

FREE

School News



Education + Communication = A Better Nation

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

Volume 16, Issue 118

www.SchoolNewsRollCall.com

February / March 2015

Girls DREAM



(Please see Edison Elementary page 17.)

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Netragrednik



Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher

We are into our 16th year publishing the excellence from the LBUSD. That seems like a milestone to me until I read Mayor Wilson's article about the City of Signal Hill celebrating 90 years! Congratulations!

In this issue you will read about the longest serving city official, the importance of protecting our environment, a Police Chief's teachable moment, and informative medical articles from the LB Dept. of Health and Human Services and Miller Children's & Women's Medical Center of LB.

The school articles will make you want to be back in the classroom. This is an exciting time with the implementation of technology in the classrooms. I am grateful to have grandchildren to guide me with my introduction to Skype, etc. If you are following us on Facebook and Twitter, you will receive links to the latest issues of all of our 28 publications on the day they go to print. Or you may sign up on our website to receive digital copies of the publications of your choice.

Next issue is April 8.

School News

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covering the

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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City of Signal Hill Office of the Mayor



Ed Wilson
Mayor

Celebrating 90 Years

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the City of Signal Hill. A lot has been written about its history; about the Indians who inhabited the area, Spanish land grants, ranchos, agriculture, and ultimately the discovery of oil in 1921. Prior to incorporation, Signal Hill was completely surrounded by the City of Long Beach and was unincorporated territory.

When the movement started to annex Signal Hill to Long Beach, residents united in opposition to the movement, and on April 14, 1924, the two-square mile area of Signal Hill became an incorporated city.

The tranquil farming community was just beginning to turn into a bustling oil town. The population at that time was about 1,500, and today, it's 11,400.

Jessie Elwin Nelson, who was instrumental in stopping the annexation, became the first Mayor. She was the fourth female mayor in the state, and our newest school, Jessie Nelson Academy is named in her honor.

Join us as we celebrate 90 years of the City of Signal Hill with many community events throughout 2014.

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Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

A Rich History of Electing Women

March is National Women's History month and a good time for us to remember Long Beach's longest-serving elected official, Myrtelle Gunsul, who was Long Beach City Auditor from 1919 until 1951.

We can only imagine the challenges Myrtelle Gunsul faced in the early days of her City service because women in professional positions were rare. In fact, she was elected at a time when California's women could vote, but it would be another year before the 19th Amendment allowed all American women to vote.

Even though City Auditor Gunsul never made a speech, citizens were aware of her work and she was trusted as their "watchdog of the City treasury". Voters showed appreciation for the City Auditor's dedication to her job by electing her eleven times!

Myrtelle Gunsul wrote an inspiring letter in 1931 for a time capsule as part of the celebration of the City's new Municipal Auditorium. The letter was retrieved later and a copy is posted in my office's Gunsul Conference Room. It is addressed "To the Women of the Future", and in it, Myrtelle Gunsul shared her hope that women "shall enter into public service and instill high ideals and motives into both political and business life." She also recognized her role as a trailblazer, and she further noted that she hoped her endeavors and her record would be an incentive for other women to enter into public office.

This remarkable woman's visionary hopes for Long Beach came true. Elected and appointed women continue to contribute to the betterment of our City. Ruth Bach was the first woman elected to the City Council in 1954 and 16 women have served since on the Council.

We wonder if Myrtelle Gunsul imagined that someday women would hold the City's highest office. In 1980, Eunice Sato became the first woman to serve as Mayor of Long Beach and in 1994, Beverly O'Neill became the City's first full-time citywide elected woman Mayor.

I, along with today's women with aspirations of public service in Long Beach, owe much to those women who came before us – and especially, Myrtelle Gunsul.

Read more about Myrtelle Gunsul:

www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com or visit the history exhibit in the City Auditor's Office in City Hall. Please call (562) 570-6751 for an appointment as the exhibit is in a working conference room.

333 West Ocean Blvd., 8th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/579-6751
www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com



Dr. Robert Garcia
Mayor

Protecting Our Environment

Environmental sustainability and resiliency are critically important to our city and our nation. Learning to protect our environment must begin at a young age, as today's students are tomorrow's scientists, inventors, and political leaders. President Obama has called climate change the "defining issue of our generation," and young people will play an important role in developing solutions to this issue.

That's one reason the City of Long Beach has been working with the Long Beach School District to offer education and hands-on experience with sustainability to students.

For example, we are working with the environmental non-profit Global Inheritance to bring a recycling education and litter reduction campaign to local schools. We are distributing 40 refuse containers, painted with works of art by local artists, that will remind students to "reduce, reuse, and recycle."

We have also worked with the Hughes Middle School Green Team, a National Green Ribbon School, providing mulch and a rain barrel for their gardening and agriculture projects, and we've helped create and sustain edible gardens and at many local schools. Some of these schools have also visited our own Civic Center Edible Garden to see how vegetables can be grown under almost any condition.

Our sustainability department also visits local schools to highlight careers that protect and preserve our environment. And we offer tours at Willow Springs Park that focus on sustainability.

Whenever I talk with young people, one of their biggest concerns is global warming, and every time I visit a classroom or host visiting students at City Hall, protecting our environment is always something students ask about. It's very encouraging to hear young people take responsibility for making our city and country more sustainable, and I know that the generation of Americans now in school is going to do great things to make the world a better place. I'm proud that the City of Long Beach can partner with our school district to increase sustainability awareness through education, and I look forward to a continued collaboration on this important issue.

333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/570-6801
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City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

Police Chief's Teachable Moment

When Robert Luna was tapped to take over as Chief of Police after Jim McDonnell was elected LA County Sheriff, no one could have predicted how events would quickly unfold.

Two days after Chief Luna was sworn in, a Grand Jury in Ferguson, Missouri, declined to indict a white police officer who shot and killed an 18 year old unarmed black man named Michael Brown. That announcement triggered a national debate on use of force by police officers, increasing tensions between minority groups and law enforcement.

Chief Luna accepted an invitation to a Town Hall meeting to address many issues, including those raised by the Brown case. The meeting, held at Antioch Church and presided over by Pastor Wayne Chaney, Jr., was a historic, unprecedented event.

The Chief addressed the audience, many of whom were black, on a number of sensitive topics ranging from how the department investigates allegations of misconduct to officer diversity. If you skipped the event, you missed an extraordinary moment for our City and its police department.

First, Chief Luna made the unprecedented effort to bring his entire command staff with him. Twenty-six of the highest-ranking officers from every corner of the department attended to respond to questions. Not only has this never happened in Long Beach, I have never heard of this happening in any major City in America.

Second, no question was off limits. Tough questions, unfiltered by City staff, were asked and in response, unscripted answers were given. The answers were notably direct and forthright.

In response to a question about police officer recruitment, the Department's rigorous requirements and screening processes were explained. Then, once they are hired, police officers are held to the highest standards where officers are expected to follow their training and always act in accordance with the law, what Chief Luna called, "Constitutional policing." Luna even invited the public to help improve police recruitment.

Luna credited the Department's partnership with the community for achieving the City's low violent crime rate. While other cities have seen spikes in crime in 2014, Long Beach recorded its lowest total number of violent crime in 43 years.

Despite the momentous news about crime dropping, the Chief quickly added that LBPD has a long road ahead. When asked to grade his Department, Chief Luna showed he was harder on himself than anyone else might be. "I'd say a 5 or 6 out of 10," he responded. "There is a lot of work still needed."

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CITY OF LONG BEACH CITY PROSECUTOR • *continued*

The night revealed a public servant doing his best to engage and inform the public. Some attendees were surprised to hear Chief Luna discuss his personal upbringing in East Los Angeles, an area known for impoverished neighborhoods where police officers are often seen as enemies, not protectors. His childhood experiences forged in him a sensitivity to community perceptions about police -- and a desire to change those perceptions, especially among youth and minorities.

Chief Luna acknowledged that police cannot reduce crime on their own. He invited those attending to partner with the Police Department, a sentiment that sparked agreement from many attending.

Pastor Gregory Sanders, President of the Ministers Alliance and co-organizer of the Chief's Town Hall meeting, extolled the audience to work collaboratively. If that happens, Pastor Sanders noted, "We can have the City we want."

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

Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

Measles Epidemic



Dr. Mitchell Kushner
City Health Officer

The happiest place on earth has taken center stage over the past few weeks as ground zero for a measles epidemic that has impacted the City of Long Beach, many other regional Southern California health departments, and the states of Utah, Washington, and Colorado. At press time there have been at least 28 confirmed measles cases identified, with the possibility of more to come. Our City has already identified two cases.

To understand how measles, a childhood disease practically eliminated in the United States in the year 2000, has become an important news story, is to understand the specific factors that have contributed not only to this epidemic, but the fact that last year nationally there were over 600 cases of measles, the highest number in over 15 years, and in California 70 cases in 2014 up from 18 the prior year.

Measles, as a childhood disease, is one of the most contagious of all childhood illnesses including influenza, especially for infants and pregnant women. Considering the size and openness of the Disneyland theme parks, one infectious visitor during the specific dates of Dec. 17th-20th has led to our current outbreak. A patient with measles is infectious as soon as coughing and sneezing begin, sometimes over four days before the telltale rash appears. Many younger providers have never seen a measles case, which is another factor in misdiagnosis, and more opportunity for transmission.

Most of the Disneyland cases have occurred among unvaccinated children. Declining vaccination rates are starting to pose a big risk for our vulnerable populations. Fatalities and severe complications from measles, while uncommon, have been documented. Lifelong immunity is usually the standard for those who have received two doses of the MMR vaccine (measles, mumps, and rubella) at one and four to five years of age. Having experienced the childhood illness and being born before 1957 also usually offers lifelong immunity.

Measles is epidemic in many parts of the world, including Europe, Asia, the Pacific and Africa. Travelers to certain countries will be required to receive a booster vaccine prior to travel, even if considered immune from childhood and by vaccination history.

People have the right to be informed about the benefits and risks of a medical intervention, and be able to make a voluntary choice. This however must come with the full understanding that one person's choice may impact not only their personal health, but the health of our community.

