



April 17, 2015

WINNING CAR – Millikan High School student Connor Veliz guides his electric car to first place in the inaugural Formula E School Series race held recently on the Long Beach ePrix circuit. Teams of students built the cars from kits, learning about sustainable engineering in the process.



Millikan Takes First at Electric Car Race

Millikan High School triumphed at the inaugural Formula E School Series race held recently on some of the same streets that will be used for this weekend's Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach.

Nine high school teams from the Long Beach Unified School District and one from Santa Barbara took part in a 20-minute qualifying session and 20-minute race on April 4 on the full Long Beach ePrix circuit.

The race is designed to encourage young people to get involved in sustainable engineer-

ing. The teams built their electric single-seat cars from kits during a build day at the Long Beach Convention Center the preceding weekend, guided by mentors from series organizers, Greenpower Education Trust and the Greenpower USA Foundation.

The 20-minute qualifying session decided grid positions through an energy efficiency formula, so smooth driving was the key.

Millikan's Connor Veliz in car No. 9 mastered the art of efficient driving by qualifying for the pole, or lead position. From there, he led the race from start to finish.

"This has been an incredible experience for me and my team," Veliz, 16, said. "Sitting on the grid, focusing on the race ahead, it felt like I was a pro driver and standing here on the top step of the podium is just phenomenal – an experience to remember. We'd like to thank

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State Lauds Boost In Attendance Here

The Long Beach Unified School District is one of 11 honorees designated as models of attendance improvement and dropout prevention by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and the State School Attendance Review Board, or SARB.

Local and county SARBs are created by school districts and county offices of education to identify and assist students with attendance problems that may be due to chronic illness, truancy, transportation problems, disabilities, or behavioral health issues. Students and families are referred for SARB hearings when a school has tried and failed to resolve attendance or behavior problems.

Torlakson said a more progressive, data-driven approach to absenteeism by award-winning local and county SARBs provides examples that other school districts can follow to keep students in the classroom.

"In California, we have a group of exceptional SARBs using data-driven strategies to reduce their chronic absenteeism rates, improve overall attendance, and reduce dropout rates,"

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Common Core

National TV Special Features Long Beach

A national, one-hour TV special on Common Core State Standards presented by the Spanish-language Univision network last Sunday featured a teacher, student and parent from Long Beach's Millikan High School.

The special titled, "¡Entérate!: Nuevos Exámenes Escolares" (Get Informed! New Academic Assessments), provides information to parents on the significant changes in teaching and learning that their children are experiencing under new academic standards rolling out across most U.S. school districts. The special is hosted by the co-anchor of Univision's "Primer Impacto" (First Impact), Pamela Silva Conde, and features Andres Antonio Alonso of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In the special, teacher Elizabeth Meza, student Jasmin Olmos and parent Graciela Lopez, all from Millikan, help to explain how instruction and testing have changed under newer academic standards. The show's participants discuss, for instance, how students can no longer guess on multiple choice exams but instead must explain their answers using evidence. This approach can require extra preparation time at home, but by focusing on in-depth learning, students become better prepared for college.

The TV special is available on demand in five parts at noticia.univision.com. Search for "Nuevos Exámenes Escolares." The Millikan participants appear in Part 1.

The Common Core Standards were developed by teachers, parents, school administrators and other experts across the nation. The standards are designed to help prepare students for success in college and careers. Learn more about the standards under "Common Core" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

'Others Pay Thousands for Such Education'

Ashton Williams, a student leader and senior at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, spoke movingly at the most recent school board meeting.

"Although I've only been a part of the Long Beach Unified School District for the past four years, it has been my best educational experience. I have friends who are paying thousands of dollars for their education, but I feel that I am getting the same, or even a better education here for free," the student reported at the public meeting, where he served as the school board's student representative.



Williams

Each high school sends their ASB president as a representative at the board meetings on a rotating basis. The CAMS student is ASB president and school site council member. He also serves on the school district's Local Control Accountability Plan Committee.

"I took on these leadership positions at a pivotal time," he said. "The district is currently introducing Common Core (State Standards) and Linked Learning (work-based, career-themed instruction) and during this time it is important to have a student perspective."

"I've offered my opinions to the LCAP Committee and to our school site council, and I feel that if I were anywhere else, I wouldn't have the same opportunity. I'd like to thank the Long Beach Unified School District for the opportunities that you've created for students like myself, and for supporting schools like CAMS."

Jordan High's JMAC Wins Video Contest

Jordan High School's Media and Communication (JMAC) program won the Youth Award in the Long Beach Convention Center and Visitors Bureau's recent video contest in which participants were invited to "show us what excites you about Long Beach."

The inaugural Sandy Awards recognized several JMAC students and their teacher Jodi Irish for their "Why We Love Long Beach" video (available on youtube) depicting some of the city's treasures and including cameo appearances by Jordan students themselves.

The etched-glass Sandy Awards were presented recently at the Terrace Theater, where the Jordan team received a \$1,500 check to support their program, along with passes to the Aquarium of the Pacific and the Queen Mary.

