

FREE

School News



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

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Assistance League® of Long Beach – The Kids on the Block™ Puppet Shows (please see page 2).

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



Netragrednik



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

As we near the end of another year, I would like to thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. Thank you for your valued input over the years. We thank our columnists for their contributions regarding community information, health and legal updates, volunteer opportunities and, of course, the state of our public schools.

In this issue you will read about STEM Scholars, the growing College-Going Culture, the GO GREEN Club, Intervention Programs, Back to School Night, and so much more. Better pour yourself a cup of tea and plan to sit awhile to enjoy every page.



Our next issue is February 11, 2015. Until then Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! As always we are mindful of the men and women in our armed forces and grateful for their service.

School News

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covering the

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Robert Garcia
Mayor

Expansion of Educational Opportunities

Education is not only the most important piece in any City's economic development, but also the key ingredient in a successful life, and I see the expansion of educational opportunities as one of my duties as the leader of our city. That's why one of my first acts as Mayor was to commit to the goal of universal preschool for all children in Long Beach. Preschool and early childhood

education are essential to laying a strong foundation for lifetime learning. Research and the wisdom of experience prove that children who do not have the opportunity to master the building blocks of education – not just reading, writing, and math, but social skills, self-discipline, and a love of learning – will quickly find themselves falling behind in the elementary grades. But students who are well-prepared by a solid preschool experience will continue to thrive and advance right up through college.

The most recent research looked at more than 100 studies conducted in the United States over the last 50 years, and found that on average, the positive effects remained substantial throughout students' education. Gains from preschool programs are strongest when there is a focus on intentional teaching, small group learning, and individualized teaching, and that should be our focus in Long Beach.

I believe the City of Long Beach is well-positioned to ensure that every child has access to quality preschool and early childhood education, and I'm grateful and proud that so many community stakeholders – especially the Long Beach Unified School District are leading the way towards this important goal. We have begun discussions with LBUSD and the Long Beach Early Education Committee, to create programs that meet the needs of all our communities.

Extending full educational opportunities to everyone in Long Beach is essential if we are to succeed and prosper as a city. It's my intention to ensure that Long Beach is the number one city for education in the country. With your help, I know we can get there.

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Ed Wilson
Mayor

Street Improvement a Reality

When traveling south on Cherry Avenue near Jessie Nelson Academy in the City of Signal Hill, drivers are often caught in a long line of cars waiting to access or cross Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). The City of Signal Hill has recognized the need to widen Cherry Avenue at this intersection for several decades, and planning for the project began in the late 1990s.

Funding from various grant sources had to be located, environmental studies had to be completed and the City of Signal Hill had to coordinate with Long Beach and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Although it took a long time, Signal Hill was ultimately successful funding 100% of the project's \$6.7 million cost by grants from the Metropolitan Transit Authority and the Federal Highway Administration.

The construction limits for the Cherry Avenue Project are from 20th Street to just south of PCH. The project calls for the addition of two new traffic lanes, one going southbound and one going northbound, on Cherry Avenue between PCH and 19th Street. In addition, a new shared through/right turn lane is being added on southbound Cherry Avenue, in order to allow more cars to turn onto PCH. The project also includes new asphalt paving, curb and sidewalk improvements, improved surface drainage, a new traffic signal, and a new landscaped median.

Upon receiving authorization from Caltrans to proceed with project construction Signal Hill awarded a construction contract to Griffith Company (Contractor) in July. By October all contract documents were signed and the Contractor was authorized to proceed with construction. However, prior to actual construction activities beginning, the Contractor had to first obtain the new traffic signal assembly which takes approximately five months to fabricate. Since Caltrans is requiring that the new traffic signal be operational before the major road widening activates can proceed, most of the actual road construction will be concentrated between the months of January and May 2015.


City staff has been finalizing the Public Outreach Plan for the project that will include suggested detouring routes around the construction activities and a comprehensive project construction schedule that will be made available on the City's web page: <http://www.cityofsignalhill.org/>

The City is very pleased that this important street improvement is becoming a reality, and we ask the public's patience during the construction period. For more information, please contact the City of Signal Hill Public Works Department at (562) 989-7351.


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Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

Principal for a Day

What an incredible experience I had recently when I participated in LBUSD's "Principal for a Day" program at my alma mater, Wilson Classical High School! I was fortunate to be one of over 200 community members to shadow principals of our local schools in the highly successful program that has resulted in more than 1,000 business-school partnerships over the years.



Principal Sandy Blazer and Principal Gonzalo Moraga at Wilson High are like so many principals in LBUSD — dynamic leaders who are truly committed to providing the best possible education and experience for their students.

It was a bit nostalgic and hard to believe that 30 years have passed since I was a student there. So much on the campus looked the same as when I attended, but one of the changes I couldn't help noticing is that now healthier snacks are offered in the vending machines.

During a morning briefing by Principals Blazer and Moraga, I learned about the successes of Wilson's 4,000+ students in programs like Distinguished Scholars, Wilson's Academic Vision of Excellence (WAVE), and Advanced Placement. Then I saw these programs in action when I visited the classrooms. I would have loved to have sat down and participated in any one of them!

Teachers were passionate about their subjects and clearly love teaching. I dropped in on a variety of classes, such as Mrs. Drummond's Algebra class and Mr. Bowden's Drama class (he was my Drama teacher when I was a student there). Did you know there are classes in Animation and Guitar? I was impressed with the high standards set for all classes and that teaching critical thinking is emphasized throughout the curriculum.

I am so grateful to have had the wonderful privilege of being a guest principal at Wilson. While I know that all Long Beach high schools have been energized with modern teaching methods, and that great things are happening on each campus, I am so proud of my alma mater! I can't wait for my daughter to attend and experience Wilson Classical High School in a few years!

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www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

Proposition 47/Early Release of Criminals

On November 4, 2014, California voters passed Proposition 47, a measure that downgrades most drug offenses and theft crimes from felony to misdemeanor level. The stated purpose of Prop. 47 was to reduce incarceration for drug and theft offenses, and Prop. 47 has already in the short time since its passage caused the release of thousands of prisoners throughout the state.

Many people who supported Prop. 47 did so in the hope that any savings to the prison and jail system would be diverted to education and mental health treatment programs. Without doubt, if savings from Prop. 47 are invested wisely in the right education and mental health programs today it can save taxpayers money in the future.

What is questionable is whether there will be true savings. Under Prop. 47, most cases involving theft, including most instances of shoplifting, grand theft, check forgery, receiving stolen property, commercial burglary, and writing bad checks, will be reduced to misdemeanors with the penalty capped at one year in county jail.

One year in county jail may sound like a long time, but with jail overcrowding in Los Angeles County no person sentenced to a year in jail will serve even close to that time. Currently, Los Angeles County is releasing most prisoners after serving 10% or less of their sentence. In some cases, the time in jail is much less than 10%. For example, recently a state legislator sentenced to 90 days in jail was booked and released 34 minutes later, and such a rapid release is not unusual for sentences 90 days or less.

Prior to Prop. 47, the District Attorney had the discretion of filing cases affected by Prop. 47 as misdemeanors. However, in cases involving repeat offenders or where the facts were particularly egregious, the District Attorney could file felony charges and the criminal could actually be locked up for 2 years or more. Prop. 47 removes that discretion.

As to savings, the Legislative Analyst's Office looked only at the savings to the penal system caused by the early release of criminals. There has been no analysis of the increase cost to law enforcement and prosecutors who already spend most of their time dealing with the same, relatively small, percentage of criminals, who will be put back on the streets with very little time behind bars. Perhaps more importantly, there has been no analysis of the increase cost to business owners and residents who are victims of theft by criminals released by Prop. 47.

While the backers of Prop. 47 may have had good intentions, i.e., to save money by reducing the days a criminal spends in jail and diverting that money to helpful social programs, whether there will be true savings is still unclear. Time will tell whether Prop. 47 is a step in the right direction, or an event that triggers crime to spike without the financial boon for which many are hoping.

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Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

Geography Lessons for Our Youth, and Ourselves



Dr. Mitchell Kushner
City Health Officer

During the last few months of fear surrounding the Ebola epidemic in the West African countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, it has become clear that school children, college students, and many professionals need to brush up on their geography.

A particularly important example is the worldwide misjudgment of the true size of the African Continent.

The Washington Post recently ran an online quiz asking their readers to name African nations on a map. Most received failing grades, with 50% unable to recognize half of the African continent countries. The most recognized countries were South Africa, Madagascar, and Egypt, while Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Guinea were recognized by less than 25% of readers.



In our global world, insufficient geographical knowledge can be a true handicap. Despite clearly defined geographical limits to the Ebola epidemic, many Americans seem confused and frightened. Many travelers returning from the African continent have faced unnecessary fears in returning home. Many travel plans and tours

scheduled in this vast continent have been cancelled. Ignorance and misinformation is a big problem with Ebola, which can be diminished with some geography lessons and added perspective. Our world has become too connected and intertwined to ignore our international borders and partners around the world. The African continent is larger than the United States, China, India, Japan, and all of Europe combined. Brushing up on our geography can make the world a less frightening and forbidding place.

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Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)



Gary Feldman, MD
Medical Director,
Stramski
Children's
Developmental
Center

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one of the most common childhood brain disorders, affecting millions of children between the ages of 4–17 in the United States.

A child with ADHD might have trouble focusing on tasks or subjects because the part of their brain that controls attention and activity is different, than a child without ADHD. Common symptoms of ADHD include difficulty staying focused, difficulty controlling behavior, and hyperactivity.

