

FREE

School News

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Covering the La Habra City School District

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2014–JANUARY 2015

Empowering Students for the 21st Century and Beyond



Dr. Susan Belenardo
Superintendent

How do we prepare today's students for a future that will include opportunities and careers we can't even imagine today? Advances in technology make the impossible possible, and, as soon as we master one new

innovation, it is already obsolete! All students must be able to apply their learning and become creative, independent, problem-solvers.

Technology allows students to explore powerful ideas and express themselves in ways never possible in the past. Thanks to the support of the La Habra community, the district successfully passed a general obligation bond in 2012. The funds from this bond are helping to provide our students with more access to this powerful technology. In addition,



21st Century learners in action.

bond-supported modernization projects are providing students with access to 21st-century learning spaces in which to use this technology.

We are well on our way to providing our students with access to the tools and devices needed to connect them to available resources. Our 1:1 electronic tablet program continues to expand to additional grade levels in our middle schools. In addition, electronic tablets, computers, and laptops are available

in all schools throughout the district to support the instructional program. Through carefully planned professional development, teachers are equipped with the skills they need to maximize the implementation of this technology to create a learning environment that fosters student engagement and learning.

Throughout our schools, students have the opportunity to use technology to experience and engage in the learning process. Students use iMovie to document and record their projects across all curricular areas. In Project Lead the Way, classes students are learning Computer-Aided Design (CAD) to design and create objects which can be built or created on a 3-D printer. In music classes, students use software applications, such as Garage Band, to create and share their own musical compositions.

*See **EMPOWERING** • Page 6*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Technology for Tomorrow

By Sandi Baltes, President

The La Habra City School District is providing students with comprehensive and innovative educational programs. By implementing the new Common Core State Standards, we are providing a relevant curriculum that supports reading complex texts, writing, thinking, real-world problem solving and innovation. Reading and writing are being emphasized across all curriculum areas at all grade levels and help students demonstrate their comprehension of subject matter.

La Habra parents, staff and community members are also welcoming our new and exciting Dual-Immersion Program, which is currently being implemented at the kindergarten level at Arbolita School.

Our middle school academies continue to integrate basic academic subjects into frameworks which include Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) and Visual and Performing Arts. Also exciting are the motivating



(Back) Sharon H. Brown-Vice President, John A. Dobson-Clerk, Elizabeth Steves-Member (Front) Linda Navarro Edwards-Member, Sandi Baltes-Board President

electives and after-school opportunities offered to our middle school students.

Proudly, access to technology has been dramatically expanded over the past few years and is being utilized to enhance learning in all curricular areas. Our teachers have been extensively trained in the best educational use of electronic tablets and will continue to integrate the electronic tablets and other devices into daily instruction to make that instruction even more meaningful and exciting.

With all of these and many other positive elements in place—coupled with outstanding and dedicated teachers, strong support staff, parents who participate at home and at school, and, of course, students who are willing and eager to learn—La Habra City School district continues to provide outstanding learning opportunities for all students.

We welcome all inquiries about our schools and invite you to visit us and see for yourself how La Habra students are learning in and for the 21st century.

Business Office

500 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2305 • www.lahabraschools.org

Finding Relief from the Budget Crisis



Karen Kinney
Chief Business
Officer

LHCS D has just finished the first year under the new funding system signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in July 2013. The new funding system, the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), brings new dollars, greater transparency and more local control. La Habra City School District saw an increase of over \$2.1 million, allowing the district to return to a 180-day school year and reduce the district's use of reserves to offset deficit spending. The district ended the 2013-14 school year with an unrestricted ending fund balance of \$3.4 million and begins the new school year implementing the goals outlined in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

The District's 2014-15 budget of \$44.9 million includes the funding to implement the plans outlined in the LCAP to improve student achievement. It requires highly qualified teachers and support staff to support our educational programs; 82 percent of the budgeted expenditures are for the services of the district's employees. The district anticipates spending \$2.4 million over the last school year on staff to implement the goals included in the LCAP, which include increasing class offerings at our middle schools, reducing class size and offering professional development to staff.

After five years of reduced funding from the State of California because of the financial crisis, the district's excited that the new plans will result in improved outcomes for all students.

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



We are delighted to publish the first issue of *School News* covering the La Habra City School District. We hope you will continue to include *School News* among your reading choices. There are continual changes in the classroom, but the one constant is the focus on academic success.

Our next issue is Feb 11, 2015... yes, 2015! In the meantime, Happy Halloween, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays!

