



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 30, 2012



FIRST IN LINE – Eighth grader Kenneth Chao was the first student to receive an iPad at Nelson Academy, the new middle school that opened this fall in Signal Hill. Each student at Nelson will receive an iPad in the coming weeks to use at school and at home.

Brand New High School Accepting Students

The nearly completed \$75 million McBride High School remains on schedule to open next fall and is now accepting applications from prospective students.

Long Beach's newest high school, located near the corner of Los Coyotes Diagonal and Carson Street, combines the personalized attention of a small high school with a career-focused approach that prepares students for the demands of college and the working world. Students will demonstrate what they have learned through projects, team collaboration and connections with industry partners.

McBride eventually will accommodate about 1,080 students (270 for its first freshman class in 2013-14). The school will offer three pathways: Engineering, Health-Medical, and Public Services-Forensics. All three McBride pathways are focused on completing the University of California and California State University entrance requirements (a-g) with a sequence of courses that are aligned to college expectations. Each pathway will provide options for students to earn college credits while in high school.

The Engineering Pathway offers a four-year sequence of courses with students designing innovative products using industry-standard CAD/CAM software and CNC machining processes. Students will learn math, science, English and history in the context of the engineering development process. Using the nationally recognized and locally tested Project

TALB Ratifies, School Board OKs Agreement

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education and the membership of the Teachers Association of Long Beach have formally OK'd an agreement reached after more than 20 months of bargaining.

The school board unanimously approved the agreement after more than 92 percent of TALB's K-12 members voted in favor of ratifying the deal, with 1,597 of those members voting yes while 134 voted no. Nearly 90 percent of TALB's Child Development Center and Head Start bargaining unit members also approved the agreement, with 86 yes votes and 10 no votes.

The agreement saves about \$1.5 million in 2013 through health plan adjustments, including changes to pharmacy plans. Some plans will see increased co-pays for doctor's office and/or emergency room visits.

TALB and the school district have agreed on how to handle escalating health care costs in future years. The parties agreed that the school district's maximum contributions for medical premiums would be set at 100 percent of the 2013 Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) rates for employee, employee plus one, and family. The school district maximum contribution will then increase by 3.5 percent on

January 1, 2014, and will then automatically increase by 3.5 percent every year thereafter.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2014, if health plan costs increase more than 3.5 percent, the employee will pay the difference. In the event that the increase is less than 3.5 percent, the difference is then credited to mitigate increases in future years.

A joint Health Benefits Committee will work to mitigate any cost increases for employees and the school district by considering plan design changes, provider selection, and wellness programs, and by educating employees.

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Board Nominates New Commissioner

The Board of Education has nominated Long Beach resident Stacey Lewis to serve on the Long Beach Unified School District Personnel Commission. The nomination now goes to State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson for approval.

Lewis is assistant director of human resource services for the Port of Long Beach. Prior to that job, she worked as a human resources manager in Torrance.

The Personnel Commission consists of three LBUSD residents who meet biweekly regarding items affecting the employment and compensation of classified employees.

Lewis would replace Vera Mulkey, whose term expires in December. Mulkey has served on the commission for 15 years.



Lewis

Lead the Way engineering curriculum, students will graduate with manufacturing and design skills along with a clear understanding of the variety of career and college options available to them.

The Health-Medical Pathway will culminate in the possibility of earning a Certified Nursing Assistant or Emergency Medical Technician certification. The four-year sequence of courses includes healthcare career exploration, global health, principles of health science and diagnostic services. On campus, students will work

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ANIMATED – At LBUSD's High School Choice Fair, Cabrillo High School junior Helen Vasquez shows prospective students animation software that is taught at her school. Learn more under High School Choice in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.





GIVING BACK – Jordan High School student leaders, along with about 20 Jordan teachers, Jordan retirees and 85 classmates delivered meals to more than 80 people on Thanksgiving Day at the Carmelitos Housing Project in North Long Beach. Students from Jordan Plus as well as Jordan's Male Academy and Female Academy took part, working with the nonprofit group Volunteer Action for Aging. Teacher Larry Cahn coordinated the effort, and fellow teacher Jodi Irish baked the cakes and cookies for dessert.

• TALB Agreement

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The two parties also agreed to a plan to prevent the closure of LBUSD's Head Start early childhood program. This school year, Head Start will reduce teachers' work year by five days, from 193 to 188. The following school year will be reduced by six more days, from 188 to 182.