A child with ADHD might:

- Daydream a lot
- Forget or lose things a lot
- Squirm or fidget
- Talk too much
- Have trouble taking turns

Diagnosing ADHD takes multiple steps. There's no way to tell if someone has ADHD from blood tests, X-rays or other medical tests. Doctors diagnose ADHD based on history, interviews and special evaluations — such as vision, hearing and learning tests. In most cases, ADHD is best treated with a combination of medication and behavior therapy.



As a parent, you can help your child by structuring situations in more positive ways. For example, restrict the number of playmates to one or two, to prevent overstimulation. Or, if your child has trouble completing tasks, divide large tasks into smaller, more manageable steps to help your child accomplish their goals.

Your child may be eligible for an “individualized education program” or “free appropriate education” if they are attending a public school. In order to make sure that your child is receiving the proper attention at school, be sure to discuss their specific needs with their teacher or school counselor.

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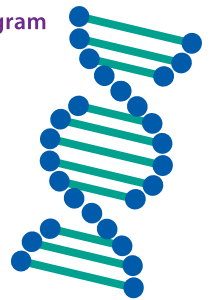
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Leadership Long Beach

The Peak of Perceptivity



Morgan Hillary
POLY High School
YLLB '15

As a young woman of strong intuition and affinity for new experiences, I knew joining Youth Leadership Long Beach would be of great aid to my leadership quest. My initial understanding was that the program would provide real and metaphorical opportunities to both develop leadership qualities and enhance those already existing. In actuality, Youth Leadership Long Beach, highlighted by the Big Bear retreat experience, exceeded all expectations.



The Retreat created an atmosphere of gratification, self-exploration, and community among us. Located in the San Bernardino Mountains, the retreat was not only a summit of the physical realm, but of the spiritual realm as well.

Before the retreat, my peers and I had limited knowledge of one another. So on the bus trip up, the Youth Chairs lead us through a series of activities to explore our individuality. The air dense with excited anticipation, we began to realize that the retreat was more than a chance to become acquainted; it was a manifestation of adrenaline and awareness.

Throughout the weekend we found ourselves sharing our afflictions and inspirations, our goals and accomplishments, our subjective interpretations and cumulative agreements. The Retreat dissolved barriers of fear through the competence of the activity directors, mentors, and Youth Chairs, and for that I am eternally grateful.

As I ascended the mountain, I ascended the path to the leader I aspire to be. As I descended, I utilized my newfound sapience within my everyday life. The Retreat taught me to find confidence within myself, others, and unusual situations. Without a doubt, Youth Leadership Long Beach and the leadership retreat was a catalytic inspiration to climb towards my goals, support those around me, and go forth with the rich gift of perception.

www.leadershiplb.org or www.facebook.com/leadershiplongbeach
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Friends of Long Beach Animals

Urban Wildlife: Not Your 'Friends'!

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

Long Beach has residents of many species with whom we share our outdoor spaces and sometimes even our homes. Each has its own beauty and gives us a wonderful feeling of being part of nature.

But making "friends" of them is dangerous for us and them. Feeling sorry because of lack of food and water is misguided because they're highly talented at finding them in the wild. When you leave out food and water or neglect to remove outside pet dishes—and why would you feed your pet outside?—they lose their fear of humans and, instead of hunting, come into our neighborhood for easy food sources—your pets included, particularly coyotes. Some have shown aggression toward small children.

They may carry diseases like distemper and parasites, have rabies or be rabies carriers, the exception being the opossum. Leave them alone, and do not allow your pets—or children—outside alone before dawn and after sunset.

If Alaskans can manage successfully to live in peace with bears by eliminating all food sources outside their homes, surely we can as well with our smaller wild Long Beachers!

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Arts Council for Long Beach

Dramatic Results Receives a \$2 Million Dollar Grant

By Kylee Yocky, Director of Arts Learning

Long Beach nonprofits continue to bring award winning arts programs to local students. Dramatic Results, a nonprofit agency based in Long Beach is a perfect example of this. On October 29, Congressman Alan Lowenthal personally informed the organization that they received a \$2 million dollar federal grant. The grant will support one of Dramatic Results programs, Making It REAL: Math. The program will involve enhancing students' engagement, exploration and mastery of math, history, art and engineering by researching, exploring and designing reed baskets via an in-class computer application. Four Long Beach Unified, Title 1 schools will be selected at random to participate in the program.

Started in 1992 with a \$2,500 seed gift, Dramatic Results has raised over \$17 million in private/public grants to provide STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) education for 22,000 underserved, K-8, students in Long Beach and Compton as both after-school and in-class programs.

The Arts Council for Long Beach would like to congratulate Dramatic Results for their continued success, and thank you for continuing to bring award winning STEAM programs to Long Beach students!

350 Elm Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-2787
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Aquarium of the Pacific

'Tis the Season of Holidays

The final months of the year have arrived and along with them come the holidays. The Aquarium of the Pacific is ready to celebrate, with special events throughout the end of the year. There are over 11,000 animals at the Aquarium, and you can spend some time with them all during the holiday season.



While it never snows in Long Beach, now is the chance to enjoy some flurries in the Great Hall of the Aquarium. The Aquarium will set the holiday mood with music, crafts, special presentations, and unique photo opportunities. It is the “sea”son at the Aquarium of the Pacific and where the staff aims to give the animals a special time. You can too, when you visit the Aquarium this holiday season.

As we enter the holiday season, remember that the Aquarium is not just a place to see fish and other sea creatures and learn about the ocean, but also it is a place to celebrate and enjoy the life the sea has given us. The nonprofit Aquarium believes that to protect nature and its resources, it also needs to build relationships among people. For more information, visit aquariumofpacific.org or call 562-590-3100.

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Literacy Project Foundation

The Literacy Project Honors Students

By Sue Tucker, President/CEO

Eighteen students from Long Beach were honored at Burbank Elementary School for graduating from the Literacy Project's (LP) 10-week reading program.



The second grade students were awarded for their hard work and accomplishments in front of their peers, teachers and family members. This graduation marked the first time ever that LP gave each of the graduates a phonics game to take home. Kimberly Vig, LP Program Coordinator stated, “It was remarkable to see the looks on students faces when they found out they got to take home the phonics game... We are hoping that by doing this it will help promote family literacy.”

Executives from Weinerschnitzel were in attendance along with their mascot TDO, The Delicious One, to support LP and struggling readers in the community.

For more information, visit www.literacyprojectfoundation.org.

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Long Beach Parks, Recreation & Marine

Winter Break Fun Scheduled at Long Beach Parks Wondering what your child can do over the winter school break?

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine has the answer with free drop-in "Winter Fun Days." Parks throughout the city will offer supervised games, sports, crafts, field trips and seasonal celebrations. Each site will be open six hours per day on December 22, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30 and 31; and January 2. Call the site for hours and activity schedule.



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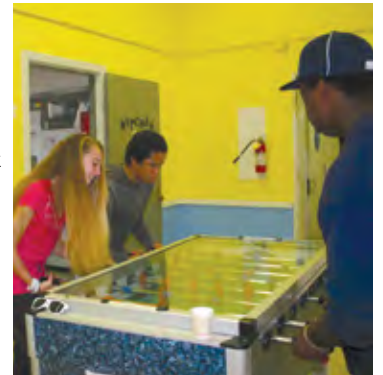
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Note-ables



Kate Karp

Love Bug

Are you a Beluga Grad? If Raffi was part of your childhood, you are. You dug into the meaning of “Baby Beluga” and had a great time singing “Down by the Bay.” And if you’re not one, here’s your chance to get a midlife diploma and mentor the children in your life.

Raffi Cavoukian, known by his first name, is bridging the near generation gap he created by not issuing a children’s CD in the last 12 years. *Love Bug* honors children and the world they live in; the collection is an extension of Raffi’s social-change movement, Child Honoring, as well as his desire to create environmental awareness and action as a team of humans..

All songs are meaningful and tuneful; they’re instructive for children and therapeutic for adults. “Mama Loves It” sings about teamwork beginning in the home. The instrumental “Pete’s Banjo” honors Pete Seeger, one of Raffi’s social inspirations. “Seeing the Heart,” like a Zen parable, is interpretable through intuition only, and “Water in the Well”—well, surely a teachable moment for our drought-parched state.

And “Turn This World Around” brings it all together. Raffi’s music is gentle and at the same time serious about the planet, both in leaving it for children and for children doing their part to preserve it. www.raffinews.com/

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

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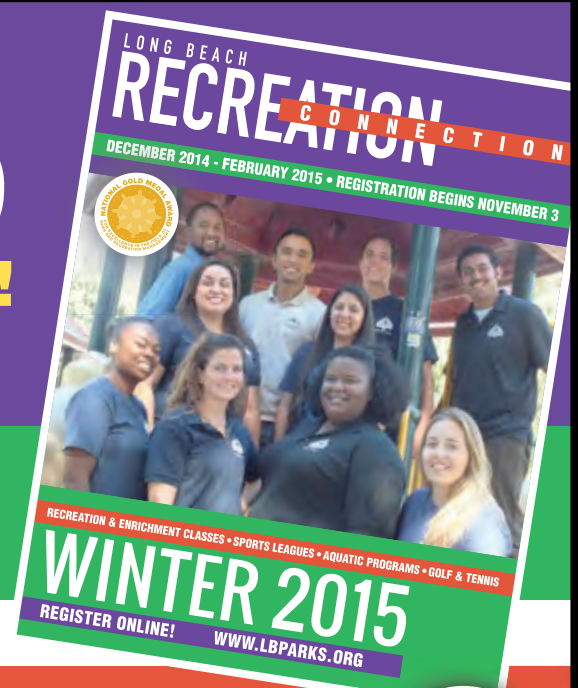
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Los Angeles County Office of Education

On Path to Educational Success



Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

At the Superintendents Fall Convocation that our office hosted recently, I had the honor and pleasure of being among school board members, district superintendents and other school administrators whose common goal was to provide the best possible education for our students in Los Angeles County.