The City of Long Beach Health Department is committed to preventing disease and protecting the health of our community. Our immunization clinics, staff, and providers are here to support our residents and other community health care providers in support of our stated mission.

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

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months

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years

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

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Miller Children's & Women's Hospital Long Beach

Congenital Heart Defects



Dr. Shaun Setty
Medical Director,
Pediatric & Adult
Congenital Heart
Surgery, Miller
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Long Beach

Each year, 34,000 children are diagnosed with congenital heart defects.

From birth through adulthood, patients with congenital heart defects need highly specialized care not offered at most hospitals. The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach offers total prenatal, infant, pediatric, and adult heart care for patients with congenital or acquired heart disease.

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The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach is one of only a few programs in Southern California to offer comprehensive cardiac care to patients of all ages.

Our expert team of board certified specialists includes a congenital cardiac surgeon, critical care physicians, pediatric and adult cardiologists, advanced practice nurses, perfusionists, anesthesiologists, pharmacists, and critical care nursing staff. We treat virtually every type of congenital heart defect, offering the latest interventional and surgical treatment options – all under one roof, in one location, one heart at a time.

Uniquely Suited to Care for All Ages

The Pediatric Heart Center at Miller Children's is partnered with the renowned MemorialCare Heart & Vascular Institute (MHVI) at Long Beach Memorial, offering the latest in Congenital Cardiac Surgical techniques. Because the hospitals are connected, this powerful alliance has enabled us to assemble a uniquely specialized team of professionals to perform congenital heart operations on patients of all ages; from the tiniest newborn infant, to the transitioning adolescent, all the way to adulthood.

Highly Personalized Care

We understand that caring for our patients means taking good care of their family as well. At Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach, our approach is simple: to provide personalized care that is tailored to meet the needs of the individual patient and their family. Our goal is to provide attentive and family centered care, and to make the overall hospital experience as seamless and pain-free as possible.

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And so the introduction to the Howard & Asian Art Collection for visiting 7th grade students begins with the feudal period in Japan that lasted 700 years. Further into the tour ancient China is contrasted with Japan as the role of the emperor is explored and the aspirations and difficulties that young males and females experienced are explained. A Chinese man had to merit his good paying job by passing difficult tests while a young female had her feet bound to ensure her marriage into a higher class in society.

These stories coupled with the museum-quality artifacts of the Howard & Asian Art Collection bring to life the history and culture of ancient Asia. Entrusted to Assistance League of Long Beach in 1948, this collection represents one of the largest collections of Asian artifacts in the region.

Assistance League volunteers participate as docents to the collection and offer visitors a museum experience. The school tours correlate with LBUSD's 7th grade world history curriculum and are offered from January to May.

Each year, docents facilitate 60 student tours or



approximately 2,000 students from the award-winning LBUSD. Based on teacher evaluations, the tours are updated annually to reflect California state curriculum. If you would like to view the collection, contact Assistance League at (562) 627-5650. For more information on this and other Assistance League of Long Beach programs visit www.ALLB.org.



Arts Council for Long Beach

Full Arts Funding for LBUSD Students

By Kylee Yocky, Director of Capacity Building and Education

Art in the classroom is very beneficial for students' overall academic success. It increases students' creative thinking skills and helps build the tools for students to think outside the box. Through the Arts Education Enrichment Grant teachers are able to provide additional arts education experiences for their students, as well as provide an enriched and inclusive curriculum. The Arts Council would like to thank all the schools and teachers who applied for this opportunity for their students. Through generous support from Supervisor Don Knabe, we were able to grant funding to every applicant. Grant Recipients include: Emerson Parkside Academy, Gompers K-8, Gant Elementary, Powell Academy, Tincher Elementary, Twain Elementary, Marshall Academy for the Arts, Millikan High School, Lakewood High School and McBride High School. This grant will allow over 4000 students to participate in an arts activity and extend their learning outside of the classroom and into the Long Beach community. The Arts Council for Long Beach is proud to be able to assist these schools and provide more arts learning opportunities to Long Beach students.

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

Rancho Los Alamitos

Winter at Rancho Los Alamitos

By Pamela Seager, Executive and Project Director

Visit the Rancho this winter to enjoy the Rancho Center including a permanent exhibition, film and related program facilities that connect 21st century audiences with the powerful story of California, its landscape and its inhabitants throughout time. The restored historic Barns Area recalls the great ranching heritage of Southern California.

And you won't want to miss the newly restored interior areas of the Ranch House. The areas restored include the historic Kitchen, Kitchen Pantry, Ranch Hands' Dining



Restored ranch hands' dining room.

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Room, Butler's Pantry, and Kitchen Porch. The rooms were restored to their appearance in the late 1930s.

Rancho Los Alamitos is open for tours Wednesday – Sunday, 1 - 5pm. Admission is free.

Literacy Project Foundation

Learning While Playing

By Sue Tucker, President/CEO

The Literacy Project (LP) is continuing to give the gift of literacy to at-risk and disadvantaged youth at Burbank Elementary School. One of the students just arrived to the United States from Mexico two months ago and is learning English at a fast pace because of this 30-hour reading program. Jennifer Jordan, who is one of the LP teachers said, "It is very rewarding to watch the students as they begin to feel more confident in their reading fluency and phonetic skills...I get excited when I see the kids playing the games because they are having so much fun that they forget that they are learning new things!"



For more information, visit www.literacyprojectfoundation.org.

Historical Society of Long Beach



Photo of Community Playhouse circa 1930 before its renovations that made it the Long Beach Playhouse we know today."

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Arturo Delgado, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Rising to Rachel’s Challenge

Rachel Scott was a kind-hearted teenager with a big dream. She believed that the smallest act of kindness could ripple out and start a chain reaction, and this was how she wanted to change the world.

On April 20, 1999, her life abruptly ended – and the movement to keep her dream alive began.

Rachel, at 17 years of age, was the first victim to be shot and killed at Columbine High School, during a rampage by two of her fellow students.

Rachel’s dream lives on through her writings and has changed millions of lives since her death.

Rachel’s Challenge, an inspirational program based on her writings, offers a message that focuses on inspiring others to replace acts of violence, bullying and negativity with acts of respect, kindness and compassion.

The project was created by Rachel’s dad and stepmother, Darrell and Sandy Scott. It aims to motivate and equip students to start and sustain a chain reaction of kindness that transforms schools and communities.

Rachel’s Challenge includes a series of student-empowering, educator-motivating programs and strategies called the “Awaken the Learner Five-Step School Improvement Process.” This process equips students and adults to create and sustain safe, caring and supportive learning environments essential for academic achievement.

Darrell has spoken to more than five million people in live settings around the world, not counting the millions he has spoken to through programs such as Oprah, Larry King Live, CNN, and the Today Show. He has authored or co-authored five books, and meets with politicians and educators regularly concerning issues of school violence.

I invited Darrell to speak about Rachel’s message at our leadership conference at LACOE and at our Superintendents Convocation last year.

Event participants found the message to be simple but powerful. Many of them sat in silence, teary-eyed, at the end of Darrell’s presentation.

Rachel’s message is that we all can have the power to make positive changes through acts of kindness and compassion – and the challenge for educators and other members of the education community is to empower our students to make their positive impact in the world.

My hope is that we all rise to Rachel’s challenge.

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 nations largest regional educational agencies, providing a range of programs and services to support the county’s 80 public school districts and 2 million preschool and school-age children. 9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu



Jane Close Conoley
President

Community Engagement Classification

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has chosen Cal State Long Beach to receive the 2015 Community Engagement Classification. The university is one of only 361 institutions to achieve this distinction.

“We are honored that the Carnegie Foundation has recognized Cal State Long Beach with its 2015 Community Engagement Classification,” said Jane Close Conoley, president of CSULB. “We know that college

students who are encouraged to apply what they study in class to outside jobs and projects are more likely to thrive after graduation. That is why we have a strong record of incorporating community service and engagement into many aspects of learning at the Beach.”

The Carnegie Foundation’s Classification for Community Engagement is an elective classification for which colleges and universities with an established focus on service within the community may apply. Examples of CSULB’s institutional focus include, among others, the establishment of and support for the Center for Community Engagement, which works with faculty to create service-learning opportunities which allow students to apply academic instruction to community projects; the co-founding and expansion of the Long Beach College Promise and the incorporation of community engagement language in CSULB’s Strategic Priorities and Goals.

The center states that 12,109 students participated in some form of community service in 2012-13, including 5,311 who were involved in academic service-learning. In total, these students recorded more than 1.2 million community service hours during that time. Also, approximately 800 CSULB faculty and staff were involved in some kind of community service that same year.

“The students, faculty and staff at Cal State Long Beach understand that engagement not only benefits the community, but it helps the university as well,” said Juan M. Benitez, executive director of the center. “We are more united when we work together to serve the region and service-learning and other forms of community engagement are recognized as ‘high impact’ learning practices that promote student success.”

CSULB students, faculty and staff have participated in a variety of community engagement activities, including hosting more than 1,000 K-12 girls through the Women In Engineering Outreach Program. health education and referrals for local school children through the Health on Wheels Mobile Clinic. They also taught semester-long courses in art, music, dance and theatre to K-5 students in underserved areas of Long Beach.

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

Long Beach City College



Eloy Ortiz Oakley
Superintendent-
President

Jump Start Your Education

LBCC is offering more classes this Spring Semester than it has in the past five years, so it is a great time to enroll!

The Schools of Career Technical Education, Health, Science, Kinesiology and Math, Language Arts, Social Science and Performing Arts all offer courses aimed at degree completion taught by dedicated faculty in many of LBCC's new and modernized facilities. LBCC has two campuses: the Liberal Arts Campus

at Carson and Clark in East Long Beach and the Pacific Coast Campus located at Pacific Coast Highway and Orange Avenue in Central Long Beach.

Plenty of seats are available in a variety of subject areas, such as journalism, English as a Second Language, foreign language (including Japanese), architectural design, mechanical maintenance, metal fabrication (including welding), floral design and mathematics.

"Long Beach City College is a great way for community members to jump start their education," said Long Beach Community College District Superintendent-President Eloy Ortiz Oakley. "If you're a high school student looking to start working on your college credits or if you're someone



Our new Academic Building opened with the Spring Semester on February 9 at the Pacific Coast Campus.

who wants to add a new work skill to your resume — you will find it here at LBCC."

