

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Long Beach Unified School District...and more!

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Please Drive Safely

INSIDE:

City of Signal Hill
Office of the Mayor 5
City of Long Beach
Office of the Mayor 5
Office of the City Auditor.... 4
City of LB City Prosecutor ... 4
LB Dept. Health 6
Miller Children’s Hosp..... 7
Assistance League® of LB.. 8

Friends of LB Animals..... 8
Long Beach Public Library .. 8
Children’s Health Dental Clinic 9
LB Parks, Rec. & Marine 10
Lucy’s Book Review..... 11
Leadership Long Beach..... 12
Rancho Los Alamitos 12
ABWA 12
Literacy Project Foundation 13
Arts Council for LB..... 13

Superintendent of Schools . 14
LB Education Foundation.. 15
LBUSD Board of Education 15
LA Co Dept. of Ed..... 16
CSULB 16
LBUSD Schools 17-28
Westerly School..... 29
Nutrition Update 30
Real Estate Matters 31
Financial Tips 31

Distributed in the communities of: Long Beach, Lakewood & Signal Hill



Long Beach, California welcomes

the Council of the Great City Schools 10-7-11-2015

The Council of the Great City Schools Fall National Conference will be held in one of the most dynamic seaside destinations in the country. Long Beach, California was chosen for its national award-winning education system & business in education partnerships. The Long Beach Unified School District is honored to host such an esteemed organization and representatives from the 67 largest urban school districts in the nation. For more information go to cgcs.org or lbschools.net



Featuring



Levar Burton
Actor/Director



José Hernández
NASA Astronaut



Fared Zakaria
CNN Host

This page sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation

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LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



As summer comes to a close and classroom doors swing open to welcome students we look forward to publishing the happenings. We appreciate you continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. We publish the LBUSD *School News* August, October, December, February, April and June. If you would like digital copies emailed to you, simply go to our web site and sign up.

Thank you for your emails and requests for specific topics. We add content as space allows. In addition to the school articles, the Mayor, City Auditor, City Prosecutor and Signal Hill Mayor columns will be in every

issue. The number one topic requested is health and the LB Dept. of Health and Human Services along with Miller Children's & Women's Hospital will keep us up to date on important health issues. In this issue the Children's Health Dental Clinic writes about their Champion of the Game program. Carol Berg Sloan and Kelly Sloan continue to write Nutrition Updates. Of course, volunteer programs are vital to a community and we have included some of your favorites.

**Please
don't text
and drive.**



Publisher's Note:

On July 25 my dear Mother passed away. Today in school students learn the six pillars of Character Traits: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. My Mother was a walking billboard of those traits. Back in her day ethical values were taught in the home not in the classroom.



Neta Madison

My Mother was creative and often doodled. One of my favorites of her doodles was the chicken with the umbrella and I have included it in my Home Room column in every issue of *School News*. I gave the chicken the name of Netragrednik, which many of you have discovered is kindergarten spelled backwards.

My Mother's name is Neta (pronounced with a long e). She was not pleased when someone would mispronounce her name as Net..a. When my sister and I met with the minister to discuss Mom's service, he asked how Mom got the name of Netanyahu? Apparently, when the funeral director typed her name "Neta" auto-correct changed it to Netanyahu!

I am grateful everyday to have had such a wonderful woman for my Mother.

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City of Long Beach, City Auditor



Laura I. Doud
City Auditor

Helping Others Get to the Finish Line

Last month, I had the heartwarming experience of witnessing athletes from around the globe participate in the 2015 Special Olympics World Games held in Los Angeles and Long Beach! These athletes, each with their own challenges, rose to the occasion and courageously gave their whole heart and soul as they competed in this amazing event.



Anna Maldonado,
21 yrs. old, Santa Paula.

Even though the 2015 Special Olympics World Games are over, we have an ongoing opportunity to help people in our own community with intellectual disabilities achieve their goals.

How? By volunteering for Special Olympics of Southern California (SOSC), headquartered right here in Long Beach.

Local Special Olympics programs received international attention last month as over 7,000 athletes and 3,000 coaches from 177 countries gathered here to live their dreams and celebrate accomplishment.

Prior to the World Games, Long Beach was a Special Olympics “Host Town”, hosting over 100 athletes from China as they prepared for competition. Staff members of the City Auditor’s Office were among Long Beach volunteers who warmly welcomed the athletes.

Media attention on the World Games has sparked new interest and resulted in many more participants in SOSC year-round sports training and competitions so your help is needed more now than ever.

Here is how you can help children and adults of all abilities get on track to better, healthier lives:

- If you know someone with an intellectual disability who is not yet involved with Special Olympics, encourage him or her to join to begin experiencing the great rewards of the program.
- Volunteer.
- Attend Special Olympics athletic competitions with friends and family. Cheering for the athletes is a great boost to them, and seeing their courage and unstoppable determination is truly inspiring.
- Donate.

Special Olympics of Southern California enriches the lives of athletes with intellectual disabilities as well as the lives of volunteers – all through the power of sports.

Find out how you can be a part of it: www.sosc.org

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www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com

City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

Technology to Reduce Crime

The Long Beach Police Department, the City Prosecutor’s Office, and our schools are looking at ways to reduce crime by using technology. It’s a new twist on an old problem.

Each agency already uses technology to keep records, analyze data, and keep employees in communication. But rarely do police, prosecutors, and educators share information digitally, in a meaningful, real-time way, to improve the safety of students and the general public.

This will change if the Long Beach City Prosecutor’s Office secures a Technology Innovation for Public Safety grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant would, over an 18 month period, create a data-sharing digital platform specifically to improve public safety and protect Long Beach students. Although competition for this grant will come from cities across America, the application from the Long Beach City Prosecutor’s Office is expected to be highly competitive because it focuses on an area that needs attention – preventing juvenile crime.

The grant would support the City Prosecutor’s successful Parent Accountability and Chronic Truancy (P.A.C.T.) program, a key part of the office’s national award-winning anti-gang strategy. PACT has reduced truancy by over 20% with some of the most chronically truant students, those who were most at risk of dropping out, joining a gang, or becoming a victim of violence. The grant would enable the agencies to share critical information in real time, and do so without faxes, phone calls, and site visits, which can be time consuming and inefficient.

Those in law enforcement need to pay close attention to truancy and juvenile crime, because today’s dropouts are likely to become victims or perpetrators of crime in the future. Long Beach’s Police Chief Robert Luna understands this better than any police chief I know. Similarly, educators in Long Beach recognize that working closely with law enforcement will make schools – and the neighborhoods around them – safer.

By police, prosecutors and educators collaborating more closely, interventions can take place sooner. The interventions can be based on better information since all three agencies will know more than any single agencies. Perhaps most importantly, the public will be better served because sharing information can be a force multiplier.

Long Beach has become a leader in innovations like this since last year when the city’s violence prevention plan, called Safe Long Beach, put the city into the national spotlight. Safe Long Beach was immediately embraced by the USDOJ, which invited Long Beach to join the short list of cities in the National Forum on Juvenile Justice Prevention. Long Beach then won a grant from the DOJ to support the City Prosecutor’s *Gang Prevention Strategy*.

City of Long Beach Office of the Mayor



Dr. Robert Garcia
Mayor

Welcome back! I hope your summer was enjoyable and filled with fun time with your family. As we begin the new school year, I wanted to share some exciting things happening in Long Beach.

First, we have raised more than 5 million dollars to support student internships and youth employment. If you or someone in your family is looking for an internship or employment, please visit the Pacific Gateway website at hirelb.com and register.

Second, we've created more than 400 new spots in Long Beach preschools, and will be creating hundreds more in the coming years. If you are interested in learning more about options for preschool and early childhood education, please contact the Long Beach Unified School District.

Third, as you may have heard, LBUSD received a \$5 million grant from the Office of California Governor Jerry Brown, a recognition of the great, innovative work the district is doing, much of it with the City of Long Beach as a partner. We are proud of this recognition and I know this funding will be put to use for the benefit of students.

2015-2016 is shaping up to be one of the best years ever in the Long Beach schools. I want to wish all of you a successful school year. And I want to invite you to reach out to my office if you'd like to arrange a visit at City Hall. We always enjoy meeting students and sharing a little about how our city operates on a day to day basis. I hope to see some of you there this year.

Go Long Beach!

333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/570-6801
www.longbeach.gov

CITY PROSECUTOR • *From Page 4*

Several other competitive grant applications are pending, all of which demonstrate how serious the city is about taking strategic steps to reduce violent crime in the short term and long term.

This would not be the first time Long Beach showed leadership in technology innovation. Using software designed by Laserfiche, a Long Beach-based technology company, police and prosecutors locally were the first in the nation to digitize information in court orders against criminal street gangs, resulting in a more than 700% increase in gang-related arrests.

Now is an especially critical time for Long Beach to try innovative solutions to reduce crime. The first half of 2015 saw an increase in some crime statistics, causing many to worry that Long Beach will lose the steady and dramatic gains it has seen in violence reduction over the past 6 years. Although many other cities are also seeing spikes in crime, Long Beach is prepared and capable of doing something about it.