In my remarks, I thanked and congratulated my colleagues for their success, which has been demonstrated by the many accomplishments of our county's schools.

For example, 99 elementary schools in L.A. County made it to this year's list of Distinguished Schools and seven other schools have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

Just recently, the California Department of Education announced the five California Teachers of the Year, and two of them are from L.A. County.

One of them, Maggie Mabery – a science teacher from Manhattan Beach Unified School District – has been selected as California's representative to the National Teacher of the Year competition.

We also have 13 Golden Bell awardees from L.A. County. These awardees are truly making a difference in their communities. Their work and involvement have played a key role in helping our young people thrive and succeed.

Additionally, 34 L.A. County schools received the Title I Academic Achievement Award and a dozen more schools received the 2014 Exemplary Arts Education and Exemplary Physical Activity and Nutrition Education Program Awards.

Seven schools from our county have also been selected as 2014 Model Continuation High Schools in California.

The California Business for Education Excellence or CBEE has announced an impressive number of higher performing schools in L.A. County on its latest "Honor Roll." These schools include higher poverty schools that are increasing academic performance and closing the achievement gap, as well as STEM schools that excel in math and science. There are 34 CBEE STEM Schools in L.A. County,

A total of 568 other schools in L.A. County have been listed by CBEE as high-performing "Star Schools" and "Scholar Schools." Three out of only seven CBEE Honor Roll Districts are from L.A. County.

These are just some of the many indicators of successes that have resulted from our education communities' hard work and strong commitment to achieve excellence in teaching and learning.

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.



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Jane Close Conoley
President

National Excellence and Innovation Award

Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) has been honored with a national Excellence and Innovation Award for increasing graduation rates. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) announced recently the inaugural winners in the new awards program honoring member institutions in several major areas of campus life and leadership.

Specifically cited was CSULB's Highly Valued Degree initiative, which combines a wide variety of proven strategies for enhancing student success into a comprehensive approach to institutional transformation, rather than focusing on just one or two strategies for increasing graduation rates. The results of this initiative have been dramatic. In just over a decade, first-time freshman overall

graduation rates have risen by more than 20 percentage points from below 40 to 60 percent. These gains have reached all ethnic and gender groups. Graduation rate for transfers has also reached an all-time high. The 60 percent figure was based on 2012-13, but the 2013-14 rate continued to rise to 64 percent.

"The Student Success and College Completion Award from AASCU is a welcome affirmation of faculty and staff efforts over the past decade," said Jane Close Conoley, president of CSULB. "Our campus is singular in its purpose to offer student degrees with high value in the 21st Century. All of our faculty and staff are partners in encouraging our students, the majority of whom are first in their families to attend a university, to fully engage in the world class offerings of our university, achieve timely graduation and assume leadership positions in our society. Recognition from the AASCU is most meaningful to us and to our pre-K-12 and community college partners. It allows us to pause and celebrate our progress today and energizes us to double down our efforts to do more and improve even more in this area."

"State colleges and universities have dealt with enormous challenges during the past decade, yet they have remained committed to their missions of student access and success, and regional and economic progress, as well as a dedication to advancing the quality and distinction of their institutions," said AASCU President Muriel A. Howard. "The innovative and collaborative approaches our members have engaged to successfully address their missions inspired us to create this awards program to foster recognition of their work."

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

The Student Success and College Completion Award from AASCU is a welcome affirmation of faculty and staff efforts over the past decade...



Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Superintendent-President

Preparing for Spring Semester

Although the calendar year is winding down, Long Beach City College (LBCC) continues to be busy these past few months. We received great recognitions and we are getting ready for the Spring Semester.

LBCC was recently named a Military Friendly School for 2015. The Military Friendly School designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students, and to dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

We were also named the 2014 Entrepreneurial College by the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship. The award was given based on LBCC's leadership in developing and launching entrepreneurial, and small business programs during the past nine years.



Ted Hiatt, Special Projects Manager, LA Regional SBDC Network Lead Center; Mike Daniel, Director Long Beach SBDC; Tim Mittan, Associate Director, LA Regional SBDC Network Lead Center; Heather Van Sickle, President & CEO, NACCE; Sheneui Weber, Executive Director CAED; Jesse Torres, Director, LA Regional SBDC Network Lead Center.
LBCC was named the 2014 Entrepreneurial College.

Goldman Sachs announced that an additional \$5 million will be given to the 10,000 Small Businesses (10KSB) program, where Long Beach City College serves as the host institution for the Southern California Region.

With the start of 2015 just right around the corner, we are also preparing for the Spring Semester. Our Spring Semester class registration begins on December 15, but you can begin the enrollment process now. We will have the largest number and widest variety of classes in five years. If you're a high school student looking to jump ahead and start working on your college credits or if you're someone who wants to add a new work skill to your resume - you will find it here at LBCC. Classes begin on February 9. You can visit our website www.lbcc.edu for more information on how you can register for the Spring Semester.

We have had a great 2014, but Long Beach City College looks forward to all of the wonderful things to come in the new year.

Liberal Arts Campus 4901 E. Carson St., Long Beach, CA 90808
Pacific Coast Campus 1305 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, CA 90808
562/938-4111 • www.lbcc.edu/

LBUSD Board of Education



Dr. Felton Williams
Vice-President

Town Hall Meeting

The Long Beach Unified School District joined with 65 major urban school districts nationwide in their efforts to support the Pledge, a list of specific recommendations developed by the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS), to improve the academic outcomes of students of color. The council is an advocacy organization that represents the nations large urban school districts. School districts were asked to support the Pledge and the LBUSD Board of Education approved the district's participation.

The Pledge was also an effort to link the work of the urban school districts with President Obama's initiative, "My Brother's Keeper," and copies of the Pledge from the participating school districts were presenting to President Obama in July. Specifically, the Pledge approved by LBUSD states:



WHEREAS, some 32 percent of the nation's African American males and some 39 percent of the nation's Hispanic males attend school each day in one of the Great City School systems; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Great City Schools is an organization of the nation's largest urban public school systems, including the Long Beach Unified School District; and

WHEREAS, the academic achievement of males of color in the nation's urban school systems and nationally is well below what it needs to be for these young people to be successful in college and careers; and

WHEREAS, disproportionate numbers of males of color drop out of urban schools and often have low attendance rates; and

WHEREAS, the nation's Great City Schools have an obligation to teach all students under their aegis to the highest academic standards and prepare them for successful participation in our nation:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District will continue to focus its preschool efforts to serve males of color and their academic and social development, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to implement elementary and middle school efforts to increase the pipeline of males of color who are succeeding academically and socially in our urban schools and who are on track to succeed in high school, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to keep data and establish protocols that will allow it to monitor the progress of males of color and other students in our schools and appropriately intervene at the earliest warning signs, and

THAT LBUSD will continue implementing promising and proven approaches to reducing absenteeism, especially chronic absenteeism, among males of color, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in retaining males of color in school and reducing disproportionate suspension and expulsion rates, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in increasing the numbers of our males of color and other students

participating in advanced placement and honors courses and gifted and talented programs, and

THAT LBUSD will continue working with colleges of education to adopt curriculum that addresses the academic, cultural and social needs of males of color, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to develop initiatives and regularly report on progress in increasing the numbers of males of color and other students who complete the FASFA student financial aid form, and

THAT LBUSD will continue to work to reduce as appropriate the numbers of males of color in special education courses, and

See • Page 15

THAT LBUSD will continue to engage in a broader discussion and examination of how issues of race, language and culture affect the work of our district.

In an effort to move forward on the Pledge, LBUSD will host a town hall meeting and extend an invitation to participate to members of the community, including businesses and nonprofit organizations. In preparation for hosting a town hall, a planning committee, consisting of members of the community, district staff and businesses, was convened with the express purpose of adding to and enhancing the recommendations outlined in the Pledge. The committee concluded its first meeting and was able to develop a list of viable suggestions regarding the following topics: 1) Students; 2) Parents; 3) Higher Education; 4) Community/Non-Profit; 5) Schools/Teachers; and 6) Business Partners.

The format for the Town Hall will take the form of *break-out* sessions on the topics identified above. Participants will report the outcomes at the conclusion of the break-out sessions and will be asked to actively support one or more of the action outcomes. The district will serve as a clearing house and coordinate the efforts of the work by the participants by providing information, and where possible, resources. The district will also be in a position to share best practices from other school districts that are participating in the Pledge.

The Council of the Great City Schools will also be actively involved with member districts in serving as a clearing house, sharing *best practices* and directing districts to appropriate resources.

Given the effort and attention being directed toward building a reform model that contains coherency and commitment, the opportunity exists to actively impact the lives and fortunes of students of color nationwide.

