taught by a P.E. specialist, three times per week. After warming up, students are exposed to a variety of skill-based activities through a process whereby all students are physically active. The skills they learn are then applied to friendly competition in the actual sport. Each week students in grades 4-8 run the mile for time and engage in a number of other physical activities, from which their level of fitness is assessed. 96% of all Westerly 4th through 8th graders are considered in the healthy range based on that assessment. Additionally, students are taught sportsmanship, supporting your classmates, and conflict resolution steps to help them keep a cool head on the sports field.

To round out the whole child approach to a Westerly education, Westerly's mission focuses on the emotional and moral well being of each child. The culture is such that each child should feel good about him or herself and feel safe to take academic and emotional risks. Caring for students and working through challenges with them enable this feeling of safety and being understood and respected. Westerly taps into the moral fiber of its students through the integration and teaching of five core values: respect, responsibility, honesty, adaptability, and compassion. Middle School students meet in small advisory groups each week, and schoolwide assemblies and the weekly communiqué are the vehicles for celebration and recognition for students who exemplify a gentle yet strong character.



Dave Perram, Director of Student Services.

Westerly's program would not be possible were it not for the commitment of the faculty and staff. This month, we feature Dave Perram, our Director of Student Affairs, whose job it is to enhance campus life for Westerly students. Dave has an innate sense of what students need to stay interested and engaged in school life. Together with other staff and faculty, Dave has designed a "Survivor" style elective class for all middle school students for the second trimester. He oversees the Student Council and has challenged students to think beyond crazy hair day, but instead to research service opportunities in the community. He monitors student behavior and counsels with students when they veer off course. He has developed an unparalleled after school program that features homework assistance, discussion of current events, games, recreation, and arts and crafts, specific sports clinics. His program is responsive to the expressed needs of the students. Yoga, dance, skateboarding, track and field are all recent offerings. Dave is also co-director of Westerly's increasingly popular summer program, which is open to the public. Lastly, Westerly is delighted to have broken ground on a community organic garden, which Dave is overseeing along with a master gardener.

Keeping up with students is no easy task, yet Dave can give them a run for their money. Ensuring the mission of the school is delivered for every one of our students everyday is the commitment of the entire faculty, staff and Board of Trustees. Dave Perram makes sure no stone is left unturned in the process.



Melody Creighton

Education at Westerly Includes Parents and Community

Westerly's strong academic and enriching program extends beyond that intended for students. A series of three parent and community education evenings celebrates its second with a presentation and discussion entitled, "You Can't Make Me: How to End Power Struggles" with Melody Creighton.

All area parents are invited to attend this free event on Thursday, February 9 at 6 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. For more information and to register, visit www.westerlyschool.org.

Creighton will go into depth about why power struggles exist, how you can meet the emotional needs of your child, how our reactions and their behavior affect each other, and the prevention of future power struggles.

Melody Creighton serves parents who want to create more peace at home. She began her teaching career in California at Chadwick School in Palos Verdes before spending eight years in the Manhattan Beach Unified School District. She is a graduate of The Ohio State University and has actively pursued continuing education at UCLA. She has been leading parents to create households that are respectful, cooperative, and full of joy for 17 years. Her workshops include a blend of insightful wisdom, compassionate solutions, and a straightforward approach to overcoming the challenges of being a parent today.

Visit the Westerly Campus!

Westerly School is a non-profit, non-denominational independent school located on a five-acre campus in the heart of Long Beach. The school's mission to develop each child's full potential intellectually, emotionally, morally, and physically.

Come and experience Westerly firsthand at one of our upcoming Community Visits: February 7, March 6, March 20, April 3, and May 1 starting at 9 a.m. To make a reservation, visit <http://www.westerlyschool.org/admission/> or contact our Admission Office at 562-981-3151.

Helping Districts Close the Achievement Gap



**Arturo Delgado,
Ed.D.**
Superintendent

Closing the achievement gap has rightly become a national educational imperative. It is based on the conviction – which I’m sure we all share – that education should not be a privilege for just a fortunate few, but an entitlement for all.

Closing this intolerable gap is no longer just a moral imperative. It is also an economic one, as it threatens the future of our students and the economic health and security of our nation.

But how do we accomplish this essential goal?

At LACOE, we are pursuing it in many ways—with programs that address the learning gap in public education and that promote academic success for all students. Let me highlight just a few of these:

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, works to ensure that all students are given the chance to pursue and complete a college preparatory path, with special emphasis on those often overlooked both in expectations and opportunities. LACOE’s AVID program currently supports about 30,000 students in more than 300 county high schools and middle schools.