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

City of Signal Hill Office of the Mayor



Larry Forester
Mayor

The State is in the midst of a four-year drought and its water supply has reached alarmingly low levels. On April 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown issued an Executive Order mandating cities to reduce water usage by 25% below the amount used in 2013. The State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency regulation on May 5, 2015 requiring an immediate 25% reduction in overall potable urban water use statewide.

A 25% savings in potable urban water use amounts to more than 1.2 million acre-feet of water over the next nine months. To put things in perspective, reducing water by 25% in Signal Hill is equal to 87 million cubic feet or the equivalent of filling up 27 Costco stores with water.

What are we doing locally?

The City Council adopted a water conservation ordinance in 2009 and declared a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage. On May 19, 2015, the City Council adopted a Level 2 Water Supply Shortage. This water conservation program starts immediately.

What does this mean to you?

- Water lawns and landscaped areas only twice per week, Tuesday and Saturday. To minimize evaporation, watering is prohibited between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Watering is limited to 15 minutes watering per day per station. Let your neighbors know if they have broken sprinklers. All irrigation and household plumbing leaks must be repaired within 48 hours.
- Refilling of more than 1-foot and initial filling of residential swimming pools or outdoor spas with potable water is prohibited. Re-circulating water is required for a water fountain or other decorative water features.
- Using water to wash or clean a vehicle is prohibited, except by a hand-held hose equipped with a positive self-closing water shut off nozzle or device. Take your car to the car wash. Car wash facilities recycle wash water.
- Restaurants are prohibited from providing drinking water, unless the customer requests it.
- Washing down driveways or patios is prohibited.

Other things you can do:

- Take advantage of rebates to replace your lawn or parkway with drought tolerant landscaping. Links to rebate information can be found on the City's website at www.cityofsignalhill.org.
- Limit showers to five minutes.
- When waiting for the hot water to reach the faucet in the shower, collect the cold water in a bucket and use it to water potted plants.
- Share your water conservation ideas on the City of Signal Hill's Facebook page.

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

Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

Emergency Preparedness



Dr. Mitchell Kushner
City Health Officer

As many of you know, Long Beach just experienced one of its worst power outages in decades in Downtown Long Beach. While the specific cause of the outage is still unknown at this time, the resilience of our residents and visitors combined with the collaboration of our City's response and those of community agencies and volunteers provided many lessons for future potential emergencies.

Being prepared for any emergency or hazard is extremely important for our residents and workforce. For those residents of Long Beach who experienced the outage firsthand, the basic necessities of food, water, extra cash, prescription medications and medical supplies, flashlights, and family emergency plans certainly helped those who were prepared.

The Long Beach Health Department and our partners want you to be prepared for future emergencies that affect our city. One of the most important steps you can take is to assemble an emergency kit with items you and your family can use to take care of yourself until assistance is available. If you don't already have a kit, now is the time to get one.

Ready Long Beach community preparedness expo, presented by the Long Beach Community Emergency Response Team on Saturday, September 19th at Heartwell Park from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. It's free!

Besides kits that can be purchased, you can also assemble a kit on your own. One suggestion for building your kit is to focus on one item at a time. For example, the Health Department's Build Your Kit campaign provides information to help residents add or replace specific items on a monthly basis, such as water and food, family documents, batteries and chargers, and radios. Medications, hygiene supplies, and comfortable clothing are also key items needed in a kit. A basic first aid kit, local maps, flashlights, and a whistle will also prove valuable during many emergency situations, in addition to toys and games to help children feel safer, and extra food and water for pets.

A great opportunity to help you and your family be better prepared is the upcoming Ready Long Beach community preparedness expo, presented by the Long Beach Community Emergency Response Team on Saturday, September 19th at Heartwell Park from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. It's free! Come out and get more information on getting prepared. You can also visit www.longbeach.gov/health to get more information on building your emergency preparedness kit.

2525 Grand Ave., Suite 106, Long Beach, CA 90815
www.longbeach.gov/health/

It's Back To School Time with the City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services

Time to:

Make sure your children's vaccines are up to date

- **On Tuesday, October 20th, bring the family to one of our FREE flu vaccine clinics from 2:00 to 7:00 pm at:**

➡ **The Long Beach Health Department**
2525 Grand Avenue, 90815

➡ **Silverado Park**
1545 West 31st, 90810

Update your emergency preparedness kit and plan

- **Follow our Kit Campaign to build your kit one item at a time and talk to children about the hazards in our area**



Keep cool and hydrated

- **Remember, it stays hot in Southern California even after school starts back**



It is OUR MISSION to improve the quality of life by promoting a safe and healthy community in which to LIVE, WORK, and PLAY.

Department of Health & Human Services
2525 Grand Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90815



@longbeachDHHS



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facebook.com/LBDHHS

Growth Plate Fractures Can Stunt Growth in Kids



Emory Chang, MD
Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon, Pediatric Orthopedic Center, Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Children's growing bodies are different than adult's bodies and that includes their bones. As children grow and develop, their bones are softer. This allows their bones to fracture in different ways than adult bones do.

Growth Plates Injuries & Fractures

Children's bones have growth plates, consisting of developing cartilage, that determine the final length and shape of bones in adulthood. When a child's bones have completed growing, the growth plates harden and form one complete bone. However, before growth is complete, the growth plates are susceptible to fractures. Fifteen to 30 percent of fractures are growth plate fractures.

Girls tend to reach skeletal maturity earlier than boys between ages 13 to 15, while boys are around ages 15 to 17.



Growth plate fractures need immediate treatment because if an injured growth plate is not treated properly, it can lead to crooked or misshapen bones, limbs that are too short or even arthritis in the long term.

Even with similar injuries, such as an ACL tear, adult's and children's bodies often have a different response and require special surgical techniques. Pediatric orthopedic surgeons are specifically trained to

evaluate and treat children with these bone conditions or fractures.

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Our specialists are the leaders in children's health care.

When Ke'Ala was born, her mother noticed something was wrong with her left foot. They were referred to the Pediatric Orthopedic Center at Miller Children's, where Ke'Ala was diagnosed with clubfoot. Dr. Emory Chang, one of just a few pediatric orthopedic surgeons certified in the Ponseti Method, started using the unique treatment immediately. After more than four years, Ke'Ala is completely cured. Today, Ke'Ala can pedal around the park with ease as a tricycle whiz.

From tip-top head to itty bitty toes, Miller Children's is the leader in getting kids better.

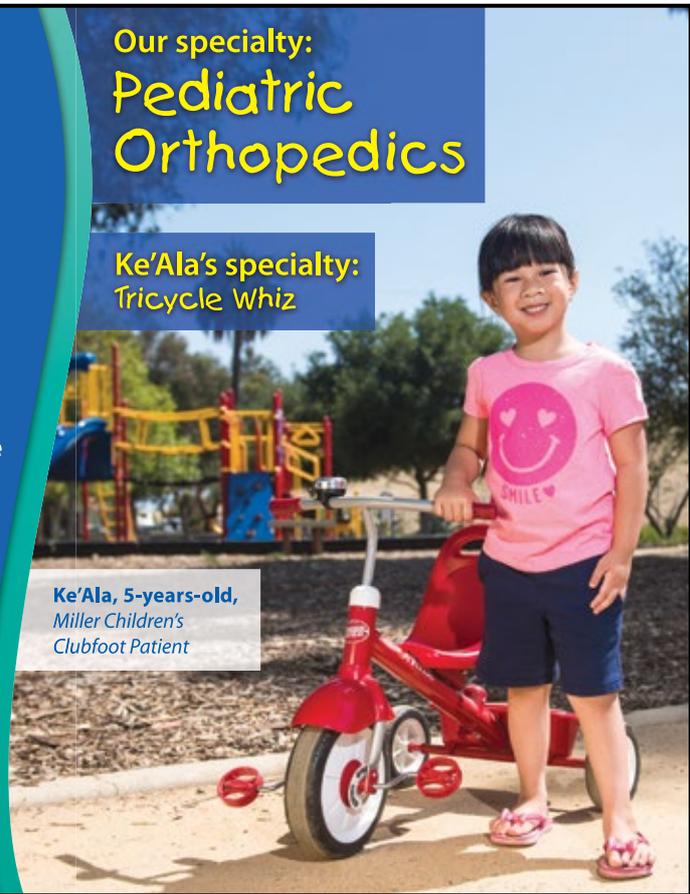
Follow the leader to Miller Children's.

MillerChildrens.org/Ortho 800-MEMORIAL

Our specialty:
Pediatric Orthopedics

Ke'Ala's specialty:
Tricycle Whiz

Ke'Ala, 5-years-old,
 Miller Children's
 Clubfoot Patient



Assistance League® of Long Beach

By Sharon Denham, Press and PR Chairman

Operation School Bell®

Operation School Bell® is the signature program for National Assistance League®. This year Rick Rackers Auxiliary, which manages the program, provided new school uniforms to more than 10,000 elementary and middle school students of the Long Beach Unified School District. Our member volunteers go into the schools in August and September and measure middle school students on orientation days. Order forms are filled out and the orders processed at the Assistance League® of Long Beach Philanthropic Center where an inventory is maintained. Orders for uniforms come in from the elementary schools from school personnel who have identified the students most in need. Each elementary school child will receive a back pack with the uniforms and school supplies. Each middle school student receives uniforms in a reusable fabric bag.

