



school bulletin

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

March 20, 2015

WINNING ORATORS –

Participants in the annual Concerned African American Parents Oration Contest proposed positive solutions to societal issues such as homelessness, cyberbullying and littering. The students earned certificates, prizes and goodies.



Student Orators Impress Packed Audience

The contest judges carefully monitored eye contact, inflection, depth of knowledge and relevance of topic as they listened to 18 students deliver speeches during the recent Concerned African American Parents annual Oration Contest at the Teacher Resource Center.

Students from grades three to 12 responded to this year's theme inspired by Ida B. Wells, the famed journalist and social activist who once said, "The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

Students confidently shared troubling issues they had witnessed, and in some cases been victims of, cited data on their subjects and then detailed their plans for positive solutions.

Participants impressed the packed room of parents, family members, school district administrators, teachers and community leaders with their insights into current issues such as cyber bullying, smoking, littering, the need for unity, use of the "n" word, homelessness, negative perceptions and education.

The judges were Board of Education Vice President Felton Williams, Stevenson Elementary School Principal David Zaid, CAAP Founder Ninette Richardson, and Cal State Long Beach's Director of University Outreach and School Relations Valerie Bordeaux.

Former Board of Education President Bobbie Smith praised the students and donated two of her famous, freshly-baked sweet potato pies for the drawing in celebration of Black

Employee of Year

LBUSD employees who know outstanding colleagues deserving recognition may submit nominations for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by Monday, April 20.

Instructions, award criteria and nomination forms are available under "Employee of the Year (Classified)" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

History Month.

Participants received certificates and gift bags containing goodies and passes provided by local vendors. First, second and third place winners earned gift cards. The orators were:

Grades 3-5

Eric Brannon, Holmes (first place)
Kalin Lindsey, Holmes (second place)
Antonio Eastland, Holmes (third place)
Devean Brown, Holmes
Benjamin Jackson, Bixby
Gregory Lewis, Holmes
Jadyn Myers, Longfellow

Grades 6-8

Caleb Jackson, Nelson (first place)
Joshua Henderson, Marshall (second place)
Jacqueline Brown, Bancroft (third place)
Sean Berry, Lindbergh
Kyle Slaughter, Newcomb
(Continued on next page)

COOL CAT – The Cat in the Hat (Long Beach Rotary President Brian Russell) visits preschoolers during a Read-In at LBUSD's North Child Development Center. Each child selected a new book to keep. Rotary has raised more than \$470,000 for literacy programs over the past 16 years. View more photos at lbschools.net.



Poly's Own Fab Four

When the touring show "In My Life - A Musical Theatre Tribute to the Beatles" returns to the Warner Grand Theatre in San Pedro on April 19, be on the lookout for two quartets – not just one.

The Poly High School string quartet will join the professional actors on stage.

Poly juniors Elizabeth Robinet, Erin Osman, Timothy White and Sofia Salcedo will join the band for the songs "Eleanor Rigby," "Yesterday," "A Day in the Life," "Hello Goodbye," and "Hey Jude." In a special touch,
(Continued on next page)

Poly Excels at UCLA Business Contest

Poly High School students earned high honors at the semifinals of the annual Project ECHO High School Entrepreneur's Business Plan Competition this month and will advance to the finals on April 12. The Project ECHO (Entrepreneurial Concepts Hands On), contests are hosted by the Harold and Pauline Price Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and UCLA Anderson School of Management.

The competition provides more than 500 Southern California high school students the opportunity to pitch their new business ventures to prominent members of the local business community who serve as volunteer venture capitalist judges. This year, about 100 teams from 16 high schools and academic pathways are competing in this two-part competition. Several Poly teams earned first place in the Retail and Tech divisions of the competition. View the full list of Poly's semifinal honors at lbschools.net under the "Poly Excels at UCLA Business Contest" headline.

• Student Orators

(Continued from first page)

Grades 9-12

Basheera Ali-El, Poly (first place)
Dominique Leggett, Cabrillo (second place)
Prince Mays, Millikan (third place)
Jasir Jones, Lakewood
Brooke Ribet, Wilson
Laurn Slaughter, Poly

Recently Adopted Math Books a Plus

Teachers and parents reviewed math textbooks and instructional materials before the school board's recent approval of the materials, which will support K-12 instruction. Here's a sampling of their feedback:

"I am so happy to see skills/activities that are developmentally appropriate and aligned to the CCSS (Common Core State Standards)," parent Yvonne Spitzer-Velasco wrote regarding the kindergarten materials. Regarding fourth grade materials, she continued, "I think it's going to be beneficial for my daughter to have bullets with simple strategies listed at the top of her practice book for reference. Overall, I am very impressed with this adoption. Thank you, Textbook Services for all that you do! I really appreciate having the opportunity to view the upcoming textbooks for both of my daughters."

