



# school bulletin

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

May 24, 2013

## Graduations Slated For 5,950 Students

The Long Beach Unified School District will award diplomas to 5,950 students in June. Poly and Poly Academy of Achievers and Leaders have 1,085 seniors. Millikan will award 932 diplomas; Lakewood, 903; Wilson, 900; Jordan, 745; Cabrillo, 560; EPHS, 300; CAMS, 158; Reid, 115; School for Adults, 100; Renaissance, 94; Avalon, 43; and Beach High School, 15.

Cabrillo conducts ceremonies on Tuesday, June 11; Reid, Jordan and Poly/PAAL on (Continued on next page)

## 630 Students Up for State Bilingual Seal

More than 600 high school seniors in the Long Beach Unified School District are candidates for the State Seal of Bilingual, a new honor that recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing one or more languages in addition to English.

The state seal will be awarded by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and students will receive the recognition upon graduation.

In all, 630 seniors here are candidates for 873 Seals of Bilingual – some students having met the criteria in more than one language. The languages for which LBUSD students earned seals include American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Khmer, Korean and Spanish.

Learn more at [cde.ca.gov](http://cde.ca.gov). Search for “State Seal of Bilingual.”

## Educators Visit From 10 States

The Long Beach Unified School District recently hosted more than 60 visitors from 10 different states, as education practitioners and officials observed schools and offices here to learn about exemplary practices.

In addition to visits from California Department of Education officials and representatives of the National Governors Association in Washington, D.C., the school district hosted visitors from Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Massachusetts, Ohio and North Carolina.

Many of the visitors were part of the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Pathways to Prosperity network, a collaboration with Jobs for the Future ([jff.org](http://jff.org)) and six states focused on helping more students complete high school ready for college and careers.

**TEAMWORK –** Students from Cabrillo High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science helped to build and launch a rocket in the Mojave Desert with NASA and a local aerospace company. The project may improve NASA missions. View more photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



## Cabrillo, CAMS Explore Rocket Science

A combined team of students from Cabrillo High School and the California Academy of Mathematics and Science recently headed to the Mojave Desert to get first-hand experience in advanced rocket engineering and flight testing.

After a long day that started at 4 a.m., the payoff came when the Prospector rocket that they helped build lifted off on a brilliant plume of fire and then, after a successful parachute deployment, slowly drifted about 1,800 feet back to earth, landing intact and ready for more testing.

The program is part of the school district’s Linked Learning approach that involves busi-

ness partners in creating real-world, hands-on experiences for students.

The 20 dedicated students and their instructors who made the Mojave hike are participants in a rocket technology research and development initiative that local aerospace company Garvey Spacecraft Corporation (GSC) is undertaking with the support of NASA’s Launch Services Program. GSC is pursuing the development of an operational “nanosat launch vehicle” that could directly deliver a very small spacecraft to orbit. Stanford University and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo are (Continued on next page)

## Wilson’s Jason Church is Employee of Year

Wilson Classical High School Custodial Supervisor Jason Church has earned the Classified Employee of the Year Award for the Long Beach Unified School District. The award was announced during a recent celebration in honor of Classified Employee Week.

Church, a 20-year veteran with the school district, was nominated by several colleagues at Wilson, including numerous teachers, who praised his efforts to keep the school clean, safe and running smoothly. Colleagues describe him as a calm, patient, friendly and focused employee who takes great pride in his work.

“I really appreciate all the kind words everybody said about me,” Church said. “I attribute this award to my co-workers who help me to be successful. They make my job very

enjoyable. There are a lot of unsung heroes behind the scenes in our schools, and I just hope I can represent them for the hard work they do every day.”

Church, a graduate of Lakewood High School and Cal State Long Beach, has worked at Wilson for three years. Prior to his current assignment, he worked at Cabrillo, Robinson and Rogers schools, as well as Alternative Education and Operations.

“Jason goes way above and beyond for the students and staff,” said Wilson Principal Sandy Blazer. “He always has a positive, can-do attitude and not a day goes by without someone telling me how wonderful he is. You can talk to any teacher, classified team member, student, parent or community member who has seen Jason in action, and they will rave about his visibility on campus, work ethic, positive attitude, love for his job, and love for this school.”

More than 30 nominations for the Classified Employee of the Year Award were submitted for a total of nine nominees, with many nominees receiving multiple nominations.



Church

## Students, Staff Join Revlon Run/Walk

More than 40 students and staff from the Long Beach Unified School District participated in the 20th Annual EIF Revlon Run Walk for Women in Los Angeles recently. The event raises funds for cancer research and treatment, and for psycho-social and financial support to under-served women facing cancer.

Participants were greeted at the starting line by a shower of confetti and a sea of tribute signs.

LBUSD high school students from the Female Leadership Academy participated, as did teams from several other schools and departments, including Buffum, Cleveland, Hamilton, Lee, Twain, Human Resource Services, Nutrition Services, Personnel Commission, Secondary Schools and Transportation.

## Librarian of the Year

The Long Beach School Library Association presented the Teacher Librarian of the Year Award to Sharlene Bergart at a recent Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education Meeting.

"I am very honored and humbled by this very special award, especially because there are so many talented and excellent librarians in the Long Beach Unified School District," Bergart said.

Bergart has worked at several LBUSD schools and has more than 30 years of experience as a librarian. She is also a past president of the Long Beach School Library Association.