The Spring Session runs from February 9 through June 10. Members of the public who are not currently enrolled at LBCC can apply online at www.LBCC.edu.

For general information or to learn about concerts and other special events at LBCC, please call 562-938-4353.

Liberal Arts Campus 4901 E. Carson St., Long Beach, CA 90808
Pacific Coast Campus 1305 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, CA 90808
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Where Education Works for You!

Long Beach Unified School District



Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent

New Funding Formula Makes a Difference

We're seeing many positive developments in our schools as we implement the Local Control Accountability Plan, or LCAP, that our Board of Education unanimously approved back in June.

The LCAP is our response to the state's approval of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for schools. The formula replaces the state's outdated and confusing school finance system with a more streamlined one that gives schools greater flexibility to use state funding based upon students' needs.

Shortly after the state's approval of the new formula in 2013, we embarked on a sweeping effort to engage the community in shaping our local plan, including multiple surveys and meetings. The plan is required under the state's new formula, and it spells out spending priorities and accountability measures to make certain that resources are used effectively.

Today this plan is resulting in real benefits for all of our students, particularly our most needy students, which is the intent of the state's revamped formula.

Hundreds of high school juniors from all walks of life are taking advantage of free SAT preparation, arriving on time and eager to learn at Saturday morning sessions at each of our large high schools. By the end of March, each of these students will receive 37 hours of SAT prep, including practice exams and college planning. The prep sessions help to level the playing field for students, while parents save hundreds of dollars that might otherwise be spent on expensive prep courses and materials.

We're also providing students with greater access to Advanced Placement college-level exams by covering much of the cost for families. AP exams cost \$89 each, but this school year students are paying only \$5 per exam for an unlimited number of exams. For each exam, students deposit \$15 and receive a \$10 rebate once the exam is taken. This means that for a student who takes five AP exams, the tests will cost \$25 instead of \$445. This offer applies to all students in grades 8 to 12 (some students take AP courses as early as eighth grade).

Our local plan also allocates significant funding to help all groups of students this year in many other ways:

- Expanded K-12 counseling support, \$4.35 million;
- Expanded college and career readiness efforts at high schools, including more internships, \$2 million;
- Enhanced K-12 library education programs, \$1.1 million;
- Enhanced elementary music program districtwide, \$2.8 million;
- Enhanced nursing services, \$980,000;
- Restoration of summer school in high school, \$1.25 million;
- Parent involvement resources, \$350,000;
- Technology support, \$1 million;
- Board of Education initiatives, \$1 million;
- Campus security and police support, \$2.4 million.

In addition, the local plan is resulting in targeted assistance for specific populations of students who need extra help:

- Resources allocated directly to schools based upon low-income, English Language Learner and foster youth counts, \$8.8 million. These funds are governed by school site councils and used for student interventions. **See school-by-school details at**

lbschools.net under School Budgets > School Expenditure Plans;

- Third grade literacy classrooms at high-poverty schools, with a 20:1 student/teacher ratio, \$3.8 million;
- Male/Female Academies (for at-risk youth), \$400,000;
- Support for English Language Learners and their families, \$1.1 million;
- Foster youth coordinator, \$50,000;
- Support for the North Long Beach Math Initiative, \$100,000.

Next year we will provide even more support for students, including:

- Paying for the PSAT exam for all eighth through tenth graders;
- Paying for the SAT exam for all eleventh graders;
- Second grade literacy classrooms at high-poverty schools, with a 20:1 student/teacher ratio, \$4.37 million;
- Literacy specialists at non-Title I (or not federally subsidized) elementary and K-8 schools, \$2.75 million;
- Enhanced middle school library services, \$500,000;
- Enhanced nursing services, \$500,000.

Each of the items funded in our local plan includes specific accountability measures, as required by the state, so that we can determine the effectiveness of these efforts and make any necessary adjustments. **Extensive school-by-school data and goals are available at lbschools.net under LCAP > LCAP District & School Data.** The aim is to give students the brightest future possible while using taxpayer-funded resources responsibly.

The plan's priorities were selected after much consultation with parents, students, educators and other members of our community. I believe that our community has chosen to invest wisely, and I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.

Thank you to everyone who supports this important work.

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LBUSD Board of Education



Diana Craighead
President

New Year – New Endeavors

After six years of the Long Beach College Promise, together with Long Beach City College and CSULB, we have welcomed our new mayor and the city to our partnership. A natural pairing when you consider the collective impact of a three-pronged educational system and the diversity of a large urban city.

Mayor Robert Garcia has challenged us to double the number of internships for our high school students. We typically have approximately 1,500 internships available each year, 400 of those being offered by the city. To get the ball rolling, Mayor Garcia has pledged to double the number of internships from the city to 800. As was announced at the recent State of the City Address, Mayor Garcia has put out a call to businesses in the greater Long Beach area with the creation of HireLB.com. Together with our team of Linked Learning and College and Career Readiness staff we are sure to meet this challenge.

High school students are engaging in more AP (Advanced Placement) classes. This year we are subsidizing the cost of the AP tests. For the first time AP tests will be available at a cost to the families of only \$5. This will ensure the accessibility for all students. A passing grade on an AP test can translate to a savings of time and money once in college. And at such a nominal cost, multiple tests won't break the bank.

Our youngest students are being served with more options including the addition of more pre-school and TK (Transitional Kindergarten) classrooms. Barton Elementary will soon be sharing space with a child development center complete with wrap around services. We are working in collaboration with the city to make this joint-use effort a reality. Through our Child Development Center, Head Start and TK we currently serve 77% of our four year olds in need. That number will grow as we expand our efforts to include more children. By providing pre-school aged children a solid educational foundation, we are providing them the best chance possible for success in high school and beyond.

From pre-school to high school, from four year olds to fourteen year olds, opportunities continue to expand.

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

Mayor Garcia has put out a call to businesses in the greater Long Beach area with the creation of HireLB.com.

Child Development Center



Cynthia Young
Director

Thumbs Up & Thank You, Mr. Fluckers!

By Sybil Baldwin Perry, Coordinating Teacher

Barton students say "Thumbs up and thank you!" to CDC guidance specialist Victor Fluckers. Mr. Fluckers presented the Bully-Free Workshop to increase the students' and staff's understanding of bullying.

The students were given the opportunity to share and role-play their experiences. These scenarios allowed the students to solve bullying issues firsthand, using problem solving and higher-level thinking skills.

Students learned about who and what a bully is, why people bully, how they can defend themselves against bullies, why people bully, where they can get help if they're being bullied or know someone who is being bullied, and the consequences of bullying. The students created a banner and signed their pledge to say "Boo to bullies!"

Almost daily, the students are asking, "When will Mr. Fluckers come back? We want to talk to Mr. Fluckers again!" Because of Mr. Fluckers' ongoing involvement with the students, teachers and parents, he has helped promote positive character development. His support has helped increase self-esteem while decreasing the opportunity for negative interaction.

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



Diana Craighead
President



Dr. Felton Williams
Vice-President

Board of Education



Megan Kerr
Member



John McGinnis
Member



Jon Meyer
Member

Thank you for reading *School News*. Our next issue is April 8.



Judy Seal
Executive Director

Hope is the Power of the Soul to Endure. – Louis Zamperini

If I had the nerve to get a tattoo, I would have this quote tattooed on my left forearm so that I would never forget its wisdom. I don't have the nerve so I have it taped to my computer monitor, my refrigerator, the mirror in my bathroom at home. Why is this phrase so important to me? Hope is the power to endure incredible hardship, pain and suffering. Do I have the hope and the power to endure great difficulty? I ask myself this question often.

Everyday some children and youth come to school having overcome more challenges just to get to school than most of us will face in a lifetime. Facing difficulties is an important part of life. We learn to solve real problems, we learn how to cope (get through or endure) with hardship, and we learn that we can survive even when everything is not going well at all. We learn to adjust our expectations and to change as needed. Some of our happiest most well adjusted students in LBUSD embrace the problems they face each day. In so doing, they humble and inspire us. How do they do it? How do they get through it? Hope and inner strength (endurance).

Louis Zamperini, Olympian and WWII hero was the keynote speaker at the 2008 Most Inspiring Students Awards Dinner here in Long Beach. The Most Inspiring Students Awards Dinner is an opportunity to celebrate one student from each LBUSD school for overcoming tremendous challenges and in so doing inspire all of the people around them. That is goal number one. Goal number two is to honor their parents for their commitment and dedication to the future of their child. The LBEP creates a Tribute Book with the names and photos of every student being honored. The Most Inspiring Students are called up to the stage for a presentation of a medallion, a plaque, and a handshake with the keynote speaker. Former keynote speakers include Former UCLA Basketball Coach, John Wooden, Olympian Misty May Treanor, author Roger Baum, grandson of L. Frank Baum who penned the Wizard of Oz among others. Bringing us to Goal number two: The keynote speaker is selected for their ability to relate to both the students and their parents. Their messages are about perseverance and hope.

In 2011, I heard Mr. Zamperini speak at USC in one of Jeff Fellenzer's Sports Communication and Media lectures. Jeff is a Naples, Rogers, Wilson graduate and now the President of the Long Beach Education Foundation. There were over 150 college students in the theater sized classroom. Jeff interviewed Mr. Zamperini about being an athlete, a military man, a prisoner of war in Japan and a survivor of an airplane crash into the ocean. After the interview, Jeff encouraged his students to ask Mr. Zamperini questions. One by one they came to the microphone and asked "how" he survived an airplane crash into the ocean, "how" he survived 47 days in a life-raft without food or water, "how" did he make it through the beatings in the war camp. His answer was the same each time: "I just wanted to live." He said passionately. "I hoped I would live. I never lost hope."

When the last student came to the microphone her question was, "After everything you have been through, how do you define hope?"

Mr. Zamperini took his time to answer the question. "What is hope?" He asked himself out loud while gazing around the room. "Hope is the Power of the Soul to Endure..." he said punctuating the important words.

As fast as I could, I took a pen from my bag and with no paper, I wrote it quickly on my left arm. "Hope is the Power of the Soul to Endure..." It is a quote that has changed me forever.

