



Feb. 5, 2016

**FACTS OF THE MATTER** – Megan Kerr of the school board observes as Washington Middle School eighth grader Johnny Juarez proves the law of conservation of mass. Board members visited classrooms at several schools. **Story on next page.**



## L.B. Symphony Hosts Thousands of Students

More than 12,000 fourth and fifth graders from local schools attended the Long Beach Symphony Orchestra's annual Symphony Concerts for Young People this week.

The students from Long Beach and Wilmington public schools streamed into the Terrace Theater of the Long Beach Performing Arts Center to hear the symphony play four full concerts created especially for them.

The concerts were conducted by Robert

Istad, artistic director of the Long Beach Camerata Singers. His extensive experience with choral music also afforded 130 Long Beach Unified School District high school students from the All District Honors Choir the chance to rehearse and perform with the symphony on the stage of the 3,000 seat theater.

Part of a 30-year partnership with LBUSD, the field trips are an integral part of the school district's arts curriculum, providing nearly 12 hours of related lesson plans to augment the concerts.

The concerts are sponsored by The Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation, with support from Valero Energy, the Boeing Company and other partners. Boeing has funded the addition of a Common Core curriculum specialist who has created new lesson plans and teacher resources including science, technology, engineering, arts and math concepts. A pilot program using these lesson plans includes numerous Long Beach teachers and students.

For many students, the field trip is a first-time experience with a symphony orchestra.

## Youth Safety Event Feb. 20 at LBCC

A Youth Exploitation Safety Symposium, which will address issues such as cyber safety, the prevention of human trafficking, and risk factors for LGBTQ youth, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20 at Long Beach City College, 4901 Carson St., Long Beach.

The symposium is free and open to parents, college students, educators and students in grades eight to 12. The event is sponsored by the City of Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force in partnership with the Long Beach Council PTA, the Long Beach Unified School District and other agencies.

Various workshops, lunch, a resource fair and prizes will be provided. Speakers include Opal Singleton, an author, advocate and educator who focuses on the dangers facing today's youth. An interactive session for youth, in collaboration with iEmpathize, will focus on empathy and why it is important in preventing and avoiding exploitation.

View the event flier, which also serves as a parking permit for the event, by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Learn more and register for the event at [yess2016.eventbrite.com](http://yess2016.eventbrite.com).

## Retroactive Checks

Retroactive pay for qualifying employees is scheduled for disbursement on Friday, Feb. 26. The checks for teachers and nonrepresented employees are the result of the Board of Education's January approval of a 5 percent salary increase for these employee groups, retroactive to July 1 of last year. Once the retroactive checks are issued, the 5 percent increase for these employees also will be reflected on subsequent paychecks.

The Long Beach Unified School District continues to negotiate with the local California School Employees Association chapter. Compensation for represented classified employees is part of these negotiations.

## The Atlantic Lauds 'Long Beach Miracle'

In an article titled "The Long Beach Miracle," a national magazine describes "how the working-class California city saved its schools."

The article in *The Atlantic*, which this week was named America's best magazine, features several students who are benefitting from The Long Beach College Promise and other partnerships among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

"The results have been so stunning that the city was cited by state lawmakers as a model last week when they unveiled a legislative package called the California College Promise," wrote Lillian Mongeau of the independent, nonprofit Hechinger Report. Hechinger produces in-depth education journalism and distributes it to national media such as *The Atlantic*. "Were they to pass, the collection of bills would make several of Long Beach's practices into state policy with the aim of sending more California children to and through college," Mongeau wrote.

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## A First-in-Nation Use Of School-Level Data

School-level reports for the new School Quality Improvement Index are now available. A collaborative of nine school districts, including Long Beach, introduced the new index in December. 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.

The index provides an overall score for each school from 1 to 100, while additional information on English (ELA), math and other measurements is provided as index levels on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest level. These levels are also color-coded to show performance, with green for above average, orange for average, and red for below average. View more details about the index by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

Additional information and the school reports are available on the CORE districts website at [coredistricts.org/indexreports](http://coredistricts.org/indexreports).

## • Long Beach Miracle

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The article in the Washington, D.C.-based publication notes Long Beach's rising test scores and increasing Advanced Placement enrollment, high school graduation rates and college attendance rates "even as the city's challenging demographics remained almost unaltered."

The Atlantic was named Magazine of the Year this week at the 2016 National Magazine Awards for Print and Digital Media. The award was presented by the American Society of Magazine Editors at a ceremony in New York City. The magazine attracted more than 31.5 million unique visitors to its website in November.

View the full article at [theatlantic.com](http://theatlantic.com). Search for "Long Beach Miracle."

## Paraeducator Awards

Ten paraeducators from the Long Beach Unified School District were honored recently at the 2015 Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 Paraeducator Awards.

Paraeducators work with teachers to help students improve in academics, communication, self care and vocational skills.