## • Graduations

(Continued from first page)

Wednesday, June 12: Lakewood, Renaissance, Avalon, Wilson and Millikan on Thursday, June 13; and EPHS and School for Adults/Beach on Friday, June 14.

Scheduled to present diplomas are:

**Avalon**—Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools Pete Davis, 4 p.m., Avalon Casino Theater; **Cabrillo**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **CAMS**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Millikan High School Auditorium; **EPHS**—Board of Education Member Mary Stanton, 1 p.m., Lakewood High School Auditorium; **Jordan**—Board of Education Member Mary Stanton, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Lakewood**—Board of Education Member Diana Craighead, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **School for Adults/Beach**—Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services Ruth Ashley, 1 p.m., Millikan High School Auditorium; **Millikan**—Board of Education Member Diana Craighead, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Reid**—Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, 1 p.m., Cabrillo High School Small Gym; **Renaissance**—Board of Education Vice President John McGinnis, 3 p.m., Long Beach City College Liberal Arts Campus Auditorium; **Wilson**—Board of Education President Jon Meyer and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, 5:30 p.m., Stephens Field (football stadium).

## • Students Machined Rocket Components

(Continued from first page)  
among the academic leaders in this arena, and having a dedicated launch option would enhance their ability to conduct research in space.

Late last year, a project arose with NASA that enabled GSC to expand its interaction with LBUSD, said GSC founder John Garvey.

"After a few phone calls, I reached John Jacobson at district headquarters, and he in turn put us in contact with instructors like Steve Marsh at Cabrillo and Ted Harder at CAMS, who are already doing real hands-on hardware projects with activities like FIRST Robotics," Garvey said. "Steve and Ted were key in figuring out the best tasks to give to the students and lining up candidates with the right skill sets and attitudes."

With additional mentoring provided by recent Cal State Long Beach graduates and college interns who are now employed by GSC, the LBUSD students spent part of the spring semester refurbishing a Prospector 3 rocket that last flew in September. Students helped convert the propulsion system to run on liquid oxygen with propylene as the fuel instead of ethanol, while also making repairs and installing wire harnesses.

Several CAMS students machined components that were ultimately integrated into the new rocket engine, which itself represents a notable technology advancement, Garvey said. In technology-speak, this engine features a ceramic matrix composite (CMC)-lined ablative engine chamber originally developed under another NASA program by HyperTherm from Huntington Beach along with CSULB. GSC and CSULB had demonstrated the viability of this technology in ground testing for HyperTherm that wrapped up in 2012. Actually putting such a chamber into flight represented the next big step in demonstrating that this hardware, which is lighter and potentially less expensive than standard engine

chambers made from ablative materials (materials that erode or decompose as part of the rocket's operation), is getting closer to being ready for real mission applications. The goal was to demonstrate a high degree of technology readiness.

GSC and HyperTherm worked with their respective NASA managers to get the approval to put one such chamber on the P-3. So the LBUSD students got some real-world engineering lessons and participated in a successful technology flight that has the potential to improve future NASA missions.

With the P-3 safely back in the shop, GSC and the students are now refining the next phase of development. They plan to head back out to the Mojave Desert site owned by the Long Beach-based non-profit Friends of Amateur Rocketry to conduct a round of tests that will gather more technical data.

"LBUSD recognizes the unique value of being able to work on this kind of project with GSC and NASA, particularly in today's tight budget environment. The project draws on the strengths of the aerospace heritage here in Southern California, and motivating the students is easy," said John Jacobson, the school district's Small Learning Communities program facilitator.

Marsh, the Cabrillo instructor, said one student called the Mohave Desert launch his greatest accomplishment in life.

"That young man has vastly improved his attitude about his own future as a result of the experience," Marsh said. "The change in him has been noticed by his instructors. The Cabrillo students gave up their spring break to assist in this project. The work ethic that these students demonstrated serves as an example for all the students at this inner city high school. The partnership with GSC has changed the school climate for the better."

## Dates to Remember

| June |  |
|------|--|
| 5    | World Environment Day  |
| 5    | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—<br>"Independence Day(s)," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8  |
| 6    | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—<br>"Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8 |
| 9    | Race Unity Day   |
| 9-13 | National History Day Contest   |
| 12   | Anne Frank's Birthday  |
| 13   | Last Day of School—Students  |
| 14   | Last Day of School—Teachers  |
| 14   | Flag Day   |
| 16   | Fathers Day  |
| 21   | First Day of Summer  |
| 27   | Helen Keller's Birthday  |

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Salvation Army Thanks Schools

The Salvation Army's recent volunteer appreciation luncheon included a big "thank you" to local schools for more than 20 years of holiday food drives that have resulted in the donation of a million pounds of canned and other non-perishable food items.

"The partnership between LBUSD and the Salvation Army in Long Beach goes back to at least the 1970s and is cemented by years and years of holiday food drives to benefit needy families in our community," said Gail Crandall, social services director for the Salvation Army. "In 2012, of the 77,780 pounds of food collected through all our holiday food drives 44,955 pounds came from schools in LBUSD."

The Salvation Army also praised students, staff and "Green Team" parent volunteers at Hughes Middle School and Longfellow Elementary School, where in just the past year the schools' nationally recognized eco-friendly practices prevented the waste of: 195 gallons of milk (in 8-ounce servings); nearly 4,200 individual serving items such as yoghurt, fruit cups and veggie snacks; and more than 1,000 pounds of fresh fruit. The items instead went to homeless or hungry individuals and families.

"It has been an especially big blessing for our homeless who rarely get dairy items or fruit," Crandall said.