In addition to Operation School Bell, Assistance League of Long Beach also offers other services for the young people in our community. We provide orthodontic services to over 845 students at our clinic which is located in our philanthropic center. Over 1800 7th grade students toured the Howard and Asian Art Collection, our Kids on the Block™ puppeteers brought their programs to over 4500



Assistance League of Long Beach volunteers with backpacks filled and ready for delivery.

students in the district, and a \$16,000 scholarship was provided for the music program. A La Carte volunteers reach out to patients at Millers Children's and Women's Hospital and our Assault Survivor Kits® and hygiene kits are distributed by the forensic nurses at Community Hospital. Hygiene kits are also provided to WomenShelter and Interval House for victims of domestic violence.

The above programs help us fulfill our vision statement: Assistance League of Long Beach enriches the lives it touches.

Friends of Long Beach Animals

Zoonoses: Funny Word?

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

Is this a word meaning *zoo* and *noses*? Is it one or two words? Is it strange because we don't know what it means? Well, none of the above. Actually it is one word. It's the general name of illnesses or diseases that are transferable from animals to humans, and there are not too many of those.

Of course, rabies comes to mind first. It's transferable by a bite, and it is fatal to both animal and human. However, domestic pets must be vaccinated against rabies by law. In California, there are usually more rabies-carrying ground squirrels, raccoons, cows and wildlife than companion animals. Other conditions that can be contagious are skin problems that are easily treated, internal parasites that are easily eliminated, and conjunctivitis—our old friend pinkeye, which is also easily treated and avoidable by frequent washing of hands.

The secret to avoiding zoonoses is appropriate vaccinations, cleanliness and vigilance. Keep a critical eye on your friend; with help and advice from your veterinarian, chances are very good that instead of catching something from your pet, he or she may catch something from you!

Zoonoses—it is a funny word for unlikely contagion that is rarely transmitted by your pet.

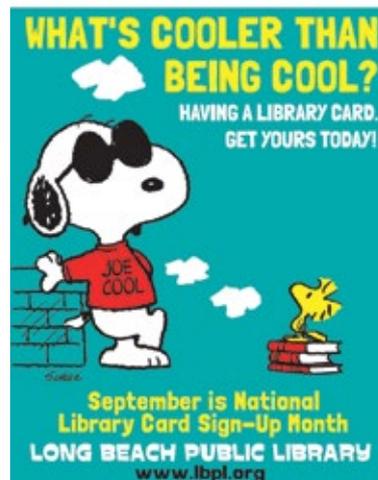
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www.folba.org

Long Beach Public Library

What's Cooler Than Being Cool?

By Pam Carlson, Children's Librarian

A free library card is the most important school supply of all. With a library card, you can check out library books and movies, get online homework help, take practice tests, learn to speak another language, and get all the resources you need to succeed in school. Join Snoopy, the world-famous beagle, in promoting September as Library Card



Sign Up Month. Make sure that you and your family, friends, and neighbors all visit the library this September to get a library card, prizes, and to participate in fun events.

For more information give us a call, visit any of our twelve Long Beach Public Libraries or the library's website.

Main Library 101 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90822 • 562/570-7500
www.lbpl.org

Children's Health Dental Clinic



Champions of the Game

The Children's Dental Health Clinic has been chosen as a Champion of the Game by Molina Healthcare for their service to the community.



This non-profit organization, providing multi-specialty dental treatment to disadvantaged children (ages 0-21) was recognized at Dodger's Stadium during the game on June 18, 2015. What an honor!

As a Champion of the Game, the Clinic can earn \$1 donation from Molina Healthcare for every share. Everyone with a Facebook or Twitter account, please visit www.cdhc.org, click the Champions of Game link and share directly from the Champions of the Game website, now until September 19, 2015, once per day. You can also enter to win \$500 cash!

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www.cdhc.org

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Eliezer Nussbaum, M.D.

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Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine

Playful City USA

The City of Long Beach has been named with a 2015 Playful City USA, a national designation that honors cities and towns for creating more playable, kid-friendly communities. Playful City USA is sponsored by KaBOOM! – a non-profit organization that helps communities build playgrounds for children – and the Humana Foundation.



Long Beach supports play with infrastructure investments including developing 48.2 acres of new parkland since 2008 in underserved neighborhoods. Free youth sports leagues, subsidized day camps, five teen centers near high schools, and after-school recreation programs at 27 parks and eight schools are all part of the array of play opportunities for Long Beach youth. To learn more, visit www.playfulcityusa.org.



Programs for Youth and Teens

Long Beach Parks Recreation and Marine (LBPRM) has exciting recreation classes for youth and teens this fall that promote playability including art, music, dance and sports. Visit www.lbparcs.org to get more information and to register beginning August 1.



After School Recreation

LBPRM will provide safe, fun and enriching activities for youth after school, Monday-Friday at Admiral Kidd, Bixby, Chavez, Cherry, College Estates, Coolidge, Davenport, DeForest, Drake, Houghton, King, MacArthur, McBride, Miracle on 4th Street, Orizaba, Ramona, Seaside, Scherer, Silverado, Somerset, Stearns Champions, Veterans, Wardlow and Whaley Parks Monday through Friday after school. Call the park for hours and activities.



Youth Sports

Free youth sports leagues provide recreational and competitive sports activities for youth and teens to increase their knowledge of sports and fitness levels, improve their self-esteem, and develop social skills. This fall Coed Flag Football (ages 5-8), Boys Football (ages 9-14), Girls' Volleytennis (ages 5-8) and Girls Volleyball (ages 9-14) will be offered. Register at your local park beginning September 1. Leagues will begin in mid-October.

Teen Programs

Teen Centers at Chavez, El Dorado, Houghton, Silverado and McBride Parks will be open after school for teens to enjoy games, sports, tournaments and crafts.

Visit www.lbparcs.org or call (562) 570-3150 for locations and hours.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LongBeachParks and Stay informed. Log in to linkLB at www.longbeach.gov/linklb



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

Lucy's Book Review



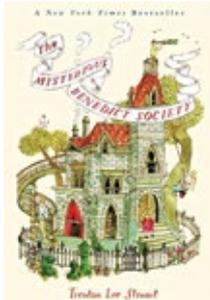
Lucy Davis

A Page Turner!

The Mysterious Benedict Society

Author: Trenton Lee Stewart

Mr. Curtain has created a machine to brainwash the world. This story follows four kids that are sent on a secret mission to stop



him. Danger is everywhere, and each child has personality traits that help him or her during their adventures. Constance is my favorite character because she is funny, spunky, and fiercely independent! There are lots of twists and turns so readers must pay close attention to keep up with the story line.

This is a young adult book that I feel both boys and girls will enjoy. If you enjoy science fiction and mysteries, this is a great book for you!

I would give this book five bookworms out of five, because I really enjoyed the suspense in the story. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book in this series!

Lucy Davis is a 4th grade student. Besides reading, she enjoys riding her bike, theatre, and playing guitar.

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Register now for more than 400 classes, sports leagues, and aquatics programs taking place from September through November that provide opportunities for exercise, recreation, social interaction, learning, growth and relaxation.

The "Recreation Connection" class guide is available on www.LBParks.org. Copies are available at park community centers and city libraries.

Register for LinkLB to receive e-mail updates about new classes and programs. Sign up at www.longbeach.gov/linklb/subscriptions.aspx.

For more information, call the Registration/Reservation office at (562) 570-3111 or visit www.LBParks.org.

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Leadership Long Beach

Strengthening Students' Leadership Skills



Daisy G. Palomera
Senior, Class 2016
Millikan High School

Youth Leadership Long Beach is an amazing program that is directed at strengthening students' leadership skills by getting them involved with the community. It focuses at preparing students to take on leadership roles wherever they might be; whether it's at home, at school, or in the community. This program has made a huge impact on my life and on the lives of everyone else who has gone through the program.

When I began this program, I wasn't exactly the most outspoken person. I was usually the type that mainly listened and only shared my opinion when the teacher asked. I was terrified of having to speak in front of the class, even if it was just to read a few sentences on a paper.

Throughout the YLLB year, we were put into situations where we had to get out of our comfort zone. We opened up to strangers who soon became our closest friends. Each person came from different backgrounds and brought a different view to every situation. We talked about our strengths and weaknesses; we talked about what made us who we are; and we talked about issues that are facing our community.

All these leadership building activities helped me realize that everyone has something they need to overcome and my obstacle was the lack of confidence. As the program continued I found myself speaking up more and getting involved wherever I could. I had surpassed this massive hurdle that had always held me back.



Youth program's March session with the Port of Long Beach seeing some of the animals that swim and live in the Port up close and personal.

Youth Leadership Long Beach taught me what it truly means to be a leader. A leader faces problems head on, takes charge while taking everyone's opinion into account, respects people's view and acknowledges that they are never done perfecting themselves. This experience is something I will never forget and something I will treasure forever.

About Leadership Long Beach: Leadership Long Beach was founded in 1989 by some of our community's most influential and visionary stakeholders. These founders envisioned the formation of a civic improvement program that would serve the community by educating and motivating leaders on issues important to the future and sustainability of our city. The Youth Leadership Long Beach program was started in 1996 to give those same opportunities to the emerging youth leaders in our community. For more information, check us out at www.leadershiplb.org or www.facebook.com/leadershiplongbeach 743 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/997-9194 www.leadershiplb.org

Rancho Los Alamitos

Enjoy the Gardens

Escape from the heat of summer to the oasis that is Rancho Los Alamitos. August is a wonderful time to visit the Rancho and tour the historic gardens. Relax in the shade of the Jacaranda Walk or under the magnificent Moreton Bay Fig trees by the ranch house.

