



December 6, 2013

Teachers Voting On 3% Salary Increase

Members of the Teachers Association of Long Beach are voting this week whether to ratify a tentative agreement reached with the Long Beach Unified School District. The tentative contract agreement includes a 3 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1, 2013.

Subject to Board of Education approval, the tentative agreement would provide the school district's teachers with their first raise in more than five years.

"We're pleased that the bargaining teams have arrived at this tentative agreement," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "We believe this contract will help us to retain the best and brightest teachers, which is so vital to student success."

After the tentative agreement goes to TALB's membership for ratification, LBUSD's Board of Education could approve the agreement as early as Dec. 17.

The contract also includes some new language on K-12 shared decision making, days and hours, and evaluation.

The term of the new contract runs through June 30, 2015, with reopeners for next year regarding salary, health benefits, evaluation, plus three articles selected by each party.

View the full tentative agreement under Bargaining Updates at lbschools.net.

Renaissance Set for \$40 Million Renovation

Renaissance High School for the Arts will undergo a major facelift, including building renovations and removal of all portable buildings beginning in fall 2016. The school serves about 500 students in grades 9 to 12 and is the home of the school district's Office of Multimedia Services.

Sister City Celebrates 50 Years with LBUSD

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association presented Long Beach Unified School District President John McGinnis with a plaque recently commemorating 50 years of partnership between the Japanese city and LBUSD.

The nonprofit sister city organization is made up of volunteers who work to improve and maintain good relations between Yokkaichi and Long Beach through the exchange of cultural and education information and opportunity. Programs include Yokkaichi English Fellows, which allows Long Beach teachers to teach in Japan, and the Trio Exchange, which allows teachers and students from Long Beach to visit Yokkaichi for a three-week cultural exchange.

CAMS Wins U.S. Cyber Forensics Contest

A team of tenth graders from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science surpassed 570 teams from throughout the nation, including high school juniors and seniors, to capture the top award in a recent cyber forensics contest at New York University. The competition and accompanying conference are billed as the world's biggest cyber security event.

The victory included \$63,000 in scholarships to NYU for each of the three students on the CAMS team.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and various corporate partners including Facebook, Qualcomm and Raytheon, the Cyber Security Awareness Week Challenge began with a month-long, online preliminary round during which the CAMS team earned an all-expenses-paid trip to Brooklyn's NYU-Poly campus to compete against 11 other finalist teams.

During the finals, CAMS students Lujing Cen, Oskar Wirga and Lani Matsumura competed in a seven-hour challenge in the NYU-Poly gymnasium. CAMS fielded the youngest team in the Nov. 14 finals and one of only two teams to feature a female participant. The CAMS team was the first from California ever to win the competition. The team's coach was CAMS teacher Sandra Barnett.

"At the awards ceremony everyone waited

on the edge of their seats while trophies were awarded to the teams who had done well," CAMS Principal Christopher Brown said. The CAMS students were ready to head home and work harder to make it to the top next year when the announcer said, "The winners of the scholarships in the High School Forensics challenge are new to the challenge this year and have shown their eagerness to take on the challenge... the CAMS Nuggets!"

Hosted by NYU-Poly's Information Systems and Security Laboratory (ISIS Lab), the competition's hands-on challenges are created and managed by NYU-Poly graduate and undergraduate students in consultation with NYU-Poly faculty and industry leaders. Many of the students' coaches came to NYU-Poly for summer training sessions funded by the National Science Foundation.

The high school competition tests computer forensic knowledge and students' abilities to analyze and inspect various pieces of electronic evidence related to a hypothetical crime.

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CYBER CHAMPS – California Academy of Mathematics and Science sophomores Lujing Cen, Oskar Wirga and Lani Matsumura surpassed more than 1,700 students and 570 teams from across the United States – and even a few international teams – to win a national cyber forensics competition at New York University.

STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE – Poly High School's baseball team served Thanksgiving dinner to armed services veterans last week with the non-profit U.S. Vets at a housing facility near Cabrillo High School. Veteran and Poly parent Adam Renteria helped to organize the event.



