



school bulletin

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

April 11, 2014

7 High Schools Make Washington Post List

The Washington Post's list of the nation's most challenging high schools includes seven schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. The recently released 2014 rankings feature schools that surpass 91 percent of other high schools nationwide in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep courses.

"Our high schools deserve this national recognition. Their consistent focus on college and career preparation is paying off for thousands of students and their families," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "Congratulations to everyone in our school communities whose hard work makes these impressive results possible."

The Post calculates a Challenge Index by dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2013 by the number of graduating seniors. Only 9 percent of about 22,000 U.S. public high schools earned a place on this year's list.

The report includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating poverty challenges.

Local high schools' national rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 1,016 – Wilson (57% subs. lunch)
- 1,086 – Millikan (55% subs. lunch)
- 1,089 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (52% subs. lunch)
- 1,507 – Poly (63% subs. lunch)
- 1,843 – Lakewood (53% subs. lunch)
- 1,848 – Renaissance (62% subs. lunch)
- 1,858 – Avalon (71% subs. lunch)

Each of these schools has repeatedly appeared on the Post's annual rankings. Nearby Los Alamitos High School this year earned a ranking of 1,231 with a subsidized lunch population of 11 percent.

MESA DAY – Lindsey Academy students Dalia Perez, Melanie Ung, Jetssalyn Gutierrez and Juan Reynaga display the first place awards they earned at the recent Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Day at Cal State Long Beach. View the full list of winners at lbschools.net.



Local Robotics Teams Among World's Best

Students from three local high schools will compete in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition World Championship at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis from April 23 to 26.

A combined team of robotics students from Poly and Wilson high schools advanced to the world championship after earning the Rookie All-Star Award at the recent FIRST Robotics Competition regional qualifier at the Long Beach Convention Center.

The Long Beach Unified School District's California Academy of Mathematics and Science also participated in the regional event and advanced to a Las Vegas competition where CAMS then won the Entrepreneurship Award and qualified to compete in the St. Louis championship alongside the rookie Poly/Wilson team.

More than 1,500 students from 66 high

school robotics teams – including three teams from Chile – competed in the regional event in Long Beach.

The 2014 robotics contests involve a challenge called "Aerial Assist," which is played between two alliances of three teams each. Each alliance tries to score as many balls in goals as possible in two and half minutes. Additional points are earned by robots working together to score goals, and by throwing and catching balls over a truss suspended just over five feet above the floor as the robots move the ball down the field. View game animation at youtube.com. Search for Aerial Assist Animation.

"It is an honor for us to be one of the first FRC teams from the Long Beach Unified School District and be able to bring home a very prestigious award in our first year," said Poly tenth grader Matthew Crane, co-captain of (Continued on next page)

Solar Panels at Cabrillo High to Save \$2M

More than 2,500 newly installed solar panels atop carpports at Cabrillo High School are expected to save the Long Beach Unified School District roughly \$2 million on utility bills over the next 25 years.

"More school districts are using sunshine to reduce utility costs and increase their use of clean energy," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "Our school district is already a leader in energy efficiency. All of our schools have earned Energy Star Certification from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. This solar project builds upon our efforts to be good stewards of both the environment and taxpayer dollars."

The 805-kilowatt system was installed with no upfront costs to the school district, allowing

LBUSD to pay lower rates for solar electricity than it now pays for utility power. All costs incurred to operate the system are incorporated into the agreement.

The carport array will avert an estimated 28 million pounds of annual carbon dioxide emissions over the next 25 years, the equivalent of planting more than 1.2 million trees or taking nearly 2,500 cars off the road. It will also provide shade for drivers, further reducing carbon emissions from vehicle air conditioning. The installation is expected to save more than 130 million gallons of water because solar power requires virtually no water to generate electricity, while fossil fuels and nuclear energy use substantial amounts of water to do so.

"The benefits of solar power will continue to multiply over time as the agreement for the solar power is at a fixed rate with no escalation (Continued on next page)

McGinnis, Kerr Win School Board Seats

Board of Education President John McGinnis defeated challenger Juan Benitez in this week's District 3 school board election, while candidate Megan Kerr defeated Uduak Ntuk in District 1, where Mary Stanton is retiring after 24 years.

The unofficial results show that McGinnis received 2,183 votes (52.9 percent) while Benitez received 1,944 votes (47.1 percent). Kerr received 3,209 votes (51.3 percent) while Ntuk received 3,044 votes (48.7 percent).

McGinnis and Kerr will be sworn into office in July, when they begin their four-year terms.

WORLD CLASS – Members of The Golden Machine, a rookie robotics team that includes students from Wilson and Poly high schools, compete in a recent regional event in Long Beach. The team advanced to the World Championship in St. Louis, as did a team from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science.