"Endure what?" asked Jeff Fellenzer.

He began. "Endure the most difficult, hopeless, helpless experiences. Endure suffering and sacrifice. Endure living with the memories after surviving. You know," he continued, "you never really know who you are and what you are until you have lost everything but hope. With nothing but hope, I found out who I am. I found myself. I was never alone, it turned out. Heaven was ever at my side."

You can listen to his speech on the Long Beach Education Foundation webpage: http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/Community/Education_Foundation/inspiring_students.cfm

We will have another hero with a unique and inspiring story at this year's Most Inspiring Students Awards Dinner on May 21, 2015. We hope you come to see the beautiful students and we hope you will leave feeling better than you did when you walked in.

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



Bancroft *Middle School*

We Go Green



Kimberly Dalton
Principal

By Monica Chavez and Linda Cargile

A green revolution is taking place at Bancroft this year! Our Bruins are now participating in the Trash-Free Lunch Challenge. Under the leadership of Mrs. Chavez, the very committed Trash-Free Green Team of student volunteers has been trained to monitor recycling stations in high-traffic areas to reduce trash at lunchtime.

The volunteers show other students how to separate true trash from recyclables. Each recycling station has a section to hold cardboard lunch trays, milk cartons, dump buckets for liquids and bins for bottles and cans.

Since the first day of Trash-Free Lunch Challenge, we have reduced lunch trash from 28 bags per day to an average of eight per day. This means that we are keeping 100 bags of trash out of the landfill weekly. In a school year, that amounts to a reduction of over 3,600 bags from our site alone!

In addition, all classrooms now have recycling bins designated for paper, plastic and aluminum waste. Altogether, this equals 15 to 25 city recycling bins filled each week.

Go Beyond! Go Bancroft! Go Green!

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

Bryant *Elementary*

Marathon Achievers



Matt Hammond
Principal

On your mark, get set, go!

The second-grade students are lacing up their running shoes for their annual "marathon" run. The students actually do run 26.2 miles, too! They start by running 1/2 mile each day for a total of about 2 miles per week. This helps them learn how to set goals and develop healthy habits and determination.

On the last day, the students run their final mile around the playground track amidst the posters, cheers, and encouragement of the other Bryant Elementary students. The track is surrounded by proud parents, family members, and friends.

The ultimate goal for each student is to complete the full 26.2 miles of running. The students receive certificates and trophies in celebration of reaching this goal, as well as beautiful T-shirts for their accomplishment.

The second-grade marathon has become a treasured tradition here at Bryant Elementary, where the whole school can gather together to celebrate and support one another.

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

Barton *Elementary*

Barton Mural Project



Richard Littlejohn
Principal

With the help of our parents and staff members, the Barton Mural Project has come to life.

The Mural Team created a work that brings color, life, and a positive message to our campus. Six themes have been highlighted in vibrant, puffy clouds: imagine, unity, books, careers, STEM, and the environment. Parents and staff painted objects that represent each cloud theme.

Using Title I Parent Participation Funds for materials and refreshments, everyone had a great time collaborating and making this drab wall come to life! Many students sat during their lunch recess just to watch the student and parent muralists. One first-grade student said, "This is so fun to see our school become beautiful. We are a STEM and arts school!"



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

Carver *Elementary*

Work Experience and More



Sarah Forrester
Principal

By Erin Richey, Four-Five PHI Teacher

Carver is incredibly lucky to have two extraordinary people working in its cafeteria.

Delia Gonzales and Billy Raynor make dining in the cafeteria a very fun experience for our students. Mr. Billy is always coming up with fun and crazy names for whatever food is being served each day, and Ms. Delia always serves students with a smile.

Each month several students are chosen to work in the cafeteria as servers. Ms. Delia and Mr. Billy always make these experiences fun and educational.

Ms. Delia and Mr. Billy provide our students with invaluable work experience. We are grateful to them for all that they do for their student workers, and for serving Carver students healthy meals every day!



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

Food Donation



Hugo Figueroa
Principal

“Rain or shine”, Mr. Alan Manack and his loyal companion, Mickey from The Volunteer Center of South Bay have been showing up to our campus every Friday. Since last year, this organization has been showing up with 15 bags of groceries for our neediest families. The bags include canned food, cereal, beans, rice, and juice. Once families are contacted and informed about this wonderful opportunity, they are able to come to school

and pick up a grocery bag full of goodies. Many times, on Friday after school, it is common for parents to stop by the



office to pick up the bags. Parents leave our office with such appreciation and always thank us for providing a helping hand. Thank you Volunteer Center of South Bay for making a difference to our families.

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

Cubberley (K-8)

Going Organic



Terri Jarels
Principal

By Steve Avitable, Teacher

Mrs. McBride's seventh-grade health class is into gardening. They have been awarded a Teaching Garden Grant from the American Health Association. The grant includes growing beds, soil,

gardening tools, and a constant supply of seedlings. The grant also includes curriculum, which helps students connect the fun of gardening with the nutritional benefits of growing and eating organic vegetables.

Students put together the growing beds and plant, garden, and harvest fresh vegetables several times a year. Mrs. McBride's class has had salad bars at school, made kale smoothies, and shared their harvest with other students. Their winter garden includes two kinds of lettuce, kale, peas, broccoli, beets, and spinach.



Students from Mrs. McBride's seventh grade health class present their winter garden.

Mrs. McBride said, “This was exactly the program I was looking for to make our nutrition unit more meaningful.” For further information about how to get a teaching garden at your school contact teachinggardens@heart.org.

3200 Monogram Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-8810
www.lbschools.net/cubberley

A Growing College-Going Culture



Dr. Elio Mendoza
Co-Principal



Alejandro Vega
Co-Principal

By Carlos Gershwin-Razo, College & Career Facilitator

Cabrillo embarked on a very exciting endeavor this year when it concentrated its efforts on embedding a college-going culture onto the campus. In order to offer the freshmen an opportunity to begin their quest for a college education,

last spring Cabrillo applied for and was awarded a small grant to help focus these efforts within our freshman academy.

So far we have had many freshmen attend college presentations. The students have also learned how to calculate their GPAs and gain a working knowledge of the A-G requirements. Our freshmen are also getting involved in more clubs on campus than ever before, including the newly established chapter of the California Scholarship Federation.

The freshmen are also being exposed to community service opportunities with the Japanese Cultural Center and the Filipino Migrant Center, both of which have a presence on the west side of Long Beach. We are even getting our parents involved in college exploration! We just had a successful parent-only field trip to Soka University and UC Irvine on January 15 that give 50 parents an exposure to local universities.

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

Edison *Elementary*

Edison's DREAM Girls



Edward Garcia
Principal

Edison's fifth grade girls were invited to attend a day called Girls DREAM (Girls Developing Recognition of Engineering through Academics and Mentoring) at Cal Poly Pomona. The Society for Women Engineers hosted our girls in various activities in hopes of inspiring them to seek future careers in engineering.



We made a roller coaster out of tape, newspaper, and cardboard. I learned all of us have to work together as a team just like engineer to accomplish a goal. –Cristina Godinez, 5th grade.



What I liked from the field trip was that we could experience something that engineers could do. I learned that not only men could be engineers but women could also, too. –Leilhan Wong, 5th grade student

Our girls participated in various workshops, from making LED bracelets to building a roller coaster. It was an amazing experience for so many of them. Our girls discovered a whole new world of engineering and were inspired to create and imagine the many possibilities that are available to them.

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

Garfield *Elementary*

Student Council Supports Community



Claire Alvarez
Principal

By Ashley Lindstrom, Grade 5 Teacher

This holiday season, our fourth- and fifth-grade Student Council made it their mission to help our Garfield community. They led a canned-food and toy drive for our local church. Student Council representatives

advertised and gave classroom speeches to encourage students to donate items. We ultimately donated hundreds of cans and toys to the Westside Baptist Church, which distributed them to our community.

"I felt happy when we gave them the food," said fourth-grader Danielle Delgado.

"It was nice to donate to people that don't have things we have," said fourth-grader Victor Almanza.

"It felt special to do something nice for others," said fifth-grader Ashley Vasquez.



"I really enjoyed seeing the people who gathered to receive donations," said fifth-grader Daniel Rodriguez.

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

Emerson *Parkside Academy*

Emerson Gets Frozen



Margaret Kerns
Principal

Snow fell on Emerson Parkside Academy on December 5, 2014...12 tons of it! Over 60 volunteers assisted event chairs, Kryssie and Robert Booth during Snow Day. From 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Emerson students and their families got to experience snow; some for the very first time. Children played in the snow and sledged down a 6 foot bunny hill. Other activities at the event included sing-alongs with winter carols and music from

Frozen; a cake walk; hot chocolate with marshmallows; food vendors including, fresh, hot donuts; a giant slide and a professional photo booth with Anna and Elsa from Frozen. Parents enjoyed bidding on Silent Auction items with the help of auction chairs, CJ Holder and Michelle Worden. The chilly night transported us all to a snowy wonderland.



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

Fremont *Elementary*

Reading Buddies



Mark Curran
Principal

It's Friday at Fremont Elementary School, and the kindergarteners are anxiously awaiting their fifth-grade reading buddies to come outside and greet them. Every kindergartner has an assigned buddy to read with every week. The fifth-grade students choose a book from the library to read based on their buddies' interests. As they read, the students practice their fluency and comprehension skills.

The reading buddies program creates a special bond between the students from the two grade levels. The fifth-graders who were at Fremont as kindergartners fondly remember their buddies who read with them every week. Now they enjoy being the older students who the kindergartners look forward to reading with.



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

Hamilton *Middle School*

A Visit From the Past



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

Some Hamilton yearbooks from the 1940s were mailed to the school, and our yearbook staff has happily adopted them for this year's yearbook theme!

In 1948, Harry Truman was president, the average house cost \$7,700, and the average annual wage was \$2,950. Gas cost 16 cents a gallon, and a new car cost an average of \$1,250. Times were a bit different!

Journalism seventh-grader Sunshine Jones noted that "girls' skirts were not too much above their ankles, and I didn't see any girls wearing pants. None of the boys back then were wearing shorts." Sixth-grader

Sophie Cardenas added, "I totally love the dresses. They are dressed up just like in some of the movies I've seen."