DonorsChoose.org Helps Local Schools

A nonprofit website where teachers describe projects for students – and where donors choose the projects they want to support – is proving helpful to local schools.

Among those schools is Stevenson Elementary School, where 35 projects totaling \$18,000 have been funded since January.

Stevenson's teachers are among almost 164,000 public and charter school teachers who have used the **DonorsChoose.org** website to secure funding for \$206 million in books, art supplies, technology and other resources that have supported 10 million students.

In Stevenson's case, the school partnered with Horace Mann Educators Corp., a national insurance company focused on educators' financial needs. As an agency that focuses on teachers, the company's agents have been educating teachers about how they can post a project on **DonorsChoose.org** and receive free supplies. The agency also has donated more than \$2 million nationally to projects posted on the website.

Stevenson teachers have received storage bins, athletic equipment, electronic tablets and classroom rugs where students sit in assigned spots for group activities.

Lakewood Nonprofit Gives \$48K in Grants

The nonprofit Lakewood Education Foundation recently awarded \$48,000 in grants to teachers in schools located in Lakewood, including Cleveland, Gompers, Holmes, Lakewood, MacArthur and Madison. The grants will pay for art supplies, physical education equipment, document cameras, iPads and underwater robotics supplies.

The foundation has provided more than \$275,000 in grants to teachers over the past decade.

Firefighters Donate Bicycles to Bethune

Long Beach Firefighters Local 372 and its Honorary Association donated 22 shiny new bicycles to high schoolers during a ceremony at the Bethune Transitional Center for homeless students this week.

Bethune Program Coordinator Rhonda Haramis said the students – two from each local high school – earned the Huffys beach cruisers by exhibiting outstanding effort at school despite difficult challenges.

"They have all these obstacles, yet they're about to graduate and they're persisting," Haramis said of the students. "They all gave me thank-you notes and big hugs. They made me cry."

The students also received helmets and bike locks.

Active and retired firefighters have donated about 300 new and slightly used bicycles to Bethune over the past four years.

Bethune opened in 2006 and serves as a hub for homeless students who attend local schools but rely upon the center for referrals to services, counseling and other support.

• CAMS Adds to Its List of National Honors

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At the start of the competition, the high school students were provided with a murder case and some background information leading up to the case. The victim was the head of a multinational cyber crime organization.

An SD card (a tiny memory card) was found at the crime scene along with the victim's body. Competition participants were provided with the contents of the SD card. Although an ordinary computer user might have thought the SD card's content innocuous, participants were expected to use various cyber forensics techniques, from steganography (whereby messages can be hidden in sound and picture files) and file carving (a method for recovering files that have been deleted or are in a damaged computer). As students discovered hidden pieces of information, the apparently simple murder turned into a much more complex story involving hacking, financial embezzlement and betrayal.

NYU-Poly was one of the first universities to introduce a cyber security program, and it is

designated as both a Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education and a Center of Academic Excellence in Research by the National Security Agency.

CAMS is run by LBUSD on the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus in Carson. Students at CAMS have the top SAT scores in the state, according to a ranking of America's Best High Schools released in May by Newsweek. CAMS also boasts the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation, according to the ranking. CAMS students on average scored 2,168 on the SAT, out of a possible score of 2,400.

CAMS has repeatedly earned both the California Distinguished School Award and the National Blue Ribbon Award. U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post and Newsweek all named CAMS among America's top high schools this year. The Class of 2013 at CAMS earned \$13.5 million in scholarships.

LBUSD's Board of Education approved a plan in November to replicate the CAMS program at the current site of Hill Classical Middle School in East Long Beach, starting in 2015. The existing CAMS program also will remain in place in Carson, where the school regularly receives applications from twice as many qualified students as the school can accept.

Job Share Deadline

Permanent or non-permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2014-15 school year.

Job share deadlines are:

- Jan. 17 – 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. Contact HRS at ext. 8106 for additional information.

In Memoriam

Annabelle O'Brien
former food service supervisor
Nov. 9, 2013

Letitia Walker
instructional aide special, Garfield
Nov. 21, 2013

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Lynn Foliott	Dec. 20	Shannon Williams ext. 3005

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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