

FREE

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation



Covering the Long Beach Unified School District

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 106

www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

FEBRUARY–MARCH 2013

MacArthur Elementary Students Read! Read! Read!



MacArthur Elementary School students are encouraged to become Super Readers through the Home Reading Club. (please see page 17)

Animal Care/Cruelty Prevention



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

Free Animal Care and Cruelty Prevention Conference on March 21

Should young people be taught how to identify and prevent animal abuse? Should young people learn how to properly care for an animal? The answer to these questions is, “Yes,” and “Yes.”

Planning has begun for a March 21, 2013, conference sponsored by the Long Beach City Prosecutor’s Office and Long Beach Animal Care Services, a FREE event designed to educate the general public on ways to identify, prevent and report animal abuse, as well as how to care for domestic pets. This event marks the one year anniversary of a similar conference held in 2012. Only 75 attendees were expected at the 2012 event, but 200 showed up!

Those present at last year’s conference heard from Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney Deborah Knaan, who supervises the prosecution of felony animal cruelty cases countywide. “Teach your children,” Knaan urged

audience participants. The 2013 Conference will be an opportunity to do just that.

Most who attended the 2012 conference were adults, but the 2013 conference will be suitable for a wide range of participants, from adult to school age students. Since some of the information about preventing animal cruelty could contain somewhat graphic material, it is most appropriate for middle school and high school students. While all of us can benefit from education about animals, children can learn important lessons now that will last a lifetime.

Why is this important for students? According to the Humane Society of the United State (HSUS), students in urban settings are less likely to hear humane messaging. Moreover, education in the humane treatment of animals can empower and foster service-oriented learning in youth, provide important modeling, and help reduce violence in urban communities, says HSUS.

Naturally, young people are curious about animals. Animal topics consistently rank in the top three areas of interest

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Dr. Robert Garcia
Vice Mayor
City of Long Beach



Tina Hansen
Mayor
City of Signal Hill

Please see page 4



Jeffrey A. Napper
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F. King Alexander
President
CSULB

Please see page 6



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Kay Coop
Founder / Publisher



Happy New Year! The holidays already seem so long ago as we are well into the new year and looking at Spring on the horizon.

It is heartwarming to read articles in this issue of the students doing for others less fortunate, parents volunteering in classrooms, students celebrating diversity in their schools, student council functions, etc.

Thank you for the over-whelming response to the December issue on Bullying. We do not have extra copies, but I am happy to email you a digital copy upon request and the issue is posted on our web site.

School News Roll Call

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Covering the
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Grant and Scholarship Programs



Tina Ackles
National President

By Cecile Harris Walters, National Ambassador, Member of the Diamonds of Southbay Chapter, Long Beach California

ABWA's Stephen Bufton Memorial Educational Fund (SBMEF) has been assisting women to succeed in higher education ever since its inception in 1953. Today it is considered one of the country's most highly respected grant and scholarship programs for women. SBMEF assists women who are pursuing advanced educational goals to achieve both business and professional success; to become role models, mentors, and leaders for the future. More than \$16 million in scholarships to more than 16,000

women have been awarded thanks to the generous contributions of ABWA members. There are four different scholarship programs: National Scholarship, Outright Grant, Business Skills Tuition Reimbursement, and Impact Scholarship. Each scholarship program has a unique set of guidelines, applicant eligibility requirements, and procedures. To learn more, visit the website at www.sbmeff.org or direct your inquiries by calling 562.591.2625.

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Diversity is Greatest Strength



Dr. Robert Garcia
Vice Mayor
City of Long Beach
and Joint Use
Committee Member

I hope everyone had a joyful and peaceful holiday season. I know everyone is excited to get back to the books, see friends, and continue your educational progress. No doubt, also on everyone's mind, is school safety.

The first job of a City is to keep its residents safe, and the first job of our schools is to provide an environment that is safe for learning. When students feel safe, they can focus on learning.

Long Beach schools do a great job with safety, and it's important we continue to work together to maintain and enhance the environment in our schools. I want to encourage everyone—students, teachers, and parents and alike—to participate in creating and maintaining a safe environment. The most important way to do this is very simple, and that is to treat everyone with equal kindness and respect—especially those who may seem to be different from us.

Long Beach is one of the most diverse places on Earth. When we remember the principles of respect, tolerance, and equality, this diversity is our greatest strength. No matter if our classmates or colleagues have different religions, shades of skin, family make-ups, mental or physical abilities, style of dress or way of talking, everyone deserves and needs respect, and everyone has a right to be safe and learn in school.

In the new year, it's so important for us all to treat everyone with kindness and respect, and to stand up to intolerance when we see it. I want to encourage everyone to reach out to people who seem different or lonely, and to make an extra effort to befriend and understand others. Together we can make our world a safer, happier place in the new year.

Thank you for the chance to share my thoughts with you.

Go Long Beach!

Community Volunteers



Tina Hansen
Mayor

As a member of a City Council, I am a strong believer in the need for community volunteers. They provide an invaluable service and make our city better. As a parent of twins in second grade, I also understand how important it is to help with my children's education by volunteering for our elementary school, Prisk Elementary. It can be challenging to find the time to volunteer as a full time working mother with two jobs. But I also understand that the most important job I have is to see my children well educated, and to do that, I need to volunteer my time and money as I can.

Whether you are a parent who has a job outside of the home or a parent who stays home with your kids, there are so many opportunities to help at your child's school. Everyone can help by joining the PTA at their school. Money raised for membership dues does many things. Some of it stays at the school to pay for things like field trips and extra supplies for the teachers. Some of it goes to the state and national PTA organizations for their advocacy efforts. Most schools have a wide variety of events and these events always need volunteers. If you can volunteer during the day in your child's classroom, many teachers welcome that parental involvement. If you have a job that does not allow you to volunteer during the day, ask the teacher if there are projects you can do at home for her/him and send back to the teacher with your child.

You can also make it a habit to attend your school's monthly PTA meetings. This will give you an opportunity to know what is going on and will give you a chance to meet the Executive Board officers and find out where you can be of service. Some schools also have a foundation which raises money for specific programs for the school such as art, music, science or computers, and the foundation committee also needs help with fundraising activities. Every school has a book fair every year and you can volunteer to work a shift at the book fair. There are so many opportunities and ways to serve at our schools. Whether you have a lot of time or a little time, you can find something to do.

I have enjoyed the service I have been involved with at Prisk. I was the Parliamentarian for two years, I volunteer in a classroom once a week during my lunch hour, I volunteer at the large events put on by the school such as our Halloween carnival and pancake breakfast. I know how much it means to my children to see me working at their school, and I hope it teaches them the need and value of volunteering as they get older. Find a way to volunteer today – you will be so glad you did as will your school!

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 K through 12, offers CIF basketball and baseball.

For enrollment information contact:
Noemi Delgadillo at 562-961-6109

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Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

for students of all ages, reports USHS. Younger people may not know intuitively how to care for them, especially if they do not have adults modeling good behavior around them.

The goal for the 2013 conference is that each person attending knowing more than when they came. Think you already know everything about animal abuse? Let's test your knowledge.

Did you know that animal abuse comes in many different forms? Intentionally causing harm to animals may be obvious, but other forms of abuse, such as neglect and hoarding, might be less apparent. Do you what to look for if you suspect a dog has been involved in organized dog fighting?

Do you know what to do if you see someone abusing an animal? The answer might be different, depending on the city in which you live and the time of day.

Did you know California's animal protection laws do not apply to all animals? In one Orange County city, the police and animal control officers arrested two individuals suspected of beating to death an animal with a shovel. It turned out the animal was not covered under California's laws and the suspects successfully sued the city for wrongful arrest!

Unlike the 2012 conference, the 2013 conference will not focus solely on preventing abuse, in fact, at least half of the content will relate to animal care. Veterinarians and other experts will be on hand to discuss common diseases, proper training techniques, and nutritional information for dogs and cats.

Those interested in volunteering at the Conference or being an event sponsor should call (562) 570-5626 or visit www.CityProsecutorDougHaubert.com. Please plan to attend event on March 21, 2013, at Recreation Park in Long Beach, from 5:30-7:30. Help us end abuse and better care for those who depend on us.

City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor, 333 West Ocean Blvd., 2nd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802
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Friends of Long Beach Animals

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Cats on Leashes? Why Not!

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

We walk our dogs several times a day for several reasons: toilet needs, exercise and mental stimulation. It's great exercise for both of us. But *cats*?

Yes, cats—and why not? After all, cats, especially indoor cats—hopefully your cats are—also need stimulation and new scenery to keep them alert, unafraid and un-bored. Many behavior problems can be solved with such activities.

A cat should start learning while still a kitten. Use a secure halter—I like the figure-eight type—and let him or her wear it in the house for short periods several times a day. When the kitten accepts the halter, attach a light leash and let him or her drag it around, again for short periods of time. Be patient and give time to such training every day. However, if you see that your kitten will not accept this, don't insist—maybe the cat is not a leash-walker and never will be.

When walking your feline friend, watch out for stray or unleashed dogs, poisonous plants, and chemicals on lawns, and remember that white cats can be easily sunburned. Walk him or her after the sun goes down. Unlike dogs, cats must be kept on a tight leash. Do *not* use retractable leashes, because you want the cat within grabbing distance to prevent rushing under a car or a fence, or a sudden dash. And *please* don't forget the flea treatment to prevent fleas catching a ride on your friend!

Walking your cat is fun, different and beneficial. Give it a try! But if he or she prefers to kick back on the sofa with a good book or watch *Animal Planet*, so be it. After all, it is the cat's choice.



Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert
& Long Beach Animal Care Services present...