Awards were presented in memory of former instructional aide Deborah Herdeg. Recipients and their schools were Rosa Garcia, Jordan; Regina Green, Stanford; Linda Isbell, McBride; Lisa Jefferson, Tucker ACT; Nadya Mercado, Cubberley; Jene Newman, Cleveland; Robert Ong, Poly; Irene Pena, Stanford; Marivel Perez, Hoover; and Doris Wilson, Muir.

## Summer Jobs

The classified job application is available now on the Personnel Commission website for 10-month employees. The application, information sheet and Special Education supplemental form can be completed online, sent directly using district or U.S. mail, or dropped off at the Personnel Commission, 4400 Ladoga Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90713.

All sites and departments received an email with the application for downloading and reproducing for employees.

The deadline to submit an application is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 18.

## In Memoriam

### Tina Louise I. Estrada

former intermediate office assistant  
November 8, 2015

### A'Shanda L. Daniels

teacher, Lindsey  
Jan. 18, 2016

### Lillian A. Wojak

teacher, Wilson  
Jan. 20, 2016

### Yon Pich

former student evaluation technician  
Jan. 28, 2016

## State May Name Bridge After Van Blom

Joan Lind Van Blom, the champion rower and Olympic medalist who worked for 35 years in the Long Beach Unified School District as a physical education teacher and curriculum leader, inspired many tributes and a scholarship in her name after she died of cancer last August. Now, State Sen. Janet Nguyen, who represents a portion of Long Beach, has introduced legislation to name the bridge on State Highway Route 1, south of Loynes Drive and north of East 2nd Street as the Joan Lind Van Blom Memorial Bridge.

"Whether it was on-the-water or in the classroom, Joan was a remarkable individual who served her nation and the city of Long Beach proudly," Nguyen said.

## Board Members Tour Classrooms

Members of the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education visited four schools and the Teacher Resource Center for a close look at the day-to-day work of students, teachers, support staff and administrators.

The school board visited Grant Elementary School and Newcomb Academy on Jan. 11, meeting school leaders and visiting classrooms. A second round of visits on Jan. 25 began with a visit to the Teacher Resource Center to observe school teams engaged in professional development, or training. Then the board members traveled to McBride High School and Washington Middle School, again meeting school leaders and visiting classrooms.

"I was most impressed when we went into a math class, and the passing bell had not yet rung," school board Vice President Jon Meyer said of his visit to Washington Middle School. "We took our seats. Here came these good looking kids in their uniforms, all of them with their computers out, and already on the overhead was their assignment: Anatomy of a Hurricane. How can we use linear equations to model important characteristics of hurricanes? How accurate are these models in predicting a hurricane's behavior?"

"So these seventh graders were given data from a storm as it grows in strength and becomes a hurricane," Meyer said. "The students are already at this task, and the passing bell hasn't rung yet. There they are with their linear equations, working this out. Quiet. Collaborating dutifully. It was just marvelous to see. Nice going, Washington Middle School."

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

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Van Blom was the first woman to win an Olympic medal for the United States in rowing. She also won a silver medal in the single sculls at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and in the quadruple sculls at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. She made the Olympic team in 1980, but the U.S. boycott of the games prevented her from winning a potential gold medal.

For her numerous achievements, Van Blom was inducted into the Wilson High School Hall of Fame, Long Beach State 49er Hall of Fame Century Club and National Rowing Hall of Fame, and she was declared a Lifetime Member of the Long Beach Rowing Association. She was also named the recipient of the 2014 U.S. Rowing Ernestine Bayer Award recognizing outstanding contributions to women's rowing.

The legislation, SCR 102, is co-authored by State Senators Ricardo Lara and Isadore Hall and Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell.

Donations to the Joan Van Blom Memorial Scholarship can be made at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) under Education Foundation in the A-Z index.

## Retiring, Resigning Or Going on Leave?

Certificated employees planning to retire, resign or request a leave of absence for the 2016-17 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator.

Article VIII, "Transfers," in the K-12 Teachers Agreement between the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach states, "To facilitate the staffing process, employees are expected to make known their leave, resignation or retirement requests by March 1."

Leave of absence request, resignation and retirement forms are available from site secretaries or under Human Resource Services in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) (then see "For Current Employees").

Recent California State Teachers' Retirement System legislation limits retirees from substituting during the first 180 days of retirement. Visit [calstrs.com](http://calstrs.com) for more information.

## Names in the News

Poly High School students **Amelia Haynes** and **Katie Seaman**, both juniors in Daniel Adler's AP Government class, won an essay contest sponsored by the nonprofit Mikva Challenge, which encourages civic participation. Their reward was a trip to Iowa, where they helped to campaign for the presidential candidate of their choice, Hillary Clinton. A few weeks earlier, more than 40 students in Adler's class got a behind-the-scenes look at the Paris climate talks via a Skype Q&A with California State Sen. Ricardo Lara.

**Erin Simon**, director of Student Support Services for the Long Beach Unified School District, received an IMPACT Award from Long Beach City Prosecutor Doug Haubert. The annual awards recognize people who make positive, significant contributions to the city. Simon was honored for reducing chronic truancy and helping students who are at risk for gang involvement.