Members of the Town Hall Planning Committee include:

Co-chairs: Felton Williams and Chris Steinhauser

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



Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent

New Academic Standards

The fall semester has been a productive one, with schools implementing many significant changes. As I visit schools, it's clear that the implementation of the Common Core State Standards is requiring a lot of hard work by teachers, students and parents. The standards changed what students must know and be able to do in preparation for success in college and careers. Voluntarily adopted by 43 states and

the District of Columbia, these standards are designed to prepare students for a competitive global society.

While our transition to the newer standards is ongoing and evolving, much is going well. Already we are seeing encouraging progress in our schools, with students showing more sophisticated understanding of material that they otherwise wouldn't have learned until they were older. That's because Long Beach has been one of the most proactive school systems in terms of Common Core planning and professional development, or training, for teachers and administrators.

A nonprofit research group reported that Long Beach is the most prepared large school system in the state, in terms of providing the technology needed for Common Core assessments, or tests. Earlier this year, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig praised our school district for providing a comprehensive and strategic blueprint for implementing the Common Core. He noted our "scope and sequence" documents that provide a plan for using the grade-level and course standards in English and math. We've also secured several multi-million-dollar grants to continue building a professional development system that is second to none.

The new standards bring with them many other changes, including new assessments and the Achievement Reports that are replacing report cards in grades K-5. All of these efforts are designed to help more students excel.

So if you happen see one of our teachers, administrators or support staff members, you might want to thank them for all of their hard work this school year. Parents, too, deserve tremendous credit for working patiently with their children, whose homework looks quite different than in the past.

Lasting and meaningful change requires patience and persistence, but the outstanding educators in our schools, and everyone who supports them, are definitely up to the task.

Best wishes for a safe and joyous holiday season.

Board of Education



Diana Craighead
President



Dr. Felton Williams
Vice-President



Megan Kerr
Member



John McGinnis
Member



Jon Meyer
Member

Bancroft *Middle School*

Setting Weekly Goals



Kimberly Dalton
Principal

By Nicole Reyes, ELA Department Head

Bancroft Middle School has started both a Male and Female Academy for the 2014–2015 school year. These two academies will be working closely with the approximately 30 eighth-grade students who have demonstrated various leadership qualities and characteristics.

The students have been discussing three different areas during their regular weekly meetings: the Knowing Me, the Healthy Me, and the Empowered Us. These three areas cover topics that relate to self-esteem, healthy living, and peer relationships. In addition, academic advisors Nick Pierce, Nicole Reyes and Marisa Hughes provide the students with weekly opportunities to analyze themselves and set goals that are rated on a weekly basis.

Over the course of the year our students will collaborate with their group, other high school students, and various teachers, school administrators and community members in order to gain the knowledge and skills they need for their future. Along with this collaboration, our students will also have an opportunity to work as a group and participate in various community service activities.

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

Beach *High School*

Community Building Circles



Matt Saldana
Principal

By Rebecca “Suzanne” Caverly” Coordinator Restorative Justice and Student Council

At Beach High School, we believe that healthy relationships are the key to student success. To develop and maintain these relationships, we have turned to Restorative Justice Community Building practices. At Beach, we use “talking circles” to create deeper connections, understanding, and trust. Circles can be used to talk about feelings and ideas, set class rules, review academic content, express concerns, and process incidents. Community building is not just for students. Once a week we hold a staff circle to share successes and struggles, and twice a month we have a Women’s Circle for women of all ages on our campus.

These circles help us stay connected to each other and support one another. Furthermore, when conflict arises, we convene conflict circles to address issues, communicate needs, and make commitments regarding future conduct and contact between the students. These circles encourage students to communicate with one another in a safe and systematic practice, which encourages accountability and compassion. Restorative Justice circles have helped us build community, reduce conflict, and increase achievement.

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

Barton *Elementary*

STEM Scholars



Richard Littlejohn
Principal

“We are STEM Scholars!” Not only do students think it, they believe it! Barton Elementary School provides an educational advantage to all our students in order to prepare them for college and careers in the future! Our school provides opportunities for our students and parents to engage in the world of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Learning about STEM through the use of the arts is what makes our program unique. We tap into the creativity of the students so that they may express themselves and their learning, and students become motivated to learn more about the Common Core State Standards.

During the 2014–2015 school year, all our students will participate in one or more of the following STEM programs: Dramatic Results STEM and the Arts; Engineering is Elementary; U.S. Navy/Sea Perch Engineering; Engineering Girls; and the Learning Garden. Our K–2 and 3–5 STEM labs are also projected to open during the winter of 2015. We are very excited about the future, meeting the school’s mission, and providing opportunities for our students to be college and career ready!

1100 E. Del Amo Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/428-0555
www.lbschools.net/barton

Bixby *Elementary*

Getting Around with Art!



Rosana Madrid-Arroyo
Principal

By Althea Aguel, 4th-grade student

My experience with Eye on Design helped me explore public art through lessons, two field trips and the creation of a large transportation mosaic. Not everybody in Long Beach had this golden opportunity, but I’m glad my class did!

Last year, every third-grader at Bixby Elementary participated and received a workbook. Ms. Candice from the Arts Council was our lovely and knowledgeable teacher.

In our lessons, we’d fill up about two pages each week with information, drawings and imagination. Sometimes, we’d do special art projects.

Our first field trip let us explore art in nature at the aquarium. Our second was a public-art walking tour of downtown Long Beach. During the final three weeks of class, we made our mosaic, which was a bundle of puzzles and excitement. Now, it hangs at our school—a beautiful piece of public art and a tribute to the many ways we get around here in our city by the sea.

The dedication of the mosaic is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. Parents and the general public are invited.

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

Bryant *Elementary*

Doctors for Diversity



Matt Hammond
Principal

Is there a doctor in the school? Each year, dozens of white-coated medical students from the Student Medical Association of the University of California at Irvine descend upon our campus to help us share the wonders of medicine.

We are privileged to have this “Doctors for Diversity” program regularly visit our school. Intended to inform and inspire our students, the program visits each classroom and gives presentations that include interactive experiences with medical equipment and an explanation of how the body works.

During the last visit, our students had an opportunity to feel their heartbeat and pulse, see their actual heart in action in a live ultrasound, hear it pumping blood, and more.



The goal of this program is to provide our students with positive role models, and also encourage them to pursue higher education through learning activities in science, health care and medical technology. And that they do!

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

Burcham (K-8)

We Think Kindness!



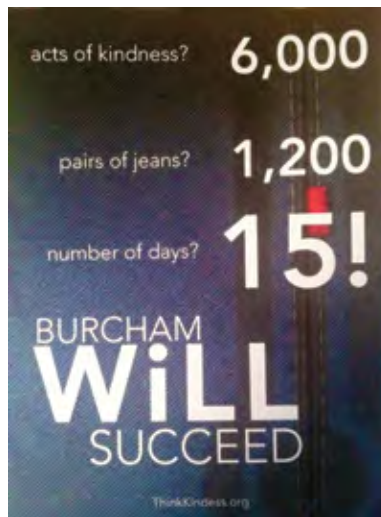
Stacy Sanchez
Principal

Thank you, PTA—we’re “Thinking Kindness” at Burcham! In November, we began a campaign to accomplish 6,000 acts of kindness and collect 1,200 pairs of jeans to donate to our local community.

The kickoff assembly with Gary Xavier inspired students to reflect on the acts of kindness that seem so small yet make a major impact on others’ lives. For 15 days, students completed Kindness Journals and donated

jeans as our Kindness Team, aka Student Council, counted!

Parents, staff and students have made kindness contagious. They greet staff with hugs and perform acts of kindness inside and beyond Burcham’s walls, as reported by parents! We’re inspired to go beyond the 6,000 acts and make kindness an everyday occurrence! Go Bobcats!



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

Buffum *Total Learning Center*

Saying Good-Bye to Linda Isbell



Miriam Garcia
Program Administrator

Linda Isbell is a paraprofessional who has been with Buffum TLC since we opened four years ago. Fondly known as Belle, she has consistently worked more than her assigned six hours, helping teachers prepare lessons, create bulletin boards, and pitch in wherever she has been needed. When an artistic

undertaking needs to happen, Belle, always with a smile on her face, willingly takes on the job. She has designed props for school performances, banners to honor teachers, aides and bus drivers, as well as decorated the staff lounge for special occasions. Linda is moving to International Elementary School; our loss is their gain.



Thank you Linda for your support! We wish you the best.
2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-2431
www.lbschools.net/buffum

Cabrillo *High School*

A Growing College-Going Culture



Dr. Elio Mendoza
Co-Principal

Alejandro Vega
Co-Principal

*By Carlos Gershwin-Razo,
College and Career
Facilitator*

Cabrillo High School is proud to say that it has taken some major steps to redefine what a college-going culture looks like. This year, we funded a college and career facilitator to help spearhead and align our school's

efforts in expanding and promoting all college and career activities on campus.

The college and career facilitator, along with our College and Career Center specialist, and the SSCAC college advisor, make up our college-going culture support personnel. They work together to promote and encourage more of our students to actively pursue their college aspirations.

We are also publicizing and promoting a monthly "Master Calendar of College-Going Activities" so that all of our students, parents and staff members can be aware of the great opportunities we offer. We are also actively working on creating a "culture of caring," where every student will have an advocate to help support them with their goals.

Part of this amazing work will also engage our freshmen in their college exploration process in more direct terms. Many freshman classes have already been exposed to college presentations by UC Berkeley, UCSD, CSUDH, and CSULB!