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Tax Time Tips



Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO
LBS Financial
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Tax time is just around the corner. Getting organized and planning ahead can save you time, money and remove the extra stress associated with trying to gather all your documents and needed tax information at the very last minute.

- **Create a Checklist:** You're sitting in front of your tax preparer and you realize that you don't have all the documents needed to file for your taxes. Avoid situations like this by organizing your records and creating a checklist listing all your accounts that are interest-bearing, copies of your bank statements, mortgage loan documents that shows your year-end interest paid, income you received for the year, receipts for charitable donations that you made and other deductible items/documents that can be used when you file your taxes.
- **Sort Your Documents:** Sort your documents by the type of income they represent. For many, the biggest hassle at tax time is getting all the documents together. So, each year start a new file folder where you can store tax documents or receipts throughout the year. This should include the following (depending on your situation): your last year's tax returns, a 1099-INT form for each of your interest-bearing accounts, 1099 DIV for brokerage and stock accounts, 1098 form for your mortgage interest paid for the year and W-2 for all your earnings.
- **Share Information:** Don't expect your tax preparer to know your special tax circumstances; you are the only one that knows your situation best. Make sure to pass on information that is important such as a change in your financial situation; whether you got married, have a new child, new job or business that occurred over the past year. Things that might seem insignificant might have an impact on taxes you may owe or a refund that is due to you. Do not hesitate to ask questions!

California State University Long Beach

1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/985-4111 • <http://.csulb.edu/>

CSULB Ranked 7th Most Secure



F. King Alexander
President

Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) has been recognized as the seventh "most secure" university/college in the nation by *Security Magazine* in its 2012 "Security 500" rankings, which were released in the fall.

Only 22 universities and colleges from across the country were recognized in this year's rankings in the category of Education (University), and CSULB was the only four-year California institution to be recognized.

"That *Security Magazine* has once again recognized Cal State Long Beach as one of the nation's safest large university campuses points to how this campus has focused on the security of our students and other campus members as a top priority," said CSULB President F. King Alexander. "Students and their parents, as well as our faculty, staff and community visitors, can be assured that no measure that secures this campus has been overlooked. The commitment of our excellent University Police Department and the ongoing awareness of our entire campus community is obvious as we continue to be recognized for the safety of our university."

The purpose of the "Security 500," according to magazine officials, is to create a reliable database to measure an organization compared to others and create a benchmarking program among security organizations. The results enable these groups to know where they stand as a basis of an on-going peer review process.

"Our police department will continue to provide a safe, secure and meaningful learning environment. We will accomplish this by partnering with our community, using advanced technologies and investing in our highly skilled personnel," said CSULB Police Chief Fernando Solorzano. "We are proud that CSULB has received this recognition as being one of the safest universities in the nation, and we will strive to improve and build on our successes to provide the safe environment that we have come to expect on this campus."

Among the more recent enhancements that have added to the CSULB Police Department's ability to keep the campus safe include a camera system that gives the department the ability to monitor activities across the campus grounds and facilities and assists in its crime prevention efforts. The department also oversees an emergency communications system that can alert the entire campus community in the event of an emergency.

Security Magazine is the premier security and safety resource for a wide variety of industries and environments.

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Bancroft *Middle School*

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Kimberly Dalton
Principal

Bruin News Network

“Good morning! I’m Rebekah, alongside Maddy, and you’re watching BNN!”

Starting this school year, Bancroft Middle School created Bruin News Network (BNN), a broadcast club. On Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays, the club presents a live news broadcast, which is shown in each advisory classroom. Each club member has a specific job, and the team works very hard to prepare and deliver an exciting live presentation. Some of the jobs are camera staff, news anchor, field reporter, director, art director, technical editor, lighting support, and BNN staffer.

Dr. Costa sponsors the club with Ms. Hamilton. Additional support comes from Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Milton, and Mr. Wilson. On Mondays Ms. Dalton, Bancroft’s principal, leads the broadcast with messages about academic achievement and citizenship. We feature anti-bullying activities, and recently we acknowledged Bancroft staff members who are veterans.



BNN staff picture immediately following a live broadcast.

Bixby *Elementary*

5251 E. Stearns St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-3794 • www.lbschools.net/bixby



Stephanie Jones
Principal

BASE Clubs

Bixby’s After-School Enrichment (BASE) Clubs allow district-approved volunteer parents and teachers to share their hobbies and interests with Bixby Elementary School students. The program allows students to have fun with new friends, while learning a new hobby or gaining skills at an old one. The program is sponsored by Bixby PTA and facilitated by Mrs. Parker. Typically, six to 10 clubs meet for one hour each week in four-week blocks. PTA has scholarships available so that every Bixby student can attend at least one club.

The current block of clubs includes: Winter Craft Fair, an entrepreneur project where students make and sell their crafts at an after-school fair; Friendship Club, a program to help pre-kindergarten and first-grade Special Education students learn social skills with help from fifth-grade buddies; Comic Book Creators, a program to teach students to create comic books from their own life stories; Beginning Sewing, a group to help students learn the basics of hand sewing by creating puppets, ornaments, and wall hangings; Lego Club, a club for students who enjoy creating amazing structures with building blocks; Holiday Treats You Can Eat, a cooking club teaching students to make edible holiday creations, such as cake pops and gingerbread cookies; Flag Football, a team to instruct students in the fundamentals of the sport; and Bear Tales. Other clubs have included: Karaoke, Garden Art, Candy Math, and Sign Language. Who knows? Maybe we’re encouraging the next entrepreneurs, bakers, seamstresses, engineers, artists, and comic book authors!

Alvarado *Elementary*

1900 E. 21st St., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/985-0019 • www.lbschools.net/alvarado



Dr. Brett Geithman
Principal

A New Beginning for New Beginnings!

The New Year is always an exciting time, and this year is no exception. At Alvarado, we pride ourselves on our highly individualized instruction aimed to challenge every student. Weekly, we collect anecdotal data on every child in reading, writing and mathematics to inform us of their progress and tailor individualized academic goals to student needs. Alvarado is also committed to incorporating technology into our classroom practices, as we have recently purchased an iPad for every teacher to collect student data, share student work, and utilize engaging Apps, along with the many other features of this innovative device. The iPads were purchased through donations and grants in support of sharing our work in Reading and Writing Workshop.

Along with new technology, the New Year also begins with our 2013–14 kindergarten registration. This year is extremely special to me, as my son, Kai, will begin kindergarten this fall. As a parent, I know the importance of getting to know the school that your child will attend, so you will find many events welcoming our incoming kindergarten families to our school community. We will begin with tours of our kindergarten classes on Feb. 6 at 8:30 a.m. Parents will be able to see our teachers in action and learn more about our innovative instructional program.

Then in July, we will hold a special kindergarten orientation right before Open House so that parents can also tour classrooms and begin to meet current and incoming Alvarado families. Additionally in July, we have our very popular Kindergarten Institute scheduled in which for six afternoons 2013–14 kindergartners and their parents will work directly with our kindergarten teachers in preparation for the upcoming school year.

2013 is off to an exciting start, and we wish you the same!

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Miriam Garcia
Program Administrator

Parade is a Success

By Sharon Barker, Pre-K SDC MMC teacher.

Buffum Preschool Total Learning Center students celebrated Halloween with its second annual costume parade and show for their parents. Nine morning classes marched around the grass, sang, and performed for all invited with nine afternoon classes doing the same later that afternoon. The children were adorable dressed as superheroes, princesses, mythical animals and characters from their favorite books, video games and movies. Both parades ended as students walked back to class waving and blowing kisses to their fans.



Burnett *Elementary*

565 E. Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/595-9466 • www.lbschools.net/burnett



Lucy Salazar
Principal

Ready to Read

Burnett School started a new chapter on October 10, as the school community enjoyed the opening day of the newly remodeled library. Resulting from a grant awarded by a national department store chain through the Heart of America Foundation, the inspiring design features vibrant colors, new furnishings, bookshelves, carpet, and over 2,000 new books. Students will benefit from the use of 10 iPads and will receive library instruction via an interactive whiteboard.

Each student also received seven brand-new books and a backpack full of reading goodies, including timers and calendars. To add to the bounty, each family received a generous amount of food through Meals for Minds, a program which will continue on a monthly basis for the school year.



Volunteers at Burnett

This incredible feat was made possible through the generosity of hundreds of volunteers from the department store chain, who spent the day at Burnett distributing books and food and putting the finishing touches on the eagerly awaited library.

Cabrillo *High School*

2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/951-7700 • www.lbschools.net/



Dr. Elio Mendoza
Co-Principal



Alejandro Vega
Co-Principal

Our SLCs Shine!

By Jenni Brown, SLC Coordinator

As part of the Cabrillo Jag Cup, which annually recognizes the best SLC on campus, this year our students engaged in an Academic Decathlon. Teams of students from each of the seven small learning communities studied, strategized and performed in front of a crowd of cheering fans as they showed what they knew about everything from ancient history to current events, including a SuperQuiz section on each topic.

Even our youngest students (from Team ACCESS) did not let their lack of coursework slow them down, as they were at the top of the leader board for most of the afternoon. In the end, the difference between the top teams turned out to be less than a single point!

As junior Giberto Barbosa said, "It's important to recognize that there are many different ways to represent Jaguar Pride, and I am proud to be on Team CED."



The best part of the afternoon though was when the students asked when the next Decathlon would be taking place! Senior Milaun Danclar of Team CHOC said it best: "Congratulations to the University Scholars who won, but this was a fun opportunity to play against the other SLCs. I can't wait for my team to keep working so we do better the next time."

Congratulations goes to all of our SLC scholars. We are very proud of you!