We are always mindful and grateful for our men and women in the armed forces.

School News

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Covering the
LA HABRA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

FOUNDER/PUBLISHER: Kay Coop
562/493-3193 • kay@schoolnewsrollcall.com

ADVERTISING SALES:
562/493-3193 • Fax: 562/430-8063

CONTENT COORDINATOR: Barbra Longiny

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Meshel Negrete

COPY EDITORS:

Lisa Brock, Kate Karp & Anna Zappia

CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST:

Netragednik by Neta Madson

@SchoolNewsRC

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SCHOOL NEWS ROLL CALL, LLC

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562/493-3193

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Student Support Services

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Special Education Services



Patsy James
Special Education
Director

Special Education services are offered for students who are eligible, based upon an identified disability that impacts the student's educational performance. Disability areas, according to the California State Department of Education, include specific learning disabilities, speech/language impairment, deafness, hard of hearing, visual impairment, orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, emotional disturbance, multiple disabilities, deafness/blindness, other health impairments, and intellectual disability.

Each school in the district offers Special Education services. Some specialized programs are offered only at specific sites.

Students are offered programs and services based upon their unique, individualized needs, as determined by an annual Individualized Education Program (IEP). Some examples of Special Education services include specialized academic instruction, speech and language services, adapted physical education services, occupational therapy and physical therapy. Services are provided in the least restrictive environment, as close to the general education setting as possible.

The next Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Community Advisory Committee meeting in La Habra will be on Thursday, December 11 at the La Habra City School District Board Room, 500 N. Walnut Street, La Habra at 9 a.m.

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MAP Assessments



Sheryl Tecker
Director of
Programs and
Assessment

Students, teachers and administrators in the La Habra City School District are using a new assessment system called MAP (Measures of Academic Progress). MAP is currently being administered to third-through-eighth-graders to determine students' achievement in reading, language usage and mathematics. Aligned with Common Core State Standards, MAP tests will be administered twice a year to provide teachers valuable information regarding students' growth and to predict students' success on the Smarter Balanced end-of-year state test.

Students take MAP tests on a desktop computer or an iPad. Students select, drag or highlight their answers in a format very similar to Smarter Balanced Tests. Each test takes approximately 40 minutes to complete. Teachers receive immediate access to student results. Reports can be accessed the same day that the students complete the test. The data teachers receive is immediately actionable and allows them to differentiate and fine-tune their instruction to meet all students' needs.

MAP tests give us data to help students improve whether that students is at, below or above grade level. Students will be able to set individual goals based on the MAP data, and family members will see MAP results at our fall and spring parent conferences.

La Habra City School District is excited to use this new tool to "MAP the way" to student success!

College, Career, and Beyond



Teresa Egan
Assistant
Superintendent

In 2013, the state of California made major changes to the way school districts across the state are funded. The new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) increases school funding and directs more resources to highest-need students. The LCFF requires districts to develop Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAPs), which establish annual goals for all students, describe what actions will be taken to achieve these goals, and detail how funds will be spent to increase or improve services.

La Habra City School District's LCAP is aligned to the School Board's Strategic Plan, with a focus on: academic excellence; business and finance; parent/community partnerships; human resources development; and school safety and student wellness. The input of local stakeholders, parents, staff members, community members, and students, is reflected in the LCAP, which must be annually reviewed and updated.

Priorities for the increased funding in 2014–2015 will provide our students with smaller class sizes in kindergarten through third grade, a seven-period day for middle school students, additional staff to support student wellness and safety, and an additional academic coach to support early literacy. We have also increased the school year to 181 days and will provide professional development to support the transition to the Common Core State Standards.

The LCAP supports La Habra City School District's goal of preparing all of our students for college, career, and beyond.



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Arbolita *Elementary*

1001 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2352 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Rosamaria Murillo
Principal

Top Honors!

Arbolita School is very proud of its ability to provide exciting and successful experiences for all of our students. With our unique configuration focusing on the primary grades—kindergarten through second grade—we have been able to concentrate our efforts on building a strong academic foundation in reading, writing and math for each student. This success has been demonstrated in our school being named a 2014 California Distinguished School and a 2014 Title I Academic Achievement Award School. Only three schools in Orange County earned both awards, and statewide, there were only 33 schools with

both honors! We were recently honored to be named one of the Top Ten Public Elementary Schools in Orange County by the Orange County Register. Finally, the California Business for Excellence in Education organization ranked Arbolita as a 2013 Honor Roll School for our achievements in 2013.

