



school bulletin

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

Dec. 18, 2015

Thank You to All For a Great 2015

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

As December winds down, I'd like to thank everyone in our school communities for such a productive 2015. Students and teachers have been hard at work, in many cases grappling with newer academic standards and tests that have required patience and persistence. Their work is supported by a highly capable school board, devoted parents and thousands of behind-the-scenes employees and community partners who help to keep our students safe, healthy and learning as much as they can.



Steinhauser

California's rebounding economy and the implementation of the state's Local Control Funding Formula for schools continue to bring much needed resources to students. Some of these resources are targeted to help our most vulnerable populations, including homeless and otherwise disadvantaged children. Other funding aims to help all students regardless of their station in life – including, for example, funding to cover the costs of SAT college entrance test prep and Advanced Placement college prep exams, saving parents hundreds of dollars while removing barriers to college entrance. The results of these and other efforts produced a record-setting 2015, with significant increases in AP participation, improved graduation rates, and \$96 million in scholarships earned by graduating seniors.

In 2016 we expect even greater progress as we continue to invest in our students, who always do amazing things when we give them the chance. Thank you to everyone who helps to provide our students a gift that can never be taken away – the gift of a great education.

I wish all of you a restful winter break and a happy holiday season.

Student Art Contest

The Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific recently teamed up with local schools and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to host "NOAA Day at the Aquarium," an event showcasing student art.

Ninety-five students from Jordan, Millikan, Reid and Renaissance high schools submitted endangered species-themed art. Students received free admission for the day. Judges awarded prizes. Earning first place for grades 9-10 was Millikan's Isabella Aroz. Fellow Millikan student Cosette Trujillo won first place among grades 11-12.

Teachers OK Tentative Deal, 5% Raise

Bargaining teams for the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach have reached a tentative contract agreement that includes a 5 percent salary increase for teachers retroactive to July 1 of this year. TALB's K-12 membership ratified the tentative agreement by a 99.2 percent vote this week, and the Board of Education will likely consider the contract for final approval at its Jan. 5 meeting.

The school board also is likely to consider a similar salary and benefits deal for nonrepresented employees at the Jan. 5 meeting.

Pending the school board's OK, the target date for retroactive checks to be issued to qualifying employees is Feb. 26. Then the 5 percent increase would be reflected on subsequent paychecks. The 5 percent increase also would apply to career increments (longevity), retroactive to July 1, for TALB members and non-represented employees.

When combined with last year's 5 percent raise and the prior year's 3 percent raise, the newest agreement would bring the total salary increase to 13 percent over three years for these employees, with no monthly premium co-payment for health plans.

The tentative agreement with TALB includes the adoption of the National Formulary pharmacy plan for the Blue Shield PPO effective July 1, 2016 and provides for a school district subsidy for participation in Weight Watchers as part of LBUUSD's wellness program. The same pharmacy plan change and Weight Watchers subsidy would hold true for non-represented employees.

Other modifications to the TALB contract include updating CDC/Head Start teacher evaluation language and evaluation forms, salary schedule placement, maternity and paternity leave for child bonding and the school district technology guidelines. Two District/TALB joint committees would be formed to review the electronic grading and communication systems and review the language for the re-establishment of a Peer Assistance and Review Program.

The new TALB contract would run through June 30, 2018 with reopeners on selected articles each year.

The school district plans to negotiate compensation with the local California School Employees Association chapter in the coming weeks.

New, Improved Index Measures School Quality

A collaborative of nine school districts, including Long Beach, introduced their new School Quality Improvement Index this month. The index uses a system of multiple measures to provide schools, teachers and parents with more and better information to improve student learning.

In addition to academic achievement indicators, the index includes a first-in-nation use of social-emotional and school climate indicators such as attendance and results of student, family and staff surveys.

The index was developed by educators in

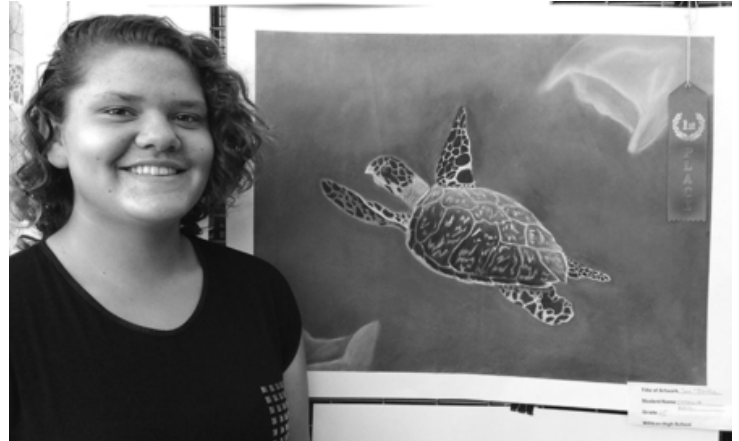
the nine school systems, who have formed the nonprofit California Office to Reform Education. Their research-based work includes input from educational accountability experts at Harvard, Stanford and other institutions.