Carver *Elementary*

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



Sarah Forrester
Principal

Respecting and Celebrating All Abilities

By Sarah Hull, Parent

In October, Carver Elementary hosted their second annual disability-awareness assembly in which we celebrated all abilities! Carver had the privilege of hearing and learning from Jennifer Kumiyama, Chelsie Hill and Tiphany Adams. Ms. Kumiyama is the first full-time Disneyland performer who uses a wheelchair. She shared with us how she always dreamed of being a performer and how she made those dreams come true. She is in the Aladdin play at Disneyland, and we were privileged to hear her beautiful singing voice as well! Ms. Hill and Ms. Adams are from the TV show called Push Girls, and they taught us fun dance moves and reminded us that we all are special in our own way!



In two short hours, we were changed for the better. We were reminded that it is important to treat one another with kindness and respect. We listened, we laughed, we danced, and we learned!

Cleveland *Elementary*

4760 Hackett St., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-7552 • www.lbschools.net/cleveland



Teresa Montoya
Principal

Fall Events

In September, our transitional-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers held a meet-and-greet day for incoming kindergarten students and parents. Back to School nights were successful, with many parents attending and learning about their children's school program.

In October, we had our first Meet the Masters Art presentation for students and staff. We held our first Spirit Assembly, directed by counselor Ms. Torres, Student Council advisor Mrs. Neff and Student Council officers. Students were honored by teachers and recognized for making good choices. We took part in Red Ribbon

Week with the support of our awesome PTA and parent VIPs. PTA held their second Trunk or Treat Movie Night for students and families.

Parent/teacher conferences were held in November. A record number of parents met with teachers to discuss their children's school progress. We appreciate the support parents provide at home that impacts our students' educational progress. PTA also held their fall book fair.

In December, Student Council began recycling plastic bottles. This project will continue throughout the school year. Our fantastic fourth-and-fifth-grade instrumental musicians and chorus entertained us at our winter concert.

During the past months, School Site Council and English Learner Advisor Committee have been meeting regularly. They reviewed last school year's student-assessment-data results and students' academic progress. The Single Plan for Student Achievement was revised and submitted for district approval.

We are looking forward to many more exciting events during 2013. The support of staff and parents helps make Cleveland a wonderful school.

Dooley *Global Studies Magnet School*

5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-7274 • www.lbschools.net/dooley



Gerardo Gloria
Principal

Our Students Are Caring

As an International Baccalaureate World school, students at Dooley Global Studies strive to be caring. As IB learners, students show empathy, compassion and respect for the needs and feelings of others and act to make a positive difference in their community.

During the month of November, Dooley students and staff

contributed to the Long Beach community by organizing a schoolwide food drive. Since 2007, Dooley families have graciously collected and donated canned and packaged foods as well as personal hygiene items to needy members of our community. All items are donated to Food Finders, a multiregional food bank and food-rescue program here in Long Beach. The donated items go directly to missions, shelters and social-service agencies here in our community to feed the needy and impoverished.



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- Meningococcal**
This shot protects against infections that can cause brain damage, arm and leg amputations, kidney damage, and death. Preteens need one shot now and a booster at age 16.
- Flu**
Flu is much more serious than the common cold. Even healthy young people can get the flu. Everyone needs flu vaccine every year!
- Chickenpox**
Chickenpox is more than just an itchy rash. It can cause pneumonia or serious infections. Kids now get two shots before school but many teens have not had the second shot needed for full protection.

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Ask Dr. Shari

Yelling At the Kids!



Dear Dr. Shari,

I really disagree with your not “yelling at your child” position. I am a yeller. The room stops when I yell and sometimes that needs to happen, don't you agree? I have one son and this works very well with him. To stop that ends a very important part of parenting! Sometimes you need a child to stop, respect you and do exactly what they are told RIGHT NOW. —John K. - KS

Dr. Shari Sweetnam

John,

Respect and fear are very different emotions in my dictionary.

Answer me this: Is yelling a demonstration of self control or lack thereof? When you envision the most powerful examples that you can set for your son and consider the behaviors that you would most want him to emulate, would yelling be high on the list? Because, make no mistake John, it is one of the most memorable.

Does a child learn more from logic and consistent consequences for actions or from fear and startling? Is yelling a demonstration of respect to your child?

John, my stand on this topic always stirs up a lot of defensiveness but I have yet to hear an argument that logically demonstrates any value in yelling at a child. Quite the contrary, yelling, (the message it sends and the lessons it teaches) can cause a great deal of damage.

John, most parents have yelled at their kids at one point or another. My only question is: If you could put life in slow motion, stay in control of your anger or frustration, consider every action that you take (before taking it) and make a decision based on what is the best learning experience for the child would you still yell? If the answer is “NO,” then obviously setting a “No yelling” standard and working toward that is a necessary goal.

Yes, yelling can stop all action in a room and it is definitely a forceful way to exert control. Does it actually leave your child with a valuable life lesson that can be used outside of the home? I question that.

Yelling at your child is an emotional reaction of anger and frustration, not a “lesson” or a teaching moment. I am asking you to consider a healthier and more productive option.

Dr. Shari Sweetnam is the Founder of *BRAINPOWER The Ultimate Program for Schools*. Author, Motivational Speaker. Follow on Youtube and twitter: DrShariS, contact: info@doctorshari.com

College 4 Less



Keeping Ahead of the Game



Susan D. Marshall

Cards are a favorite pastime when our family goes camping or whenever we get together. If you were with us as we sit around a big round oak table, you would hear laughter and teasing. We love to tease Uncle Glynn, accusing him of making up new rules as we are learning his favorite game of Mau Mau. Good times...

As our nation is moving into a new year, the rules of the financial game are changing in a tremendous way. Uncle Sam is still not showing his cards and we are not laughing. Currently, we are wondering what the impact will be when the dust settles.

How will all of these changes affect the big ticket decisions we will be making; buying a home, sending our kids to college, paying our taxes, and funding our retirement?

Now is not the time to give up, bury your head in the sand or take the “wait and see” approach. Stay sharp and educate yourself. Information is easier and faster to obtain than it has ever been. Focus on your end game. Know how colleges determine what your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be. Consult with trusted advisors that take into account your future financial aid eligibility when they make recommendations and can help you strategize knowing your personal family situation.

Let's look at what we do know. We know when your child goes to college you are going to want to reduce the potential out of pocket expense your family might have. EFC Planning and Tax Planning are powerful tools that will save you thousands of dollars in the long run.

EFC Planning is much like tax planning as it is a formula driven process. Similar to the savings that occurs when working with a CPA to legally pay less tax; you can take advantage of certain financial aid strategies by understanding the formula that maximizes the money available to you.

When the dust settles, take note of the tax strategies and tax credits that your family can still utilize. Investigate how the new laws and your investment decisions will affect your aid eligibility or your ability to save and pay for college. Be an active participant in the game and you will come out on top.

Susan both educator and advisor specializes in college planning. She helps families save for and pay for college. If you have questions you would like answered in a future article contact her at Susan@College4Less.com or on her Web site at www.college4less.com

Contest!!

This drawing is hidden two times somewhere in this publication. When you find it, email the page numbers to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com
(Please put LBUSD in the subject line)



Your entry must be received by March 13, 2013. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Congratulations December Winners!
Pamela Robinson, Maria Orellana, and Lisa Mitchell

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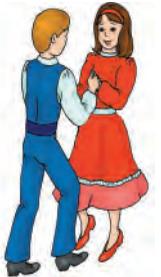
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—Sir James Dewar

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Richard Littlejohn
Principal

Presenting the Evidence

As the first trimester came to a close, students and staff at Edison Elementary School worked to make the transition to the Common Core Standards a smooth one for all stakeholders. As administrators and teachers learn more about the national standards, the Edison staff has strategically taken steps to ensure a transition that is effective and meaningful.

During a recent visit by other administrators in the district, it was evident that all classrooms had organized and labeled classroom libraries, that classrooms displays balanced informational text and literature, and reading comprehension

lessons utilized text-dependent questions and evidence-based learning.

Even the principal is excited about our transition to collaborative and evidence-based learning! The principal is now playing the role of an acting judge for the Lawyer's Club! Each classroom is assigned a time to share text-based questions and evidence-based learning discussions and products with the judge. Then the judge makes decisions based on the evidence provided by our student lawyers. Students have successfully proven their beliefs and responses using evidence from their text.

Great job, Edison lawyers!



The Edison Student Lawyer's Club from Room 37 successfully proved their case by making evidence-based claims! Meet our future lawyers!

Emerson *Parkside Academy Charter*

2625 Josie Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/420-2631 • www.lbschools.net/emerson



Margaret Kerns
Principal

Happiest Place on Earth

Welcome to the "Happiest Place on Earth"... no, it's not Disneyland, it's KINDERGARTEN at Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School. The hallway in building A is filled with the joyful voices of 138 kindergarteners! Emerson offers 5 FULL day kindergarten classes and one full day K/1 combination classroom each with 25 students! Having a full day program (9:00-3:00) allows Emerson to offer our kindergarten students a well rounded curriculum filled with depth and complexity that promotes academic growth and success, AND gives us time to be kindergarteners! At Emerson, the kindergarten students publish

books each week from stories they have written in their journals. We feel this is the heart of our literacy program and promotes the skills of writing and reading and polishes our presentation skills in the process! The children look forward to their publishing day so they can read their book to the class. Emerson Kindergarten Rocks!



Emma Rice and Beckitt Lindstrom read their published books to classmates.