The entire text of the agreement is available at lbschools.net under bargaining update.

Dates to Remember

December	
1	Beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1	World AIDS Day
4	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food for Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
9-16	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
11	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight
18	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 20 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry: Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
21	First Day of Winter
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
24-Jan. 4	Winter Recess
24-25	Christmas — Observed
25	Christmas Day
25	Clara Barton's Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa

• McBride Offers College Prep, Career Paths

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in a medical lab that resembles a hospital environment, and they will apply what they have learned to experiences in the community.

The Public Services-Forensics Pathway will be supported by a crime lab, a police academy lab and an outdoor obstacle course for training. With simulated crime scenes and interactions with professionals, students will understand the foundations of criminal justice and the legal system, the science behind crime scene investigation, and what to expect of a career in law enforcement and criminology. Students will see the connections between math, science, history and English as important components of investigating a crime scene.

The initial concept for McBride was developed in 2007 when a team of business leaders, including representatives from Boeing, the Port

of Long Beach and Molina Health Care worked with the school district and representatives from LBCC and CSULB.

There is no attendance boundary for McBride, and all interested students may apply through the district school of choice process.

McBride is built on the former DeMille Middle School site and is funded through local voter-approved Measure K school bonds, which can be used only for school construction and renovation. The new school is part of LBUSD's long-range Facility Master Plan. Developed with significant input from the public, the master plan calls for smaller high schools, in part because Long Beach has some of the largest high schools in the state.

Learn more about the new school at lbschools.net under McBride High School (General Information) in the A-Z index.

Consolidation May Affect Monroe, Burcham

As part of continued cost-cutting measures, Long Beach Unified School District staff has proposed closing Monroe K-8 School and eliminating grades six through eight at Burcham K-8 School at the end of this school year. The Board of Education may act upon the proposal at its Dec. 4 board meeting.

The school board first heard the proposal at its public workshop meeting last week.

While California voters' passage of Proposition 30 provides temporary tax increases to prevent deeper cuts to schools, LBUSD still must trim \$20 million from its budget. Had Prop. 30 failed, the school district would have faced \$35 million in cuts.

The Monroe and Burcham recommendations are due in part to declining enrollment. LBUSD now enrolls 81,000 students, down more than 16,000 from the peak enrollment in 2002. Declining enrollment exacerbates budget woes because schools receive most of their funding based on student attendance.

Staff also is recommending the latest consolidation in part because the school district is likely to eliminate its remaining K-8 transportation services, and because both Monroe and Burcham have relatively small numbers of neighborhood students. Only 162 of Monroe's 655 students live within the school neighborhood. At Burcham, only 55 of the 186 students in grades six through eight live within the school neighborhood, thus the recommendation to eliminate those grade levels. Before making such recommendations, school district staff also examines the ability of nearby schools to absorb the students from a closed school or

grade level.

The school district has continually examined the closure and consolidation of smaller schools in recent years to help maintain its fiscal solvency, improve efficiency and save funds to maintain high quality programs. In 2008, Tucker Elementary School merged with MacArthur Elementary School. In 2010, DeMille Middle School closed to make way for the brand new McBride High School scheduled to open next fall. In 2011, Burroughs and Buffum elementary schools closed. Keller Elementary School closed after last school year and is now accommodating Newcomb K-8 students while their campus is rebuilt. Butler Middle School's students transferred to the new Nelson Academy in Signal Hill this school year, allowing Butler to be used by Roosevelt Elementary School students while their campus is rebuilt.

Monroe may be used by the school district for other purposes, such as office space, allowing LBUSD to close offices elsewhere, though no formal recommendation or decision has been made on the site's potential reuse.

The Monroe closure would save about \$2.7 million, and the Burcham consolidation would save roughly \$800,000.

Once the school board takes action, parent meetings would be scheduled to present specific information about student placement and related questions.

Monroe, which is located at 4400 Ladoga Ave. in Lakewood, opened in 1953. Burcham, which is located at 5610 Monlaco Ave. in Long Beach, opened in 1950.

Job Share Deadlines

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2013-14 school year.

Job share deadlines are as follows:

Jan. 18—Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

March 1—Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services, or for additional information, call ext. 8106.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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