LACOE has also been in the forefront in efforts to address the persistent achievement gap between English Learners and native English Speakers.

The English Learner student population in L.A. County is about a half-million—nearly 30 percent of all county students. These English Learners face the daunting task of learning the academic curriculum and a new language at the same time.

LACOE’s Multilingual Academic Support unit advocates for English Learners by providing research-based staff development for teachers and administrators to help them address both academic and linguistic needs.

We also provide direct technical assistance to districts on topics such as Response to Intervention for English Learners and developing a linguistically appropriate Intensive English Program for English Learners in Special Education.

And, because the achievement gap really begins with an educational opportunity gap at the earliest ages, we are committed to early literacy and school readiness.

LACOE’s Head Start/Early Head Start-State Preschool program contracts with 27 agencies to provide preschool child development services for some 24,000 children countywide, making it the largest grantee program of its kind in the nation.

LACOE’s Family Literacy Support Network is committed to increasing the number of quality family literacy programs serving families with very young children all across L.A. County.

LACOE has also developed a Professional Learning Community to improve instruction for African American boys, using texts that are more relevant to their culture and paying attention to their lives as a way to help improve both their reading and writing achievement.

And we will continue to work closely with our country districts to develop even more initiatives to pursue equity and excellence in education for all children. Achieving the goal will require all our best efforts – from teachers and parents to administrators and policy-makers. And our students deserve no less.

Contest!!



This girl reading is hidden 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 March 15, 2012.

From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift card redeemable at Slater’s 50/50

8082 Adams Ave., Huntington Beach (corner Adams & Beach)

Congratulations December winner: Alana Karlowitsch

Ranked Among Nation’s Top 100



F. King Alexander
President

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) has been named to *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s* list of the top 100 best values in public colleges for 2011-12. The ranking recognizes four-year institutions that combine outstanding education with economic value.

The annual public school rankings are being released today, appearing in *Kiplinger’s* February 2012 issue and online at www.kiplinger.com/links/college. CSULB appears at No. 98 on the list and is one of 12 California institutions to make the rankings.

Selected from a pool of more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities, schools in the *Kiplinger* 100 were ranked according to academic quality, including SAT or ACT scores, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates, which most schools reported for the class that entered in 2004. The editors then rank each school based on cost and financial aid. Academic quality carries more weight than costs.

“We’re extremely pleased to once again be recognized by *Kiplinger’s* as one of the best value public colleges in the country,” said CSULB President F. King Alexander. “Access to higher education begins first and foremost with the ability to afford a college degree, and at Cal State Long Beach we continue to work to hold down costs to students wherever possible.

“However, if the state’s support of higher education continues to erode as it has in the last three years,” he added, “access and affordability to the state’s colleges and universities will become more and more challenging for its residents.”

Alexander also noted that the *Kiplinger* ranking clearly shows students and their parents that the high price tag of many colleges and universities nationwide has little to do with the quality of the education experience being offered.

According to the magazine’s report, the total cost of private colleges has recently averaged almost \$39,000 a year, more than twice the average annual in-state sticker price—roughly \$17,000—at public schools. In fact, a third of the public schools on *Kiplinger’s* top-100 list charge about the same as or less than that average amount, an indication of the emphasis *Kiplinger’s* places on affordability.

Kiplinger’s assesses quality and affordability according to a number of measurable standards. This year, *Kiplinger’s* revamped the rankings to give more weight to academic value, such as the percentage of students who return for sophomore year and the four-year graduation rate. Cost criteria include low sticker prices, abundant financial aid and low average debt at graduation. While the criteria have shifted, the overall focus on value remains the same.

SUPERINTENDENT • FROM PAGE 1



Christopher J. Steinhauser

writer Lawrence Hardy observes. “Why Long Beach? What is it about California’s third-largest district that qualifies it to be measured against the very best in the world?”

The answer, writes Hardy, is that the school district is data-driven and incorporates various initiatives into a cohesive plan to improve student achievement. The school district does all this despite the state’s ongoing budget crisis largely because of a school board that is unified in its support of education reforms.

The article notes that last year, African American students graduated at “a remarkable 73 percent rate, and their dropout rate was 40 percent below the African-American average for the state,” according to the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Latinos, who had a graduation rate of 75 percent, had the most students of any racial or ethnic group in Advanced Placement classes. The article goes on to chronicle two decades of school reforms and LBUSD’s resulting national accolades for raising the achievement of all groups of students.

