



school bulletin

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May 20, 2016

Graduations Slated For 5,500 Students

The Long Beach Unified School District will award diplomas to about 5,500 students at 12 ceremonies from June 7 to 17.

The estimated number of graduates at each school are: 1,011 at Poly High School and Poly PAAL; 893 at Lakewood High School; 875 at Wilson Classical High School; 824 at Millikan High School; 770 at Jordan High School and Jordan Plus; 525 at Cabrillo High School; 175 at Educational Partnership High School; 163 at California Academy of Mathematics and Science; 110 at Reid Continuation High School; 110 at Renaissance High School for the Arts; 48 at Avalon High School; and 31 at Beach High School.

(Continued on next page)

Rosey Grier to Address Inspiring Students

Pro football legend, actor, singer, author and minister Rosey Grier has been confirmed as the featured speaker at the Long Beach Unified School District's annual Most Inspiring Students Awards on June 2.

The event, scheduled for 6 p.m. at the Long Beach Hilton, is sponsored by the nonprofit Long Beach Education Foundation. The Harlem Renaissance-themed evening, complete with student performances, will honor one student from each school for working hard and persevering, often despite difficult odds.

Frank Mottek, news anchor for KNX 1070 Radio, will share Master of Ceremonies duties with Long Beach Education Foundation President Mike Murray.

"Rosey Grier has an amazing life story and continues to devote himself to worthy causes," Murray said. "We look forward to a memorable and inspiring evening."

Grier earned numerous honors while playing professional football for the New York Giants (1955-1962) and the Los Angeles Rams (1963-1967). He was part of the Rams' dominant "Fearsome Foursome" defensive line and has since excelled in many other fields. Television viewers have seen him on numerous hit shows such as "The Smothers Brothers" and "Quincy." Feature film credits include "Roots," "Skyjacked," "In Cold Blood" and "Carter's Army." He is a best selling author whose titles include "Shooting Star," "All American Heroes," "Winning," "Rosey, An Autobiography: The Gentle Giant" and "Needlepoint For Men."

Grier was at the Ambassador Hotel the night Sirhan Sirhan assassinated Senator Robert F.



Grier

Grad Rates Up for Fourth Year in a Row

Graduation rates in the Long Beach Unified School District increased for the fourth year in a row, again surpassing state and county rates. Students of color in Long Beach schools also outperformed their peers countywide and statewide, according to 2014-15 data released this week by the California Department of Education. Six of the school district's high schools reported graduation rates above 90 percent.

LBUSD's overall graduation rate is 84 percent, up 3 percent over last year and surpassing both Los Angeles County's rate of 78.7 percent and California's rate of 82.3 percent.

The six high schools now posting graduation rates above 90 percent include the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, along with Lakewood, Millikan, Poly,

Renaissance and Wilson high schools. Avalon K-12 School's 87.9 percent rate and Cabrillo High School's 87.4 percent rate surpass state and county averages, while Jordan High School's 77.8 percent rate was less than a percentage point below the county average and 4.5 percentage points below the state average.

The school district's African American and Latino students outperformed their peers at the county and state levels. The African American graduation rate in LBUSD is 82.5 percent, far surpassing both California's rate of 70.8 percent and Los Angeles County's rate of 69.9 percent for the same racial/ethnic subgroup. LBUSD's Latino students graduated at a rate of 81.4 percent compared to the state's 78.5 percent and the county's 76.1 percent for the same population.

Latinos, African Americans and whites represent the three largest groups of graduates in LBUSD. At several LBUSD high schools, Latinos now outperform their white counterparts in terms of graduation rates. Latinos, who are by far the largest ethnic subgroup in the school district, surpassed white students at Avalon, Cabrillo, Lakewood and Millikan high schools. At Wilson, the graduation rate for white and Latino students was exactly the same at 91.6 percent.

View the full results at the California Department of Education's DataQuest website: <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>.

Kennedy. He helped apprehend Sirhan Sirhan and took the gun out of his hand.

Grier has two grandchildren who attend Hughes Middle School in Long Beach.

Learn more about Grier at roseygrier.com.

The cost for the dinner event is \$100 per person. All proceeds support the Foundation and its work with students. To reserve a seat, send an email to lbf@lbschools.net or call 997-8323.

Top Honors for Poly At Reno Jazz Festival

Poly High School's top jazz combo group recently won Outstanding Combo for the entire Reno Jazz Festival, while the group's drummer was named Outstanding High School Drummer for the whole event.

"These are huge achievements!" said Chris Stevens, music instructor at the six-time Grammy Signature School. "Not only did our combo place first in their division, but they were chosen as the best combo at the entire festival, and they played in the evening awards concert – for thousands – who gave them a standing ovation at the end of their performance."

Poly's rock star drummer (or is it jazz star?) is Robert Mantz. The remainder of the winning combo consists of Kofi Devall, guitar; Edward Lu, piano; Jordan Peacock, bass; Will Stevens, tenor saxophone; and Luke Van Lant, alto saxophone.

"This could be compared to winning State CIF," Stevens said, "but I suppose it's more like WASC (accreditation) – a benchmark of comparison with other schools and programs, including top arts-dedicated schools. We took six groups all together, and two others also earned placement in their divisions, always an honor. Everyone played extremely well."

MESA AWARDS – Hudson K-8 School's Math, Engineering, Science Achievement team displays awards earned in a prosthetic arm contest. Several schools earned MESA honors. **Story on next page.**



Employee of Year Event on May 26

The annual Classified Employee of the Year Celebration Luncheon is set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 26 at the Teacher Resource Center. Award finalists and the top award winner will be recognized at the event. The Employee of the Year will be announced at noon.