Clubs and classes differed, too. In the 1940s, there were Flower Arrangement and Fire Patrol clubs. Classes included wood, metal and electric shops for boys and typing, sewing and cooking for girls.

Both students noticed the neat cursive writing. One student had written, "To a swell guy." A common inscription today reads "HAGS" (Have a Good Summer).

Our yearbook staff wants to interview Hamilton pupils from the 1940s! If interested, please contact us!

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

Holmes *Elementary*

Designing Students



Luana Wesley
Principal

Like Project Runway? If designing fashion is your passion, stop by Holmes every Friday during lunch and see our 4th and 5th grade girls researching and creating cool clothes and accessories.

Formed out of the need for our girls to have an outlet that allowed them to express themselves in a positive and productive way, the Fashion and Design Club was started last year. Winning a \$500 grant from the Lakewood Foundation, the club bought 4 sewing machines and fabric, which allowed the girls to create aprons, scarves, shirts, chaircovers, and pillowcases.

The girls will soon redesign a t-shirt to be worn at a school fashion show at the end of the year. Project Runway, watch out—you have some serious competition!

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



Hughes *Middle School*

Excellent Performance



Dr. Sally Gregory
Principal

Before the winter holiday, Hughes students were entertained by the Drama Class under the direction of Mrs. Arlene Gale. Students watched a performance of “A Christmas Carol,” by Charles Dickens, the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge who changes his “humbug” ways. The second play was a Reader’s Theater performance called “The Christmas Truce.” This was based on a truce between the Germans and

British that occurred in 1914, a hundred years ago this year, during WWI. The third play performed was a comedy farce called “Couch Potato Santa.” When Santa decides to NOT celebrate Christmas. Mrs. Santa and a riotous group of reindeer, elves, and others try to convince Santa to change his mind. Hughes students enjoyed the performances immensely and the actors were extraordinaire!



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

Jordan *High School*

50 Wells Per Day



Shawn Ashley
Principal



William Salas
Co-Principal

The construction has started at Long Beach Jordan High School. Once the land was cleared the first step was to drill over 4000 30 foot deep wells and fill each well with concrete. These wells will serve as the foundation for three two story buildings.

This is just the first phase of the \$135 million project which will eventually replace seven one story buildings and 40 portables with seven two story buildings. In addition, the auditorium, gymnasium and libraries will all be refurbished. In the photograph you can see the wells and the huge drills being used. In order to keep on schedule, they must drill 50 wells per day for four months.



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

Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

Holiday Caroling at Marlora Manor



Kevin Maddox
Principal

By Connie Hurd, Music Teacher

In December, Jefferson Leadership Academy students walked to Marlora Manor Convalescent Hospital in Long Beach to bring holiday cheer! Jefferson chorus students and I came with smiles on our faces and many songs to sing for the large audience.

Many students commented that they were excited and happy to be able to cheer people up as they filled the multipurpose room to perform their songs. The residents cried, as they were filled with joy while listening to the performance.

The students also walked room to room singing songs to those who were not able to get out of their beds. A few students were seen crying, saying that it touched their hearts to be able to bring joy to others.



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

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

California History Coming Alive



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

Have you heard how much fun it can be to learn about California History? The Kettering PTA provides the opportunity for 4th grade students to take part and watch history come to life through the Walk Through California presentation. The presentation allows students to actively participate in an exciting retelling of California's rich history. Through the use of games, music, imagination, and storytelling, students are transported

back in time to witness the people and events of the past. Students even get to dress up and play the roles of some of these famous California historical figures. The experience of learning about our state in this interactive approach has our fourth graders still talking about how fun it was to be part of such a cool and entertaining event.

550 Silvera Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/598-9486



www.lbschools.net/kettering

King *Elementary*

Starr King Student Council



Kimberly Weber
Principal

By Celeste Bell, Kasandra Patron, Angelina Flores, and Nayoby Herrera (Student Council Members)

This year, we have created a new Student Council who works with Mrs. Weber. To be in Student Council, you need get good grades and be responsible for any missed work. We have already done many things to help the school. So far, we have sold Boo-Grams to raise money for student activities. We have helped by typing items and making the school cleaner and more organized. We also helped set up the Fall Festival.

As a part of Student Council, we have a new mascot, Leo the Lion. We help him with his duties and keep the crowds away from him during the big commotion of delivering items.



In our meetings, we include student opinions and agree to make changes that we think will help make Starr King an even better school.

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

Original Art Thank You Card



Cheryl Cornejo
Co-Principal



Mario Jimenez
Principal

By Aaron Hutchings & Briana Berame, Students

During the holidays everyone should have an opportunity to feel special. Our teacher, Mrs. Curry Scott, assigned our Art class an opportunity to create an original art card with a special message, picture, or

poem for a soldier. We embraced the assignment knowing many of our soldiers are far from home and loved ones.

In various designs, the soldiers were thanked for their gift of service, providing security and comfort for our nation. Every student created a heartfelt message within their card. "It feels great to make others happy," shared a student. In the process of the project students displayed an array of skills, including; work assembly, production, social building, collaboration, and management

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

Lee *Elementary*

Counting On Collaboration



By Meegan Ledesma, 4th Grade Teacher

Teachers at Lee have always embraced collaboration. We have always looked to each other for ideas and new inventive ways to teach our students. Aside from meeting afterschool to swap ideas and plan lessons, teachers have never been given the chance to actually observe a colleague teach. All of that changed last month when teachers were given release time to visit teachers' classes,

specifically to watch others teach a lesson with students holding collaborative discussions around text dependent questions. Teachers received positive feedback from their peers and multiple ideas were learned and shared. We look forward to more opportunities to collaborate and learn from one another.



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

One Hand to Give, and Another to Receive



Wendy Thompson
Principal

The student council at Lafayette Elementary School wanted to start the year by giving back. For their first project, they decided to organize a coin drive that would support the work of the Long Beach Rescue Mission.

The students worked very hard to make sure that they would be able to raise enough money to support the needs of the Long Beach Rescue Mission. This was an important task for them, because they are aware of the importance of the work that the Mission does in serving the emergency needs of our homeless.

The student council members began by making posters to place around the campus to promote the coin donation. They also made daily announcements over the intercom to remind their peers about the importance of donating to this worthy cause. They reminded the students of what Mrs. Thompson, our principal, always says: "You have one hand to give and another to receive."

This message really went to the students' hearts, because they ultimately were able to collect \$1,500!

2445 Chestnut Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/426-7075
www.lbschools.net/lafayette

Lincoln *Elementary*

There's Excitement In the air!



Christi Granado
Principal

By The Reading Recovery/Literacy Coaches

Students and teachers are buzzing about The Daily Five. We were given permission to pilot The Daily Five in some first and second grade classrooms. The Daily Five is a literacy structure that allows students to build stamina in reading and writing while working independently on authentic literacy practices. The structure gives the teacher time to work with students in small group instruction or one on one. Focus lessons are embedded and aligned with our curriculum and Common Core Standards.



Trust, respect and choice are the core beliefs of The Daily Five. Recent visitors were amazed at what they observed. This structure has empowered our students and teachers. Our hope is to implement it school wide.

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

Lindsey Academy (6–8)

Parent Involvement



Lorena Moreno
Principal

By Nichole McDaniel, ELL Specialist

Parent involvement is on the rise at Perry Lindsey! Our newly formed Parent Involvement Committee and our partnership with the YMCA of Greater Long Beach are improving parent communication and involvement on campus.

Our Parent Involvement Committee is off to a great start with Project Sunshine, whose goal is for every Lindsey parent to receive a positive phone call, note or School Loop e-mail about his or her child this school year. We're tracking these contacts in hope of bringing "a little ray of sunshine into every Lindsey home." We're improving parent involvement on campus through our YMCA partnership. Marisol Zobler, MSW and the YMCA's family involvement director, conducts weekly parenting workshops on campus with such topics as How to Use ParentVue, School Loop, Parenting Skills and College Readiness. Parents will build relationships with one another, improve communication with teachers, and get involved in school activities.

Finally, we're thrilled to announce that we have a campus space for an official Parent Center, which is decorated by our delighted parents! Now, they have a place to call their own!

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

Los Cerritos Elementary

How Our Garden Grows!



Marie Hatwan
Principal

*By Jessica Brimley
Instructional Assistant—Gardening*

The rains have come, and the Los Cerritos garden is just beginning to wake up from winter—it still is winter, but around here, our growing season is nearly year-round! Some of the class beds will soon fill with the bright-green growth of spring veggies that we planted before winter break—kale, peas, broccoli, onions, beets and artichokes.

Other beds are still shaded most of the day, so there isn't much growing in them yet. But we are starting seeds now, to be planted as soon as the season advances and the sun returns.

The monarch caterpillars have eaten almost every leaf of butterfly weed plants in our butterfly garden, and most of them have crawled off to various sheltered spots to make their chrysalides. Check the three hanging from the fence at the left-hand side of the main entrance to the garden—look for small ovoids about the size of an olive. They are pale leaf green with specks of gold and are a real treat to spot if you have never seen them up close before!

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

Longfellow Elementary

How Does Our Garden Grow?



Laurie Murrin
Principal

At Longfellow Elementary School, our students have learned the importance of healthy eating habits. The Longfellow teaching garden,

sponsored by the American Heart Association, helped our students understand where food comes from and the importance of healthy living.

Fifth-grade student Rianne Ignacio shared, "We watered the plants every day, except when it rained, and fed the plants with nematodes to keep the bugs away."

Our fifth-graders harvested a variety of different vegetables, including cilantro, celery, broccoli, bok choy and bib and red leaf lettuce.



Rianne added, "Since the vegetables were very yummy and delicious, I would recommend that other schools grow gardens, harvest the food, and enjoy eating vegetables, too. Our garden grows with much care, love, and hope."

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

MacArthur *Elementary*

Join Our Family



Scott Fleming
Principal

At MacArthur Elementary School, we recognize that a child's upbringing is a communal effort. Thankfully, we have two primary support groups—our PTA and our Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)—as part of our family.