To read the full article, go to asbj.com and search for “Long Beach Success Story.” You’ll find that the secret to our success isn’t so secret. Our success is the result of persistence, hard work and genuine collaboration among employees, parents and our many supporters in the community. I’m delighted that this team effort has again earned well-deserved national recognition. Congratulations and thank you to all who continue to make our schools among the nation’s best.

The City of Signal Hill Office of the Mayor

2175 Cherry Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/989-7300

www.ci.signal-hill.ca.us



Larry Forester
Mayor

FROM PAGE 1

included.

Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. - Babies & Toddlers

Fridays at 10:00 a.m. - Preschoolers

Special Story Time Programs

Story Time with the Mayor—1st Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. (through March 7) Children will meet a Signal Hill Council Member and hear a story read by them.

Story Time with B.A.R.K. Dogs—3rd Saturday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Children (14 and under) are invited to visit the Signal Hill Library to read to a registered therapy canine. Research shows children who read regularly to a therapy dog increase their reading fluency by 12% to 20%.

Bilingual Story Time—1st Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon

Enjoy stories and songs in English & Spanish. Cuentos para niños a la biblioteca de Signal Hill.

Books for the Homebound

If you live in Signal Hill and are unable to visit the library, you may arrange for the library to come to you! Please call the library at (562) 989-7323 for more information.

Evening Book Club (18 years and older) meets from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

February 13—*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

March 12—*My Antonia* by Willa Cather

April 9—*The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt

May 14—*Daughter of Smoke & Bone* by Laini Taylor

First Friday Book Club (18 years and older) meets at 11:30 a.m.

February 3—*The Maltese Falcon* (audio book) by Dashiell Hammett

March 2—*Rain of Gold* by Victor Villasenor

April 6—*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom

May 4—*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer

Book Club in a Bag: Looking to start a book club in your community? We can help! Our “Book Club in a Bag” program provides all you need to start a book club for 10 people. Each bag contains 10 copies of each book and a list of questions for the moderator. “Book Club in a Bag” sets can be checked out for a period of six weeks by patrons who hold a current library card. For a complete list of available titles go to the library’s website at www.cityofsignalhill.org/library, or call (562)989-7323.

Nite at the Library Events (FREE) There will be a book signing after the talk and refreshments.

Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00 p.m. Meet Darlene Quinn, author and speaker from Long Beach, California. Ms. Quinn will discuss her novels *Webs of Power*, *Twisted Webs*, and *Webs of Fate*.

Wednesday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. Gayle Brunelle, Professor of History at California State University, Fullerton, will discuss French History in a talk titled “From Murder to Vengeance: The Extreme Right in France, 1936-1945.” She will also discuss her book *Murder in the Metro* and her next project.

Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce

One World Trade Center, #206, Long Beach, CA 90831 • 562/436-6723

www.lbchamber.com / www.longbeachadvocacy.biz



Randy Gordon
President/CEO

FROM PAGE 1

And because of the impact of Damon Dunn, an athlete, scholar and humanitarian, lives are changing across Long Beach. Damon was All Pac Ten and All Academic Pac Ten on his way to the NFL, and in every community he’s been, he’s made a difference in people’s lives. You may hear of his efforts with CSULB Ethnic Studies, the Future Business Leaders Academy with the Long Beach Education Foundation and LBCC, but there are other efforts he is involved in that are not heralded but are just as integral to his commitment.

All three of these greats, Ronnie Lott, Ty Willingham, and Damon Dunn are throwing their support behind the Middle School athletes of LBUSD. Damon Dunn and Nancy Foster are co-chairing events that will benefit over 3,000 students who participate in LBUSD Middle School Sports.

LBUSD Board of Education cut the Middle School Sports Program last March. LBUSD pledged half the funds if the Long Beach Education Foundation could raise the other half, \$190,000, from private donors. The LBEF raised the funds needed to keep the program alive this school year, and is working to fund next year’s program.

To donate online:

http://www.lbschools.net/Community/Education_Foundation/Donations/

Designate Save LBUSD Middle School Sports

City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor

333 West Ocean Blvd., 2nd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/570-5600 • www.longbeach.gov



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

LBUSD COUNSELOR RECEIVES IMPACT AWARD • FROM PAGE 1
at Washington Middle School, one of the schools in Long Beach working hard to improve student attendance. He was recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty, tracking down truant kids at home and sometimes even older siblings to gain deeper understanding of the root problems leading to the student’s truancy.