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

Chavez *Elementary*

School-Wide Uniforms



Hugo Figueroa
Principal

Rick Rackers is an auxiliary of The Assistance League of Long Beach, a nonprofit organization serving the needs of our community. On November 6th, all students from Chavez Elementary welcomed the Rick Rackers volunteers to our campus. The volunteers set up a command and control room and called students from their classrooms to be measured in order

to receive their free uniform. At recess and

lunch the students excitedly shared with their peers that they would be receiving free uniforms and a backpack next week. Thank you Rick Rackers for making this wonderful event possible and for putting a smile on our children's faces. We need more organizations like the The Assistance League of Long Beach to help out our community.



Assistant League of Long Beach Volunteers

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

Carver *Elementary*

Instructional Aides



Sarah Forrester
Principal

*By Erin Richey 4/5 PHI
Teacher*

At Carver Elementary School, we are fortunate to have an exceptional group of instructional aides who work with our students with physical and health impairments. These individuals work tirelessly

every day in classrooms supporting both our special day class and general education teachers. Many of our students with special needs are mainstreamed with their grade level peers. With the help of this outstanding support staff, students are able to access curriculum and succeed in the classroom. The enthusiasm they come to work with daily is infectious around our



campus. They are loved by our students and are very much appreciated by teachers for all the hard work they do at Carver!

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

Child Development Center



Cynthia Young
Director

Journey to Emerson Kids' Club

The Emerson Kids' Club is a before- and after-school program which gives students an extended opportunity to learn and have fun through crafts, cooking activities and recreational games.

We recognize and acknowledge the talents and interests of our students and have created a

program they enjoy. On a typical morning at Kids' Club, students are greeted by the warm smiles of the staff and invited to participate in the morning craft for that day. Site director Mrs. Linares often instructs student-friendly yoga to practice balance and concentration. Fridays consist of dance parties, with students busting a move from last year's annual Kids' Club Talent Show. We also engage in interactive group activities, such as bingo or popcorn reading, for a great start to a full day of learning.

When the afternoon school bell rings, students check in with Kids' Club and are provided with time to complete their homework. Our Homework Club promotes and encourages academic achievement. A portion of our program that students look forward to is Way Cool Thursday: students join small groups for trips to a local retail store or restaurant for some delicious treats. Gaining recent popularity during the September heat wave was the water brigade relay. This refreshing activity focused on team building while cooling off at the same time.



The school year opened up with a superhero theme, as Kids' Club believes in building students' positive self-images and encouraging them to make good choices. Each student who comes to our program is unique and shares his or her own talent, or, in this case, super power. Other monthly themes include Journey through California, Library, Alice in Wonderland, and Dr. Seuss. From finding a pirate's buried treasure to learning about the California coast or even building a birthday cake out of shaving cream, our program enriches students' growth and imaginations, as well as social interactions with other children. Kids' Club provides a safe and supportive environment for students to truly enjoy being kids

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

Dooley *Global Studies Magnet School*

STEM



Nicole Howton-Chiles
Principal

On Saturday, November 8, 2014, several of Dooley's 5th grade girls had the opportunity of attending the STEM Conference at CSULB. This conference increased their skills through hands-on science and engineering projects, exposed them to STEM careers and introduced them to female role models. The all-girl environment provided a safe place to take risks and build confidence.

Throughout the day, girls attended hands on workshops such as: Cosmetic Chemistry, Wearable Electronics, Crime Scene Investigation, and Spaghetti Marshmallow Bridge. This enabled the girls to work in groups and assume roles as Engineers, Marketing Specialists, and Quality Assurance Officers. By the end of the day, the girls had gained a new enthusiasm for STEM and learned the importance of taking classes in science, math and technology.



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

Hughes *Middle School*

Eoin Colfer Visits Hughes Middle School

By David Michaels, 7th Grade English Teacher



Dr. Sally Gregory
Principal

Hughes Middle School had the privilege of having Irish-born author Eoin Colfer (pronounced Owen) as a guest speaker. Colfer has authored over 30 books, which span the genres of science and fantasy fiction, young-adult fiction, graphic

novels, and comic books. Colfer is best known for writing the Artemis Fowl series of young-adult fantasy fiction books.

Several Hughes students had the opportunity to ask questions to Mr. Colfer, specifically about his Artemis Fowl series. According to Colfer, Artemis is “a teenage mastermind with a heart of gold.” When asked how he derived the protagonist’s name, Colfer responded that “Artemis” was the Greek Goddess of Hunting and the verb “to fowl” means to hunt creatures with wings. Hence, he constructed the title character, which has become immensely popular in homes, schools, and libraries around the world.



Eoin Colfer poses with Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Mackey, Dr. Taylor, and Mrs. Harper.

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

Edison *Elementary*

Vision to Learn



Edward Garcia
Principal

Edison Elementary was the first LBUSD school to welcome the Vision To Learn program, which is a non-profit agency that provides free vision exams as well as free glasses for students in need. The program is coordinated at the site by the School Nurse. When the Vision To Learn bus arrives on campus students get to visit the eye doctor and choose from a variety of attractive

frames. When the glasses were delivered there were many happy faces as the children put on their new glasses. Many students were getting glasses for the first time and immediately remarked about how much better they could see! Vision services are a key to student achievement.



Thank you Vision To Learn for coming to Edison.

625 Maine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-8481
www.lbschools.net/edison

Emerson *Parkside Academy*

Growing and Expanding



By Cynthia Young,
Director -
Child Development
Center

Margaret Kerns
Principal

This year Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School has added a full-day preschool program. Research shows that students who

participate in quality preschool programs are more likely to be successful in college and their chosen careers. The Emerson program offers curriculum that is aligned to the kindergarten curriculum and California Common Core State Standards. The program focuses on the “whole” child, with an emphasis on developmentally appropriate activities to ensure a successful transition into kindergarten.

Additionally, the preschool students have the opportunity to eat in the school cafeteria, participate in the school-wide assemblies and visit the kindergarten rooms.



We are proud of how our preschool students are continuing to learn and grow.

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

Fremont *Elementary*

Fremont's "Tuesday Writers" Play with Words



Mark Curran
Principal

Carrying on a school tradition of fun extracurricular programs with a purpose, Fremont's new writing club met for the first time after school, Tuesday, October 7. Their first assignment? Write a joke using homonyms from a favorite game or sport. *Why did the boxer hate baseball? Because he was always striking out!* “We want

club members to feel safe trying out new ideas for stories and poems,” says club leader, Krista Richardson. “It should feel more like play than work. The learning takes care of itself.”

At club meetings, writers in grades 1-5 take on challenges together, testing rhyme, reciting verse, developing story characters, and more. Everyone is welcome; the only prerequisite is imagination.



4000 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814 • 562/439-6873
www.lbschools.net/fremont

Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

Go Green



Kevin Maddox
Principal

By Vanessa Van Dyck, Teacher – Science

Already off to a great start is our GO GREEN Club at Jefferson Leadership Academies! GO GREEN is a recycling club of volunteers, who recycle from the first through the last weeks of school. Students meet after school each Wednesday for recycling and mini-lessons about the environment and greening our community. Student leaders and mentors run the show,

and this year our goals include a more proactive approach to sorting lunch waste, closing the loop with composting, and an upcoming native plant and habitat garden.

GO GREEN welcomes collaboration with local organizations, such as The City of Long Beach, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Food Finders, DonorsChoose.org, Grades of Green and a company that has provided a freight container for storing all our bottles and cans. As we continue to evaluate our lunch waste, we are exploring food donations and composting with our new composter. Little by little, we are grooming our students into proactive citizens of a GO GREEN Long Beach community!

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

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

Young Marines Unit Leads the Way



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

By Mrs. McCarty-Gann

A group of students from the South East County Young Marines unit assisted with Kettering Elementary School's 2014 Red Ribbon Week. The unit created 14 wonderful posters that encouraged children to say no to drugs.

That Friday, they assisted with the Kettering School Red Ribbon kickoff assembly. The unit provided color guards, and one Young Marine from Kettering, Private Jackson McCarty-Gann, gave a speech on the meaning of Red Ribbon Week. Red ribbons were handed out to students to tie to their backpacks, and the entire student body and staff received pencils, stickers, bookmarks and bracelets.

On Saturday, the unit gathered at Kettering Elementary and placed over 40 red ribbons as well as colorful creative posters they made all across the school campus. It was very exciting to see the children on Monday as they headed into school and saw all the red ribbons and encouraging posters!

On behalf of the SE County Young Marines, we want to thank the Kettering staff and parents for allowing our unit to participate in such a worthy national event.

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

Holmes *Elementary*

Ready for the Future



Luana Wesley
Principal

By Allison Cassidy, Third Grade Teacher

Teachers at Holmes are dedicated to having our students ready for the future in all ways, including technology. All teachers now have Ipads to use for reference, teaching, and grade book. The teachers have spent many hours in training sessions. We are experimenting with different ways to use the Ipad sources. Next year, 5th grade students will have Ipads for daily use, then the following year 4th grade students.

In addition, teachers are spending time in workshops at their grade levels. This will allow all students to benefit from great ideas, collaboration about the CCSS, and ensure continuity through achievement reports.