Our volunteers work tirelessly to support our students through their interactions, fund-raising efforts and programs. Our members are actively involved in supporting our book fair, art instruction, Project

Shepard, Marquee Dress Day, charity efforts, holiday boutiques, our carnival, Fit-A-Thon, the Valentine's Day dance, and Dining for Dollars Family Nights, to name a few. All of these activities are made possible due to the active involvement of our family of volunteers.

We are always seeking new members to support our school family, and we want you!



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

Muir *Academy*

The Marvelous Musical



Lori Clark
Principal

A rite of passage for every multiage student is to participate in our multiage musical. The opportunity first arises in the second grade, and continues on through the third. All students in those grades first participate with the chorus portion and are then given an opportunity to audition for special roles.

The students learn to strengthen many of their skills, and they also develop reading fluency and improved gross motor and social abilities. In year's past the students have learned about grammar, space, and biomes. They also learn about the show's current theme. This year's musical, called Character Matters, uses fairy tales to focus on specific character traits.

Our multi-age children work hard all year rehearsing and fundraising for the performances in May. It is a labor of love that is enjoyed by all of our students, parents, and teachers. We hope that you're looking forward to this year's musical as much as we are!

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

McKinley *Elementary*

Cougar Pride



Scott Tardibuono
Principal

By Kyle Van, TOSA Intervention Specialist

As a Safe and Civil school, our staff and students "pride" themselves on building a positive school culture. One way they do this is by exhibiting Positive attitudes, showing Respect for others, Inspiring others, Demonstrating responsibility, and Engaging in learning. That spells "PRIDE"!

Each month our school introduces a special character trait for our students to work on. At the end of the month, one student in each class receives an award for having demonstrated this specific trait every day. The parents are then invited to see their child accept it in front of all the other students and staff members.

The pride that we see coming from our students, parents, staff, and administrators is exactly the kind of culture that we are working towards. In addition, the students who receive an award also earn the elusive "blue bracelet," which allows them to skip to the front of the lunch line.

The students then get to enjoy their lunch with Counselor Ms. Jimenez, where they can share their thoughts on the award and also have the opportunity to pick a prize out of the McKinley Character Trait Gift Box.

This further reinforces our McKinley guidelines to success!

6822 Paramount Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/630-6200
www.lbschools.net/mckinley

McBride *High School*

Rachel's Challenge



Steve Rockenbach
Principal

In January, the entire McBride High School family had the opportunity to hear the amazing story of Rachel Scott, the first victim in the Columbine High School shooting, and the impact her example of kindness has had on the world. Students agreed to keep the momentum going by forming the Friends of Rachel Club and committing to be kind and considerate to all students.

Students, parents and staff signed the school pledge, choosing to: look for the best in others; dream big and set goals; choose positive influences; speak with kindness; and



Students and staff accepting Rachel's Challenge.

start our own chain reaction. We are excited to live out the challenge laid before us and to make McBride an even better place to learn and grow.

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

Millikan College and Career Center Expands



Dr. Jeffrey Cornejo
Principal



Monica Daley
Principal of Instruction

*By Katie Hickox,
Millikan High School*

Millikan's College and Career Center has expanded to include more staff and opportunities for classroom presentations.

The school welcomes College and Career Center Supervisor Susan Maghy, who started her role as a

Ram during the hectic fall college application season. Ms. Maghy dived right into the fray, helping a steady stream of seniors applying to California State University, University of California, and private school campuses.

Earlier this year, the College and Career Center added Carol Garcia, a Millikan office staff member, to the team. Dennis Funes joined the center at the start of the school year. Mr. Funes is part of a University of Southern California program to expand college advising at area high schools. Cal-SOAP, another college access program, also has a representative working in the center. All year, center staff host visiting college admissions representatives and visit classrooms to prepare students for post-secondary opportunities.

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

Male and Female Academy



Wendy Clafin
Principal

By J. Richardson

The Female and Male Academy at Colin Powell is off and running again! The vision is to challenge and motivate eighth-grade students to make lifelong connections between education and opportunity as the means to achieving the "American Dream."

The program is facilitated by Mr. Henderson, Ms. Gainer, Ms. Largent and Ms. Richardson along with our business partners, Mr. and Mrs. Larkins. Students meet once a week and participate in collaborative discussions, workshops, life-skills training, mentors, guest speakers, tutoring and field trips. They learn to complete job applications, interview for jobs, and review test-taking tips and appropriate etiquette. The ultimate goal is to impact, motivate and influence the social and academic choices of middle school students so that they learn that education equals opportunities. The incentive for Academy students achieving a 3.5 GPA and fewer referrals by their promotion ceremony includes a laptop, a printer, a flash drive and a backpack.

Twenty-two Powell students earned the incentive last year! We are looking forward to even more students achieving this goal in 2015. Go Eagles!

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

Basketball All-City Champs



Wendy Sowinski
Principal

*By Steven O'Neil,
Yearbook Student*

The Newcomb boys' basketball team had a fantastic season. After going 4-1 in season play, the team finished second in their division. It advanced through the playoffs and ultimately won the championship game.

Everyone played well by motivating each other throughout the season. They also supported their teammates' successes. For example, Gianni Hunt scored 49 points in the championship game. His teammates, seeing that he was "on fire," kept passing the ball to him to score more points, which led to their win.

The students had a great time not only winning the championship game but also playing with each other as



a team. Overall, they had a fun season dominating their division and getting to know their teammates.

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

Pairing Caring and Action



Diane Prince
Principal of Instruction



Victor Jarels
Co-Principal

By Zelda Mazor-Freedman, sophomore, 'Poly High Life' Staff Writer

As young people go through the misadventures of maturing, they often find themselves in need of being helped or heard. Luckily, Poly has an accessible way to guide students during the trepidations of adolescence,

through the help of the Care Center and its passionate leader, Paul Gonzales.

Recently, the Center developed several therapy groups to address the issues of anger management, stress, anxiety, impaired social skills, grief and loss. Students can work through their issues and find a sense of balance here.

"My whole goal is to give [students] a firsthand experience with acknowledging that something is interrupting their life and to plant seeds for their adulthood," Mr. Gonzales said.

No challenge deters either Mr. Gonzales or the Care Center as new situations arise. When students struggle with the issue of suicide, the Center works tirelessly to counsel them. When Poly lost beloved student Frank Murphy, the Center was there to provide the emotional support for heartbroken students. Even when human trafficking in Long Beach was brought to light, Mr. Gonzales formed a hardworking action group and mandatory assemblies.

As the Care Center evolves, it holds one central goal: to make the lives of Poly students better.

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

Arts' Open House and All-Arts Event



Quentin Brown
Principal

In conjunction with its Open House, on March 12, 2015, Renaissance High School for the Arts will present its annual all-arts event. This year's theme is "Revolution." Arts and academic students will create original work based on the idea of circularity, cycles, spheres or unity. There will be art exhibitions, original live theatrical performances, dance and music. Art students will provide materials for participants who



RHSA's student displaying original "Revolution" artwork.

wish to bring a bicycle or tricycle and enter a Decorated Bicycle Parade. Costume Design will sponsor a Fashion Show that evening, open to all students who wish to make and model original costumes based on the idea of the circle or sphere. The event will be held on campus from 6-8 p.m. Classrooms will be open for parent visits.

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

Prisk *Elementary*

Prisk Student Council Visits City Hall



Damon Jespersen
Principal

In early December, the members of Prisk's Student Council were invited to City Hall. Student representatives visited council chambers, and were allowed to sit in the chairs of the council members. Our guide briefed the students on what goes on during Council meetings. Students

then visited the offices of the City Council members. Representatives warmly greeted the students and shared information about their jobs and the districts they represented. Students were delighted to hear about local government in action. On our way out of City Hall, we happened to run into Mayor Robert Garcia. He generously



Prisk Student Council members with Mayor Robert Garcia.

spent a few minutes with the students, ensuring that this trip was one our Student Council would never forget.

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

Robinson *Academy (K-8)*

Capitalizing on LCAP



**Dr. Damita
Myers-Miller**
Principal

Recent funding from the Local Control Accountability Program has provided many opportunities for our schools. Here's a snapshot of Robinson's new resources designed to support students' success. On a given morning, you might follow first-grader Jose into class. His teacher begins the new reading unit prepared during Common Core collaboration with her colleagues. Later Jose joins his small group with the new Literacy Specialist who provides support with foundational reading skills. The P.E. Specialist then teaches Jose and 14 classmates in order to lower class size. Meanwhile, Jose's brother Guillermo meets with the new EL specialist, to support Guillermo's advancement with complex language skills. Finally, a basketball break with the Robinson student/staff team!



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

Rogers *Middle School*

New Mural in the Gym



Kimberly Holland
Principal

Rogers Middle School is in the process of having a mural painted in our gymnasium! The mural will significantly improve the appearance of the gym and become even more exciting a place for games and school events. Thanks to the Long Beach Unified School District for painting the walls of the gym and to Boss Graphics for designing and painting this beautiful mural. Go Mustangs!



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

Signal Hill *Elementary*

Thank You Molina Healthcare!



Tammy Lavelle
Principal

On October 18th, 2014, over 100 Molina Healthcare Workers volunteered their personal time to sort and pack thousands of books to be delivered to selected schools in the LBUSD. The students of Signal Hill were some of the lucky recipients of these beautiful books. On the last day of Trimester I, every Signal Hill Dinosaur was able to hand select one of these wonderful texts to enjoy during their winter break. They will have opportunities again at the end of Tri II and Tri III to select two more books. Thank you Molina Healthcare Foundation for providing our students with more resources to increase their love of reading!!!



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

Stevenson *Elementary*

A Buzz for Bikes



David Zaid
Principal

One hundred twenty-two third grade students, their teachers, and Velo Allegro Bicycle Club members, gathered at an afternoon assembly at the end of Trimester

1, awaiting the announcement of the essay contest winners. Each student in the third grade at Stevenson Elementary participated in an essay contest that answered the question, "What can I do to make my community a better place and how would a new bike help me?" The students were told that one student in each class with the best essay would receive a free bike. After all of the winning essays were read and much to the surprise of the students, bikes were awarded to each third grade student. As the auditorium erupted into cheers, chants, high fives, hugs, jaws dropping, and tears, our students and staff members were touched personally and this event truly made a difference.