• Robotics Teams Vie for World Championship

(Continued from first page)

The Golden Machine, the rookie robotics team that includes both Poly and Wilson students.

Dubbed a “varsity sport of the mind,” the FIRST Robotics Competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, and with limited resources and a six-week time limit, students are challenged to raise funds, build and program a robot and learn about teamwork. Life-sized robots weigh up to 120 pounds.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, who introduced the IBOT Mobility System and the Segway Human Transporter, FIRST was created to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people, their schools and their communities. Now in its 23rd season, the FIRST Robotics Competition anticipates about 2,720 teams in the U.S. and 16 countries to compete in 54 Regional Events and 40 District Competitions.

NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena sponsored 10 teams from Southern California at the recent competition as part of NASA’s Robotics Alliance Project. JPL also oversaw volunteer coordination for the Long Beach event and provided volunteer workers, including judges, referees, field re-setter and game announcer. The regional competition also was sponsored by the Roddenberry Foundation, which was established by the son

of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry.

Wilson’s team members are advised by teacher Greg Pepek. Poly’s team members are advised by teacher Tamara Araya. The CAMS students are advised by teacher Ted Harder.

For more information and a short video about FIRST, visit usfirst.org. Learn more about NASA’s Robotics Alliance Project at robotics.nasa.gov.

Goodwill Honors School for Adults

Goodwill of Southern Los Angeles County recently honored the Long Beach School for Adults with a 2014 Goodwill Partner of the Year Award.

LBSA, part of the Long Beach Unified School District, was honored for its healthcare training program.

“Because of our partnership, we have moved many individuals out of poverty, many of whom are continuing their education to obtain their Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) Degrees, and nearly a dozen of whom have received their LVN degrees and are working in the industry,” said Goodwill’s regional president and CEO, Janet McCarthy.

As part of the honor, Goodwill recognized LBSA Principal Matt Saldana along with Susan Gavel, LBSA’s nursing teacher and director of nursing. The two were recognized during a ceremony at the Hotel Maya in Long Beach.

Teacher of Year Nominations Due

The Los Angeles County Office of Education is sponsoring the 2014-15 Teacher of the Year Program, which is open to fully credentialed teachers from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. This includes library media teachers who collaboratively teach with classroom teachers, and adult school teachers who provide instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in the elementary or secondary grades. Instructors who have administrative responsibilities are also eligible, but only if teaching is their primary responsibility.

The deadline for nominations is April 18. Contact Kristal Cheek in the Professional Development Center at kcheek@lbschools.net or ext. 2900 to nominate a teacher or to request an application.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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• Solar Panels

(Continued from first page) to the initial kilowatt hour pricing,” said Jim Cahill, Southern California Regional Vice President for SolarCity, the nation’s largest solar company and provider for LBUSD’s Cabrillo High School system.

The Cabrillo solar project is the third solar installation for the school district. The first was at Millikan High School using a science grant, and the second was a roof-top thin-film installation at the new McBride High School that opened last fall.

Rotary Gives Literacy Grants

Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation recently announced the winners of nearly \$5,000 in literacy grants for teachers in pre-K through third grade classrooms. The new grants are designed to reward innovative and creative reading and literacy efforts.

The winners are: Gant kindergarten teacher Jacklyn Love, \$482.98 for Sing and Read Alphabet Collection big books; Barton second grade teacher Heather Evans, \$2,000 for gardening-related books, self-contained lending library and child-sized outdoor furniture; International second grade teacher Cheryl Keys, \$964.80 for informational texts to meet Common Core requirements primarily for students learning English as a second language; Bryant third grade teacher Ilana Brackett, \$500 for copies of The Velveteen Rabbit and a copy of the Velveteen Principles; and Whittier kindergarten teacher Deanne Miller, \$1,000 for weekend bookbags for kindergartners to take home to read with their families.

Rotary also has provided more than \$400,000 in books to local students and school libraries since 1999. This year, the service club’s Reading by 9 program will surpass 200,000 books donated.

Learn more at rotarylongbeach.org.

Tincher Preschool Enrolling Students

The Long Beach Unified School District is offering year-round, fee-based preschool at Tincher Preparatory School, 1701 Petaluma Ave. in Long Beach.

Instruction is provided by certified preschool teachers and is integrated with the school district’s elementary school curriculum. Five-day, three-day and two-day options are available Monday through Friday. The cost is \$825 per month.

Children must be at least three years old and potty trained to join the program.

For registration or additional information, contact Diane Karidakis at (562) 430-6810 or dkaridakis@lbschools.net.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Sue Miller	May 9	Mary Nowak 596-5535