Florence Green Bixby developed the gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos between 1920 and 1936 with the assistance of such notable landscape designers as the Olmsted Brothers Firm, Florence Yoch, and Paul Howard. Although they were created in an era of flamboyance, the gardens at Rancho



Los Alamitos were designed modestly, to civilize and soften the space around the adobe ranch house.

Visit the Rancho Wednesday – Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Admission is free.

6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/431-3541
www.rancholosalamitos.com

American Business Women's Association

Scholarship Recipient

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

A few years back ABWA member, Karen Oliver, was struggling to go to college between a full time job, caregiver for her mother and in the middle of all this got temporary custody of her grandchild. She applied for a scholarship from ABWA.



Nancy Griffin
National President

To her surprise and amazement she was the recipient of a scholarship which paid for books and gave her the encouragement to continue with her Associates of Arts Degree. In order for Karen to advance in her job an associate degree was needed along with several years of experience. With the encouragement from her fellow ABWA members, she succeeded with her degree from Marymount Week-End College and the promotion.

ABWA brings together businesswomen of diverse occupations and provides opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support and national recognition. To locate a chapter near you, call 562.591.2625 • www.abwa.org

Literacy Project Foundation

Miss Long Beach Celebrates Willard's Graduates

By Kimberly Vig, Director of Programming



It was a special graduation day for students of The Literacy Project program. They didn't know a surprise guest was coming, Miss Long Beach. When the students first saw her, they gazed at her with wide eyes wondering, "Who's in the crown?" When she was introduced, they burst out in smiles and uttered, "Ahs," as if they had just received a treasured present.

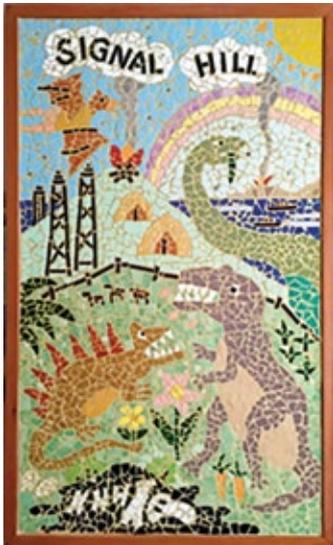
Miss Long Beach spoke about growing up in Long Beach and having worked in education. She acknowledged the students for their 10 weeks of hard work, gave them graduation certificates and took photos. Congratulations Willard students, and thank you Miss Long Beach for adding your "royal" touch to our graduation!

For more information, visit www.literacyprojectfoundation.org.

Arts Council for Long Beach

Eye On Design Celebrates 10th Anniversary

By Amanda Matthews, Arts Education Associate



Pictorial History of Signal Hill School by Candice Gawne and 3rd grade students from Signal Hill Elementary

The Arts Council for Long Beach's, Eye on Design is celebrating ten years of arts education in Long Beach for the coming 15-16 school year. Eye on Design encourages civic involvement, critical thinking, and creative problem solving through a customized 15-week residency program. The program unites local teaching artists with selected LBUSD third grade classrooms, and partners with a Long Beach organization. For 2015-2016, the community partner will be University Art Museum at California State University Long Beach. In the final weeks of the program, students create a public art mosaic for their elementary school.

The Arts Council would like to invite LBUSD third grade teachers to apply for this unique arts education program. Applications are available August 31, 2015.

350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-2787
www.artslb.org



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Long Beach Unified School District



Christopher J. Steinhauer
Superintendent

A Record Setting Year

Everyone in our school communities can take great pride in the accomplishments and accolades of a memorable year. Here are some highlights:

- Graduating seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District earned a record \$96 million in scholarships and grants this year. The total of \$96,087,625 is about a half million dollars more than the previous record set last year and represents more than a five-fold increase since 2007.
- Rankings of America's best high schools released by *U.S. News and World Report* include six schools here, an all-time high for LBUSD.
- *The Washington Post's* newest ranking of America's top high schools includes seven schools here. The 2015 list includes schools in only the top 11 percent of the approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep instruction.
- Los Cerritos Elementary School won the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Award recognizing exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education. We now have five Green Ribbon Schools, including Hughes, Longfellow, Lowell and Twain.
- Twenty-one of our schools are listed on the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence Honor Roll for academic excellence and reducing achievement gaps among student populations.
- We have a record 1,287 business partners in our schools, providing resources, expertise and encouragement each day.

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson recognized LBUSD as one of 11 honorees statewide that are models of how to improve attendance and reduce the number of dropouts. The school district's overall attendance rate is 96.17 percent this school year, up from 96.01 percent last school year and 95.5 percent during the 2012-13 school year. The number of students suspended in LBUSD has dropped by 35 percent compared to the prior year, according to data released in January by the California Department of Education.
- Graduation rates in LBUSD increased for the third year in a row, again surpassing state and county rates. Students of color in our schools also outperform their peers countywide and statewide, according to data released by the California Department of Education.
- Students in our school district signed up for more than 10,000 Advanced Placement college-level exams this spring, an increase of more than 41 percent over the last two years. This significant increase occurred after concerted efforts to increase access to AP courses and tests.

We are particularly proud of the approximately 6,000 students who graduated from our high schools this year. These students are among the most industrious and best prepared we've ever seen. Many of these students are the first in the family to attend college. Many have earned full-ride scholarships that will lift them out of poverty. Many have overcome tough obstacles with the help of family, our dedicated employees, and a school board that puts students first. Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2015 and to all who have supported them.

Please drive safely
students are back in school.



Diana Craighead
President



Dr. Felton Williams
Vice-President

Board of Education



Megan Kerr
Member



John McGinnis
Member



Jon Meyer
Member



**Diana
Craighead**
President

What's in a Name?

What's in a name? When talking about school names, that's a loaded question. Recently a bright light has been aimed at a few of our schools named for people with prominent, but somewhat controversial, lives. Last year, the spotlight was shining brightly on a school named for the first governor of our great state. On the surface, the scrutiny seemed appropriate after research by one of our own history teachers revealed our first governor not only to be a racist man, but one who advocated the removal of African Americans from the state and the genocide of Native Americans. Our School Board voted to disassociate with this individual and change the name of the school. A committee of community participants, teachers and parents recommended re-naming the school for Bobbie Smith. Smith was the first African American elected to the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education and a four-time Board president.

Even though a person may be a prominent historical figure, it doesn't necessarily mean we should have a school named in his or her honor. There must be a higher standard. A school's namesake should serve as a role model and inspiration for the students. On occasion, that means having to take a closer look and re-evaluate according to changing and evolving societal relevance. We must be receptive and respectful to the community we serve. With this ideal in mind, the school district opened a brand-new high school on the former DeMille Middle School site. Ernest S. McBride High School was named for the civil rights activist and founding member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Long Beach Chapter. Also, this September on the former Hill Middle School site, the Sato Academy of Math and Science will open. This school is named for Eunice Sato, the former president of Long Beach Council PTA and a former mayor of Long Beach. Two of our newest schools are named for local leaders of inspiration and significance.

School names should be associated with something positive. The names should serve as a source of pride and possess a unifying quality. By updating a school's name, we are choosing not to deny our history, but rather align our institutions dedicated to learning with our educational values.

1515 Hughes Way, 4th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/997-8240

Are you looking for this library girl for the contest on page 20?



Judy Seal
Executive Director

National Fall Conference

For years now, I have wanted to work on a national education conference here in Long Beach. Well, it is finally happening! The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), an organization that has its roots in the wisdom of Sargent Shriver, wants the very best education to occur in the classrooms of large urban school districts. CGCS has a membership that includes the 67 largest school districts, top research groups, cutting edge practitioners and CGCS continuously helps shape national education policies.

I've never said anything like this before now but CGCS has the single best Executive Director I have ever had the honor to meet. His name is Michael Casserly. Under his leadership, CGCS has unified urban school districts nationwide around a vision of reform and improvement. The Long Beach Unified School District is a member of CGCS. Superintendent, Chris Steinhauer and LBUSD Board of Education Vice President, Dr. Felton Williams are on the CGCS Board of Directors.

Adding to the significance of allowing LBUSD to host their Fall Conference in Long Beach, CGCS announced that Dr. Felton Williams is incoming Chair-elect of this esteemed organization. Now it is personal.

There will be over 1500 visitors to Long Beach from October 7th through the 11th, but we have been told there are pre and post-conference CGCS activities. Plan on visitors from October 4th through 12th. The conference will be held in the Long Beach Convention Center. There will be 52 breakout sessions and six plenary sessions (during meal-times). Guest speakers will include Levar Burton from Reading Rainbow, Jose Hernandez, the first Hispanic astronaut, and Fareed Zakaria, CNN host renowned for his ability to integrate information, data, culture, language and socio-economic challenges.