The Bikes for Kids program was the buzz all over our community and the smiles our students were wearing told the story. Local business partners hosted a local "Bikes for Kids" to promote health, fitness, mobility and cycling within the City of Long Beach.

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

Smith *Elementary*

New School



Monica Alas
Principal

By Juan C. Gonzalez,
Assistant Principal

On December 8, 2014 Burnett Elementary was renamed Smith Elementary. It was named after Bobbie Smith, who was the district's first African-

American school board member and long time librarian.

The Renaming Ceremony included several guest speakers which included Bobbie Smith, Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Jill Baker, Board of Education member Dr. Felton



Monica Alas, Principal
and Bobbie Smith.

Williams, District 7 Councilman Roberto Uranga and Grammy-honored Thelma Houston.

This wonderful event could not have been possible without the help of the Smith Elementary Staff and generous donations from the Home Depot and Color Spot Nursery. The donations from our local businesses helped beautify our school for the ceremony.

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

Stanford *Middle School*

David Costa, *Principal*

Acts of Kindness

By Shawn Abbate, *Assistant Principal*

The Stanford Middle School Student Council spearheaded a campus-wide week of activities to encourage students and staff to engage in acts of kindness to create a warm, welcoming, and friendly environment. The first event was an assembly earlier in the year presented by the organization #Icanhelp. The entire campus was made aware of the effects of cyberbullying and was encouraged to spread compliments and words of encouragement around campus.



In January, during Kindness Week, each day of the week began with an encouraging quote, and students were given kindness cards to post on the compliment wall. Other activities included positive notes from teachers, compliment clothespins to “pass it on,” and random acts of kindness.

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

Twain *Elementary*

Art is fun!



Jacqueline Williams
Principal

By Emilie Pangan, *Reflections Chairperson*
Principal Dr. Williams with Jarrod Mendoza

The Reflections Art Program has been offered at Twain for many years. This year we are extending congratulations to our eight students who won an Award of Excellence at Twain. Furthermore, Jarrod Mendoza, a 2nd Grader, advanced to win an Award of Excellence at the Long Beach

Council and 33rd District for his film production entitled “The World Would be a Better Place if We Bring Out the Superheroes in All of Us”. His entry is now at the California state level. We wish him the best of luck.

When asked what art is to him, he replied, “Art is fun!”

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

Tincher *Preparatory School (K-8)*

A School To Watch



Rosemary Sissons
Principal

Tincher Preparatory School welcomes Mrs. Rosemary Sissons as our new principal. We are also proud to announce that we started 2015 by earning our second redesignation as a School To Watch. Originally designated in 2009, Tincher is the only TK-8th grade California School To Watch. This designation, under the auspices of The National Forum to Accelerate



Teacher Vanessa Quamma works with elementary students in the Tincher Learning Garden.

Middle-Grades Reform, recognizes exceptional instructional practice with a focus on middle school students. Once again, our continuing efforts to provide instruction which challenges all students was recognized with this award.

Our Learning Garden, courtesy of The Kitchen Community is already providing its second harvest to our junior

gardeners. Thanks to the warm winter weather we are preparing to harvest corn in January!

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



Awards of Excellence winners at Twain.

Washington *Middle School*

Doing Our Part for Our Community



Megan Traver
Principal

At Washington Middle School, our vision is: Building Ourselves as We Build Our Community. In part of our efforts to “give back” and support the community, one of the organizations we work with closely is the Long Beach Rescue Mission. Our Student Council students go once a week to serve food at the Mission. Some of our Male Academy students have also helped to serve food on the weekend. 8th grade Male



Academy student, Daniel Leyva said of the experience, “It felt good to be able to give. And it inspired me to be the best I can be.” One of the most powerful ways to build confidence and foster a sense of pride and gratitude is to be of service to others. And we are very proud to be of service and to do what we can to make our community the best it can be.

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

Whittier *Elementary*

Repeat Performance



Lori Grady
Principal

By Nancy Jo Rettig, Counselor at Whittier

It's always a pleasure to see our graduates. But even more pleasurable when they return to offer their help. Such is the case with Millikin High School sophomore, Leslie Amaya.

In addition to her swimming and strong academic goals, Leslie aspires to be a pediatrician or engineer. In other words she's a perfect volunteer who is organized and likes children. “Not only do I think about college, I find that I really like to make a difference, one person at a time.”

The holiday Spark of Love gift program, facilitated by the generous LBFD, was a perfect fit. Adorned in elf hats, her team assisted in packing and delivering holiday



Webster *Elementary*

A Special Visitor



Maria Martinez
Principal

On December of last year the kindergarten and special education classrooms at Webster Elementary had a special visitor roam the halls, jolly Saint Nick. Santa came to greet all the good boys and girls of Webster with special wishes for the upcoming year and sweet candy cane treats in the library. The children joined in a chorus of “Jingle Bells” and “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”, while they waited patiently for the beloved visitor.

During the holiday season Webster showed signs of the season with staff and students decorating the halls and the community providing gifts and groceries to needy Webster families. Overall the holiday season allowed our school to celebrate our Webster family and to get ready for a successful 2015.



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

surprises to excited families. (Leslie is 3rd in photo).

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

Making a Big Difference

By Victoria Joseph, Teacher – 5th Grade



Dr. Cassandra Richards
Principal

At Willard Elementary School, the safety of children is first priority. Before school, during lunch, and after school are the times when proper student supervision is vital. As a result of input from our English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC), the number of recreation aides at Willard has increased from seven to nine. This has made a tremendous impact on student behavior.



Guadalupe Lopez & Rosa Zacatenco.

In late August, the Willard recreation aides, along with the teachers, office staff, and custodians, participated in a full day of professional development to review the school's playground policy and to create a plan to make sure that all teachers and students understood the revisions.

We appreciate our recreation aides!



Patty Loera, Carolyn "Coachie" Pegan, Eddie Calhoun, Celise Yarde, Curtis Guinn, Teresa Becerra, & Jackie Davison.

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

Mr. and Miss Bruin

By Annabel Jankovic, 12th Grade Student



Sandy Blazer
Principal



Gonzalo Moraga
Principal of Instruction

In continuation of an annual Wilson tradition, students of the 2015 senior class battled it out by means of song, dance, marimba, and other secret weapons. The 20-competitor tussle, otherwise known as Mr. and Miss Bruin, drew a healthy

sum of ambitious and talented students—inspired to live their final high school year to the fullest—who blossomed before a student-teacher panel of judges. Ultimately—in accordance to the panel's eventual consensus—enthusiastic words of congratulations and construction paper sashes were issued to each of the blessed, chosen twenty.

For both competitors and Stage Crew, the rehearsal schedule was taxing. Meeting every day after school for up to four hours a session, both parties were often left gasping

for air and grabbing for a free second to challenge dreaded college applications.

The silver lining, however, glistened sweetly. The competitors and involved staff produced a standing ovation-provoking spectacle that ultimately lead to the anticipated coronation. A massive congratulations goes out to the deserving victors of the 2014-2015 school year: Greg Suematsu and Shelby Ishimine.



Greg Suematsu and Shelby Ishimine.



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

Westerly School of Long Beach (K—8)



Chris Rodenhizer
Head of School

A student's socio-emotional development and well-being is built into Westerly's mission and a major part of the program. Part of the process is in the teaching of values and the understanding of one's self with a commitment to service within the community. Students are encouraged to think beyond themselves in order to better serve or support those facing great adversity. Not only do these opportunities support those in need but they also build character and integrity in the students performing the service.

Hear from a few Westerly students who experienced this commitment to community and personal growth.

Jake Hall, Fourth Grade

After dropping off the gifts to the annual Stuff-A-Bus event, my classmates and I went to Downtown Disney to skate. While I was skating my mom called me over and introduced me to a boy named Ryan. I noticed that Ryan had verbal and physical limitations. Ryan is a teenager and has had over 44 surgeries and has several rods in his back. Ryan's mom told me that Ryan would love to skate with me but he can't. My mom asked me to do a lap for Ryan because he cannot do it himself.



Jake and his classmates hanging out with Ryan.

After I came back from doing the lap, Ryan was so happy. He was dancing and I got a high-five. I asked a couple of friends to do a lap. Soon it became almost every Westerly student there. We all did a countdown 3, 2, 1, and we're off. After we all did 2 or 3 laps, we came back once again and Ryan was happy. Ryan's mom was overjoyed because everybody was very caring. Ryan's mom took a photo of everybody with Ryan. He danced for everyone then we all got high-fives.

I learned that doing something small can have a big impact on the lives of others.



Christina, Chris, and the rest of their Leadership classmates with the kids from Precious Lamb.

Christopher Howard, Seventh Grade

My experience at Precious Lamb Preschool had a dramatic impact on me. Working with young children who are fighting homelessness made me grateful for what I have. Seeing all of those little kids light up when they saw my friends and I walking through the door was probably the highlight of my day. It's hard to think that children their age deal with such difficult situations. Even though they face such misfortune, I never saw one of them without a smile and that fills my heart with warmth.

Others should give back to their community because it makes a big difference on how you feel and how others feel. Giving back changes you and your perspective on your community. This experience had changed me for the better. I've realized all that I have to be grateful for. Instead of worrying about what I don't have, I'm going to embrace what I do have, and look for ways to help others in my community.

Christina Marsh, Eighth Grade

Each year the Westerly School donates time and resources during the holidays to the less fortunate in the community. I am always so impressed with the amount of donations from the Westerly students. This year we came together to support the kids at Precious Lamb Preschool, a school supporting children and families in their transition out of homelessness.

Along with delivering donations we stayed and spent extra time doing arts and crafts with the kids in Precious Lamb and they really enjoyed our company. It was great to have someone care more about good company than material possessions. We created friendship bracelets and created personalized t-shirts. Also, everyone from Westerly gained new experience they would never forget.

Giving back is very important and I believe it should be something everyone does as for others in their local and global community. Westerly has given me the opportunity to be exposed to many different sides of the Long Beach community. I've partnered with many organizations starting at a young age through Westerly. I've learned helping others can support communities of need while also helping me grow as a young lady.



