



school bulletin

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

Dec. 4, 2015

School Choice Fairs Attract Thousands

Nearly 9,000 students and parents have participated in high school choice events in recent weeks.

Of those participants, about 5,500 attended the annual districtwide High School Choice Fair at Cabrillo High School on Oct. 24. Regional events, where high school information is provided at local middle schools, also have been offered recently at Lindsey, Marshall, Hoover and Nelson schools, with each event attracting hundreds more participants.

Various high schools are offering school choice informational events through Dec. 8, and 30 percent of local eighth graders have signed up for a "shadow day," in which they shadow a student at a high school of their choice.

The high school application window opens Dec. 15 via the school district's ParentVue system.

At most high schools, the Long Beach Unified School District gives priority to neighborhood children when it comes to attending their local school, but it also offers a thriving school choice program that allows students to choose schools outside their attendance area. This system has earned high marks from parents, including the Long Beach Council PTA, which represents nearly 19,000 members.

For more information on high school choice, see School Choice (Incoming High School Freshman) in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

The school district's annual Education Celebration, which provides information on local elementary, middle and K-8 school programs, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 23 at McBride High School.

Lafayette Earns \$100K Tech Grant

Lafayette Elementary School earned a \$100,000 Dream Big grant for technology this week from Farmers Insurance.

Librarian Kat Tacea and former Lafayette teacher Lynn Gay submitted the grant application, aiming to provide an iPad for every five students in grades K-3, and a Chromebook for every two students in grades 4-5.

Farmers presented the check for \$100,000 as a surprise announcement at the school.

"What a wonderful early holiday gift for our children, staff and community!" Lafayette Principal Wendy Thompson said. "This grant supports the work we've been doing to plan and deliver instruction that is reflective of 21st Century teaching and learning."

The award is among \$1 million given to teachers and schools in 2015 by Farmers.

HARMONY PROJECT – Harte Elementary School student Julian Herrera receives a new violin as part of the nonprofit Harmony Project, which helps to provide classical music education to children in high-need communities. LBUSD has partnered with the organization to supplement a comprehensive music education curriculum.



Building on a Tradition of Musical Excellence

The Long Beach Unified School District's comprehensive music curriculum is enhanced by many educational partnerships, the newest of which is helping 65 students to learn instrumental music as early as second grade.

The school district is partnering with the nonprofit Harmony Project, which helps to provide classical music education for children from lower-income communities.

Participating second and third graders at Addams, Chavez, Edison and Harte elementary schools received new violins, violas and cellos recently, much to the anticipation of children who had been practicing how to hold faux instruments fashioned out of tissue boxes and paint stirrers.

The hope is to expand the music program to as many as 200 students while adding wind instruments and continuing with intensive instruction through high school. The young musicians practice two days a week plus three hours on Saturdays for a total of seven hours of

weekly instruction.

The new program is made possible through a combination of fundraising via the Long Beach Education Foundation and the use of federal Title I funds for disadvantaged populations.

Founded in 2001 in Los Angeles, the Harmony Project has been recognized twice by the White House. Measurable results from the Harmony Project, collected through studies done in partnership with Northwestern University, have shown that the program works to keep students on track to graduation and makes them better learners.

A Dec. 3 fundraiser event for the Harmony Project, including student performances, was planned for 5:30 p.m. at Long Beach's Terrace Theater. The cost to sponsor a child for a year is \$1,500. To donate any amount online, go to Long Beach Education Foundation in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

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P.E. Test Pass Rates Surpass County, State

A greater percentage of physical education students in the Long Beach Unified School District are passing the state's physical education tests compared to students in Los Angeles County and California as a whole, according to newly released data from the California Department of Education.

More than 1.3 million fifth, seventh and ninth graders statewide took the exams during the 2014-15 school year. Students take a series of six separate tests that measure aerobic capacity, body composition, abdominal strength, trunk extensor strength, upper body strength and flexibility.

Meeting five of the state exam's six Healthy Fitness Zone requirements is considered to be a passing score. By state law, high school students who meet this standard qualify for exemption from physical education classes in their junior and senior years (though many of these students still opt to take P.E. electives such as yoga, dance, basketball, soccer and weight training). Using the five-of-six yardstick, LBUSD's scores surpassed state and county scores at all grade levels tested, with the exception of grade five, where fifth graders here tied with students statewide.