Hill *Classical Middle School*

1100 Iroquois Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-7611 • www.lbschools.net/hill



Sophia Griffieth
Principal

Helping to Improve the Lives of Others

By Karen Maine, Teacher

The Hill Classical Middle School Student Council was extremely busy this past November collecting cans of corn during their annual "Corny Drive" for the Long Beach Basket Brigade's holiday food drive for local families in need. To collect the most cans possible, Student Council offered a "free-dress day" to the class that brought in the most cans per student. Two classes tied for first place, averaging over five cans donated per student. The effort was a success—the total number of cans collected exceeded each previous year's total by more than 100, for a grand total of 751 cans.

Student Council also spearheaded an annual drive to raise money to purchase toys for Miller Children's hospital. Their next goal is to run a campaign to raise awareness and funds to help support our local spcaLA.

"There are a lot of people less fortunate than we are, and we want to help improve the lives of our friends and neighbors," said Ashley Kim, Student Council president.



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Garfield *Elementary*

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Claire Alvarez
Principal

Think Like Historians

"We can all think like historians." This was the mantra of Ms. Torres's fourth-grade class during a recent unit of study in history and social studies. The class's essential question was to find out how diverse cultures celebrate and remember past generations.

The focal point of their study was the Mexican tradition of Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). In their research, these fourth-grade scholars learned that Day of the Dead is a traditional holiday with roots that date back thousands of years.

They learned about its ancient origins and its various practices evident in cultures around Mexico to honor and remember their loved ones who have passed away. Through the reading of multiple sources, the students learned about the symbolism of altars, ofrendas (offerings), skeletons, pan de muerto (bread of the dead) and sugar skulls. Working in small groups, students compared and contrasted days of remembrance in various world cultures such as the Quingming Festival (China) and Chuseok (Korea).



A Garfield fourth grader, masked with a traditional "calacas," awaits her turn to make an oral presentation on Dia de los Muertos.

For a culminating project, each student created an altar of remembrance and wrote a biography about a family member who had passed away. The student-researchers then conducted a series of oral presentations to visiting students and community members. Students presented their findings about cultural practices and shared their family biographies. The unit of study provided an opportunity for students and visitors alike to enrich their understanding of cultural practices, both personal and from around the world.

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 10?



Hamilton *Middle School*

1060 E. 70th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-0302 • www.lbschools.net/hamilton



Pamela Sawyer
Principal

Where Everybody Belongs!

First impressions matter! Prior to the first day of school, incoming sixth-graders experience Hamilton MS as a place where students help one another, learning is important, and it is a safe place to be.

WEB (Where Everybody Belongs) is our orientation program run by a team of five Hamilton teachers and 65 eighth-grade volunteers at the end of summer. Hundreds of sixth-graders gather for a huge rally, break off into small groups guided by eighth-grade mentors, tour the school, run relays and an obstacle course, get sized for a free uniform from the Assistance League, and enjoy a takeout lunch. This fast-paced orientation eases worries about transitioning into middle school and sets Hamilton's expectations. It provides a powerful opportunity for eighth-graders to be positive leaders and have ownership in the culture of Hamilton.

After five years of WEB, we can honestly say we are making first impressions that keep changing our school for the better.



Hudson *(K-8)*

2335 Webster Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/426-0470 • www.lbschools.net/hudson



Cathleen Imbroane
Principal

We're GEARed UP and Ready to Roll!

Hudson School is has been selected to participate in California GEAR UP, a state program that supports middle schools in developing a self-sustaining college-going culture for all students. The program serves the whole school through the adults who have the greatest impact on student life and experience: the principals, teachers, counselors, families and community leaders.

Hudson School is committed to providing a strong academic program and has been working to provide students and parents with information on postsecondary options. Our participation in California GEAR UP will only enhance our current efforts as we work on developing a college-going culture. Part of the five-year grant will include a parent-education component called the Parent Institute of Quality Education (PIQE). Parents will have the opportunity to attend nine 90-minute sessions to learn about how to prepare their children for high school and their options in postsecondary education.

The staff and parents at Hudson are honored and excited to be a California GEAR UP School.

Hughes *Middle School*

3846 California Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0831 • www.lbschools.net/hughes



Dr. Sally Gregory
Principal

Magic of the Moment

By David Michaels, Teacher – 7th-Grade English

Each year at Hughes Middle School, our students have an opportunity to enter their work in the PTA Reflections Contest. The theme of this year's contest was "The Magic of a Moment." Several talented young artists entered their work in the categories of visual arts, literature, and film production. This year's event took place in the Hughes library on November 8.

Our winners included Shelby Roche for "Hands of Life," a watercolor on canvas painting depicting the magic of childbirth. Nolan Brown received top honors for his poem "The Game

Winning Hit" about the unpredictability of a grand slam in baseball. Rodwin DeGuzman, winner in the film production category, made a short film about going to the library and experiencing the magical moments of reading.

A huge thanks goes out to Lisa Rodriguez and Sue Orca, our PTA Reflections Committee Chairs, for their tireless work to make this program possible.



Kettering *Classical Elementary*

550 Silvera Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/598-9486 • www.lbschools.net/kettering



Deborah Anderson
Principal

Fall Fun

Charles F. Kettering Elementary School opened its doors this fall to another exciting school year filled with reading, writing, mathematics, and science and computer lab lessons and experiences. Kettering continues to focus on its theme of reading and has added a new Accelerated Reading program, encouraging students to engage in reading informational books as much as they read literature.

In September, PTA held an ice-cream social for new students. By October, school was in full swing. The volunteers were busy signing in to help with reading and math and to prepare

materials. The teachers and students were happy to see our team of tutors from Cornerstone Church. Cornelia Funke, children's books author, visited Kettering to share books for author's festival, and Mr. Randy Gordon, the president of the chamber of commerce for Long Beach area, met with our student council as Principal for a Day. Kettering's Watch Dads of Great Students (DOGS) hosted the annual Halloween Haunt and trunk-or-treat.

November held additional activities, including McDonald's Night. Our Beach Animals Reading with Kids (BARK) dog returned to read with students. And, the annual turkey trot provided a great morning of students chasing a real turkey...well, a real human turkey.

Although numerous activities kept students and families busy, teachers were focused and provided a strong instructional program. Student groups, including student council and Super KIDS, have also been busy helping with school programs and assisting Special Education classes.

Fall at Kettering has been a busy time of year!

Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

750 Euclid Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/438-9904 • www.lbschools.net/jefferson



Brian Moskovitz
Principal

PTO: A Wise Investment for Our Future

There are many exciting things happening here at Jefferson Leadership, not the least of which is the creation of our newly formed Parent Teacher Organization! Following a recent membership drive, the Jefferson PTO has many members, and the ranks are growing almost daily! We look at this venture as a great way to raise funds to provide students here at Jefferson with field trips, activities and events.

But almost more important than raising funds, our PTO is focused on fostering a greater sense of community while increasing parental involvement. For example, just recently, we held a holiday craft fair in partnership with approximately 25 different local Long Beach vendors. Staff, students, parents and community members came together on a Saturday morning to invest in one another.

It is this mutual investment between school, home and community that will help light our path to a better tomorrow. And here at Jefferson Leadership Academies, that better tomorrow starts today!



Jordan *High School*

6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-1471 • www.lbschools.net/



Shawn Ashley
Principal



Dr. Jay Camerino
Principal

A Season for Giving

'Tis the season for giving, and our David Starr Jordan High School Panthers did just that. This holiday season, our school community gave back to north Long Beach like never before. Staff and students came forward to either donate blood, food, toys, or their time.

In the month of November, over 1,100 pounds of canned goods were collected in homerooms. On Thanksgiving Day, our staff and students met at the Carmelitos Housing Complex to deliver Thanksgiving meals to senior citizens. Towards the end of the month, close to 250 panthers came forward to donate blood at the fall blood drive.

In December, our Panthers stepped up their game for the annual Holiday Toy Drive, donating over 200 toys. Right before winter break, Team Jordan returned to Carmelitos with groceries for our senior citizens.

We are Jordan, and this is what we do.

King *Elementary*

145 E. Artesia Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-1232 • www.lbschools.net/king



Dr. Cecilia Santos-Camerino
Principal

Readers and Leaders

By Pam Seguine, Teacher – 5th Grade

Since September, students at King Elementary School have been working hard and reading daily. Our Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) books are always a special treat, and each student received a new book thanks to a national department store chain. The students wrote thank you letters to show how much they truly appreciate their new books. Kindergarten students got an extra treat. They got to read their books with firefighters who visited King that day.

King teachers met over the summer and were trained in Response to Literature. All grades are currently reading and responding to literature every week. Children are immersed in guiding questions, Thinking Maps, and paragraph writing for each story. Our students are rigorously working to get prepared for the upcoming Common Core Standards, as well becoming outstanding readers and writers.

Our fifth-graders have started a new committee to raise money for their end-of-the-year activities. The committee is led by the fifth-grade teachers, but the fifth-graders come up with all the ideas. For our first fund-raiser, we sold holiday grams.

Our committee meets every other Tuesday and plans what needs to be done around King. Many great ideas, such as cleaning up litter on the campus, reading with younger students, and motivational dress up days are being planned. Our committee is also coming up with ways to help others in our school community. Let's go, King!

Lee *Elementary*

1620 Temple Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/494-5101 • www.lbschools.net/lee



Caroline Nemec
Principal

City Meets the Farm

By Athena Uribe, Learning Director

Moove over, here comes Buttercup! Buttercup, a Jersey dairy cow, visited Lee Elementary this November. The Dairy Council of California introduced all of Lee students to Buttercup and a sweet little Holstein calf named Oreo. Students learned a variety of vocabulary related to the dairy cow's care, digestive system, and the cow's ability to make milk. Later, students wrote about and discussed what they learned, and some classes followed functional text, to prepare recipes using dairy products. This Thanksgiving we are thankful to the Dairy Council for sharing their knowledge and this experience Lee scholars!