5020 Barlin Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/633-4427
www.lbschools.net/holmes

Jordan *High School*

From the Classroom to the Construction Site



Shawn Ashley
Principal



William Salas
Co-Principal

Jordan High School has a new program for those students who are thinking that college is not for them, at least not quite yet. In a partnership with the Laborers' Union and a local construction company, Jordan will offer a construction class during the second

semester for 12th-grade students who think they might want a career in construction. The construction class will include: terminology, measurements, power tools, work expectations, first aid, safety, framing, blueprint reading and basic knowledge of electricity and plumbing. In addition, the students will work with a physical trainer to get in shape for the rigors of being a laborer. Students who earn a grade of B or better in the construction class will be invited to a five-day boot camp put on by the Laborers' Union. Students who complete the boot camp will be invited to become apprentices, where they will learn the skills necessary to earn union cards. Apprentice positions start at \$16 per hour, and their pay can go as high as \$32 per hour. Apprenticeship consists of classroom sessions, hands-on activities and on-the-job training. Apprentices will not have to travel far to their work site, because our partner construction company is currently building the new high school and has vowed to employ the Jordan apprentices at the Jordan site.

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

Leadership Tea



Cheryl Cornejo
Co-Principal



Mario Jimenez
Principal

By The Ladies of the Female Leadership Academy

October 30th found the Ladies of the Female Leadership Academy finishing the last touches and research of their 1st Annual Tea.

Tables were setup in school colors, red, white & black. A table in Pink was added for

Breast Cancer Awareness, having 4 empty seats for those who could not attend. After weeks of classroom and club research, it was show time. A first for many of the young women, the tea drew applause from all the guest.

With a silent auction keeping the guest on the edge of their seats, the young women presented a PowerPoint about what goals and directions they have for Lakewood Female Leadership Academy. Pictured are just a few of the members.

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



Lee *Elementary*

Making a Difference at Lee!



Caroline Nemeč
Principal

By Eli Lund

Yellow and blue balloons adorned the gates at Lee Elementary on Make a Difference Day. Over 400 families,

volunteers and District officials gathered on this joyous occasion. Rick Rackers volunteers greeted families with smiles and cheers. Rick Rackers, a philanthropic group which works with the Assistance League of Long Beach, filled and delivered over 900 backpacks with two



uniforms and school supplies along with the help of UPS. The DJ's music filled the schoolyard as people danced in celebration. Cubby, our school mascot greeted parents and volunteers while Beta Pi Sigma sold danishes and Halloween treats to donate proceeds to the school. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, teachers, staff and parents who participated in this community effort.

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

Lincoln *Elementary*

Getting Fit



Christi Granado
Principal

*By Tracy Fideler-Rodriguez,
Fifth Grade Teacher*

“Go Club Fit!” This is the cheer that fifth graders and CSULB students shout at the end of their workouts at Lincoln Elementary School.

Club Fit is a mentee-mentor program that has paired up fifth grade students with kinesiology students under the direction of their professor, Dr. Christine Galvan. Our fifth-graders are led in a variety cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility exercises disguised as fun and engaging games to help build motor skills and knowledge of fitness and nutrition concepts. These students are receiving fitness instruction along with social and emotional support as they connect with their college mentors.



At Lincoln Elementary, we are always aiming to enrich the lives of our students and Club Fit is helping our students rise to their greatest potential!

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

Lindbergh *STEM Academy*

STEM Academy Attends Conference



Connie Magee
Principal

On November 8, Lindbergh's very own G.E.M.S. (Girls Excelling in Math and Science) attended an all-girl STEM conference held at CSULB. They showed off their STEM skills by building submersibles, building bridges out of spaghetti

and marshmallows, and making music out of plastic cups and tubes. They met women professionals who shared their experiences in the STEM field. It was an unforgettable experience! STEM Girls Rock!



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

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Lindsey Academy (6–8)

Intervention Programs



Lorena Moreno
Principal

In order to meet the needs of our students at Lindsey, several intervention programs are being implemented. Lindsey offers students tutorial programs twice a week, Saturday School, as well as Male and Female Academy.

We have designed tutorial programs and Saturday School to create additional opportunities for Lindsey students to improve their current academic standing. Our tutorial programs help students fulfill one or more of the following; make-up missed assignments, complete upcoming assignments and projects with the help and assistance of our on-campus tutors and peer tutors from Jordan High Schools IB program. Our primary goal is to work together in order to achieve a Triangle of Success for our students that involve students, parents and teachers.

October 31, 2014 the Perry Lindsey MALE Academy held a session co-facilitated by Jermaine Harris, Executive Director of Black Family United, and Terence Booth,



Lindsey MA Coordinator that focused on trust and integrity. Students participated in a trust-building activity where they were paired in teams of two, while one student was blind-folded, and had to complete an obstacle course by being guided by the sound of their partner's voice. We also had a discussion about "integrity" and how this defines their character.

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

Longfellow Elementary

National PTA Honor School



Laurie Murrin
Principal

National PTA recognizes Longfellow Elementary School as a 2014–16 National PTA School of Excellence for building effective family-school partnerships. In the spirit of this honor, families feel welcome and empowered to support student success. PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

In celebration, Longfellow welcomed Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, Councilman Roberto Uranga, U.S Rep. Alan Lowenthal and other public figures during its First Friday Flag ceremony in the school's courtyard.

"We received this honor because of existing programs we have been doing at Longfellow and our events that welcomed parents and students and helped enrich the education experience." said Mrs. Naomi Worrell-Tate, current PTA president



U.S. Rep Lowenthal presented a National PTA School of Excellence certificate to Longfellow's PTA .

"They are doing phenomenal work," agreed Renee Jackson, National PTA's senior manager of educational programs.

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

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

Watch Us Grow



Marie Hatwan
Principal

“Watch Us Grow” is the slogan the PTA is using at Los Cerritos representing the increasing number of members joining for the 2014 – 2015 school year. The pictures show the tree growing new leaves for every PTA member enrolled. The goal is 75% and we have almost reached it. Our site collaborates with parents, teachers, our staff, the local community and our students toward student growth, wellness, and achievement.



The catchphrase “Watch Us Grow” also represents programs at our school as we grow to include programs such as Engineering in Elementary and ST Math. Our established programs include a garden program, The Green Team, Art Masters and so much more! Our school brand is certainly apropos as: “Where Creativity and Rigor Meet.”

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

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www.TargetedHistoryTutoring.com

MacArthur *Elementary*

Celebrating Character



Scott Fleming
Principal

The MacArthur community believes in developing character in its students. So each month we hold a school-wide assembly to celebrate our monthly successes and also set a new focus on a specific character trait.

During this first three months of the school year our emphasis has been on the three foundational pieces of character, which includes responsibility, respect and citizenship. These “Call to Order” assemblies begin with a student-of-the-month breakfast catered by a local restaurant. Each student who exemplifies our specific character focus, as well as their parents and nominating teacher, are all invited to attend the celebration.

The assemblies begin at 9 a.m, when Pack 140 leads our school in the Pledge of Allegiance. The month’s recipients are then acknowledged by the entire student body. The next month’s character focus is explained to the students, and they are all challenged to exhibit the trait.

This year we are celebrating an increase in attendance rates and student interventions, along with a 100 percent increase in our Trunk-or-Treat car decorating contest. The PTA has also raised over \$10,000. Thank you and congratulations to our MacArthur family!

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

Marshall *Academy of the Arts*

Students on the Move



Michael Navia
Principal

In January, 200 seventh- and eighth-grade students at Marshall Academy of the Arts will be attending a three-day marine-biology camp at Toyon Bay, Catalina Island. After arrival, the students will be participating in many activities that include snorkeling; a lab on fish, shark and algae species; a squid dissection; and hiking. In addition, the students will be taking on a challenging feature at the camp—the 12-lane climbing wall!

During their stay on the island, students will be staying in dormitories and eating at the dining hall within the cove. The marine institute facility also contains touch tanks, aquariums, recreational fields and a beach amphitheater. This is the same camp at which a 12-foot oarfish was discovered in October 2013!

The camp will most certainly be a fun and educational experience for the students, staff and chaperones of Marshall Academy of the Arts.

5870 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/429-7013
www.lbschools.net/marshall

Students Welcome “Horace, the Orca Whale”



Donna McKeehan-Marr
Principal

This year during the annual Fall Literacy Festival, students were surprised to see an orca whale walking around on the playground. There were “hugs” and “high fives” given to Horace, the name PTA gave the mascot, by many of the students. Mann’s PTA wanted to bring more student spirit to the campus and did so through bringing the mascot to life. All of the students are looking forward to Horace returning for various celebrations and special student recognitions throughout the year. A great big thank you goes out to the



Mann PTA for providing this wonderful opportunity.

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

MIT Launches Real-World Learning

By Katie Hickox



Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo
Principal



Monica Daley
Principal of Instruction

The Millikan High School Integrated Technology (MIT) program launched the school year with a Saturday field trip to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory Open House in Pasadena in October. Students traveled to the National Aeronautic and Space Administration

(NASA) facility to learn about the history of the universe and to see the latest robotic technologies in development. The trip enhanced the academy’s technology mission and focus. MIT students follow a pathway of courses, which includes information technology instruction.



“The most important part of the trip was the joy of seeing the students excited about technology and how it opened up new job opportunities for their future,” noted Ron Quintana, the co-lead teacher of the academy.

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



Christmas Word Search Contest!



Rules!

One word in the list is NOT in the word search. When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to:

Kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

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

Entries must be received by **January 15, 2015**. From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

Congratulations to Latesha Jones Winner of the October Word Search Contest!