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• Physical Education

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“The release of these results is a good reminder that all parents and role models need to encourage children to eat nutritious foods and exercise regularly,” said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

State Physical Fitness Exam

% of Students Passing
2014-15*

Grade	LBUSD	L.A. County	State
5	49.5	47.0	49.5
7	59.3	52.3	56.0
9	63.1	57.0	61.1

* The state considers meeting five of six Healthy Fitness Zones to be a passing score.

Torlakson noted that Healthy Fitness Zone performance standards for the body mass index (BMI), one of three body composition test options, were updated for the 2013-14 fitness assessment period. Thus, current body composition scores cannot be compared to previous years.

LBUSD’s curriculum staff includes a physical education curriculum leader who has helped teachers to focus more intently in recent years on offering students as many of the allowed alternatives as possible for students to demonstrate their fitness on the exams.

Go to <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/> for full test results.

• Musical Excellence

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LBUSD maintains a strong commitment to music and arts education, with \$200,000 allocated to the Harmony Project. Another \$3 million is allocated in the school district’s latest Local Control Accountability Plan to enhance the elementary school instrumental program districtwide, with \$1 million going toward new instruments.

The school district’s collaboration with arts and music organizations includes educational partnerships with the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra, which reaches more than 25,000 students annually. LBUSD students also are well represented in Southern California honors orchestras each year. Several schools have earned regional, state and national honors, including recognition by the Grammy Foundation.

Apply for Job Sharing

Permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2016-17 school year. Job share deadlines are:

Jan. 15 – Submission of written request to include your name and telephone number on a list of interested job sharing partners;

March 1 – Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above information to Human Resource Services, Attention: Job Share.

For more information, call ext. 8106.

FORESTRY CHALLENGE –
California Academy of Mathematics and Science students participate in field testing at the 2015 Sequoia Forestry Challenge, held near Springville, CA. Students used computer modeling to analyze fire conditions.



CAMS Students Take Forestry Challenge

Fifteen students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science participated in the 2015 Sequoia Forestry Challenge, one group among 88 high school students from nine schools in California. The event was Oct. 7 to 10 at Clemmie Gill School of Science and Conservation and Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest, above Springville, CA. The three teams from CAMS placed second, fifth and tenth out of a field of 19 teams.

Students spent two days at Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest collecting data on woody debris in an area that was recently logged. They used their data in a fire behavior computer modeling program to determine optimum conditions under which to conduct a prescribed burn in the forest. Teams of students also completed field training, followed by a field test, to assess their technical forestry knowledge and data collecting skills.

“Our students had a wonderful time and par-

ticipated in real-life forestry training that they will never forget,” CAMS teacher Matt Gold said.

“CFC was an experience like no other,” said Bianca Khoo, a senior at CAMS. “Despite the mental and physical challenges, I had a memorable time that gave me newfound respect for foresters and our environment. I can’t wait until next year’s CFC in Santa Cruz.”

Robotics Event Dec. 5

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science will co-host the South Bay Nothing But Net VEX Robotics Middle School Tournament on Saturday Dec. 5. The 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. event will take place at co-host El Camino College’s campus, 16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, in the East Dining Facility above the bookstore. Tournament champions and the Excellence Award winner will qualify for the California State Championships. Learn more at robotevents.com. Search for El Camino.

Stevenson Students ‘Shop with a Cop’

Seventy-five students from Stevenson Elementary School recently received \$100 gift certificates for Target on Bellflower Boulevard in Long Beach, where each child paired with a police officer who assisted them with some shopping.

Long Beach Transit helped with transportation for the Shop with a Cop program held in collaboration with the Long Beach Police Department, Long Beach Police Foundation, Long Beach Education Foundation, Long Beach Junior Chamber and Target.

11 Sites Offer Free Lunches Dec. 14-30

Free lunches will be provided to children at 11 schools from Dec. 14 to 30, as the Long Beach Unified School District’s Summer Food Service Program extends primarily to assist Track B (year-round) students while they are off school. Look for this article at lbschools.net to find locations, dates and times.

Rick Rackers Clothe Robinson Students

More than 750 students at Jackie Robinson Academy recently received new backpacks filled with school uniforms and school supplies, courtesy of the Rick Rackers, an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Long Beach.

The Rick Rackers’ signature project is Operation School Bell, which provided more than 10,000 new school uniforms to local students last school year. In addition to providing uniforms districtwide, Rick Rackers chooses one school each year where it supplies free uniforms to every student. This year’s school was Robinson. Learn more at allb.org.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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