Buttercup, the dairy cow.

Lakewood *High School*

4400 Briercrest Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/425-1281 • www.lbschools.net/



Cheryl Cornejo
Co-Principal



Mario Jimenez
Principal

Chalk Walk Art Contest With a Message

On October 23, 2012 the Lakewood High School PTSA sponsored the Red Ribbon Chalk Art Contest to have students send a message to their peers to be Drug Free and live a healthy lifestyle.

Seventeen students on five teams had three hours to create

their visual message that was judged at the nutrition break. Students enjoyed the camaraderie and snacks as they diligently developed their masterpieces. The students of the top three designs were awarded gift cards. Students were impressed by their classmates' talent and appreciated the message.

The winning artwork is displayed below.



The winning artwork

Lincoln *Elementary*

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



Christi Granado
Principal

The Giving Christmas Tree

By Carol Snyder, Recreation Leader

Lincoln School takes advantage of every opportunity it can to reinforce positive words and actions. To make this enjoyable, our students recently helped to decorate a small Christmas tree with paper ornaments. However, these were not just ordinary ornaments. On each of them a student had written a positive word or phrase, or action, that they could give to one another.

The idea for this project came as a spin-off to the regular holiday season. The students were asked the question, "What gift can you give to someone that does not cost anything?" They were also told to think about something that cannot be purchased at any store, but comes instead from within. The students smiled and realized that such things as kindness, positive words or good actions were the true gifts of the season.

It was touching to hear some of the comments from our students, such as their offering the words "Hi," or "Kind Words" or "A hug." A particular response which touched my own heart was "Don't Cry." Those two words demonstrated to me the compassion that our students have for one another.

With so many words of kindness decorating the tree, the idea of giving back to the students came to mind. What could be done to increase these



positive words and actions? Perhaps choose a student's ornament from the tree, and then surprise them with a simple gift? Giving and receiving positive words and prizes has taken on a new meaning with our "Giving Christmas Tree."

Lindsey *International Studies Magnet*

5075 Daisy Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-6451 • www.lbschools.net/lindsey



**Stephanie
Dunn-Cooper**
Principal

Voting Isn't Just for Grown-ups!

Voting is not just for the grown-ups. A local school in Long Beach has given middle-schoolers the opportunity to see what it is like to vote! At Perry Lindsey International Studies Magnet, ASB held a simulated election to expose young people to the electoral process. Students were allowed to vote for president, state senator and two propositions, 30 and 38. The ASB class worked very hard to try to make it as real as possible. The nonprofit organization Arsalyn provided the school with curriculum, booths, ballots and "I Voted" stickers. Students stood in line by grade level to sign next to their name. No IDs were required, as that is the current law!

The election was as successful as the real election! Students discovered that they are just like real voters, nearly matching the county percentages of eligible-voter turnout! Los Angeles county had 48.5 percent

of their eligible voters turn out. At Lindsey, 43 percent of students participated in the simulated election. Students further discovered that some grades were more interested than others—48 percent of eighth-graders, 39 percent of seventh-graders and 43 percent of sixth-graders voted. As for the candidates and propositions, it was a little different. The students overwhelmingly voted to reelect President Obama by 96 percent and Senator Feinstein by 73 percent. Students voted to pass Proposition 30 by 61 percent, and Prop. 38 passed by 65 percent. All in all, it was a successful and educational experience.



Lowell Bayside *Academy*

5201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-6757 • www.lbschools.net/lowell



**Samuel
Platis**
Principal

Greetings from the Principal!

Welcome back from winter break! As we embark on a new year, I want to extend my wishes to all of our Lowell families for a 2013 filled with health, love and happiness.

We are truly fortunate to be part of the greater Lowell community, where the spirits of giving and charity are commonplace throughout the year and not merely during the holidays. I am convinced that there's a connection among the selfless, generous and tireless efforts of our staff, PTA, families and students, all of whom daily exhibit compassion and empathy for others.

Here are a few examples: Donations to the Hurricane Sandy fund; a tremendously positive response to our vigilance in providing a safe, secure, nurturing school environment; an overwhelming number of donations by our students of canned good for the Salvation Army, toys for the Long Beach Fire Department's "Spark of Love" program, and stockings stuffed with toys and treats along with fleece blankets for the Long Beach Rescue Mission; and a fourth-grade team that coordinated donations to third-world countries.

Furthermore, 279 students had perfect attendance during our first trimester! Our teachers and staff work tirelessly to provide a world-class education, and coming to school every day is the best way to benefit from it. Children who come to school every day that they are physically healthy enough to do so, work hard, and develop academically and socially have a strong foundation and a solid key to success!

Thank you again for all of your continued support! Here's to a successful 2013 for our Lowell Sea Star scholars!

Longfellow *Elementary*

3800 Olive Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0308 • www.lbschools.net/longfellow



**Laurie
Murrin**
Principal

The Chicken Run!

By Todd Johnson, Third-Grade Teacher

The Longfellow Lion physical education program has two culminating events that have become a tradition. In the fall, our students trained with classrooms to compete in the annual Turkey Trot that was held before Thanksgiving. This marked our 25th consecutive year.

Representatives from all classes in grades two through five ran for turkey gift cards and pumpkin pies as prizes. Our playground director, Nancy Johnson, also organized the younger Lion "cubs" from the kindergarten and first grades to compete in a "Chicken Run" as well. "It's a great incentive for the younger ones to be active and have fun," she said.

In the springtime we will be hosting our annual "Run for the Green" jog-a-thon which is traditionally held on St. Patrick's Day. Both events promote a healthy lifestyle, rigorous athleticism, school spirit and a great garnering of community support.



MARK, SET, GO! Longfellow Lions take off in the Longfellow 25th Annual Turkey Trot held November 20, 2012.

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

515 W. San Antonio Dr., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-6337 • www.lbschools.net/loscerritos



**Marie
Hatwan**
Principal

Rain or Shine, Handmade Holidays Was a Hit!

The community of Los Cerritos gathered together for the fifth annual Handmade Holidays. This event is highly anticipated by students, and even the rainy day was no deterrent from its success. Students could choose among several stations where they could create a no-sew pillow, make a penguin or snowman doorstop, layer a candy jar, make Christmas trees or wreaths, make jewelry and ornaments, put cookies in a jar, do a Lego make-and-take, or purchase dinner and treats. Students choose to keep the items or gift them to loved ones.

The PTA spent many hours preparing the handmade items and manning the booths. Teachers volunteered raffle events for students, such as a chance to make a gingerbread house with them or attend a restaurant for dinner with a favored teacher. All had a grand time!



MacArthur *Elementary*

6011 Centralia St., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-3588 • www.lbschools.net/macarthur



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

Read! Read! Read!

By Anne Follett Home Reading Club Parent Volunteer

At MacArthur Elementary School, we are building lifelong readers by encouraging our students to become Super Readers through our Home Reading Club (HRC).

HRC achieved over 45-percent participation last school year! On average, over 300 students read the minimum number of days and minutes each month all year long!

Special reading incentives are awarded to students for each month the minimum requirements are met. These incentives change every month. Super Readers who participate in HRC

for three months receive a Super Reader T-shirt, which is part of our school uniform. Super Readers who participate for the entire school year qualify for our end-of-the-year Super Reader Extravaganza.

New last year, HRC added raffles for scooters. Every three months, the students who read the minimum requirements had their names put in a raffle to win a new scooter. An extra raffle was added for those students who read consistently all year long, and the winner was announced at the last school-wide character assembly.

I hope that MacArthur students continue to excel at the reading requirements so the participation level continues to rise and we can reach our goal of 100 percent!

Way to go, MacArthur students!

Mann *Elementary*

257 Coronado Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/439-6897 • www.lbschools.net/mann



Donna McKeehan-Marr
Principal

What is the Role of Student Council?

Student leadership development is the process of involving students in meaningful ways both in and beyond the classroom. As members of the Mann Student Council, students are provided opportunities to demonstrate their talents, skills and interests while continuing to develop new skills outside the realm of academics. It is also about giving students a voice and ownership in the school programs that make up their learning environment. Each of the classrooms for grades third, fourth and fifth elect or select two representatives to serve as members of the student council.

Student councils are a great way to find and develop potential student leaders. The Mann Student Council is currently organizing activities that support the school and community, planning student events and increasing service-learning opportunities in such efforts as the canned-food drive and charity fund-raisers, helping to improve school programs and solve existing problems, learning about governance, giving the students a voice, advertising the importance of scholarly behavior, and acting as role models for the school's "Key to Success" motto.

During the recent districtwide Principal for a Day event, the members had a chance to meet with a representative from City Hall, and in December, they were able to visit City Hall and ask questions about the many jobs that help to run the city.

Millikan *High School*

2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/425-7441 • www.lbschools.net/



Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo
Principal



Monica Daley
Principal of Instruction

The Model UN Visits USC

By Todd Osborn, US History Teacher, AP

Millikan's newly established Model United Nations Club recently competed in their first conference at USC. Sasha Kobliha and Eric Lomax are co-presidents and founders of the Club. Eric was runner-up at USC for the best delegate in the Security Council. Other USC participants included Nicole Nielsen, Kevin Litman-Navarro, Alyssa Scott and Jeremy Weidner.

The Model United Nations helps students understand peaceful resolutions to international conflicts. Through it they are able to develop debating and leadership skills while also learning about important world issues.

Mr. Osborn, the Club's sponsor, assisted the students as they explored USC, met with fellow MUN students and formed coalitions. Our Millikan students researched and represented Ireland, the UK, Germany, Colombia, Ecuador and India. Their Councils dealt with issues such as terrorism, the use of drones, global poverty and the ecological and health problems resulting from oil exploration in Africa. The students also introduced resolutions and negotiated solutions.