- BOWS
- CANDY CANES
- CHIMNEY
- CHRISTMAS
- COAL
- DECORATIONS
- EGG NOG
- ELF
- GINGERBREAD
- JINGLE BELLS
- LIGHTS
- NORTH POLE
- ORNAMENT
- PRESENTS
- RUDOLPH
- SANTA CLAUS
- SLEIGH
- SNOW
- SNOWMAN
- STOCKINGS
- TREE

S E N A C Y D N A C B D H X N
L N Z O S S G N I K C O T S A
L I O L A O C O M V P R L C M
E H G I N G E R B R E A D C W
B G L G T U Z T N E M A N R O
E I G H A A H H I Z N H C K N
L E R T C P R P A I F Q J E S
G L S S L D K O Q F U S I I W
N S J O A H M L C L H Y G O O
I G D X U P R E S E N T S N B
J U Q P S O R W H V D L T O Y
R O Y B M B Y U Z U Q X V H Y

The Games are Afoot!

By Camille Wilson and Amber Shamley

Math Workshop is up and rolling in Amber Shamley's first-grade with games that keep students engaged and learning about basic facts to 10 through problem solving.

In "Collect Ten," students make 10 with dot-filled ten frame cards—10 is an important benchmark number for adding greater sums. "Doubles" reviews doubles facts by rolling a die, doubling the number



Lori Clark
Principal



rolled, and covering the number representing the sum. "Haunted Seven" gives students additional practice subtracting. Students roll the die, subtract the number rolled from seven, and move the numbers of spaces representing the difference. Players must beware of landing on a witch—there's a stiff penalty of moving back seven spaces!

Students see that strong math skills can add up to a winning game!

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

Student Finds a Big Sister

By Andrea Hernandez, Student

In October, I was asked to speak before Big Brothers and Big Sisters at a hotel in Beverly Hills. The Big Brothers and Big Sisters program is based on pairing students with mentors. I had a great feeling from the start and had an amazing experience.

My speech was a bit about myself, the program's importance and why I choose to be in it. I also mentioned that I still didn't have



Steve Rockenbach
Principal



Andrea Hernandez and new Mentor, Katherine Heigl.

a big sister. Following my talk, actress Katherine Heigl jumped up and said she wanted to be my big sister! It was truly amazing, and many doors opened for me that day.

Ernest McBride High School has allowed so many opportunities thus far and helped me to be who I am.

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

Scary Story Winner

By Alex Nagger and Brian Stevenson
Yearbook Students

In early October, Ava Carbonara, a sixth-grade student from Newcomb, won third place in the Press-Telegram's annual scary story contest. Her creative-writing-elective teacher, Mrs. Al-Mulla, assigned the task, and Ava wrote it herself.

Mrs. Al-Mulla encourages students to use their imagination to make beautiful art.



Wendy Sowinski
Principal

She also encourages other students to do their best at all times in her class. She helped Ava and the rest of the class overcome beginning the story with lessons on interesting openers that will engage the reader. In the story, "The Monster Within," a man becomes a monster and eats his wife. Ava said that an epic quote from the story is "with such a powerful force it shook the ground, then the whole building collapsed." This seemed revealing and intriguing for the story. "I didn't think I'd win," Ava said.

Her friend Hailey Martinez said, "It was very scary. I'm happy she won—there were a lot of details."

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

Powell Academy (K–8)

Learning Superstars



Wendy Claffin
Principal

Powell is fortunate to have a team of excellent teachers on its staff. The school also has three National Board Certified teachers as well, a special designation which indicates that they have passed a rigorous examination process in order to be credentialed to teach in any state in the country.

Karen Velasquez, Emily Lloyd and Susan Garcia are Powell's National Board Certified teachers. Each of these superstars cited the desire to become a better teacher as their primary motivation to pursue this rigorous program. Mrs. Lloyd and Mrs. Velasquez, both fourth-grade teachers, stated that the National Board Certification provided an opportunity for them to examine their teaching practices to ensure that their classrooms are student-centered, assessment-driven learning communities.

Mrs. Lloyd stated, "NBC's greatest benefit is the process that requires systematic analysis of my teaching practices to ensure that my lessons are the best they can be." Ms.



Susan Garcia, Karen Velasquez, and Emily Lloyd.

Garcia, our Powell science department's lead teacher, believes that the greatest benefit of her certification has been in how she sees her classrooms becoming more engaged in the learning process. We are so fortunate to have these fantastic teachers serve as role models for our own scholars.

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

Polytechnic High School

A School and a Family



Diane Prince
Principal of Instruction



Victor Jarels
Co-Principal

By Zoe Adler
Poly High Life Staff Writer

Poly is not only a school but also a family—home not just to scholars, champions, and musicians, but also to coaches and alumni who care for the school deeply. Since 1969, Smiles Eugene Walker of Toledo, OH, has served as a coach, security officer, office assistant and volunteer, walking from his home and back without fail. In the 50s and 60s, Walker served in the military and played semi-pro basketball. When Walker coached at Poly, he ensured that his students had the mentoring they needed to become successful as athletes, scholars, and all-around good people. Anonymous as he is, Poly students are now making an effort to give back to the man who cares so deeply for them.



1600 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-0581
www.lbschools.net/poly

Prisk Elementary

Prisk Ignites Student Citizens



Damon Jespersen
Principal

As part of Prisk's school wide program, students can earn "Ignition Slips." Each letter of PRISK represents a value we strive for on campus (P for Positive, R for Respectful, I for Intelligent, S for Scholarly, and K for Kind). Students who earn ignition slips are eligible for a weekly drawing. Our principal, Mr. Jespersen announces winners from each grade on our weekly TV broadcasts.

Winners choose a prize out of our wooden chest, donated by fifth grade teacher, Michael Lelesi, who spent over 200 hours this summer hand crafting the Ignition slip chest. Our chest is proudly displayed in front of the main office, a symbol of all that is good in our school.



Our chest is crafted out of African Mahogany, and Curly Maple wood. PRISK is hand chiseled in the front.

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

Renaissance *High School for the Arts*

Singin' in the Rain



Quentin Brown
Principal

Renaissance High School for the Arts (RHSA) proudly presented "Singin' in the Rain," the stage adaptation of the "Greatest Movie Musical of All Time." In silent movies, Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont were a hot item, but behind the scenes things weren't always as they appeared on the big screen! Lina's squeaky voice looked like it would end her career in "talking pictures" until she got some help from a talented young actress.

This production was a collaboration of the school's Theater, Music, Dance and Visual Arts Departments. The musical score was performed by the RHSA orchestra. Additionally, Renaissance students worked on every aspect of the show's production, from set design and stagecraft to sound, lighting, costume design and makeup.

235 E. 8th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/901-0168
www.lbschools.net/renaissance



Signal Hill *Elementary*

Who is Your Hero; Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman?



Tammy Lavelle
Principal

By Lucy Carbajal, School Nurse

Students at Signal Hill had a different kind of superhero visit. We had the teams from "Vision to Learn" and the "Big Smile" program come and provide services to our students. The optometrist and her assistant were able to see 21 students and 18 students will be receiving free glasses. The dentist and his two assistants were also part of the excitement and they were able to see and examine 27 students. The children's teeth were x-rayed, cleaned and examined and some were able to have sealants put on their molars. These heroic professionals were greeted with enthusiasm and a smile from each one of our students.

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



Vision visit.

Stephens *Middle School*

Back-to-School Night



Salvador Madrigal
Principal

By Becky Robbins, Librarian

Our Back-to-School Night was a hit! It began with campus clubs selling food and drinks. There was a full house at the Title I parent meeting which followed in the auditorium. Parents were then invited to visit their children's classrooms, where teachers shared classroom expectations and their course curriculum for the year. As an incentive for students and parents to attend, students received passports, which were

signed by their teachers after the classroom presentations. They were given a free-dress pass if they received signatures from all their teachers.

The book fair in the library was also visited by many. We had a very successful evening, with approximately 350 families in attendance!

In addition, parents signed a pledge to support our Keep It Under Five campaign. Parents were encouraged to help us by keeping their children's absences under five for the year. We appreciate their support, and to date we have had great success. In September our attendance was 98.35 percent, and in October it was 97.97 percent.

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

Smith's Annual Halloween Parade 2014



Monica Alas
Principal

On Friday, October 31st, Smith Elementary School celebrated its annual Halloween Parade. We had many students and parents participate in this exciting community event. The students all looked amazing in their Halloween costumes dressed as cartoon characters, super heroes, princesses, warriors and community workers. The community of students and staff enjoyed the afternoon with music, collection of candy and raffle give-away. All teachers in each grade level competed in a Halloween table decorating contest.



First grade teachers (above) and kindergarten teachers (below).



This years winners were the teachers of kindergarten and first grade! Congratulations to our grade level winners who will receive catered lunch from Baja Sonora! Everyone at Smith Elementary School would like to wish the entire community a wonderful holiday season.

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

A Wonderful Veterans Day



Jacqueline Williams
Principal

What a glorious fall morning! Our Girl Scout Troop #3273 started off the event by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Veterans, students, staff and families were then treated to a memorable performance of God Bless America and The Star Spangled Banner by Mrs. Mitchell's "High Tide" quartet.

Fifth-graders Hannah Uyan and Tyler Whittenbury were recognized for their creative artwork for the front and back cover of our program, and third-grader Anadi Patel shared her personal thoughts about Veterans Day and what it means to her.