We need volunteers. As the host school district, LBUSD is doing what it does best – including our Greater Long Beach Community. We need volunteers for registration booths, directional guides, conference set-up, tear down and more. LBUSD is including student performances and student artwork each day. The Long Beach Education Foundation is working with the LBUSD to secure financial support for the conference and once again, Long Beach large and small businesses, nonprofits, and individuals are stepping forward and joining the conference and helping pay costs. Thank you, Long Beach!

If you are interested in attending some or all of the CGCS Conference, go to www.cgcs.org to register. CGCS is doing all of the registration. Registration fees include being able to attend the sessions with Levar Burton, Jose Hernandez, and Fareed Zakaria.

Email me, Judy Seal, if you would like to volunteer: seal@lbschools.net

1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/997-8054

Los Angeles County Office of Education



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Road to Success Academies

Word is spreading across California and the nation about the Los Angeles County Office of Education's award-winning Road To Success Academies (RTSA) model of instruction for incarcerated and at-risk students.

Our first RTSA symposium, held recently in Burbank, drew more than 100 participants and representatives from 12 county offices of education, four school districts and two state agencies.

The day-long symposium featured presentations, student testimonials, an expert panel and interactive displays of LACOE's RTSA programs.

I closed the symposium with a discussion of the core values essential to implementing the RTSA approach. I also shared information on the three-year process of support and monitoring offered by LACOE for a school to be officially certified as a Road To Success Academy.

Forty participants visited program sites at Camps Gonzales in Calabasas and Miller in Malibu.

The RTSA program features interdisciplinary, project-based learning focused on themes that address students' academic and mental health needs. It incorporates activities to promote self-esteem and empower students to make positive choices and behavior change.

We have seen a huge turnaround at our program sites and improved outcomes for the students they serve.

Since I joined LACOE in 2011, I've made improving instruction in Juvenile Court Schools a top priority. Our staff worked tirelessly on a research project to find the right formula to motivate and engage our students and give them the skills to succeed in school, in the workforce and in their communities.

I'm glad that we have found this formula, and our schools are now steering students on the road to success. And I am thrilled by the overwhelmingly positive response of our education colleagues to learn about our approach and how they can replicate it.

Arturo Delgado, Ed.D., was appointed superintendent of the Los Angeles County Office of Education in July of 2011. With headquarters in Downey, the Office is the nation's largest regional educational agency, providing a range of programs and services to support the county's 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children. 9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

California State University Long Beach



Jane Close Conoley
President

Big West Commissioner's Cup

Long Beach State held off UC Davis to capture its fifth straight Big West Commissioner's Cup, given annually to the most successful athletics program in the Big West. The Beach won titles in women's volleyball, women's tennis and men's track and field to pace their way to the school's sixth Commissioner's Cup triumph in the last seven years.

With points awarded on the basis of regular season finishes, Long Beach State had three championships and finished in the top four in 10 of 14 sports, finishing with a point average of 117.1, besting second-place UC Davis' 111.9 point average to clinch the cup.

"Sustaining success is a tribute to our coaches and staff, but also university administration and the community of Long Beach," said athletics director [Vic Cegles](#). "We have a terrific team committed to academics and athletics excellence."

In addition to the three Beach championships, Long Beach State had top four finishes in men's cross country,



Karolina Rozenberg

women's soccer, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's golf and softball, and finished lower than sixth place in just one sport.

The five-year run marks the continuance of a changing of the guard in the Big West. Over the 16 years that the Commissioner's Cup has been awarded, only three schools have won the honor, with Pacific winning the first two championships and UC Santa Barbara and Long Beach State splitting the championships ever since. The run also matches the longest of any school, as UCSB won the cup five years in a row

from 2000-01 to 2004-05.

Long Beach State's first Commissioner's Cup championship, in 2005-06, snapped that run, however, and Long Beach State has not looked back, winning the cup seven of the last 10 years.

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

DENs for Our Bruins



By Linda Cargile, Interventions Coordinator

Bancroft's DEN program gives students opportunities to grow as leaders who develop, encourage, and nurture other Bruins. Our goal is to support students to become lifelong learners and lifelong leaders.

DEN leaders have the opportunity to participate in a number of different programs. At every grade level, students mentor other students in a yearlong peer-

tutoring advisory. Leaders help at-risk students with skills such as organization, time management, making up missing work, and reviewing concepts. Other peer tutors participate in after-school intervention programs such as Homework House, a drop in tutoring program in the library.

At the beginning of the 2015–16 school year, DEN leaders will facilitate our sixth-grade orientation. They will lead incoming sixth-graders during school tours, talk about getting prepared for middle school, and lead team-building activities. During our seventh-grade and eighth-grade Taking Care of Business Day, DEN leaders will guide students to different stations where they can pick up their textbooks, get their school IDs, and buy PE clothing.

5301 Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/425-7461
www.lbschools.net/bancroft

Birney *Elementary*

A New-Bee at Birney

Athena Uribe-Principal

There will be a new “Bee” at Birney for the 2015-2016 year...I am proud and excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Birney Elementary School! I have been working for the L.B.U.S.D for eighteen years in a number of capacities including: as a teacher, literacy program specialist, and assistant principal. I am fortunate to now have this opportunity at Birney Elementary School and consider it a privilege to lead and support Birney staff, students, and families in the new school year. I look forward to meeting the Birney community and working along with everyone for the success of all Birney students. Go Birney Bees!



710 W. Spring St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/427-8512
www.lbschools.net/birney

Looking Forward to Strong Year

Troy Bennett-Principal

Beach High school is an Alternative Education, credit recovery school site for students who have fallen behind in high school credits. Beach staff prides itself in creating a sense of community with our students, with a focus on connecting students to caring adults, providing students with a strong support system, and helping students change or modify their academic behavior and expectations. One of the goals of Beach High School is to reconnect students to school, so they can return to their former high school in good standing, transfer to another Alternative High School, or graduate from Beach.

Beach students and teachers are implementing the tenets and strategies of Common Core to create the citizens of the future who will contribute to the growth of our community in the work force, higher education or a combination of both.

We look forward to another strong year at Beach High School.

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

Buffum *Total Learning Center*

Celebrating the Farm



*By Sharon Barker,
Teacher on Special Assignment*

211 Buffum Preschool Total Learning Center students are enjoying July and their Extended School Year by learning everything they can about the farm and farm animals. The eight AM classes and eight PM classes are learning animal names, sounds and the products that come from these animals. Our learners are doing this by listening to stories, using blocks to build barns, crayons



Students make handprint ducks, turkeys and cows then tell facts about their animals.

2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-2431
www.lbschools.net/buffum

to draw as well as coloring chickens and pigs. They have been practicing neighing like horses and quacking like ducks, making butter and graphing their favorite kind of milk. Learning about the farm has been a lot of fun.

Burcham (K-8)

Saying Goodbye to Principal Sanchez



Chris Eckert
Principal

My name is Mr. Eckert and I'm Burcham's new principal. I look forward to meeting the students this September. I was so excited when I visited Burcham to meet with Mrs. Sanchez and witness the incredible send off she received. Students and parents surprised her with Hawaiian leis. Each Lei contained a word that represented a trait that described Mrs. Sanchez such as Brilliant, Funny, Energetic, Beautiful, and Smart! There were so many leis it was hard to see her face. We all wished Mrs. Sanchez good luck. I promise I will try to work as hard as she did for our Burcham Bobcats.

5610 Monlaco Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808
562/420-2685 • www.lbschools.net/burcham



Carver Elementary

PTA Goes Above and Beyond



Sarah Forrester
Principal

By Erin Richey, PTA Teacher Representative and Teacher – 4th and 5th Grades

At Carver Elementary School, teachers, administrators, and support staff work tirelessly every day to meet student needs are met at school. They provide a variety of programs to ensure academic and social success in elementary school and beyond. Without the support of our PTA, many of these programs would not be possible!

Through their fund-raising efforts, behind-the-scenes work, and support on our campus every day, our PTA gives back to students and teachers by providing academic extras and amazing fun activities! They make it possible to have class-size reduction, allowing structured physical education, small-group classroom instruction, specialized computer equipment, academic programs, art classes, and more.

We are so blessed to have an exceptional group of parents and grandparents to support all we do at Carver. They are always willing to go above and beyond and volunteer countless hours every year. To the Carver PTA from the bottom of our hearts, the staff and faculty say thank you!

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

Chavez Elementary

Career Day



Hugo Figueroa
Principal

Last month, Chavez fourth- and fifth-graders caught a glimpse of some of the careers they may someday choose to embrace. Working in conjunction with our community, teacher Sherri Gonser and other staff members organized an amazing opportunity for our students. A nurse taught students how to take their vital signs, an astronomer helped students look at the sun through a special telescope, a groomer brought pets and talked to the students about caring for animals, and a police officer and a lawyer explained to students what their daily work entails.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students rotated through each station, learning about what it takes to be successful in each of these careers. This event was enjoyed by students, and teachers recognized the value in students making connections between what they are learning in school and how it is preparing them for life after school.

Chavez staff voted to expand Career Day to include more students next year. The impact on student achievement and the involvement of our surrounding community made this event one of the highlights of our school year!

730 W. Third St., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-0904
www.lbschools.net/chavez

Child Development Center



Cynthia Young
Director

Welcome Back!