JMAC earned Linked Learning Certification in 2013, meaning that it meets rigorous standards for combining strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a pathway centered on an industry theme. The centerpiece of JMAC is a full television station setup.

College Outreach for Cambodian Families

A recent Long Beach College Promise Cambodian Outreach Event at Long Beach City College proved successful as about 70 students and families attended to learn more about the nationally recognized program that is helping more students to prepare for and succeed in college.

Khmer translation was provided for all sessions, along with a student panel, breakout session about the College Promise, a light dinner and a resource fair.

Event organizers hope to offer the event annually for eleventh and twelfth graders.

Names in the News

Dozens of students from local middle, K-8 and high schools earned first, second and third place honors at the recent Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Day competition at Cal State Long Beach. See the April 16 "Names in the News" at lbschools.net for a full list of winners.

Jordan High School freshman and Female Leadership Academy member **Sarah Guzman** earned a \$1,000 Power for Powers scholarship. Female and Male Leadership Academy members were invited to see the "Why'd You Stop Me" presentation about relationships between the community and law enforcement and then create a piece of artwork with the theme, "Long Beach through my lens." Guzman submitted a drawing and delivered a speech to an audience of about 200.

Teacher **Jamie Nichols** of Newcomb Academy is now a published author. She wrote a workbook focused on the National Board Certification process for teachers based upon some of her experiences in Long Beach. Her work is the first eBook to be published since revision of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification process. The book is available for download for \$7.99 plus tax at nbtworkbook.com.

Attendance Effort Honored as State Model

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said Torlakson. "You can have the best facilities, the best teachers and the best curriculum in the world, but none of that matters if students are not in school."

The Model SARB award recognizes excellence in community collaboration and measuring and reporting outcomes for chronic absen-

Leaves of Absence

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2015-16 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible. Resignations and requests for full year leaves of absence received after June 30, 2015 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement. Questions? Contact Debra Ecung at ext. 8108 or decung@lbschools.net.

Regarding benefits upon resignation, according to Article VI, "Compensation," in the Teachers Association of Long Beach contract, "Employees who have served a complete contract year are eligible for district-paid benefits through Sept. 30." Questions about duration of benefits may be directed to Risk Management at ext. 8233.

CalPERS Workshops

Two California Public Employees' Retirement System planning workshops for classified employees will be offered on Monday, May 11. Representatives from CalPERS and the Long Beach Unified School District's Payroll and Risk Management offices will answer questions during the sessions, which run from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Personnel Commission, 4400 Ladoga Ave. in Lakewood.

This is a classified staff development event subject to school district release time with a manager's approval. Please obtain a manager's authorization to attend prior to registering for this session.

Parking is available in the lot on the corner of Ladoga Avenue and Harvey Way or in the lot on Nipomo Ave. If lots are full, park only on the school side of the street. Carpooling is highly recommended.

Contact the Personnel Commission at 435-5708 for more information, or find the registration form under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at lbschools.net, then click on Classified Staff Development.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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teism and overall district attendance.

LBUSD reported a significant reduction in the number of chronically absent students, or those who miss more than 10 percent of the school year. During the 2012-13 school year, the chronic absence rate was 19.8 percent. This year the rate has dropped to 10 percent. The school district's overall attendance rate is 96.17 percent this school year, up from 96.01 percent last school year and 95.5 percent during the 2012-13 school year.

School district staff have made a concerted effort to work more closely with families who face challenges such as transportation barriers, or situations in which older siblings are kept home to care for younger ones, said Erin Simon, school support services director. Some parents believe it's their right to decide whether to bring their children to school.

"We're committed to eliminating barriers so that students can attend school every second of every period, every day," Simon said.

LBUSD works with families to explain that students with high truancy rates have a greater chance of dropping out. Parents of troubled teens learn strategies to prevent their children from skipping school. Such parents may meet with Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert, who develops contracts with families to curb chronic absenteeism. His aim is to keep cases out of court while improving student attendance and behavior.

Electric Car Race

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Formula E and Greenpower for bringing the School Series to Long Beach."

The participating schools were the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, along with McBride, Cabrillo, Jordan, Millikan and Santa Barbara high schools. McBride's Ethan Talamantes and Ryan Jordan finished second and third, respectively.

"The race was a huge success, and the enthusiasm from all participants involved has been outstanding," Greenpower Education Trust CEO Jeremy Way said.

The Greenpower Education trust charity was established in 1999 to encourage youngsters to follow careers in sustainable engineering and technology. The Formula E initiative encourages students to learn and develop their engineering skills in a hands-on, fun and competitive environment.

More than 500 schools in the UK participate in Greenpower's domestic motorsport program, and its international appeal is growing, with initiatives being set up in South Africa, Poland and Portugal in the last 12 months.

For more information on the Formula E School Series, visit www.fiaformulae.com. Learn more about Greenpower Education Trust at www.greenpower.co.uk.

In Memoriam

Ronald Fujihara
teacher, Beach
April 11, 2015