



school bulletin

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

October 17, 2014

Molina Employees Give 10,000 Books

To celebrate National Make a Difference Day, about 120 Molina Healthcare employees are volunteering to spend this Saturday, Oct. 18 sorting more than 10,000 books for students' reading pleasure. The books will go to 12 elementary, middle and high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Sorting will take place 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Signal Hill Elementary school, where volunteers will separate books by age level, prepare boxes for distribution, and load delivery trucks. Several school representatives will be on hand to receive their donated items while the rest of the books will be delivered to schools.

Health Fair, Then Open Enrollment

Learn about health benefits at the employee Health Fair, noon to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24 at the Long Beach School for Adults, 3701 E. Willow St., Long Beach. Open Enrollment for benefits will follow, from Nov. 1 to 30.

The health fair offers information on health and wellness, along with details on health plans and Flexible Spending Account (FSA) changes. Free health screenings such as blood pressure and bone density screenings also will be offered, and free flu shots will be available.

Open enrollment is the opportunity for employees to change current benefits and add or remove dependents from benefit plans.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION – Students at Longfellow Elementary School celebrate their school's designation as a National PTA School of Excellence. Story at lbschools.net.

COLLEGE PROMISE – Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia high fives kindergartners from Newcomb Academy during a signing ceremony for the Long Beach College Promise, a pledge by local education officials and the city to help more students prepare for and succeed in college and careers.



Mayor to Help Expand College Promise

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia joined leaders from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach this week in renewing and expanding the nationally recognized Long Beach College Promise.

The College Promise was first signed in 2008 by leaders from LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB to help students prepare for, and succeed in, college. LBUSD graduates can receive a tuition-free semester at LBCC and guaranteed admission to CSULB if they meet minimum requirements at the university.

An expansion of the College Promise will focus on universal preschool enrollment and a doubling of internships among local students. Garcia said the City of Long Beach would take the lead by doubling the city's 400 internships to 800. The internship expansion will help boost the school district's Linked Learning instruction that ties together classroom time

and work-based learning to make coursework more relevant and rigorous. The College Promise expansion also will include efforts to increase student scholarships and other student support.

Already, the College Promise has helped achieve a 43 percent increase in CSULB enrollment by LBUSD graduates. More than 5,600 high school graduates have benefited from free enrollment at the city college in the fall semester, and LBCC and LBUSD students have shown that they are more likely to remain enrolled at the university than other students.

The mayor joined LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley and CSULB President Jane Close Conoley in signing the expanded College Promise document during a ceremony at McBride High School. The officials were joined by students from the school, along with
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\$200K Ecology Grant to Benefit Avalon

Avalon K-12 School will pilot a program starting this month to give student hands-on lessons about ecology and the environment, thanks to a \$200,000 grant awarded to the Catalina Island Conservancy.

The W.M. Keck Foundation, one of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations, awarded the grant for the NatureWorks program. The program's goal is to help students develop an appreciation of ecology and the environment, making them good environmental stewards in the future.

The nonprofit Catalina Island Conservancy is one of the oldest private land trusts in Southern California. It protects 88 percent of Catalina Island, including more than 62 miles of unspoiled beaches and secluded coves—the longest publicly accessible stretch of undevel-

oped coastline left in Southern California

Students will take part in field ecology experiences, job-shadow environmentalists and ecologists, and learn about eco-tourism as part of the Long Beach Unified School District's Linked Learning effort. Linked Learning programs use coursework, technical training, work-based learning and related support to create connections between high school, college and careers.

NatureWorks will serve as a workforce development project by helping to prepare Catalina students for an ecotourism career track, if they are interested in the island's most important industry.

"The Conservancy's trained naturalists and educators will take students into the field,
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Beach Walk Oct. 25 For Children's Clinic

Students, staff and parents in the Long Beach Unified School District will help raise funds for the non-profit Children's Clinic of Long Beach by participating in a 5K walk starting at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Marina Green on Shoreline Drive.

Proceeds will help the clinic to provide low- and no-cost health care for children, many of whom attend local schools.

Teams of walkers from local schools typically raise tens of thousands of dollars at the walk.

A 1K walk/race for children 12 and under starts at 9 a.m. Check-in for walkers is 8 a.m.

The Children's Clinic also will celebrate its 75th anniversary during a dinner and silent auction event at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25 at the Museum of Latin American Art.

Learn more at thechildrensclinic.org.

Names in the News

Bruce McCandless, from the Wilson High School Class of 1954, returned to Wilson to speak with students recently about his experiences as a NASA astronaut. McCandless, the first to experience an untethered space walk in 1984, credited three teachers at Wilson for having a profound impact on him – a German teacher, an English teacher and a chemistry teacher. McCandless lives outside of Denver and was in town for his 60th class reunion.

