



February 6, 2015



WINNING RECIPE – Burcham Elementary School second grader Owen Edwards receives a new bicycle for earning first place in a healthy recipe contest. Presenting the bike is Nutrition Services Director Darlene Martin. **Story on next page.**

Students of Color Town Hall Meeting

The Long Beach Unified School District's first-ever Students of Color Town Hall meeting is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28 at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave. in Long Beach.

The event will provide important information to parents and others on helping to prepare all students for success in college and careers. Parents will have the opportunity to attend workshops that will enhance effective parenting skills, and community agencies will be available to provide resources and information.

LBUSD has been working in recent months with the White House and other large school districts in the U.S. on a concerted effort to improve the academic and social outcomes of young people of color, who as a whole tend to lag behind their peers academically.

The schedule for the day is:

8 to 8:45 a.m. – Registration, light breakfast

9 to 10 a.m. – General Assembly, Session 1

10:10 to 11 a.m. – Session 2

11:10 to noon – Session 3

Noon to 1 p.m. – Lunch, visit community agencies, entertainment

The Town Hall meeting is one more way the school district is building upon its efforts to help all students succeed, regardless of color, culture, disability or socioeconomic status.

Go to lbschools.net/townhall starting Feb. 12 for registration.

PTA Prez Gives A-Plus for School Choice

Long Beach Council PTA President Jodie Storey, who represents nearly 19,000 members and 51 PTAs throughout the Long Beach Unified School District, gives the school choice process here an A-Plus.

"It has been my experience, and the experience of many of my personal friends and parents of local students, that 'school of choice' here in the Long Beach Unified School District provides just one more option for students to get the best possible education available," Storey said.

The school district gives priority to neighborhood children when it comes to attending

their local school, but also offers a thriving school choice program that allows students to choose schools outside their attendance area.

"While I strongly believe that children should attend neighborhood public schools, and I appreciate that the district provides priority preference to neighborhood students to attend their neighborhood school, because of the school of choice program, one of my three children was able to apply for and attend a school other than our neighborhood school," Storey continued. "She worked hard to be accepted by maintaining a competitive GPA

(Continued on next page)

LBUSD Earns High Mark for Sound Finances

The Long Beach Unified School District's credit rating remains high because of careful management, according to the latest bond ratings from an international research firm.

Moody's Corporation, the global credit rating and research service, recently assigned a high AA2 rating to the school district. To investors, this rating signifies high quality and low risk.

A high credit rating also helps to save taxpayers millions of dollars in bond interest.

Local voters in 2008 approved \$1.2 billion in bonds for school modernization and construction. Since then, detailed audits of the

Measure K school bond program, overseen by an independent Citizens Oversight Committee, have repeatedly resulted in the highest possible opinion from certified public accountants.

Moody's rating reflects the district's "large tax base, prudent financial operations, maintenance of healthy reserves and low debt levels," according to the firm. "The rating also incorporates the district's improved liquidity position and strong management team."

The year 2014 was the busiest since the passage of the 2008 measure in terms of construction and renovation projects, resulting in the creation of 1,743 construction jobs.

Major projects now include the construction of the new Browning High School, the renovation of Jordan High School, and the rebuilding of Newcomb and Roosevelt schools.

Special Education Teachers Honored

Six special educators from the Long Beach Unified School District were honored at the 2015 Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 Star Awards recently in Long Beach.

Brooke Asplin, Special Day Class (SDC) teacher at International; Annee Boyer, SDC teacher at Jordan; Jennifer Prager, SDC teacher at King; Ann Marie Salvador, SDC teacher at Birney; Kersten Scanlon, Speech and Language Pathologist at Avalon; and Laura Velez, Resource Specialist Program teacher at Lafayette were recipients of this award presented to special educators who enhance the lives of students with special needs.

Recipients must be innovative and exemplify quality teaching skills with at least five years of teaching in LBUSD. A principal or other co-worker submits nominations to the CEC Board of Directors who then vote on worthy recipients.

After a breakfast at The Grand event center and a motivational speech from guest speaker Briana Graham-Ramos, a Special Education administrator, each nominator introduced their honoree with a short speech about their qualifications for receiving the Star Award.



WINNING ARTWORK – "Zarr," created by Marshall Academy of the Arts student Katelyn Lawson, earned first place in the annual Gottlieb Youth Art Show. See more images at lbschools.net. **Story on next page.**

• A+ School Choice

(Continued from first page) and doing well on her standardized tests, which I believe provided her the opportunity to attend her school of choice. I know many children who have had interests in drama, music, engineering, math and science, sports, etc. who have applied for and been accepted to schools other than their home or neighborhood school."