Be sure to join the MUN in Room 561 on Thursdays at lunch!



Monroe (K-8)

4400 Ladoga Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/429-8911 • www.lbschools.net/monror



Mark Curran
Principal

Community Spirit

By Barbara Jewel, Counselor

There is a spirit of community service at Monroe K-8 School this year. Concerned students in middle and elementary school are giving back in various ways.

Monroe's Tiger Team is a hardworking group of elementary student council members who help out in the cafeteria, with kindergarteners, and on the primary playgrounds. Sixth-grade students are earning community service hours by giving part of the lunch period to tutor deserving students in primary classrooms. The Monroe Mentor program matches eighth-grade students with elementary students who need friends. They participate in weekly team-building activities, which encourage a special bond that benefits younger and older students alike.

The students demonstrate the trait of civic virtue and community service to help make Monroe a special place. Our Monroe Tigers are hard at work helping each other!



Monroe Student Helpers!

Muir Academy

3038 Delta Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/426-5571 • www.lbschools.net/muir



Lori Clark
Principal

Note from the Common Core Corps

Students at John Muir K-8 returned in early September to find that their teachers had been busy during the summer getting ready to begin implementing the Common Core Standards. This process will take the next two years for full implementation, and we are all excited about the journey we are beginning together.

So, what is the Common Core? The Long Beach Unified School District website states, "Common learning goals provide a clear vision of what educators and parents in all states should aim for. These learning goals help ensure that students meet college and work expectations and that students are provided rigorous, challenging coursework. The standards are clear, consistent and research-based."

For our students, it will shift in both English and math, with an emphasis on nonfiction or expository text. Students will be utilizing their social studies/history and science texts in their reading classes more often. Students will also delve more deeply into subject matter, engage in higher-level reasoning—questions and answers that come right from the text—and apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios and problem solving. Parents will be a critical component in this process, too. We encourage parents to visit the local public library and help their children choose informational text. They can then discuss the reading and ask questions that require that their children go back into the text to discover the answers.

Some of the Muir teachers spent their summer vacation assisting the district by writing new TDQs, or Text-Dependent Questions. Following is a comment from a middle school student about the experience with text-dependent questions.

"I really like doing TDQs because I read from my history book and then discuss tough questions that the teacher gives me with my table group. I get to listen to different ideas based on text evidence, and sometimes my answers need to be changed. I must understand the information, not just read it. It's more interesting to discuss history this way."

Powell Academy

150 Victoria St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 310/631-8794 • www.lbschools.net/powell



Wendy Claffin
Principal

Eagle Values

Colin Powell Academy students pride themselves on the values of the leader whom the school was named after, Secretary of State Colin Powell. The six values the students pledge to daily are respect, integrity, leadership, courage, pride, and honor. By teaching these values, we are committed to expanding, enriching, inspiring, and transforming our students into lifelong productive citizens.

These six values reinforce our commitment to a bully-free campus. Our students recite our Powell Pledge on a daily basis. Powell teachers integrate these values into their lessons. Students utilize and apply Thinking Maps to facilitate their own thinking, understanding, and ultimately their success in absorbing these values to build a strong character, which contributes to our world. The exterior bulletin boards on campus focus on these values, and our united efforts to maintain a

bully-free campus. Our amphitheater banners also display these six values.

These six values empower and define our students in terms of their self esteem, discipline, creativity, and self confidence to achieve lifelong student success—just as Colin L. Powell himself envisioned for our students when the school first opened.



Newcomb Academy (K-8)

7020 E. Brittain St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8851 • www.lbschools.net/newcomb

Wendy Sowinski, Principal

PTSA Brings Traditional Events to New Campus

By Lan Nguyen, Student – 8th Grade

While it's a new school year and we are at a new campus, many of Newcomb Academy's traditions and festivities continued, with the help of our PTSA. Thanks to our stellar PTSA, Newcomb's students and families celebrated the holidays at several entertaining events. Many enjoyed the school's Spooktacular Fall Festival, which frightened the campus with a haunted house, a pumpkin patch, food trucks and fangtastic trunk-or-treating. "The haunted house was as scary as Knott's Scary Farm!" said Breonna Carter, a Newcomb eighth-grader.



In November, the PTSA sponsored a family magic show, which took place in our very own auditorium. The performance enchanted the audience and even cut our principal, Ms. Sowinski, in half. Later in the month, dads and daughter had a night out going bowling.

We finished off 2012 with a skate night and a joyful holiday boutique.

Newcomb students and staff really appreciate our supportive PTSA.

Prisk Elementary

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



Cindy Young
Principal

Community Service and More

The students at Prisk Elementary School were excited about all the fun events taking place at the end of 2012. Students wrapped up our annual Give It Up for the Troops campaign, which encourages students to donate candy received for Halloween and send it to the men and women serving in the armed forces who are deployed overseas. This year was once again a huge success, and we were fortunate to have a parent, Mr. Kutsch, deliver the candy to Soldiers Angels for us.

Our student council is now working on Recovery Aide Made Possible (RAMP), their next service project, which will raise funds and supplies for victims of Super Storm Sandy. Proceeds will go to the American Red Cross to aid them with their continuing assistance to individuals the individuals affected by Super Storm Sandy.

Prisk students are also excited about our new Safe and Civil program and are quickly learning new procedures and expectations around campus.

Our school will be open for tours, and you can obtain more information by attending one of the tours, which are scheduled for January 24 and 28 and February 4. All tours begin at 9 a.m. For more information, please visit our Web site at <http://prisk-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>.

Are you looking for me for the contest on page 10?



Riley *Elementary*

3319 E. Sandwood St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-9595 • www.lbschools.net/riley



Stacy Sanchez
Principal

Our Newspaper's the—Acme—of Journalism!

Starting in October, some awesome Roadrunners decided they wanted to write a student newspaper, and that is how we got the “Meep! Meep! News.” They came to me with an idea to build interest and wonder: hanging posters saying “Meep! Meep! News coming soon” and giving pencils with “Meep! Meep! News” on them to students.

Then came the work. These four students spent lunch, recess and after school times using laptops to do research to design and write the first edition. It came out in late October. Students were excited and buzzing about the new student-friendly newspaper!

As we speak, they are working on their second edition!

Great job, and congratulations to Aaron, Robbie, Darleen and Christian—some fabulous fifth-grade journalists at Riley! Meep! Meep!



Kimberly Holland
Principal

Rogers *Middle School*

365 Monrovia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/434-7411 • www.lbschools.net/rogers

Way to Go!

Congratulations to all of our staff, students and parents for our new API score of 915. We are the first Long Beach middle school to break 900! This is quite an accomplishment, and for the last few weeks we have been celebrating. In early November we had a district-sponsored barbecue with an extended lunch!

Incidentally, once a school reaches a number above 900 the upward growth moves in smaller increments, and so our goal for this year is to reach 920.

In late October we also had our first formal walk-through by the other middle school principals and district personnel. Its purpose was to collect baseline data on how our teachers are beginning to implement Common Core Standards, Thinking Maps and Active Participation Strategies. Everyone was impressed, and said that we are well on the way to implementing the beginning stages of Common Core. They were equally impressed with our students' scholarly focus and engagement.

On October 30 we were visited by three Principals for a Day: Dana Buchanan, Melissa Delrosario and Ryan Rayburn. They shadowed me and experienced supervision, uniform checks and classroom visitations. We then left for a luncheon at the Center Theatre. It was a lot of fun to have them visit Rogers!

Our sports teams are off to a great All-City season! The boys football team made it to the semifinals, and the girls volleyball team made it to the finals at Wilson High. Our boys basketball team is also well on the way to a successful season, with a record of 2-1.

Robinson *Academy*

2750 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/492-6003 • www.lbschools.net/robinson



Dr. Damita Myers-Miller
Principal

Hitting It Out of the Field!

Dolphins are making strides and hitting “Proficiency Home Runs” in student achievement outcomes, as measured by the CST. Students increased proficiency on all assessments: math, science, ELA, history and writing, which led to a 21-point gain on the API to 791 points. Way to go, JROB!

Students and their families joined together for a community fund-raiser at a local fast-food restaurant in October. Robinson teachers were on hand to work by taking orders and serving their students. The event brings JROB families together from all grade levels in a community spirit of smiling faces!

Dr. Miller's 1,000,000 Pages Reading Challenge for students in grade K-8 supports a school goal of increasing reading stamina and fluency. Dr. Miller is challenging all students to turn in their monthly reading logs, which go toward the number of pages read for their grade level. The grade level with the most number of pages read each trimester will receive a free book to read, graciously donated by the Molina Book Buddies program.

The middle school ASB has turned up the spirit this year by challenging each grade level in middle school to participate in spirit events. The ASB tracks the students in each grade level who attend various events: Night of Horror Dance, Canned Food Drive, Fishing for Donuts, Black-Out Dance and Tie Day, to name a few. At the end of the year, the grade level that has bragging rights of highest “SWAG” will equal the most JROB school spirit!

Roosevelt *Elementary*

1400 E. 20th St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/591-7477 • www.lbschools.net/roosevelt



Dr. Christopher Lund
Principal

More Artful Educators

Roosevelt is so honored to be a part of the Cotsen Art of Teaching Foundation! Currently we are well into our third year, and are moving full speed ahead with our teaching practices. Our cohort is now made up of six highly qualified teachers in all grade levels and across the curriculum.

These Roosevelt “fellows” are very humble when it comes to talking about their growth. But for some of them the classroom has been transformed into an entirely different place than it was three years ago, as they are now pursuing best practices in reading, writing and mathematics. It's so exciting to be witnessing this journey of growth in both the educator and the student.