Lindsay Smith, a special education teacher at Jessie Nelson Academy, received the Sustainability Award from the Mayor of Signal Hill at a recent City Council meeting. The award honored Smith's after-school work to organize and lead the Seed of Change Environmental Club with students from her school. The club's main goal is to reduce the amount of waste the school produces annually. Students reduce waste by recycling, composting and donating uneaten food.

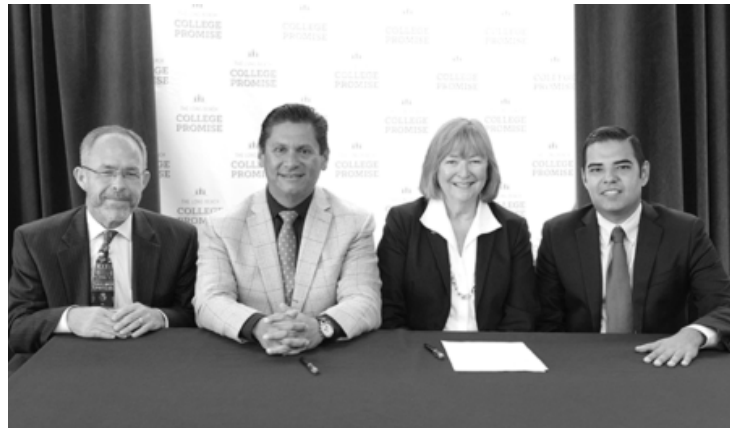
Janet Nelson, a student at Cabrillo High School, was featured in the Long Beach Business Journal as a successful participant in the Long Beach Unified School District's Occupation Job Program in partnership with Community Hospital Long Beach. The program provides workforce training to special education students who are working toward graduation. The Cabrillo student works as a custodian five days a week at Community Hospital. Students in the program usually work one to two hours per day during the school year, and they receive a stipend for their efforts.

Lakewood Honored For Water Savings

The City of Lakewood recently honored Lakewood High School for saving 178 million gallons of water since 1991. The water savings, about a 16 percent reduction, were achieved through a combination of conservation efforts and the use of reclaimed water for irrigation.

Saving water saves money, with the school district paying about half-price per gallon on most consumption due to the use of reclaimed water for irrigation.

SIGNATORIES – Signing a renewal and expansion of the College Promise were LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhäuser, LBCC President Eloy Ortiz Oakley, CSULB President Jane Close Conoley and Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia.



• College Promise Renewed, Expanded

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kindergartners from nearby Newcomb Academy.

“As we all know, the Long Beach College Promise has been incredibly successful,” Mayor Garcia said. “And while the city has certainly been supportive, and the city has always been a great cheerleader for our educational institutions, we have an ability as a city to be a full partner in the College Promise. The single most important thing that we can do to strengthen our local and regional and national economy is to invest in education, which is why education will be my top priority as mayor and why we decided to partner with our great institutions.”

The College Promise has been described as a national model in a case study by the Washington, D.C.-based Business Higher Education Forum. In addition, the Little Hoover Commission, an independent agency

that recommends ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state programs, cited the College Promise as a successful model, saying “more LBUSD graduates are enrolling in postsecondary courses at the city college or state university; they are better prepared than their peers from other school districts, and fewer are dropping out after their first semester.”

• Ecology Grant

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where they can see firsthand how nature works and have those lifelong memories of discovery that will enrich their lives and prepare them for successful careers on and off the island,” said Ann M. Muscat, the Conservancy's president and CEO.

The Conservancy already partners with the school, particularly at the earlier grade levels, and the latest grant will allow that partnership to extend to high school.

“We are very pleased the W.M. Keck Foundation's generous gift will make it possible for all Avalon students to continue to benefit from NatureWorks in a more strategic format,” said Avalon Principal Angelica Gonzalez. “The opportunity for students to experience science through nature and see the relevance of their education in the real world can help them accomplish even more in school and in life.”

Twenty miles from the mainland, Catalina Island is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological sites. It also contains numerous rare and endangered animals and plants. The island is home to 60 species – and counting – that are found only on Catalina.

Learn more at catalinaconservancy.org.

Classroom Grants

The Long Beach Jaycee Foundation is offering \$250 grants to teachers for classroom projects.

Grant applications are available at lbjcfoundation.org for the MaryPat Bamrick Adopt-a-Teacher Program.

MaryPat Bamrick served LBUSD as an elementary school teacher for many years. She died from cancer in 2004. The grant project is dedicated to her memory. Dozens of teachers have benefited from the project over the years. Teacher recipients in the past have used the grant funds for field trips, classroom supplies, special projects, a sustainable garden and more.

The deadline to apply is Thursday, Oct. 30.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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In Memoriam

Marilynn Hamdorf

former teacher

Oct. 10, 2014

Lawanda Reynolds

former student intervention specialist

Oct. 12, 2014