Each year, thousands of parents and students attend school choice fairs and informational nights here. Most recently the Education Celebration held in January to provide information on all elementary and K-8 programs attracted more than 3,500 people at McBride High School. Parents and students also receive numerous online resources to research and apply for school programs, along with reminder phone calls, emails and text messages.

"Our School of Choice program deserves an A-Plus grade!" Storey said.

Learn more under School Choice in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Recipe Contest

Second grader Owen Edwards of Burcham Elementary School won a shiny new bicycle for his first-place entry in the Long Beach Unified School District's second annual Healthy Recipe Contest. Nutrition Services held the contest recently in honor of National School Lunch Week.

Recipes had to include a fruit or vegetable, five ingredients or less, a written story and a picture or drawing of the recipe. Three recipes were selected based upon nutritional value, recipe requirements and appearance. These recipes were prepared, tasted and voted on by a panel of food service professionals.

The top recipe in this year's contest was a no-bake breakfast peach crisp. As the grand prize winner of the contest, Owen received a new bike during Burcham's televised weekly announcement. Owen's recipe created a stir when it was made and served as a breakfast entrée at Burcham's school cafeteria. The celebratory event had students lining up to taste the layered cups of cinnamon peaches, vanilla yogurt and fresh granola as they came through the breakfast line.

"The kids loved it and were asking when we were going to have it again," said Burcham's Nutrition Services Supervisor Denise Limbocker.

Find Owen's recipe in the February menu for elementary and K-8 schools under Menus (Meals) in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

In Memoriam

Alcyone Bass
former teacher
Jan. 13, 2015

Marjorie Cahn
former teacher
Jan. 16, 2015

Beth Biddick
former teacher
Jan. 22, 2015



NEW MOSAIC – School Board Member John McGinnis, Board President Diana Craighead, Principal Rosana Madrid-Arroyo and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser helped to dedicate a transportation-themed mosaic at Bixby Elementary School. The Long Beach Arts Council assisted with the project.

Bixby, Arts Council Partner on New Mosaic

Bixby Elementary School students and staff recently unveiled a new mural created as part of the Eye on Design program sponsored by the Arts Council of Long Beach.

The school's new mural represented the culmination of many weeks of study. Third graders created the transportation-themed mural, which is tied to the social studies cur-

riculum.

Eye on Design is a public art education program for third graders that encourages civic involvement, critical thinking and creative problem solving through a customized residency program. The program educates students about their community, encouraging a greater appreciation for public art. An interdisciplinary approach incorporates language arts, history and the visual and performing arts.

During the 15-week residency, students learn about neighborhood history, public art and the design process through activities, field trips and other opportunities provided by resident artists and community partners. The culminating project is the creation of the mosaic.

Art Show Winners

The 31st annual Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Show for local middle and high school students was held recently at the Alpert Jewish Community Center.

Board of Directors Award winners were April Wortman of Stanford and Daniele Reyes-Neyra of Poly.

Middle school winners were: first place, Katelyn Lawson, Marshall; second, Megan Tran, Stanford; third, Violet Edwards, Newcomb; and honorable mentions to April Buenrostro of Hoover, Kalea Ono of Marshall, Hannah Rodriguez of Stanford, and Kelly Yates of Rogers.

High school winners were: first place, Quincy Irving, Wilson; second, Ellie Ng, Millikan; third, Sara Von Epp, Millikan; and honorable mentions to Jeffrey Chhim of Cabrillo, Jailene Cornejo of CAMS, Barbara Loya of Jordan, Jacqueline Rojas of Cabrillo, Daisy Vazquez of Millikan, and Kaitlyn Wong of Poly.

The Honigman Award for Inspired Visual Arts Education went to teachers Shauneen Bell of Rogers and Suzette Way of Poly.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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L.B. Symphony Plays For 12,000 Students

More than 12,000 fourth and fifth graders from local schools recently attended the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra's annual Symphony Concerts for Young People.

For 37 years, the Symphony has partnered with the Long Beach Unified School District to provide educational programs that supplement the district's comprehensive music curriculum. These programs now reach about 25,000 students each year.

The recent concerts took place over two days at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center's Terrace Theater.

Students heard classics including Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor "From the New World," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Mambo" from Bernstein's "West Side Story" and "Jupiter" from Gustav Holst's "The Planets Suite." The orchestra also performed two movements from Igor Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite" and John Williams' "Star Wars" theme song.

The kid-friendly selections were chosen in collaboration with LBUSD Music Curriculum Leader James Petri. The Symphony also provided participating schools concert-related educational materials for teachers to incorporate into their lesson plans.

The Earl B. and Lorraine H. Miller Foundation sponsors the concerts. For more information about the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra and its educational programs, visit www.lbso.org.