While many teachers, counselors and administrators at LBUSD have worked with the City Prosecutor’s Office to develop the PACT program, Che Scott’s efforts at Washington Middle School stood out. One example noted by the City Prosecutor’s Office, when an 8th grader was missing school due to drug use, Mr. Scott arranged for the student to enroll in drug treatment, then followed up relentlessly until the family followed through with the enrollment.

During the award it was noted the clear link between truancy and dropping out of school. Since school dropouts are statistically far more likely to be involved in gangs and criminal activity, the hard work by Che Scott and others will pay dividends years.

Mr. Scott was in good company at the awards reception. Others recognized as IMPACT Award recipients included Lenny Arkinstall, Executive Director of Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewards, Inc.; Long Beach Police Officers Bernardo Barajas and Sean Parilla; and LBPD’s West Division Directed Enforcement Team (DET).

“Each of these recipients have partnered with the City Prosecutor’s Office to make a meaningful difference in our City,” said City Prosecutor Doug Haubert in a prepared statement. “There are many unsung heroes who deserve recognition and it was hard to choose just five. All of these recipients have passion for what they do and are fully deserving of recognition.”

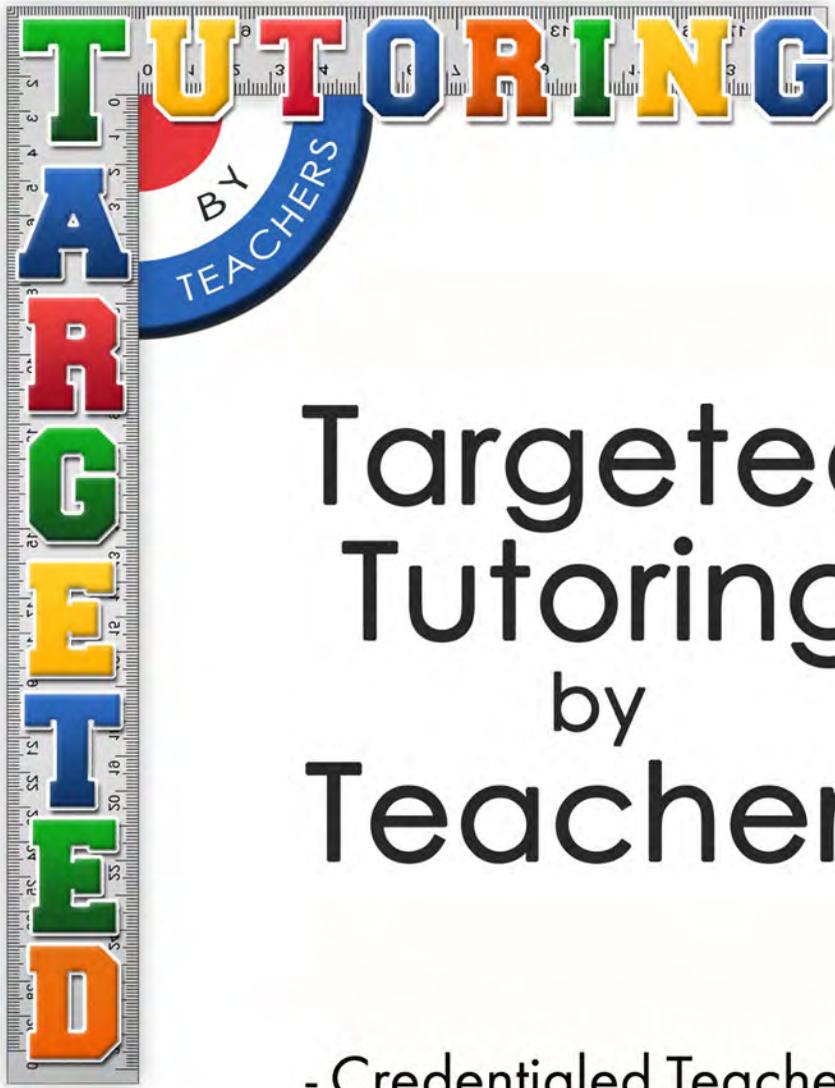
For the 2011-2012 school year, Counselor Scott was moved from Washington Middle School to Wilson High School. Although he will no longer be part of the City Prosecutor’s truancy program aimed at middle school students, he will continue to have a role in the City Prosecutor’s PACT program.

School News Survey Says...

Take our survey online and you will be entered in our drawing for a chance to win \$100. Your survey entry must be received by June 30, 2012.

It’s easy. Just visit our website www.schoolnewsrollcall.com and click on the Mr. Ruler icon





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