Tincher Child Development Center (CDC) is excited about the 2015–2016 school year. Our teachers have organized and planned activities for our returning students and for the new students who joined us this September. Our classrooms received a makeover during the summer months, and our staff has worked very hard to plan a comprehensive program to meet the needs of our children.

We are very happy that Carolina Legazpi has joined our Tincher School-Age program. She has been our preschool for the last two years and is now taking over our Transitional Kindergarten and kindergarten programs. Mrs. Legazpi has worked in our CDC programs for over six years. We are very proud of her accomplishments and know she will continue to be an asset to our program!

Welcome back, Tincher Tigers!

4310 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 200, Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/422-6868
www.lbschools.net/Main_Offices/Superintendent/Child_Development/

Garfield Elementary

New Equipment



Claire Alvarez
Principal

Garfield School installed new playground equipment this summer, thanks in part to the efforts of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Thirty principals from around the country participated in this organization's seventh annual community service project by putting together a new playground structure on our campus. These individuals were visiting Long Beach as participants in the NAESP Conference.



Cleveland Elementary

Performing Arts



Ellen Ryan
Principal

Congrats to Cleveland's students who were accepted to perform in the All City Chorus Performance this past spring. A special thank you goes out to Valerie Vinnard, chorus teacher, for leading our students and bringing the joy of singing to their lives. Next year, Cleveland, as well as many other schools in the district, will have a chorus teacher one day per week, increased from the half day a week we have had for the past few years due to the state budget constraints. Without local control of the budget, the district was able to invest more money in supporting the arts. Yahoo!



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

The donated structure features two slides and a variety of climbing and cross bars. The visiting principals also built two "buddy benches" that were installed near the play structure.

LBUSD Board President Diana Craighead welcomed the group and shared information about the great work going on in our Long Beach schools. Our PTO also supported the event by providing lunch for all the volunteers.

2240 Baltic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810
562/424-8167
www.lbschools.net/garfield

Summertime Fun Time!



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

Students so enjoyed Hamilton's morning Math Summer Institute that was held Monday through Thursday from the end of June to the end of July! They learned fun ways to do math.

"Students liked collaborating with one another to answer difficult problems in carousel and whiteboard activities," said incoming seventh-grade teacher Ms. Jophryn-Hill. Her students reviewed

ratios and rates by comparing the numbers of colors inside bags of candy. This review activity solidified previous skills and prepared them for upcoming lessons.

One student's answer for his favorite activity was "Making ice-cream!" Incoming eighth-graders experimented with ice cream through the Engineering Everywhere curriculum, which included a unit determining why specific ingredients are important in making ice cream, investigating ways to change flavor and color, and providing proper packaging. Needless to say, this mathematical process proved tasty and delightful!

Formative assessments were also given. Pre and post-tests allowed quiet time for students to focus and display how much they learned each week. It's refreshing to know that in between assessments, students were engaged in what they were learning. Everyone considered the Math Summer Institute a valuable experience.

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

Lincoln *Elementary*

New Principal



Caroline Nemeč
Principal

Carrie Nemeč is the new Principal at Lincoln Elementary School. She comes to us from Lee Elementary School where she served as Principal for the past 5 years. Ms. Nemeč has been an educator for 20 years having taught Kindergarten and 6th, 7th and 8th grades. She has taught language arts, social studies, math and science. Ms. Nemeč is bilingual and lived in Pachuca, Hidalgo Mexico for three years. When asked about her

new position, Ms. Nemeč said, "I am really happy to have been assigned to Lincoln Elementary School. The teachers are extremely professional and wonderful collaborators. Parents, students and the entire Lincoln community has made me feel very welcome. I am looking forward to a very fun, productive school year."

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

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

Future Leaders



Jennifer Rodarte
Principal

This spring, student council members confidently represented the Bret Harte community at a meeting with 8th District Councilmember Al Austin to express traffic concerns. Councilmember Austin's Facebook page read that he "had a great meeting with the student council from Bret Harte Elementary School this morning! They came prepared to discuss traffic safety around their school and were very well spoken. It's exciting to engage with our district's youth."

To date, our traffic signs have been repainted, and traffic is enforced during dismissal. We hope that Phillips Street at the front of our school will become one way to reduce traffic before and after school.

Bret Harte is proud of our hardworking student leaders, who make a difference in our school and community.



Bret Harte's Student Council with Councilmember Al Austin and Principal Jennifer Rodarte.

1671 E. Phillips St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-0333
www.lbschools.net/harte

Contest!!

This drawing is hidden in this publication. When you find it, email the **page number** to:

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



Your entry must be received by September 15, 2015. From the correct entries, we will draw a winner to receive a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes and Noble.

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

Exclusive Violin Program

By Mr. Wille, Teacher



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

At Kettering Elementary School, every child in the second grade receives violin instruction twice a week. This unique program has been in place at Kettering the last four years. Anna Ford, a locally admired instructor of young violinists and professional violinist, and classroom teachers Jim Wille and Gretchen Spencer, teach the classes.

The students receive violin instruction and perform over four concerts a year including a grand spring concert accompanied by a band. The Kettering PTA and staff fund and support the program. Kettering School values the importance of integrating music into their weekly instruction. Along with the wonderful support of the district's music program and our own violin instruction, Kettering students are tapping into multiple skill sets that have shown to facilitate learning across the curriculum.

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



Lafayette *Elementary*

VIPS Appreciation Breakfast



Wendy Thompson
Principal

Lafayette Elementary School celebrated its parent volunteers with an annual Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) Appreciation Breakfast. Mrs. Thompson and her staff believe in building strong relationships with their students, families

and community. Both Mrs. Thompson and her vice principal, Brenda Ocampo shared how the parents pour their hearts into everything they do!

Parent volunteers play such an integral role in the everyday needs of the teachers, students and school. Mrs. Thompson expressed that VIPS are the butterflies of Lafayette because the ripples of kindness, care and commitment they create flutter throughout the school. The butterfly effect is seen everywhere at Lafayette, because everything they do matters.



Mrs. Thompson recognizes parents with their certificates and a heartwarming speech describing how the parents are the butterflies at Lafayette elementary.

Thank you again, Lafayette parent volunteers!
2445 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/426-7075
www.lbschools.net/lafayette

Lakewood *High School*

Success for Virtual Enterprise!



Mario Jimenez
Co-Principal

Shawn Abbate
Co-Principal

*By Anna Weber,
VE Coordinator*

After a two year hiatus, Virtual Enterprise (VE) has been re-introduced to Lakewood High School as a Capstone course for the Trade, Commerce, and Business (TCB) Small Learning Community. TCB students on a

NAF, three-year, linked learning pathway, culminate their high school business learning experience by creating a virtual business with all the facets associated with a business. They write resumes, interview, and

apply for positions in accounting/finance, sales/marketing, advertising/design, human resources, and the management team for their virtual company. The student-run company received awards in salesmanship, company newsletter, impact marketing poster, and one student, Carlos Santana,



was part of the winning Global Business Challenge team in New York. This is the Lakewood contingent leaving for the New York International Trade Show in April.

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

Lindbergh *STEM Academy*

STEM Success



Connie Magee
Principal

It was a great year at Lindbergh STEM Academy! We had many firsts, and many celebrations of excellence and improvement.

Our students ended the year with the most-improved attendance of all the middle schools, exceeding our district goal. Lindbergh was also awarded the "All City Howard Lyon Sportsmanship Award" for the second year in a row, confirming that our students, staff, and families work together to

make our school a great place to learn.

Our robotics teams took both first and second place in the district robotics contest. The team remains unbeaten in Long Beach! Finally, our sixth-grade recruitment effort resulted in over 50 families from outside the neighborhood choosing to come to Lindbergh instead of their local school. For 2015–2016, we will also be having Project Lead the Way engineering classes for all grades, exposing students to DNA testing, automation, robotics, coding, and more.

Check us out at <http://lblindbergh.schoolloop.com> and subscribe to our STEM E-Newsletter.

1022 E. Market St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/422-2845
www.lbschools.net/lindbergh

Longfellow *Elementary*

Longfellow Lions have PRIDE!!!! Roar, Roar, Roar!!!!



Edward Sigur IV
Principal

I am so fortunate to be appointed principal at such a distinguished school. Longfellow Elementary has a rich history of academic excellence that the community has come to enjoy and expect. I am eager to begin working with the school staff, parents, and community.

This year, staff members will continue to offer to all students an outstanding and rigorous educational experience.



In addition, we have the special honor of celebrating the amazing accomplishments of one of our own, Mrs. Courtney Venema, 4th grade teacher here at Longfellow. Mrs. Venema has been selected to represent the Long Beach Unified School District as one of the three 2015–2016 Teachers of The Year. What an honor it is to lead such a great group of educators!

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

MacArthur *Elementary*

A New Look for Fall



Scott Fleming
Principal

We hope all of our MacArthur Elementary School families had a relaxing summer filled with moments that will be forever cemented in our young scholars' minds. Finding a balance, which includes taking breaks, is important for our students' health and well-being.

But, while our MacArthur Eagles were enjoying their summer with family, our extended district family was hard at work back at the nest. We were not idle; instead, we were preparing for a glorious start to the 2015–2016 school year.

Upon arrival on September 2, the first thing our families noticed was our school's new paint. The preparation and painting began on June 22. The community is beaming with pride at the facelift for our campus.