"I think the committee made a great choice," wrote Bryant teacher Rose Albanese. "The workbook for kindergarten is very similar to what we have now, but I think it will be easier for the children to handle. I like the individual chapter teacher guides. I also love the assessment guide with chapter tests."

The newly adopted materials will be used in local schools starting in September.

Dates to Remember

April

	National Autism Awareness Month
1	April Fools Day
1	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
2	International Children's Book Day
2	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
3	LBUSD Recognition of Admission Day — Holiday
6	California Poppy Day
6-10	Spring Recess
12-18	National Library Week
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
14	Third Quarter Ends
14	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
15-16	Holocaust Remembrance Day
15	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 16 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 21 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 22 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 23 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 29 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
19-25	Administrative Professionals Week
22	Administrative Professionals Day
20-24	Public School Volunteer Week
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
23	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
24	National Arbor Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 28 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
29	International Dance Day
30	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8

SCHOLARLY MUSICIANS –

Poly High School students Erin Osman, Elizabeth Robinet, Timothy White and Sofia Salcedo will join professional performers during an April 19 musical tribute to the Beatles. The students maintain 4.0 or better GPAs while participating in sports and volunteering with the Long Beach Symphony.



• Poly's String Quartet Performs with Pros

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"Yesterday" is played as a scene in which the Paul McCartney character plays the song for the first time for Beatles producer George Martin, with the songwriter explaining that he envisioned a string quartet accompaniment.

"In My Life" is the musical retelling of the Beatles story through the eyes of manager Brian Epstein and features the live music of renowned tribute band, Abbey Road. The production includes multimedia, period costumes and vintage instruments. It has toured for years, receiving rave reviews.

The Poly quartet members also perform with their school's Chamber Orchestra and have been selected each year of high school to perform with the All District Honors Orchestra. In addition to maintaining 4.0 or better grade point averages in the school's college preparatory PACE program, the members help operate a non-profit, public benefit corporation that brings ecologically friendly school and office supplies to educational institutions. They volunteer as ushers with the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, and their quartet has opened for a Long Beach Symphony Orchestra concert. Robinet, Osman, and Salcedo run cross country and track at Poly, and White plays varsity tennis.

The producers of "In My Life" approached Andy Osman, a 30-year music teacher at Poly (and quartet member Erin's dad) looking for a talented ensemble that could hold their own with a rock band in front of an audience.

"We hire high school strings from all over

the country, and they are always highly functioning, college bound kids," said Andy Nagle of the La Jolla Booking Agency. "The Poly kids are extraordinary even for quartet kids. I don't know about you, but I didn't form a 501c3 (nonprofit) when I was 16 years old."

Quartet member Robinet has been a lifelong Beatles fan.

"My parents are huge fans, and I can remember dancing with my mother in the living room to Beatles music when I was very young," said the junior.

Erin Osman, who maintains a 4.45 grade point average and was a founding member of the nonprofit, public benefit corporation called Long Beach EcoScholars, grew up loving Beatles music.

"My mother and I would play and sing Beatles songs at the piano when I was a little kid," she said. "It's going to be an amazing experience to perform their music."

The quartet also performs at weddings and other events under the name "Calithos Quartet" and may be hired by emailing calithosquartet@gmail.com.

"In My Life" plays at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 19 at the Warner Grand Theatre, 478 W. 6th Street (at Pacific) in San Pedro. Tickets are \$20 to \$40, plus ticket fees, and may be purchased online with at tix.com (search "In My Life") or by calling 800-595-4849. Tickets purchased at the door will be cash only.

Poly has been selected six times by the GRAMMY Foundation as a GRAMMY Signature School, and twice as a Signature "Gold" school, recognizing it as one of the top high school programs in the nation.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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School Nurse of Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association is seeking nominations for the School Nurse of the Year for 2014-15. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Long Beach Unified School District students.

To nominate a school nurse, request a nomination form from Nancy Suzuki at nsuzuki@lbschools.net.

The deadline for submission is Monday, May 11.