You!

One of the things colleges allow to get to know you better is a Brag Sheet. Yes, you heard correctly. The Brag sheet!

It is also known as the College Admissions Resume. It is an opportunity to show the admissions committee what distinguishes you from every other applicant they are reviewing. The Brag Sheet communicates not only how unique and amazing you are, but reveals to the reader a deeper understanding of who you are: your character and your personality.

Beginning as early as the summer of your freshman year: You are going to want to keep a record; basically everything you do outside of the classroom. You will want to keep your honors and awards including: newspaper articles, playbills, certificates all in one place.

One quick, easy tip:

Simply take a three ring binder. Fill with plastic sheet protectors and begin filling you're your awards, honors, poems, playbills, newspaper clippings etc. You can get fancy later with scrapbooking or even scan and create an electronic file adding additional photos or videos.

This Brag Book will be invaluable in the future. You will be surprise how many ways it will be useful. Use it when you create that resume; to help jog the memories of those who will write glowing letters of recommendation for you. Use it to make your applications come alive. Stand out from the crowd.

Be Ready... You will need to...Brag - Brag - Brag... The colleges want to know who you are.

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



Kate Karp

Build It Back Again

I'm delighted whenever I come across a collection for children featuring music that isn't formulated, childishly cute or backed with electronic tracks. *Build It Back Again* by the Billy Jonas band is none of this, even with the use of a toy piano as a percussion instrument. The melodies are catchy compositions performed by a full range of vocal and instrumental mastery—even that little piano—and the lyrics do more than instruct and educate. They traverse sometimes wonky pathways to communicate profound messages of determination, maintaining humanity in a technological world, balance and historical significance.

The title song features a strong tempo with words to match. From the architecture of ancient Greece to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina—and certainly not stopping there—the band sings of the resolve of the human spirit to rebuild, often in new ways. The rollicking “Monkeys Driving Cars” tells how necessary it is to advance ourselves as humans to the same extent as technology if we want to survive as people. In a primal atmosphere of percussion, “Moment of Noise” seamlessly transitions from the creation of the universe to thankfulness and appreciation for every little sound and what causes it.

The CD is heavy but not any means ponderous. The songwriters also love wordplay, especially as it increases vocabulary and wallows in punning, as in “Hairy,” “Maybe Maybe Not” and “What Kind of Bear Are You?”

The Billy Jonas Band has dug a sturdy foundation in *Build It Back Again*— good stuff for any group discussion that involves young minds.

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

String Instruments 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 **March 15, 2015**

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift certificate redeemable at Barnes & Noble.

- BALALAIKA
- BANJO
- BASS VIOL
- CELLO
- CLAVICHORD
- CONTRABASS
- DULCIMER
- GUITAR
- HARPSICHORD
- LUTE
- LYRE
- MANDOLIN
- ORGAN
- PIANO
- SITAR
- UKULELE
- VIOLA
- VIOLIN
- ZITHER



Congratulations to **Alana Karlowitsch** Winner of the Dec. Word Search Contest!

From The Boathouse



Jack Nunn

Men's Rowing Team Competes in Germany

This past summer, Izak Epstein, Luke Khoury, and Allen Reitz represented both Long Beach Junior Crew (LBJC) and the United States of America at the 2014 Junior World Rowing Championships in Hamburg, Germany. Just one week after winning a national championship in the Men's 8, the trio set off to make the USA Junior National

Team: Allen for his third time; Luke for his second; and Izak for his first.

While Luke and Allen set off with LBJC head coach Tom Graves to prepare for trials in the two-man race (a dream for the duo), Izak headed east to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to attend a selection camp of 30 athletes, competing for 14 spots. Allen and Luke went on to win the trials and trained at the Craftsbury

Outdoor Center in Vermont in anticipation for the world championships. Izak made top 14 and went on to train at Princeton, where he ended up stroking in the four-man race.

What had been a thrilling season filled with hard work and dedication continued as the three teammates met up in Germany, ready to compete. Luke and Allen finished 17th in the two-man race, and Izak finished 10th in the four-man race after a truly extraordinary year.



“These are the experiences that you will remember for the rest of your life,” said Izak. He is grateful to all the people who helped him to achieve success: his coaches, Nick D’Antoni and Tom Graves; his family; and especially his teammates, who he says “push each other to [their] limits.”

Allen Reitz is currently a freshman at Stanford University, Luke Khoury is a freshman at the University of Washington, and Izak is a senior at Long Beach Polytechnic High School and is deciding between Stanford and Yale University.

Jack Nunn has had the privilege of overseeing and offering advice to all the Long Beach junior rowers throughout the years. Jack rowed under coach Craig Amerkhanian as a freshman at University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), in the first-ever undefeated 1998 rowing season. Craig was hired to coach the men's crew team at Stanford due to his tremendous success from coaching numerous national championships in college. Jack also rowed under Steve Gladstone for the varsity rowing program at UC Berkeley and won three Pacific 10 Championships along with two US National

Championship victories. Steve Gladstone has recently been hired to coach the varsity program at Yale. Since Izak is deciding between the two schools where Jack's former coaches are leading the rowing programs, he has benefitted from Jack's advice.

Jack Nunn/Owner, Roworx Indoor Rowing and Fitness Center, 5750 Boathouse Lane, Long Beach, CA 90804 562/688-1716, www.roworx.com.

Remember When?



Charlene Ashendorf

Happy Days are Here Again!

We were not driven to school two blocks away; we walked to and from school with our classmates. We played pick up, tag or anything that included a ball.

Those were simpler times. My parents would say that they were safer times. Those were days when everyone knew their neighbors and folks looked out for each other; those were “happy days.”

I promised my grandparents I would not only remember those good old days, but keep community alive. Our children are grown and out of the house. Older folks have moved out and younger families have moved into the neighborhood. So how could I keep that promise as an empty nester on our cul de sac?

Everyone loves food, so we began with a neighborhood bar-b-que. We delivered flyers, asked folks to bring a dish, a chair and a beverage. We'd provide the meat. Getting to know each other was an important first step. Kids and adults were

now ready more...for the basketball hoop we placed in our front yard it became open play with a bring your own ball requirement. Next we built a little free library and placed it in on our entry wall. Filled with books for young and old alike, with a take one leave one policy, kids were found sprawled out under the shade of our liquid amber with books and snacks while dog walking adults would snap up a paperback or two.

Last year we began a question of the day experiment. What started out with two young neighbor kids knocking on the door for a homemade cookie or after school treat has become a 4:00 PM ritual with up to eight elementary schoolers who are given a science, math or history question and rewarded with a piece of candy. It's like Halloween with a purpose all year long.

We have made ours a neighborhood, a safe place for kids, where we look out for each other, just like the good old days. Happy days are here again.

Charlene remembers growing up in Chicago with hot and humid summers, leaves that turned colors in the fall and endless winters. Active in her community and church, she advocates for seniors, affordable housing, literacy and libraries. Her hobbies include reading, writing and visiting art galleries. Charlene resides in Costa Mesa with her husband, Dennis who is a teacher in the Newport Mesa Unified School District. <http://about.me/cmash>

Buying A Home With Cash?



**CathyLyn
Brooks**

Some buyers are flush with cash and can afford to purchase homes without using a mortgage. But there are tax and investment decisions that should be made before slapping all those clams down. And often people tap into 401K accounts and borrow from relatives to gather large amounts of cash for a purchase.

While it is true that paying cash for a home or an investment property creates immediate equity and saves thousands and thousands of dollars on interest payments, when making a cash purchase a buyer gives up a sizable tax deduction. The mortgage interest deduction for homes and investment property is one of the largest and most easily claimed write-offs left in the tax world today.

If your goal is to make the most of your money's earning power, an all cash purchase may not be the best use of a large amount of cash. Unless you have already developed a large and diversified portfolio of investments that considers not only the return, but risk and liquidity, you should carefully consider that an all cash purchase can tie up a large amount of money and in a declining market,

(which we will see again) can be lost with the stroke of an appraiser's pen. In today's market there are investments that can return more than the prevailing interest rates.

Another caution is to be sure of the home's value. Without financing involved, no appraisal is required. Unless you are certain of the value of a property based on comparable sales and research, obtain an appraisal to make sure you are not over-paying for the property.

The benefits of an all cash purchase are simple...no monthly mortgage. Many older homeowners drop into a lower tax bracket upon retirement and paying off the mortgage can make sense if you are in the last few years of a loan that is paying off mostly principal.

See your tax advisor before making any such move whether you are deciding to purchase for all cash or pay off an existing loan. An informed decision is always a better one.

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

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Nancy Griffin
National President

Reversing Public Speaking Fears

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

Surveys have found more people rating fear of public speaking higher than fear of death, but here is the thing: Fear of public speaking is reversible. Preparation and confidence are required. Here are some tips that have helped when invited to speak to

groups. Talk about what you know – when you know the subject, you can start with confidence that you are bringing accurate, usable information. Prepare and practice - if you have full command of your topic that ease makes for the most listen-able delivery. Know your audience- arrive early, network and shake as many hands as you can to create a more personal connection with some of the attendees. Speak to be heard and understood – well paced delivery and repetition matters and use voice modulation and appropriate volume.

These hints and many more are taken from the *Women in Business Magazine of ABWA*.

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



Jeffrey A. Napper
President & CEO

Maximize Your IRS Income Tax Refund

2015 is here, and along with a New Year is the inevitable tax season. If you're expecting an IRS income tax refund this year, you'll want to make sure that you make the most use of the funds you will receive. This money can help you to reach your financial goals. Here are a few suggestions:

Pay Off Debts: Before thinking of depositing your refund in a savings account, you should consider paying off or paying down some debts first. If you have credit card bills or any other kind of outstanding debt, carrying a balance can cost you a lot of money in the long run.

Increase Your Savings: If you don't have any debts to pay down or pay off, consider depositing your income tax refund check into your savings, money market, or even open a CD/share certificate account. It's always good to have extra funds to pull from for unexpected budget challenges.

Use It as a Down Payment: If you are planning on buying your first home or need to purchase a new vehicle, use your tax refund towards a down payment instead of dipping into your rainy day fund.



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