Our fellows are also thrilled to have had the opportunity to participate in outside observations and professional development activities both locally and out of state. Several of them have even been to New York to attend the Teacher's College for reading and writing classes. They came back so eager to put their professional development skills into practice that they can hardly wait to begin the year!

The journey of life and the journey of a teacher are similar. Learning, developing our practice, and growing are what we strive for as educators. And isn't that what we also strive for in life? This really is a celebration of our years with Cotsen, and how it has translated into our being more artful educators with the ability to add richness to our lives.



Stanford *Middle School*

5871 E. Los Arcos St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/594-9793 • www.lbschools.net/



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

All-City Titlists!

The Stanford boys' basketball team finished its season with a tough loss to the Marshall Rams in the all-city semifinals, although they gave the Rams their toughest test of the season.

"Even though our season ended with a loss, it was probably the most enjoyable and rewarding season I've ever experienced," said Coach Hank Waddles. He thanked team members Romulo Howard, Christian Masing, Nijel Jones, Nick Lamb, Desmond Talley, Kobe Price, Khali Williams, Kyle Yamada, Jason Harley, Jason Jackson-Laws, Miles Denmion, Darian Green, Rodolfo Mora and Noah Holm

In one of the more nail-biting events we've had in a while, our girls' track team came out victorious in the last race, a 4 X 4relay, by only one point in the all-city track championships! Stanford had three all-city championships in individual events: Zhane Smith in long jump and 100-meter run and Emily Knous in the 1600-meter run. Lauren Carroll and Lauren O'Malley posted some big scores for Stanford in the 800-meter and 1600-meter runs, and Tawni Atencio placed fourth in the long jump and mile, both personal bests.

Our 4 X 100 relay team—Zhane Smith, Maddie Moore, Holly Hitchcock and Jalen Steed—started the night off placing fourth. Brittany Dossman placed fifth in the city for the shot put, throwing a personal best of 26 feet and one inch.

Finally, our 4 X 400 relay team—Alison Waddles, Megan Shea, Lauren O'Malley and Emily Knous—sealed the win, placing fourth and beating Hoover. April Wortman, Tawni Atencio and Jasmine Davis ran this relay in the league meet and helped us qualify for the championship event!

Tincher *Preparatory School*

1701 Petaluma Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/493-2636 • www.lbschools.net/tincher



Dr. Kelly An
Principal

The Faces of Our Student Body

Tincher scholars give back to their community! For the second year, we partnered with the Long Beach Basket Brigade to create Thanksgiving baskets. The Basket Brigade unites the Long Beach community to deliver Thanksgiving meals and bring hope to needy families. Tincher Tigers collected yams to donate. Several Tincher students participated in building and delivering 1,500 baskets to families in our community.

As seventh-grade student Lauren Castillo shared, "By helping, I learned that I should be thankful for what I have and that it feels good to know that a family will have a Thanksgiving dinner." This is just another example of Tincher scholars giving back to their community.



Tincher Tiger Lauren Castillo showcasing the newest addition to the Tincher campus, our Tiger Eyes mural. Middle School students installed the murals as a way of sharing their pride in the school.

Stevenson *Elementary*

515 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/437-0407 • www.lbschools.net/stevenson



David Zaid
Principal

Fall Fun with Our Stars

Pumpkins, candy apples, brown leaves, costumes and sweaters—fall is here! This fall, our students learned about the danger of drugs as we celebrated Red Ribbon Week. Red ribbons and banners were hung in the hallways and outside the school to engage our community in our efforts. Each class offered lessons and activities that empowered the hopes and dreams of our students through a commitment to education and a personal commitment to live drug-free lives. The students received red bracelets, dressed in red, and decorated their classroom doors. The week concluded with a schoolwide assembly and the announcement of the door-decorating-contest winners.

This fall also brought a book fair, a fund-raising effort, field trips to CSULB and LBCC, a costume contest, a student costume parade and a spooky-story shared-reading experience in a secret decorated reading room. Each class tiptoed in as they waded through fog, spider webs, flashing lights and spooky sounds. The experience fostered a love for reading for kindergarten through third grade and an appreciation for writing imaginative narratives in fourth and fifth grades.

As we enter into the New Year, we will celebrate academic achievement, students identified for Principal's Honor Roll, attendance and our Peacebuilders for Trimester 1. The week of celebration will conclude with a special family movie hosted by our PTA.

Stephens *Middle School*

1830 W. Columbia St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-0841 • www.lbschools.net/stephens



Diane Prince
Principal

Two Integral Individuals

Two of our more successful interventions here at Stephens include our librarian, Becky Robbins, and our intervention specialist, Rich Torres.

Mr. Torres works diligently every day to make Stephens a safe learning environment. His impact and his presence over this last two years can be seen by the decrease in discipline situations, the increase in student achievement and the improvement in attendance. Mr. Torres is very proactive when it comes to meeting with students and parents alike. Staff members were asked, "What would we do without Mr. Torres?" He is an integral part of what has helped the Stephens team successfully meet the needs of our students.

Mrs. Robbins, our librarian, is a 50 percent employee, but she puts 110 percent of herself into everything she takes on, from committees to School Site Council to clubs. She is admired by all who know her. Besides her duties as a librarian, she coordinates our after-school tutoring program. Along with helping students with social skills and organizational skills and providing tutorials, Mrs. Robbins is never heard saying, "No." The library is always open! The words *one-woman team* are used by staff members to describe Mrs. Robbins, and the school would not be the same without her.



Rich Torres



Becky Robbins

Webster *Elementary*

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



Maria Martinez
Principal

Making a Difference

By Rebecca Qualls and Belinda Gutierrez, Special Day Class Teachers

We at Webster would like to highlight and welcome a very special individual. His name is William "Billy" Lockett, and he is the special needs godson of one of our teachers at Webster. Billy recently moved from Fallbrook, and is now a proud resident of Lakewood.

Billy volunteers every day to help in the cafeteria under the supervision of Vicky Kingery. In addition to this, he also helps our custodian Diana Gaines clean the classrooms. Billy is always willing to lend a hand wherever it is needed. The students have welcomed Billy too, and look forward to seeing him every day.

When asked about volunteering at Webster, Billy says that, "It makes me happy to help others, and makes me feel useful." Although Billy gains a lot from the time he spends volunteering, it is our staff and students who are reminded of the spirit of helping. Through him they have learned to embrace the differences in others.



Billy with the cafeteria staff and proud of his identification badge.

We are proud and thankful that we have a large special education community in our school. Our hope is that other schools will also give this special population an opportunity to volunteer, and continue to teach all of us the many lessons about acceptance, giving to others, and making a difference.

School News

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Twain *Elementary*

5021 E. Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8421 • www.lbschools.net/twain



Ellen Ryan
Principal

A Patriotic Celebration

By Barbara Piechota, Parent and Veterans Day Committee Chair

The threat of rain did not dampen the spirit and enthusiasm for our sixth annual Veterans Day celebration. With the sun shining and the wind blowing, our Cub Scout Troop #23 started the festivities by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our veterans, students, staff, and families were then treated to a memorable rendition of "God Bless America," performed by Mrs. Mitchell's High Tide quartet. Two Mark Twain students were then recognized for their contributions to the event: fifth-grader Amanda Berman for her artwork for the cover of the program and third-grader Jaida Waller for her essay on the importance of Veterans Day. Jaida read her moving essay about her dad, who is a veteran, and there was not a dry eye in the crowd.

The program continued on with Kendall Almazan, the student council president, reading a Veterans Day poem and then Benji Martinez singing a beautiful a cappella version of "The Star Spangled Banner." Our keynote speaker, U.S. Coast Guard Commander Ryan Manning, educated our students about the definition of a veteran and the importance of thanking the families of veterans. Commander Manning mentioned that they are the unsung heroes and that they, too, need to be recognized and thanked. A crowd favorite, Nathaniel Williams, delighted the audience with his bagpipes, playing a patriotic medley of songs. And what would our ceremony be without our students singing the military branch songs and waving their American flags proudly?

After the program, several classes were able to board the Coast Guard boat that was on display.

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Willard *Elementary*

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



Kevin Maddox
Principal

The Vector Mobile

By Michelle Reyes, Student – 5th Grade

My class visited the Los Angeles County Vector Control District's Vector Mobile on November 20. It was fun and interesting.

While on the "bug bus," we used a computer. We saw larvae. We put the various body parts on a big model mosquito. We also saw many little bugs. They were icky. We also saw a video about how to help reduce the mosquito population and about the people who help keep poisonous bugs or ones that can make you ill away from us.

Then we saw two hissing cockroaches from Madagascar. Some of my classmates even touched and held them. We saw a lot of different dead bugs, and our teacher gave us a sheet so we could look for them because the bugs were in a big glass case. We studied the specimens and wrote down what countries they were from. Also, our Vector Mobile teacher gave us stickers with pictures of hissing cockroaches.

The Vector Mobile was interesting, fun, and icky.



Fifth graders use the Vector Mobile's mosquito model to learn about insect body parts.

Washington *Middle School*

1450 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-2434 • www.lbschools.net/washington



Shivaun Williams
Principal

From the Beginning

By Meryem Kaleli, Student – 8th Grade

Claudio R. M. Costa once said, "Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today." That's exactly what we've been doing ever since the beginning of the 2012–2013 school year. The student body council has been working hard to organize various events. There were a few negatives, but lots of positives. Some of these activities were a Halloween dance, pajama day and twin day, and hot chocolate sales every Monday and Friday morning. They were hard to prepare for, but fun for everyone.