To round out the ceremony, Nicholas Staller, our fifth-grade student council president, read a Veterans Day poem. Fifth-grader Joe Abdelmelek sang a beautiful a cappella version of the song Thank You Soldiers. There did not seem to be a dry eye in the house after his performance.

A new addition to our program, and soon to be a crowd favorite, Brenden Stevens played Amazing Grace on his trumpet to help close out the program. What would this ceremony be without our students singing the military branch songs and waving their American flags proudly?

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

School News



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Tincher Preparatory School (K-8)

GEAR-Up



Rosemary Sissons
Principal

Six eighth grade students received \$12,000 in educational grants in June.

Through Tincher's 9 year partnership with the California GEAR-Up Program, the K-8 School

GEAR-Up team was able to provide each

awardee with a \$2000 grant to be used for post-secondary education. GEAR-Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is administered by the University of California. The program's goals are to "Develop and sustain the organizational capacity of middle schools to prepare ALL students for high school and higher education through a statewide network of support for adults — counselors, faculty, school leaders and families — who influence middle school students".



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

Whittier Elementary

"Wed Wibbon Week"



Lori Grady
Principal

By Nancy Jo Rettig, Counselor at Whittier

Even the Kindergarteners understand the meaning behind Red Ribbon Week. It's just that they might say it with a bit of a lisp.

Regardless of pronunciation, all students were involved in decorating the campus with educational posters. Banners displaying the harms of smoking, excessive drinking (alcohol) and using illicit drugs were seen at every corner.

Prizes were given for the most creative slogans and designs.

Edward was excited to declare his intentions to be a doctor someday and was inspired by our "Healthy Body, Healthy Mind" curriculum.

Coincidentally, Tenitrice added that she is planning to be a nurse.



Perhaps they will meet again someday at a hospital and recall "Wed Wibbon Week."

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

Washington *Middle School*

Student Collaboration in the Classroom



Megan Traver
Principal

The Washington Middle School Patriots have embarked on a new and exciting journey in the area of implementing collaborative conversations in our classrooms. Students are accountable for reading complex, nonfiction text, taking their own notes, and then collaborating in teams to discuss concepts from the text. The idea is that students will be accountable to one another for reading and comprehending the text.

Collaborative conversations give students the opportunity to learn important social skills and also build off one another's ideas, therefore deepening their understanding of the text. When asked about collaborative conversations, eighth-grade student Wendy Ruelas said, "Not only do you learn from your teachers, you also learn from your partners."

Teachers have embraced this exciting new shift in instruction and have been pleasantly surprised with the outcome. "The kids students getting it!" said Ms. Ennover. "It just takes hard work, dedication, planning, and structure...then it really works!"

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

Willard *Elementary*

Willard Teachers Visit Williamsburg Virginia



Dr. Cassandra Richards
Principal

By Victoria Joseph, Fifth Grade Teacher

This past summer, my 5th grade colleagues, William Diaz Brown, Sheila Lee and I had the opportunity to travel to Williamsburg, Virginia to learn firsthand about American History. We were selected from a large group of teachers within the Los Angeles County to attend the week-long Teacher Institute at Williamsburg.

During the week, we experienced the colonial judicial system, Jamestown, and the battlefield at Yorktown. We also had an opportunity to wear colonial clothing and eat colonial style meals. Another highlight of this trip was that each participant was given an historical person to research and then given time to teach others about that person. The Williamsburg Teacher Institute was a fantastic experience! It was like stepping back in time!

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

Webster *Elementary*

Annual Jog-a-Thon

By Juan Fernandez and Sue Lyon, Special Education Teachers K-1, 4-5 Grade



Maria Martinez
Principal

October and November were months for joggers and trotters. Webster Elementary held their annual jog-a-thon in October and their Turkey Trot in November. As part of the jog-a-thon, students, sponsored by family and friends, ran for twenty minutes. One hundred twenty five students raised money to be used for the beautification of the Webster campus.

1,300 dollars were raised during this year's successful jog-a-thon. The annual turkey trot is a long standing Webster tradition. Each class selects its two fastest male and female students to participate in this event. These representatives race by grade level. The first place winner of each grade level wins a turkey and the runner up takes home a delicious pumpkin pie.

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



Vicki Joseph, Sheila Lee & William Diaz-Brown.



Chris Rodenhizer
Head of School

State of the County Luncheon

Each year the Los Angeles County Supervisor addresses local business leaders, politicians, various non-profit organizations and other community members about the current state of Los Angeles County. The event serves as a great opportunity for community members to get a “snap shot” of the current health of Los Angeles County.

Westerly School’s Director of Student Affairs, David Perram, has attended each year as an intrigued community member trying to learn more about his community in order to better serve it. One of David’s primary goals has been to teach his students how to be positive and contributing members of society. He teaches them to use their voice, seek justice, and be the creators of the world they live within. It made sense for David to no longer be the “middle man”, relaying the messages from County Supervisor Don Knabe back to the Westerly community, but rather bring some students from the Westerly community to hear for themselves. David wants to expose students to the system they live within so they are better prepared to navigate and/or change it as they grow into successful members of society.

This year, Supervisor Knabe constructed his speech around leadership practices and supported these notions with work that has been done throughout Los Angeles County this year. A very appropriate topic since it was members of Westerly’s student leadership team who were in attendance. Some core themes consisted of:

- Staying true to your values
- Building bridges and maintaining relationships
- Walking your talk – make action

Amongst these themes, he discussed leadership transition amongst elected officials, successful construction projects, after-school and community youth programs, and the Affordable Care Act. He closed his presentation by highlighting some major successes that he had promised from the previous year.

Throughout the entire presentation, the Westerly students were well-mannered, poised, professional, and engaged. The Convention Center was packed with over 60 county politicians and business representatives from over 120 different organizations. The Westerly representatives were the only students in the room and it was clear they were recognized and respected by surrounding tables for their interest in the progress of their community.

Here are a few comments from the students:

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity of getting to attend the 8th Annual State of the County Address. The experience taught me more about the county, leadership, and local politics. I now have a greater understanding of how much work is put in by the county each year in an effort to support the people of all its neighborhoods. It also was very beneficial to hear how hard the supervisor works to create a positive change. —Christina Marsh, 8th Grade

This was an amazing experience for me because I got to learn much more about what’s happening in my city. Supervisor Knabe was an amazing speaker, he was informative and interactive. He provided great advice about leadership which I can apply to my own life, like staying true to your values. My experience here was great and I would definitely go next year. —Katarina Ledesma, 7th Grade



Katarina Ledesma, Christina Marsh, David Perram, Isabela Casillas and Andrew Gonzalez.

I thought the State of the County was a great experience. It taught me about the many different programs and resources aimed at helping the community. I now have a whole new view on how people can work together to help end problems within our communities. Supervisor Knabe even mentioned the importance of young leaders helping with these issues. This would be a good experience for other people who are interested in helping the community.

—Andrew Gonzalez, 8th Grade

I was very interested in Supervisor Knabe’s initiatives toward building much needed libraries in areas like Whittier, Lomita and Artesia. I see this as an important project because some students do not have access to the educational tools they need to complete their homework at their school or home. They rely on public resources like libraries to use books and computers. These new libraries will be able to allow students to access newer books that have current information for their essays and presentations. These libraries will also have a quiet space to do schoolwork. They will also have access to books to read for recreation, which I think will increase the love of reading in these communities.

—Isabela Casillas, 8th Grade

Westerly’s philosophy believes that student involvement in the community and community involvement in the school are fundamental components of a complete education. This experience is a beautiful example of the school finding new and unique ways to support this philosophy.

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Home Equity Loan & Your Credit Score?



CathyLyn Brooks

Home equity lines of credit are becoming more popular again, and more possible since we have recovered somewhat from the financial meltdown.

Credit is easing overall and a line of credit secured by your home can be helpful. If managed properly, they are efficient for completing home remodeling, educational expenses, medical emergencies and so on.

Placing funds pulled from the home equity line on red in Vegas would be an example of not managing the equity line well.

One of the more convenient aspects of the home equity line of credit (HELOC) is the ability to borrow from it and pay back to the line in similar fashion as that of a credit card. However, that raises the question is this revolving line of credit similar to your MasterCard or Visa? Or is it considered a loan against the property, and how will the presence and management of this be reported and affect your FICO score?

Simply put, it will affect your score. A HELOC however is not treated as a revolving debt, but rather is reported as a mortgage loan. It will be shown as debt, but will not be included in the calculation that creates your debt- to-total available credit ratio.

You will want to make all payments in a timely manner and be cautious to not use the funds for indulgences that will soon be forgotten. Too often I meet sellers who wonder why their net will be so little when their home is sold. That credit line is a portion of the equity your home holds for you.

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.

Tips for Buying a Car (Part 2)



Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO

Preparing yourself with the information you need to make a sound financial decision on your next car purchase can potentially save you a lot of money and headache.

Best time to buy: New vehicle models come out as early as late summer. Right now is still an excellent time to negotiate a deal because dealerships are trying to move their current year models for 2015 models. End of the calendar year is also a good time to buy because a lot of the automakers and dealerships want to close the year with as many sales as possible. Winter months are the slowest season and dealers and automakers will more than likely have extra incentives to offer.

Negotiate your purchase: Do your homework and get bids from different dealers before making the purchase final. It's always good to focus on the dealer's invoice price versus the manufacturer price. If you hate haggling, consider using an auto buying service and they can do all the leg work for you. All you need to do is let them know your budget and the type of car that fits your lifestyle.

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