We are very proud to initiate our school district's first dual-immersion program: a Spanish/English kindergarten classes in 2014–15. The program immerses students in Spanish for 80 percent of the school day and 20 percent in English. Arbolita School and the LHCS D are seeking parents interested in having their children become bilingual and biliterate in both English and Spanish. Interested parents of current TK students and incoming kindergarten students should contact Arbolita School. Transfer students from schools in LHCS D and from outside our district are welcome.

If you are interested in enrolling for the 2015–16 school year, please contact the school office in January 2015.

Imperial *Middle School*

1450 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2344 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Cathy Seighman
Principal

Skills and Standards

At Imperial Middle School, Academy of the Arts, we offer an outstanding core curriculum emphasizing 21st-century skills as well as standards-based curriculum that

infuses the arts and technology into all curricular areas. Imperial also provides students with the opportunity to experience visual and performing arts through our extensive elective program, which includes piano, world percussion, beginning and advanced bands, ceramics, art, technology, media arts, chorus, choir, visual communications, world language, and theater arts.

Technology is an integral component of our instructional program. Students use technology, which includes an electronic tablet for every student, as a tool for creative thinking, problem solving, and connecting to the global community.

Imperial is proud of our strong school culture that supports learning for all students. As a Professional Learning Community, our goals are to provide students with the finest educational experience possible and to ensure success in the 21st century.



El Cerrito *Elementary*

1051 N. Hillside, La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2340 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Emily Szary
Principal

Active Learning for Future Success

El Cerrito School is committed to providing every student with a successful educational experience. Building 21st-century skills will enable our students to acquire attributes essential for college or career readiness in their educational careers. Acquisition of foundational skills in the content areas of reading, writing, and number sense is achieved through implementing the Common Core State Standards. Our El Cerrito Scotties are engaged in learning opportunities designed to cultivate critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration. Our Scottie staff

works closely in professional learning communities to design and implement meaningful instruction in core content areas, incorporating technology and research-based, best instructional strategies, empowering all students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.



Through implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports system, our students are learning to be respectful, responsible, and safe individuals. We welcome parents, families, and community members to volunteer in our classrooms and attend school activities. Working together, our El Cerrito community of learners will thrive.



Ladera Palma *Elementary*

2151 E. Brookdale Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2348 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



George Lopez
Principal

Preparing Students for the Future

Ladera Palma Elementary School is grateful for the opportunity to educate your child. We want to ensure every child receives the best educational experience. We strongly believe that, with your support and our dedication, your child will be prepared for kindergarten through second grade, college and career. We will continue to ensure the importance of reading, writing, and mathematics and empower our students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, communicators, and creative scholars.

It is important that we provide our students the opportunities to learn about the pathways in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Your child will experience Project-Based Lessons that are tied to the Common Core State Standards. We are also in the beginning stages of our electronic tablet program. This program will support our students to, first and foremost, be responsible users of technology and to deepen their learning in every subject. Along with the electronic tablets, we have a computer lab of 30 computers ready to go for all grade levels.

We will continue empowering and preparing your child for his or her future education. We want all of our young scholars to be respectful, responsible, and safe, and we support them through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). This process recognizes and rewards the positive behavior of every student.

Lastly, as we continue to move forward in preparing our students for the future, we will continue to ask for your support by ensuring your child is at school every day and on time ready to learn.

Las Lomas *Elementary*

301 Las Lomas Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2353 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Pam Cunningham
Principal

Building 21st-Century Learners

Las Lomas School, home of the Lions and a California Distinguished School, has a very unique grade configuration focusing on the primary grades. This allows us to concentrate our efforts on building a strong academic foundation in reading, writing, and math. We have strong academic programs and teachers who work collaboratively to ensure success for all students. We are very excited about the new Common Core State Standards and how they are helping our students learn the arts of communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity!

We have many programs designed to maximize student achievement. Our first- and second-grade students come to school on a staggered schedule, so teachers have a smaller student/teacher ratio for two hours per day. This provides them with the opportunity to differentiate their instruction to meet each student's individual needs. Our Excellence: A Commitment to Every Learner (ExCEL) reading program provides each of our students with an opportunity to achieve high levels of reading success, regardless of their ability level. Through this model, teachers are able to use scaffolding to provide support to students as they learn a concept, then slowly removing the support as students achieve competency. The Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) method of teaching math teaches our students to use their critical-thinking, problem-solving and communication skills to find the correct answer. Project-Based Learning, Guided Language Acquisition Design (GLAD), and technology are helping bring the 4 Cs together for our students. It is amazing what our primary students are able to create and develop using Project-Based Learning, technology and GLAD strategies.