Our students were also be greeted by a new science lab and parent center. The lab is equipped with six new laboratory tables, stools, and a teacher demonstration table, to give our students hands-on experiences as they delve into the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The parent center is equipped with new computers.

We are so excited about the positive changes and the benefits they will have for our students.

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

McBride *High School*

Youth Leadership Long Beach



Steve Rockenbach
Principal

Three McBride sophomores participate in Youth Leadership Long Beach (YLLB). Celeste Azpeitia, Mariano Camacho and Hanah Janji developed their leadership abilities by honing existing skills and developing new ones. Celeste captured the essence of YLLB as follows:

“YLLB changed me in ways I could've never imagined. It made me see myself as the true leader that I was. Our retreat to Big Bear made our group go from a class to a family with an unbreakable bond. Having youth chairs (YLLB alums) teach our sessions helped us to take in all the techniques and skills by learning from peers close to our age.”

In June, the students graduated from the program, and we now have several students applying to become part of the YLLB Class of 2015–16. We anticipate continuing this amazing partnership for years to come.

7025 Parkerest St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/425-3539
www.lbschools.net/mcbride

Millikan *High School*

Graduates Celebrate Success



Alejandro Vega
Co-Principal



Michael Navia
Co-Principal

Millikan celebrated the success of 916 graduates in June. Here are some of the highlights from outgoing Principal Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo's graduation speech.

Over \$10 million in scholarships were offered to this class. These offers included California State

University President's Scholars, Harvey Mudd Presidential Scholarship, POSSE Scholarship, Chapman University Chancellor's Scholarship, and many more. Academic scholarships also included the University of California Berkeley and Santa Barbara, as well as Biola University, St. John's University, and West Virginia University. Graduates were accepted to a wide range of universities across the country, including Duke University, the University of Southern California, the Citadel, and Boston University.

Additional accomplishments include:

- 12 graduates who had perfect attendance since middle school or kindergarten.
- 16 students who maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA.
- 113 students who graduated with high honors, or a GPA of 3.5-3.99.

180 students who graduated with honors, or GPA of 3.0-3.49.

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



Celeste Azpeitia and Hannah Janji celebrate their Youth Leadership Long Beach Graduation

Robinson Academy (K-8)

ROV and Rotary Winners



Dr. Damita Myers-Miller
Principal

This past spring, eighth grade students in Robinson's Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) program placed third and won a \$300 cash award at the Herndon Science Competition. Robinson is one of only a few local middle schools that offers

a program geared specifically for aquatic robotics. The ROV program teaches problem solving, teamwork, the concepts of density and buoyancy, the Archimedes Principle, and how to solder and wire tethered remotes.

Students in Ms. Love's class at Robinson were the fortunate recipients of a \$1,500 Rotary Literacy Grant for a "Literacy of the Mind: Literacy Yoga" program. The Rotary offers grants for innovative literacy programs and has donated over 215,000 books to local children and school libraries in the Long Beach area.



Robinson medal winners Simon Dang, Steve Villanueva, Jose Lopez, and Jesse Belone.

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

Hill Classical Middle School Sato Academy of Mathematics & Science

A Transition is Underway



Mona Merlo
Principal

The Hill-Sato campus was alive with activity this summer as we prepared for the arrival of the Sato Academy

of Math and Science, which opened its doors to students on August 18.

Improvement projects included removal of bungalows, extending the parking lot, painting all exterior buildings, upgrading classroom electrical systems, adding ceiling-mounted projection cameras, installing new projection screens, and a top-to-bottom cleaning of every square inch in the school!



Sharing the campus this year, our Sato students will be housed in the 100 and half of the 400 buildings. The Hill students will occupy the Administrative, 200, and 300 buildings.

1100 Iroquois Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-7611
www.lbschools.net/hill, www.sato-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com

Prisk *Elementary*

Bittersweet Farewell



Damon Jespersen
Principal

In June, we witnessed the promotion of over 100 fifth-graders who were eager to take the next step in their educational careers. It was a bittersweet time for us, as we also said farewell to two beloved members of our learning community. During our final trimester assembly, we said goodbye to Vicky Stanton and Connie Coelho.

Mrs. Stanton was a kindergarten teacher on our campus for nearly 20 years. The number of students she guided, both current and former, numbered in the hundreds. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Stanton for getting these students off to a great start in their schooling.

Ms. Connie, as she is known to all, was our longtime recreation leader. She was an advocate for physical fitness for students and teachers alike. She went out of her way to assist teachers in physical education instruction and to ensure that playground equipment was available for all students. Her influence stretched far beyond the humble playground ball shed.

We congratulate Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Coelho on their promotion to the next step in their lives: retirement!

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

Roosevelt *Elementary*

Building Anticipation!



Clarissa Tolentino
Principal

By David Slosar, 3rd-Grade Teacher

Students, staff and parents have long awaited the completion of Roosevelt Elementary School, a \$48 million dollar project funded by Measure K funds that's set to open September 2016. It's been three years in the making, and no words can describe the excitement and sense of pride felt within the school's community in the center of Long Beach.

As a longtime educator at Roosevelt, my old, worn out classroom, wrought by time and overuse and containing broken and damaged equipment, scarred floors and walls, also chipped away at my love of teaching and my effectiveness as an educator. Recently, when the remodel of Roosevelt was completed, my colleagues and I had the opportunity to preview the 'new' Roosevelt. As we walked the halls of the new site, I saw a renewed sense of pride and ownership on their faces. As we walked the building corridors and classrooms, before us were unmarred floors, gleaming windows, shiny whiteboards, fresh walls and much more. We looked at the classrooms through refreshed eyes filled with potential, already making plans in our heads for lessons and activities to come.

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

Signal Hill *Elementary*

Families Are Celebrated



Tammy Lavelle
Principal

By Stephany Glover, Administrative Intern

Family Movie Night was a great success on Friday, June 16th at Signal Hill Elementary, as school families convened for a night of entertainment, fun and friends while they enjoyed the heartfelt musical *The Book of Life*. This event was followed by a Hawaiian-themed Family Picnic on June 30th, where several families enjoyed the summer sun

while having lunch with their loved ones at their regularly scheduled lunch times.

A special appreciation is given to the members of the PTA, who assured that all families were informed, comfortable and well accommodated for both events. Popcorn, pizza, snacks and music were also provided, making for two very enjoyable and memorable gatherings in which many Signal Hill families were delighted to take part.

2285 Walnut Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8170
www.lbschools.net/signalhill



Smith *Elementary*

Special Awards



Monica Alas
Principal

*By Mr. Gonzalez,
Assistant Principal*

On June 30, 2015, our Smith PTA surprised our teachers with a special award. After our Student of the Month Awards, our Principal, Mrs.

Alas, announced Teacher of the Year Awards given by our PTA. Congratulations to this year's winners!

565 E. Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90806
62/595-9466 • www.lbschools.net/burnett



(f) First Grade, Mrs. Sysavathly; Third Grade, Mrs. Seo; Fourth Grade, Mrs. Jones; Fifth Grade, Mrs. Centurion
(b) Kindergarten Mrs. Ballardo; Fourth Grade, Mrs. Alvarez; Second Grade, Mrs. Rodriguez.

Stephens *Middle School*

Grades of Green Lunch Challenge



Salvador Madrigal
Principal

By Becky Robbins, Librarian

Stephens is proud to be part of the Grades of Green Trash Free Lunch Challenge. Under the leadership of Mrs. Peters, health teacher, and the custodial staff led by Mrs. Hyde, enthusiastic student volunteers work daily at lunch to make the program successful. There are four stations available where students can sort their trash, put items for recycling, and also a share box where students can leave uneaten and unopened food. The

success of the program is evident by the fact that the number of trash bags used at lunch each day was reduced from 49 bags to 9 bags. The team received "Best Student Leadership" Award among all the groups participating in this program. Go Jackrabbits!

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



Washington *Middle School*

Already Looking Forward!



Megan Traver
Principal

In June the school year ended with a fantastic promotional event at Cabrillo High School for our 351 eighth-graders. With multiple valedictorians, inspirational speeches by three eighth-graders, and countless students on honor roll, it was all smiles for this special occasion.

As we ushered one group of students into their next adventure—high school, we began to think about how we'll take ourselves to the next level for this upcoming year. Our teacher leadership team met during the summer to plan and reflect on the many things we are proud of: a positive school culture and climate, our progress in the areas of collaborative conversations, our collaborative lesson-planning process, our incredible gains in getting students to class on time, and the thriving teacher leadership clearly present at Washington.

We're excited about our plans, which include daily character-development lessons during advisory period; a strategic focus on studying, understanding and implementing the new Common Core Standards; and a new process for learning walks to be conducted throughout the school year.

It's going to be another great year—and we can't wait!

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

Twain *Elementary*

Awesome Support



Jacqueline Williams
Principal

It's hard to believe that the 2014–2015 school year has come to an end, and that the 2015–2016 year is approaching. It seems like just yesterday that our students were welcomed back to school to enjoy the many activities sponsored by our amazing PTA and “DOGS” (Dads of Great Students)!

As I continue to reflect upon this past year, I am humbled, grateful, and thankful for our awesome staff members, students, business partners, Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS), DOGS, and, of course, our incredible PTA. While our teachers were planning effective lessons, and instructing our students in accordance with the California Common Core Standards, these outside support groups spent countless hours volunteering, fundraising, and planning activities.