The Halloween dance was highly successful. From the haunted hall and snack tables to the disc jockey and the student's creative costumes, everything was lively and fun. We sold out of most snacks, and everyone enjoyed the Monster Mash. Even though it wasn't exactly like we planned, everyone enjoyed the music, and there were even some screams coming from the haunted hall.

Wouldn't coming to school wearing your pajamas be fun? Haven't you always wanted a twin? Well, here at Washington Middle School, we gave everyone a chance to live out their wildest dreams. On pajama day, there were lively colors all around the place, with students and teachers dressed up in pajama bottoms and t-shirts. Twin day was different. Teachers dressed up as each other, best friends couldn't be separated from each other, and everything was fun.

"Anything is good if it's made of chocolate," Jo Brand shared—a statement everyone can relate to. Since it's starting to get cold in the mornings, student council decided to come to school early to sell hot chocolate to keep everyone cozy and comfortable.

Coming together is beginning; staying together is progress; working together is success. When we started planning for events like the Monster Mash, twin and pajama days, and hot chocolate sales, the plans were not perfect. As we look ahead into the future, our student council has learned from previous mistakes in planning and is looking forward to planning many more exciting activities, such as the Sweetheart Dance in February.

Wilson *Classical High School*

4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/433-0481 • www.lbschools.net/wilsonhs



Sandy Blazer
Co-Principal



Gonzalo Moraga
Principal of Instruction

Blood Drive a Success!

By Taryn Cabuhat, Features Staff Writer, WWCHS Loudspeaker

Many Wilson students became heroes when they donated blood this December! This annual blood drive helps the Red Cross to save lives.

On the day of the event, over 75 students bravely faced the needle while other participants were cautiously denied because of various concerns regarding body type and weight. Students were given numbers for appointed times to donate, but the immense turnout required some of the students to wait a couple of additional hours to donate. This backup occurs every year because of the high number of walk-in donors that cause conflicts with the appointment log.

Despite these delays, students are still motivated to come each year to donate. There will be another blood drive next winter. So be prepared for the requirements, and make sure to drink your milk so you will be tall and strong enough in 2013!

Child Development Center

4310 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 200, Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/422-6868
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Kids' Club Is a Great Place to Be!



Lauren Shaw
Director

By Allison Mizushima, Kids' Club Supervisor III, Prisk Kids' Club

The Kids' Club program provides affordable quality before-and-after-school care for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. It serves families at Bixby, Cleveland, Cubberley, Emerson, Fremont, Gant, Henry, Lowell, MacArthur and Prisk. Kids' Club works with families and the school in a supportive role to promote a unified approach to each child's growth and development. Our highest priorities are to provide a program that enriches the whole child and to offer age-appropriate activities in a safe, stimulating and nurturing environment.

As part of our daily program at Prisk Kids' Club, we offer a wide range of activities for the children to participate in, such as arts-and-crafts activities, homework help, organized games and science experiments. Children also have the opportunity to participate in weekly cooking experiences, off-campus field trips, holiday breakfast events and our exciting end-of-the-year barbecue. Throughout the month of December, we will be traveling around the world experiencing a variety of multicultural celebrations. We will be tasting foods like udon noodle soup and creating crafts like Las Posadas candles. To kick off January, we will be learning about healthy living. We will be taking pre- and post-fitness tests, getting an introduction to yoga, and sampling healthy food items. Kids' Club is looking forward to a fun and healthy New Year!

Liaison between School and Home

Our enthusiastic and dedicated staff looks forward to work each day. They are eager to positively influence the lives of our students. Lauren Martin, Kids' Club assistant, says, "Working with the Kids' Club program has been such a rewarding experience! Going to work each day doesn't even seem like going to a job. I hope I can make as much of a difference in the students' lives as they have made in mine!"

The Kids' Club program truly stands by the district's motto, "Every student, every day." Many times, we see our students at the start of their day and at the end of their day. We strive to send each child to class on the right foot so that they are successful in the classroom and then send them home eager to return the next day. We are a liaison between the classroom and home.

Come join the fun at Kids' Club. It's a great way to start off your day!

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

Service Learning: Going Beyond the Classroom Walls

A major component of Westerly's diverse and engaging program is the implementation of service learning across all grade levels. The idea of being an active community member and thinking beyond yourself is instilled in the minds of students from their first day at Westerly. Students are encouraged to grow and be confident as an individual, to establish a sound foundation for thinking of the needs of others, which, in turn, leads to ways to improve both the school community and the city. Furthermore, involving students in the decisions as to which opportunities to invest their time touches on high-level thinking

and interpersonal skills. Since the School has renewed its focus on service learning parents and staff have commended the increased connection to the community, and notice a more positive school climate and a kinder, gentler student body.

Westerly begins cultivating this appreciation starting with its Kindergarten class, which kicks off the school year with a unit of study on community. The class identifies the various communities in their life, the people who positively impact these communities and ways that they can help. Faculty builds on this mindset as students roll through their years at Westerly. Each grade increases the complexity of their service projects as faculty continues to challenge students to think outside the box for new and unique ways to help those around them. During their Westerly years, first graders visit City Hall to learn about civic programs during their patriotic unit of study and clean the tide pools at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium during their study of oceans. Second grade leads an all-school effort to raise money for UNICEF, and third through fifth graders work collaboratively to collect gifts for the less fortunate in the community. Participating in meaningful projects, in which students see their work impacting others, builds a strong piece of intrinsic motivation for more opportunities to serve.

It is considered to be the norm at Westerly to be an active volunteer and patron. During the middle school years students take on more involved projects that incorporate intense planning and effective collaboration. Students are involved in service learning classes where they brainstorm ideas, analyze and research them, and finally implement actions that can positively affect their community. Past projects have involved various efforts such as planting native plants at Madrona Marsh in Torrance, visiting senior homes and sharing poetry and songs, and most recently, spending two days working with disabled students in the local school district creating crafts, conducting science experiments, and building a deeper understanding of those in our world with special needs.



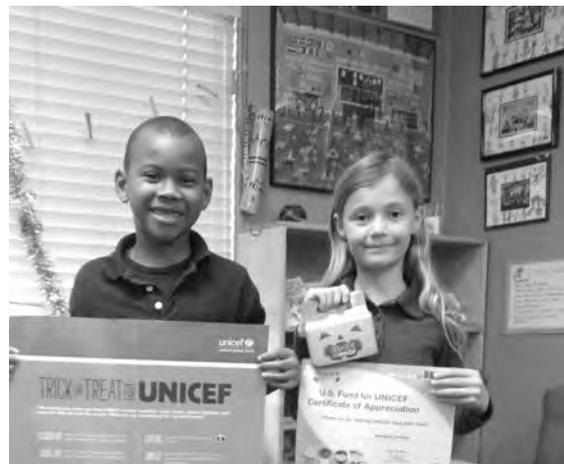
A Westerly kindergartener selects a star for the Reach for the Stars benefit

delivering gifts to the preschool. This commendable display of humanity speaks volumes about the impact a classroom of teenage minds can make when they develop a vision together.

Currently, and just in time for the holidays, Westerly's student leadership class is holding a "Reach for the Stars" wish-list drive to benefit a local preschool serving financially underprivileged families. The project, now in its second year, is student-generated and involves hanging over 200 stars from the ceiling in the main office, each labeled with a needed item. Westerly families were then encouraged to pull down a star and bring back that item, which is to be gifted to the organization. Last year twelve representatives were able to deliver over two-hundred gifts to a shelter for battered women in downtown Long Beach. This year student representatives will be



Westerly students show pride in the gifts brought in for the Reach for the Stars benefit.



Second grade students take an all-school lead on collecting funds for UNICEF

collaborating with city officials to restore local parks, and distributing donated food through Second Harvest Food Bank. They will also have the opportunity to meet with survivors of the hurricane along with local heroes who have put projects into place that help with the city's rehabilitation efforts.

Beyond Westerly School being a safe and happy environment in which to grow and learn, the School's commitment to guiding students to see beyond themselves collectively creates a group of young people prepared to enter the world and make a positive impact.

This same group will also be rolling into the new year with a mural project at a transitional living community in town. These young leaders will be working with kindergarten and first grade students on creating six murals depicting what their mind's eye see as hope. This multi-day project is one-hundred percent sponsored by the school and the leadership class. Westerly has also reached out to the Long Beach Art Exchange for its expertise and assistance coupled with their dedicated interns from Renaissance High School.

Lastly, Westerly is taking this idea of serving the community a step further this year by encouraging global thinking and challenging students in their eighth grade year with a large-scale service project.

The project of choice will have the eighth grade class flying across the country to New Orleans, Louisiana for an entire week where they will dedicate their time to a variety of non-profit organizations in order to help with continued efforts to help the city recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Students will spend time working with families on rebuilding homes,

Come Visit Westerly

Westerly School hosts monthly or bi-monthly community visits allowing interested families to hear more about the unique qualities of a Westerly education. The School invites you to tour the classrooms to see teaching in action and ask questions of the faculty, staff, and parents. All tours begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and last for a little over an hour. Consider joining on one of the following dates: January 8, January 22, February 5, March 5, March 19, April 16, May 7

About Us

Westerly School serves students in Kindergarten through eighth grade by igniting a love of learning through innovative instruction, collaborative projects, and community involvement through leadership. With its whole-child philosophy and safe-learning community, Westerly nurtures students' creativity, forming problem-solvers and idea-makers prepared for the ever changing world. Westerly School is a non-profit, non-denominational independent school located on a five-acre campus in the heart of Long Beach. To learn more about Westerly School or schedule an appointment to tour our campus, please visit www.westerlyschool.org or call (562) 981-3151.



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