Las Positas *Elementary*

1400 S. Schoolwood Dr., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2356 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Mike Klewer
Principal

Lots to Roar About!

At Las Positas School, our 2014–15 motto is “We’re in an upROAR about Learning!” It is our mission this year and every year to empower students to be creative thinkers, innovators, and Leaders in Our Neighborhood (LION). We engage all learners in a relevant, standards-based curriculum. We challenge all students to become resilient, curious lifelong learners. Our behavior expectations require students to be respectful, safe, responsible and kind. Our staff models and reinforces these expectations for every student.

In September, students had the opportunity to celebrate Dot Day. Dot Day encouraged creativity and offered students the chance to write about how they will “make their mark” on the world. Some of our learning experiences have included the opportunity to make and use solar ovens and produce student-made videos for Back to School Night and Explorer units. Shortly, students will participate in programs such as Global Read-Aloud, The Genius Hour, Wonderopolis, the Hour of Code, Go Noodle for fitness and Artist of the Month.

We welcome you to visit Las Positas and learn about our many academic programs firsthand. You will find talented teachers committed to teaching all students the critical-thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills they will need to be successful in the 21st century.



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Washington *Middle School*

716 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/960-2374 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Mario Carlos
Principal

Empowering Our Students

Washington Middle School is empowering students academically and socially to become successful, now and in the future. We are continuously implementing 21st-century technology to enhance learning within all content areas. We model and require all students to demonstrate behavior that is ready, responsible, and respectful. Through a collaboration of staff, parents, and the community, we are fostering strong foundations that empower our students to become responsible and productive citizens, as well as creative thinkers and problem solvers.

We have implemented six sections of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) through Project Lead The Way (PLTW) and six sections of Technology, Science, and Math Academy (TSMA). We also have introduced a new 1:1 electronic tablet program for sixth and seventh grades and a Kindle Fire program. Read 180 and Expert 21 programs integrate state-of-the-art technology to ensure proficiency in language arts for all students.

We are continuing Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which promotes positive discipline and re-teaching of negative behaviors. We also offer highly engaging after-school programs, such as homework assistance, mixed sports, Spanish, anime, math tutorials, computers, dance, art, guitars, video production, the Good News Club, cheerleading, and the Boys and Girls Club.

Our staff continues to work in professional learning communities, which support highly effective teaching strategies. This year our challenge is to empower all our English learners while maintaining our strong academic curriculum focus for our entire student population.

We look forward to collaborating with you to ensure the most successful year possible.

Walnut *Elementary*

625 N. Walnut St., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2369 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Susan Goellrich
Principal

Off to a Great Start

It has been a great start of the school year for Walnut Elementary School. Walnut's caring teachers and staff work tirelessly on a daily basis in the best interest of kids. Through instruction emphasizing the Common Core Standards and 21st Century Skills, we are dedicated to empowering all students to become creative thinkers and problem-solvers. With this primary focus on instruction and student learning, we will continue to ensure that we offer the best opportunities and learning experiences for all students to be successful and to be

well prepared to meet any challenge. Walnut is dedicated to advancing each child's academic, social and personal development in a supportive, safe and challenging learning environment.

EMPOWERING • From Page 6



Dr. Susan Belenardo
Superintendent

Technology not only allows students to extend and apply their learning, it also provides students with access to programs that remediate and reinforce otherwise unattainable learning. Programs such as ST Math and Read 180 provide students with the opportunity to progress through an individualized curriculum. Technology supports Project-Based Learning experiences, where teachers create powerful contexts for learning and students are empowered to solve real-world problems. Students learn that mistakes are steps in the wrong direction and have the resolve to search for successful solutions.

Educating students for the 21st century and beyond is an exciting challenge. We invite you to join us on this journey.

Sierra Vista *Elementary*

1800 E. Whittier Ave., La Habra, CA 90631 • 562/690-2359 • <http://www.lahabraschools.org>



Anna Dorado
Principal

Sierra Vista Welcomes the Classes of 2026, 2027, and 2028

Our school is ready and prepared to teach our young scholars the importance of 21st-century learning skills. In order for our students to be prepared for college or careers after high school, it takes a strong emphasis today on giving them the skills necessary for them to succeed. At Sierra Vista School, this includes a strong sense of the 4 Cs: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. Each and every classroom designs learning experiences that will enable our students to practice these creative problem-solving skills in order to make connections from their learning today to how it will help them in the future to become successful innovators.