Without a doubt, our entire school community is truly appreciative of their time and commitment to student learning and achievement.

It truly takes great teamwork to help our students learn, thrive, and achieve. This is evident by the hard work and commitment that these staff members and support groups put forth each day to help our students in every aspect of learning.

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

Tincher *Preparatory School (K–8)*

School to Watch



Rosemary Sissons
Principal

This June, Tincher Preparatory was redesignated as a School To Watch. Initially designated in 2009, this is Tincher's second redesignation. In conjunction with the Initiative to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, this award recognizes exceptional progress in the middle school grades.

Tincher was the first K-8 school in California and is the only Long Beach school to earn this award. Schools submit an application, are evaluated against a strict rubric of success, and participate in a site evaluation.

The National Conference, held in Washington, DC recognizes schools earning their first designation and those who have earned the title again. Attendees participated in advocacy training, met with Congressional representatives, and presented at the conference. Tincher presented “Using



Principal Rosemary Sissons and the Schools To Watch team are congratulated by Congressman Alan Lowenthal for being redesignated as a School To Watch.

Strategic Partnerships to Build a Successful College Bound Culture”.

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

Whittier *Elementary*

Wizards Have a Bright Future!



Lori Grady
Principal

*By Michelle Bringman,
Counselor Intern at Whittier*

From July 6-10, the Whittier Wizards learned about Colleges and Careers from our distinguished guests. These professionals us enlightened us about their careers as a police officer, actor, chiropractor, attorney, metro liaison, photographer, D.J., librarian, principal, personal trainer, author, engineer, and The Cat in the Hat!

On College day, collegiates inspired us to reach for the stars and get ready for college NOW. We learned the importance of setting goals, studying hard, and doing our best in school!

The week ended with an assembly complete with a singing principal, cheerleaders, and prizes!

Thanks to our staff and visitors for an amazing College and Career week!

1761 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-6263
www.lbschools.net/whittier



Willard *Elementary*

Dual Immersion Program



Dr. Cassandra Richards
Principal

Willard has experienced great change this year, as construction crews renovate our school. We want to say a few words on our dualimmersion program completing its 15th year.

We continue to send students on to the LBUSD middle school bilingual program. Students and families work hard in the classrooms and with the PTO at Willard. We continue to meet annually for our potluck dinner and for assemblies to celebrate and enjoy life as well.

The Willard dual immersion program helps students prepare for abilingual future, and all the opportunities that it affords. We look forward to the next 15 years of offering Willard families a unique educational program. Have a great summer and fall, and hasta la vista!



Dual Immersion students with Officer Stephany Pinedo at Career Day. Officer Pinedo is a product of LBUSD, and works at the Orange County Jail.

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

Global Service Project



David Perram
Director of
Student Affairs

Ten eighth graders from Westerly school traveled over 3,000 miles to Nicaragua to build a sustainable learning garden at a school in a rural farming community near Villa El Carmen. The often forgotten community has felt the impact of a tumultuous history coupled with an increasingly competitive global market, leaving them starved of resources. The students used time in their math and science classes to budget, measure, research and plan the building of raised garden beds to grow fruits and vegetables for the 60-80 kids at “San Diego School”.

This project was special in the way that it was truly built upon the collective voices of the community being served and the students at Westerly. Emails from Westerly and community organizers bounced back and forth for months prior to ensure the project was needed and sustainable.

Experiences such as this help students to understand the value of services in which the community truly needs. Hearing directly from teachers and residents of the area helped gain a better perspective on implementing a project with maximum impact. Furthermore, the project gained enough attention that two United States Peace Corp Volunteers and the local law enforcement came to help the dedicated teens.

Eighth grader Joshua Smith was moved by the experience of working with the community “it was especially rewarding knowing that our project was wanted and appreciated by the students and teachers, it reinforces I made a positive impact”. Students involved in the project



Brandon, Liam, and Christina working together to saw wood for the beds.

had an opportunity to practice their Spanish language, investigate new cultures while sharing their own, and collaborate directly with the community they were aiming to serve.

“It was a great experience in an unfamiliar place. This trip made me realize that my age, language, and other differences can’t stop me from making a difference in the world”, stated trip participant Christina Marsh. This trip was the second of its kind, as last year’s 8th grade class created a mural at a nearby school. Westerly aims to continue this trip moving forward. Students are reaping the benefits of a global service project. The lessons learned through this real-world experience just simply can’t be taught in a classroom.

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



The 8th graders and the students at “San Diego School” celebrating their completed beds.

Smarter Trips to the Farmers Market

This column provides insight from Carol Berg Sloan RD, (a registered dietitian for 37 years) and her daughter Kelly Sloan, (a dietetics student at the University of Hawaii).

Both give their perspective and tips to help make healthier food and beverage choices.



Carol Berg Sloan, RDN

I have mixed emotions about farmer's markets. The premise behind most are to bring local, inexpensive produce (fruits and vegetables) to the inner city. As with everything, farmers markets have evolved, evolved to a carnival atmosphere complete with state fair specialities that include indulgent baked goods, homemade crafts and even kiddie rides. I recently saw a Pinterest page showing what to wear when going to a farmers market so you are trendy and hip. Here are some tips to keep focused next time you grab your recycled bags and head out to the neighborhood farm stand:

1. Purchase seasonal produce.....those Honey Crisp apples that are \$3.00 a pound that you purchased in July are last fall's harvest
2. Check origin. If you are in Long Beach and the strawberries are from Oxnard, that's not local.
3. Check prices. I've paid \$2.50 for organic carrots that were twice the price of organic local at my supermarket
4. Buy only what you will consume before you head out to the next market day. Throwing away bins of wilted produce doesn't do anything to reduce your carbon footprint.
5. Have fun talking with the farmers and learning more about where our food comes from!

Banana and Papaya Bowl

Ingredients:

- 1 ripe papaya, seeded
- 1 large banana, cut in slices
- 1 tablespoon honey

Combine papaya and banana into a bowl and top with honey.



Kelly Sloan

Going to the farmers market has become a routine for me. Every weekend I look forward to picking up fresh, gorgeous fruits such as papaya and bananas and dark leafy greens like spinach and kale. I have found the farmers market produce to be cleaner, fresher, more tasty and supporting the local businesses. Growing up I went local farmers markets with my family and remember always wanting to pick out the big and brightest apples.

The snacks and meals I like to make with my bountiful supply of fruits and vegetables from the farmers market include smoothies, salads and sandwiches. These foods increase my intake of fruits and vegetables but also leave me feeling energized and ready for the day. Find a way to incorporate more fresh produce into your daily diet and enjoy going to your local markets all year long!

Spinach and Blueberry Salad

Ingredients: spinach, blueberries, cherry tomatoes, avocado, balsamic vinaigrette
(I didn't put measurements for this recipe because you can create it with however much you want!)

Directions:

- Wash spinach and blueberries.
- Place in a large bowl.
- Cut cherry tomatoes in half.
- Cut avocado into small pieces.
- Add tomatoes and avocado to bowl.
- Pour balsamic vinaigrette on salad and mix well.

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

Kelly Sloan-Staff Writer, Ka Leo O Hawai'i
Twitter: @KSloan6 University of Hawaii at Manoa

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CathyLyn Brooks

Location of Smoke Detectors

During home inspections for the sale of a property, the home inspector will verify that the property is equipped with the proper safety features as required by California law. One of these features is smoke detectors. Current civil code requires that every seller of a dwelling unit, intended for human occupancy, install an approved smoke detection device (s). But there is much confusion as to the proper placement of the devices.

The requirement is that one must be in each bedroom, and one outside the room. This could be in the hallway outside the door or, in a smaller home, this may be in the living areas. Each level must have the required smoke detectors if there is a bedroom there, regardless of the current use of the room. So, depending on the floor plan, this can mean that 4 smoke detectors could be required in a 2 bedroom home.

Additionally, last year the smoke detectors were changed to contain a 10 year lithium battery that is not removable from the device. These units come at an increased cost. They are about 5-6 times the cost of the older models, but they require virtually no maintenance for 10 years. Rental property requires the new units as well.

Recently, the banks have burdened the appraisers with identifying the smoke detectors and the carbon monoxide units in properties that are financed. So if you plan to sell your home, it is prudent to install these devices before the property sells, as the appraiser will point out the deficiency as well, and may need to return to re-inspect. This can cause a delay in the processing of the loan and can result in the additional costs of a second visit from the appraiser.

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

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Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO

Tips for First Time Home Buyers (Part 2)

Preparing yourself with the information and knowledge that you need to make a sound financial decision on your first home purchase is vital.

Below are more tips when buying your first home.

Consider Your Financing Options: There are a variety of options for first time home buyers. Determine the type of loan that you can afford and best suits your needs. Your mortgage interest rate will have an impact on the total price and monthly payment so shop wisely. Contact your local credit union for mortgage financing options.

Find a Home: Ask family or friends if they know of any homes for sale within the areas that you would like to live in, search online listings or simply just drive around the neighborhoods that you are interested in. Once you've found your dream home, work closely with your real estate agent prior to deciding how much money you should offer for the house and if there are any conditions you want to ask from the seller.



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