School districts participating in CORE are reviewing the preliminary data from the index and preparing to share the findings with their schools, as well as with parents and others in their school communities. CORE districts plan to publicly release school-level reports for the initial version of the School Quality

(Continued on next page)

WINNING ARTIST –

Millikan High School sophomore Isabella Aroz won first place for her artwork during a recent student art exhibit at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific. Participants explored the theme "Endangered Species."



• New Index

(Continued from first page)

Improvement Index (2014-15 data) in early February.

School reports will be made accessible to the public on the CORE districts website at coredistricts.org.

The new system is being watched closely at the state and national levels because it is the nation's largest demonstration of multiple, local education agencies developing and implementing a system to measure school quality using such a holistic, or more complete, approach. The CORE districts serve more than one million students. The new index, unveiled during a California School Boards Association conference in San Diego, is a key element of the CORE districts school accountability system under a federal waiver replacing certain No Child Left Behind (NCLB) rules.

"Our new School Quality Index offers schools a flashlight, not a hammer," said Mike Hanson, Superintendent of the Fresno Unified School District and chair of the CORE board of directors. "The school districts participating in the development and use of the index have chosen to shine a brighter, wider light on the needs of all students and on their own educational strategies and practices to improve student learning and achievement. They are not seeking to avoid accountability, but rather to create a better, more comprehensive system to inform and guide the efforts of schools to improve learning opportunities for students."

First-year index findings provide a baseline of information. Academic information accounts for 60 percent of the index and includes measurements of English language arts and mathematics learning, graduation rates and high school readiness rates of eighth graders.

The social-emotional and culture-climate indicators are weighted at 40 percent of the index and include measurements of chronic absenteeism, suspension/expulsion rates, and English learner re-designation rates. The index ultimately will measure growth in academic achievement, and the social-emotional/culture-climate elements will expand to include student, family and staff surveys next year.

The new accountability system meets the requirements of the recently adopted federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

The other CORE districts are Fresno, Garden Grove, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Francisco, Sanger and Santa Ana.

Substitutes Needed

The Long Beach Unified School District is now hiring substitute teachers. Candidates may apply at teachlongbeach.com. Go to Employment Opportunities > Substitutes.

Requirements include a bachelor's degree, complete passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test or equivalent and a willingness to work throughout the district.

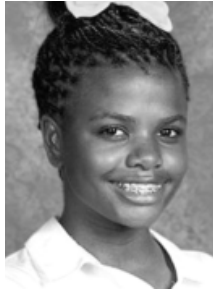
Celebrate Education

The 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, 7025 Parkcrest St., Long Beach.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options.

SOAPBOX WINNERS –

The top three winners of the recent Soapbox Challenge are AJ Walker, Amelia Haynes and Elizabeth Bigham.



Students Compete in Soapbox Challenge

Local high school students earned honors in the districtwide Soapbox Challenge, a speech contest held recently at McBride High School.

The Long Beach Unified School District held the competition in collaboration with the nonprofit Mikva Challenge, which promotes civic engagement among youth.

The event asked high school students to deliver two-minute speeches answering the question, "What is the most important issue

facing your community?"

Winning first place was AJ Walker from Wilson Classical High School for a speech on long holding periods for medical referrals. Earning second place was Amelia Haynes from Poly High School for a speech on stigmas surrounding mental illness. Elizabeth Bigham, also from Poly, won third place for a speech on sexual harassment. A Student Choice Award went to Melanie Ung from Lakewood High School for her speech about student etiquette and behavior.

Dates to Remember

January	
1	New Year's Day
1	Emancipation Proclamation Anniversary
1-3	Japanese New Year Festivities
6	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Martin Luther King, Jr./Black History Month," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
8	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Everyday Creativity," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
13	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
15	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Dare To Dream," Grade 9, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
17	World Religion Day
18	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — Holiday
20	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Thomas Edison," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
22	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:20, 12:20— "First Moon, Celebration of the Chinese New Year," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
27	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
28	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
29	Fall Semester Ends
29	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Klan: A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Surprised Students Receive New Bikes

Each of nearly 200 third graders at Roosevelt Elementary School was surprised with a new bicycle, helmet and lock recently.

The Long Beach-based Velo Allegro Cycling Club, which promotes cycling and health, selected Roosevelt for an essay contest for the third graders. The students expected one essayist from each of seven classes to be awarded a bike at a special assembly, but ultimately the auditorium stage curtain lifted to reveal 190 more shiny, new bicycles.

Velo Allegro raised nearly \$10,000 for a similar giveaway at Stevenson Elementary School last year. The club raised another \$15,000 for this year's event.

Can-Do Attitude for Wilson Food Drive

Students and schools embark upon numerous community service projects during the holiday season. Just one of these efforts, a canned food drive at Wilson Classical High School, netted 9,267 cans, filling the school's Activities Office and surpassing last year's school record by more than 3,000 cans. The canned goods were given to the Long Beach Salvation Army for delivery to people in need.

In Memoriam

Patricia Martoni
former accounting technician
Nov. 19, 2015

Julie Danks
former teacher
Nov. 28, 2015