This year at Sierra Vista, there is a strong culture of promoting college readiness. It is our belief that every child has the right to be educated in a way that will prepare him or her for college. If our young scholars choose to go to college after high school, they will have been exposed to a foundation that includes a strong academic program, goal setting, character education, and, most importantly, a belief that they can achieve anything they set out to do.

We work collaboratively as a staff to ensure that students are given every opportunity to be successful. Our parents, community partnerships, and district support will make the 2014–2015 school year a successful one for your child.

Parent To Parent

Halloween Costumes for Little Girls



Jodie Lynn

Q. Halloween is right around the corner and of course, the stores are pushing like crazy for parents and kids to buy early for the best costume, candy and etc. We have eight-year-old twin girls and it's crazy to see how many inappropriate outfits there are for their age group. Will it harm little girls to pick out something that is sort of flashy and glamorous or are we setting ourselves up for similar requests in everyday attire?

A. It can sometimes be difficult to find age-appropriate Halloween attire for little girls. However, this year princess dresses seem to be popular, thanks to movies like Frozen. Shopping early may actually help, especially if it's going to be store-bought as opposed to being made at home. Some stores are better known for a larger variety of styles. Thus, the costumes do seem to fly off the rack sooner. As long as your daughters understand that the costume is just for fun, and sort of like a more relaxed dress up day, there's probably not any real concern for future requests for similar clothing for their everyday wear. That's not to say that the envelope may not occasionally be pushed as they get older. Being a little flexible always helps in certain situations and helps them develop into their own individuality.

Jodie Lynn is an award winning, internationally syndicated family/health and education columnist and best selling author. Her column Parent to Parent™ (www.ParentToParent.com) has been successful for more than 15 years. She is a regular contributor to several sites and has written four books and contributed to three others, one of which was featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She has authored several books including *Mom CEO (Chief Everything Officer)*, *Having Doing*, and *Surviving it All!* and *Syndication Secret—What No One Will Tell You!* Check www.ParentToParent.com for details on new radio talk show, Inside Parenting Success.

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Note-ables

Love Bug

Are you a Beluga Grad?

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

Raffi Cavoukian, known by his first name, is bridging the near generation gap he created by not issuing a children’s CD in the last 12 years. *Love Bug* honors children and the world they live in; the collection is an extension of Raffi’s social-change movement, Child Honoring, as well as his desire to create environmental awareness and action as a team of humans. Worldly wise and socially and environmentally conscious, *Love Bug* pays lip service to causes only through what comes out between Raffi’s own lips.

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

And “Turn This World Around” brings it all together. Raffi’s music is gentle and at the same time serious about the planet, both in leaving it for children and for children doing their part to preserve it. They, too, will be adults someday.

Discover Raffi’s Child Honoring philosophy at www.raffinews.com/.



Kate Karp

Buy One Get One Flea, Dog on Fleas

For some time, creators and performers of young people’s music have been dispensing with the cheap, synthetic sound of electronic tracks and replacing them with real live instruments. I’m surely not the only one who’s delighted beyond words. Dog on Fleas is one of the groups that plays in its own band, called the Backyard Orchestra; the combo includes but is not limited to a sousaphone, duck calls, a bass drum, a bassoon, a clarinet and several kazoos. The wacky instrumentation and the wordplayful monikers of group and band indicate one slaphappily good CD.

The content is composed of songs original, familiar and obscure. Imagine, if you will, “Over the Waves” and the “Grand March” from the opera *Aida* played solely by kazoos, albeit skillfully. The original songs, written by Grammy Award-winning producer and band member Dean Jones, are based on themes that both child and parent will appreciate. “Hundredaires” is about the joys and disadvantages of a simpler life and a lighter wallet. “It’s a Ruse” warns about things that seem too good to be true and likely are. “Pardon My Pajamas”—well, who hasn’t longed to spend an entire day in jammies?

And “Hinterlands” is plain wonderful—brilliantly arranged and tuneful, with an energy that you can jump on and ride. You’re certain to get an itch for Fleadom.

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

Halloween 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 LHCS D in subject line)



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FRANKENSTEIN	MUMMY	WITCH
FRIGHTFUL	SKELETON	ZOMBIE

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T	B	X	U	U	D	U	T	S	O	H	G	W	R	N
S	B	P	U	H	Q	T	N	Z	D	R	G	S	Q	D

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