



school bulletin

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

January 23, 2015



MLK PARADE – Jazmine Bryant, a senior at Poly High School, participates in last weekend's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Parade and Celebration in Long Beach. Other participants included the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education, Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser, and several student groups from local schools. Grand marshals for the parade included LBUSD's Child Development Center Director Cindy Young and CDC Program Specialist Marybeth Murray, along with former Poly High School and Wilson Classical High School math teacher Luther Williams, who retired in 1995 and remains active in various community organizations. View more photos at lbschools.net.

Suspensions Drop By 35% in One Year

The number of students suspended in the Long Beach Unified School District has dropped by 35 percent compared to the prior year, according to newly released data from the California Department of Education.

The data for the 2013-14 school year show 3,742 students suspended here, down by more than 2,010 compared to the prior year. The latest numbers represent a suspension rate of 4.4 percent, based upon the more than 85,400 students who attended local schools at one time or another during the 2013-14 school year.

The state lists LBUSD's expulsion rate at 0.0 percent, with 15 expulsions amounting to less than a tenth of a percent last school year.

As suspensions decrease, attendance is rising. Each month so far this school year has seen an increase in attendance rates compared to the prior year, with the districtwide attendance rate near 97 percent.

New Funding Formula Makes a Difference

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

We're seeing many positive developments in our schools as we implement the Local Control Accountability Plan, or LCAP, that our Board of Education unanimously approved in June.

The LCAP is our response to the state's approval of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) for schools. The formula replaces the state's outdated and confusing school finance system with a more streamlined one that gives schools greater flexibility to use state funding based upon students' needs.

Shortly after the state's approval of the new formula in 2013, we embarked on a sweeping effort to engage the community in shaping our local plan, including multiple surveys and meetings. The plan is required under the state's new formula, and it spells out spending priorities and accountability measures to make certain that resources are used effectively.

Today this plan is resulting in real benefits for all of our students, particularly our most needy students, which is the intent of the state's revamped formula.

Hundreds of high school juniors from all walks of life are taking advantage of free SAT preparation, arriving on time and eager to learn at Saturday morning sessions at each of our large high schools. By the end of March, each of these students will receive 37 hours of SAT prep, including practice exams and college planning. The prep sessions help to level the playing field for students, while parents save hundreds of dollars that might otherwise be spent on expensive prep courses and materials.

We're also providing students with greater access to Advanced Placement college-level exams by covering much of the cost for families. AP exams cost \$89 each, but this school

year students are paying only \$5 per exam for an unlimited number of exams. For each exam, students deposit \$15 and receive a \$10 rebate once the exam is taken. This means that for a student who takes five AP exams, the tests will cost \$25 instead of \$445. This offer applies to all students in grades 8 to 12 (some students take AP courses as early as eighth grade).

Our local plan also allocates significant funding to help all groups of students this year in many other ways:

- Expanded K-12 counseling support, \$4.35 million;
 - Expanded college and career readiness efforts at high schools, including more internships, \$2 million;
 - Enhanced K-12 library education programs, \$1.1 million;
 - Enhanced elementary music program districtwide, \$2.8 million;
 - Enhanced nursing services, \$980,000;
 - Restoration of summer school in high school, \$1.25 million;
 - Parent involvement resources, \$350,000;
- (Continued on next page)



Steinhauser

Tincher Lauded as 'School to Watch'

For the third time, Tincher Preparatory School has earned the "School to Watch" honor recognizing academic excellence in the middle grades. The honor is given by the California Middle Grades Alliance.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson recently announced that Tincher, a K-8 school, was among 15 schools to retain their designation, while another seven schools won the award for the first time.

These model schools host visitors from California and beyond who are looking for practices that will help them to improve.

The winning schools will be recognized in Sacramento at the California Middle Grades Alliance annual luncheon on Feb. 26, and during the California League of Schools' Annual Conference North, Feb. 26 to March 1.



FORESTRY CHALLENGE – California Academy of Mathematics and Science student Valeree Catangay uses an angle gauge to determine forest density, one of the many skills learned at the 2014 San Bernardino Forestry Challenge. **Story on next page.**

• Local Control Accountability Plan

(Continued from first page)

- Technology support, \$1 million;
- Board of Education initiatives, \$1 million;
- Campus security and police support, \$2.4 million.

In addition, the local plan is resulting in targeted assistance for specific populations of students who need extra help:

- Resources allocated directly to schools based upon low-income, English Language Learner and foster youth counts, \$8.8 million. These funds are governed by school site councils and used for student interventions. See school-by-school details at lbschools.net under School Budgets > School Expenditure Plans;
- Third grade literacy classrooms at high-poverty schools, with a 20:1 student/teacher ratio, \$3.8 million;
- Male/Female Academies (for at-risk youth), \$400,000;
- Support for English Language Learners and their families, \$1.1 million;
- Foster youth coordinator, \$50,000;
- Support for the North Long Beach Math Initiative, \$100,000.

Next year we will provide even more support for students, including:

- Paying for the PSAT exam for all eighth through tenth graders;
- Paying for the SAT exam for all eleventh graders;
- Second grade literacy classrooms at high-poverty schools, with a 20:1 student/teacher

ratio, \$4.37 million;

- Literacy specialists at non-Title I (or not federally subsidized) elementary and K-8 schools, \$2.75 million;
- Enhanced middle school library services, \$500,000;
- Enhanced nursing services, \$500,000.

Each of the items funded in our local plan includes specific accountability measures, as required by the state, so that we can determine the effectiveness of these efforts and make any necessary adjustments. Extensive school-by-school data and goals are available at lbschools.net under LCAP > LCAP District & School Data. The aim is to give students brighter futures while using taxpayer-funded resources responsibly.

The plan's priorities were selected after much consultation with parents, students, educators and other members of our community. I believe that our community has chosen to invest wisely, and I look forward to keeping you apprised of our progress.

Thank you to everyone who supports this important work.

Event to Address Human Trafficking

A Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium aimed at keeping young people safe from human trafficking is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31 at Cabrillo High School, 2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach.

The symposium is sponsored by the Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force in partnership with the Long Beach Council PTA and the Long Beach Unified School District. The event is free and open to parents, educators and students, grades eight to 12. Supervised recreational activities will be provided for children under 13.

More than 40 nonprofit organizations and government agencies will be present to answer questions and provide information. Fifteen workshops will cover issues of human trafficking, safety and empowerment. Translators will be available for participants who speak Spanish, Khmer and Tagalog.

Keynote speaker Nicole Clark will explore media's negative effects on girls' self image and self-esteem, from oversexualization to the pressures to be thin and pretty.

More information about the event is available by calling 650-6539 and through the YESS2015 Facebook page: Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium - YESS!

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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POLY SERVICE PROJECT – Local children were treated to toys, hot cocoa and holiday spirit by Poly High School students and staff during an event in the school's quad before the winter break.

Poly Plays Santa

Poly High School students provided more than 330 underprivileged youngsters with some holiday spirit just before the winter break, giving about 500 toys out to children on the school's quad.

"The quad exuded a welcoming atmosphere, and there were Christmas decorations everywhere. There was festive holiday music, a live performance by Poly's Jazz II singers, and plenty of hot cocoa for all the guests," wrote Kd Maleki, staff writer for Poly's Highlife student newspaper.

Poly ASB held the Sunday event with help from the school's Red Cross and Nothing But Nets clubs, which contributed toys.

The event included activity tables for the kids, including a cookie making station, pen-guin puppet decorating and ornament making. Most of the children at the event came from nearby elementary and middle schools.

"My favorite moment was when a 5-year-old child was on his way out, skipped and exclaimed, 'This is the best day of my entire life!'" said Poly Activities Specialist My Ngoc Nguyen.

CAMS Participates in Forestry Challenge

Ten students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science participated in the recent 2014 San Bernardino Forestry Challenge at Camp Arbolado near Angelus Oaks, Calif.

The CAMS students were among 59 high schoolers from six schools in southern and central California.

Students collected field data and interacted with natural resource professionals, and then recommended possible fuel reduction activities to prevent forest fires. Students also completed field training, followed by a test to assess their forestry knowledge and data collecting skills.

"You cannot get this type of learning from a textbook," said CAMS teacher Renee Brown.

Ulualo Coleman, a senior at CAMS, summarized: "This was a productive hands-on event that has brought mountain forestry service exposure to Southern California students. We can improve our own communities with this new knowledge."

Dates to Remember

February

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| 1 | National African American History Month |
| 1 | National Children's Dental Health Month |
| 2 | National Freedom Day |
| 2 | Groundhog Day |
| 2-6 | National School Counseling Week |
| 3 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 4 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 5 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 6 | Ronald Reagan Day |
| 6 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8 |
| 9 | Lincoln Day – Holiday |
| 10 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8 |
| 11 | Thomas Edison's Birthday |
| 11 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 12 | Abraham Lincoln's Birthday |
| 12 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 13 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 14 | Frederick Douglass Day |
| 14 | St. Valentine's Day |
| 15 | Susan B. Anthony's Birthday |
| 16 | Washington Day – Holiday |
| 16 | Presidents Day |
| 17 | National PTA Founders Day |
| 17 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8 |
| 18 | Ash Wednesday |
| 18-April 4 | Lent |
| 18 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 19 | Chinese New Year |
| 19 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 20 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 22 | George Washington's Birthday |
| 23 | W.E.B. DuBois' Birthday |
| 24 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 25 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 26 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 27 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – "One Fine Day" and "Take The Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8 |