Parking is available on site. Lunch will include pizza and salad, along with games, prizes and entertainment.

The event is made possible by donations from private sponsors, organizations and school district managers and administrators.

Finalists for this year's award are Nick Altenhofen, carpenter at Maintenance; Cathy Anderson, instructional aide special at Emerson; Julie Baldrige, intermediate office assistant at Poly; Vanessa Hill, instructional aide special at Tucker; Ninski Menchavez, custodian at Tincher; and Fernando Nieves, custodian at MacArthur.

The remainder of this year's nominees are Chona Babbidge, instructional aide special at McBride; Daniel Barragan, plant supervisor at McBride; Sofia Castro, Nutrition Services worker; Dawn Couch, high school office supervisor at Lakewood; Dolores Garcia, intermediate office assistant at Tucker; Leonila Halili, intermediate office assistant at Facilities; Mary Hill, intermediate account clerk at Nutrition Services; Cathy Moran, senior office assistant at Avalon; Richard Phelps, custodial supervisor at Kettering; Christine Ragusa, instructional aide at Lakewood; Alicia Ramirez, Nutrition Services worker at Renaissance; Tanya Robertson, school support secretary at Educational Partnership High School; Maria L. Ruiz, office supervisor at Renaissance; Dennis Sweningson, manager/autism services, preschool assessment coordinator, Buffum; Kelly Tavorara, office supervisor at Marshall; Ray Toscano, custodian at Willard; Shannon Vega, Nutrition Services supervisor at Washington; and Naomi Worrell, instructional aide special at Buffum.

\$10K Scholarship Honors Van Blom

Applications are now available for the Joan Van Blom Memorial Scholarship. Girls graduating from a Long Beach Unified School District high school and planning to attend California State University, Long Beach to become a physical education teacher may apply for the \$10,000 award.

The Van Blom Scholarship honors the memory of the LBUSD educator and U.S. Olympic silver medalist in rowing. She served the school district for 35 years as a physical education teacher, physical education curriculum leader and middle school sports coordinator. She died in August 2015 from brain cancer.

Find this article at lbschools.net to download the application form.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Patti Cheshire	June 21	Joann Kageno jkageno@lbschools.net

• Grad Ceremonies

(Continued from first page)
This schedule includes the names of officials who will present diplomas:

Tuesday, June 7

- CAMS, 6 p.m., StubHub Tennis Stadium (Carson), Board of Education President Felton Williams

Tuesday, June 14

- Cabrillo, 6 p.m., Veterans Stadium, Board of Education President Felton Williams

Wednesday, June 15

- Jordan/Jordan Plus, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium, Board of Education Member Megan Kerr

- Reid, 2 p.m., Cabrillo Big Gym, Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser
- Avalon, 4 p.m., Casino Theater, Board of Education Vice President Jon Meyer and Assistant Superintendent Jay Camerino

- Poly/PAAL, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium, Board of Education President Felton Williams

Thursday, June 16

- Lakewood, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium, Board of Education Member Diana Craighead

- Renaissance, 3 p.m., Long Beach City College Auditorium, Board of Education Member John McGinnis

- Wilson, 5 p.m., Stephens Field (Wilson Football Stadium), Board of Education Vice President Jon Meyer and Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser

- Millikan, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium, Board of Education Member Diana Craighead

Friday, June 17

- EPHS, 1 p.m., Lakewood High School Auditorium, Board of Education Member Megan Kerr

- Beach, 2:30 p.m., Millikan High School Auditorium, Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser

Dates to Remember

June

1	Great Outdoors Month 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 2 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 3 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 7 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 8 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 9 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 15 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
5	World Environment Day
12	Anne Frank's Birthday
12	Race Unity Day
14	Flag Day
16	Last Day for Students
17	Last Day for Teachers
18	Anniversary of 1st American Woman in Space
19	Fathers Day
20	First Day of Summer
27	Helen Keller's Birthday

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Open Enrollment for Benefits Ends May 31

Open Enrollment continues through May 31 for employees who wish to change their benefit plan choices. These benefits choices will be effective July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. If you don't need to make changes, you don't have to do anything, and your current benefits will roll over for the new plan year. If you want to make changes, go to benefitenroll.com or call the Employee Service Center at (866) 844-9744, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information also was mailed to employees' homes.

If you're currently contributing to a Flexible Spending Account, your FSA will continue until Dec. 31, 2016. You'll have a separate opportunity to enroll in an FSA for 2017 later this year.

Students Collect MESA Awards

Students from local schools have earned local, regional and state honors in recent Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) competitions.

Among the winners were Hudson K-8 School's students, who earned a first place award at the Los Angeles Metro regional competition in the prosthetic arm category, advancing to state competition last weekend at UC Irvine, where the students placed third for device performance and third overall.

The Hudson team consisted of Ab Tudayan, Julienne Quides, Marygrace Gliane and Giannka Picache. Their advisor is Anastasia Hubbard. Last year the team went to the nationals in Utah.

Also among this year's regional winners was Nelson Academy eighth grader Jakarta Robinson, who captured a first place medal at a UCLA competition.

To view a list of preliminary and regional honorees at California State University, Long Beach's recent MESA Day contests, find this story at lbschools.net.

Names in the News

August Ray, a junior at McBride High School, wrote one of the nation's top ten essays in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's annual Age of Revolution Essay Contest. Out of the ten winners, she was the only winner from Southern California. She will receive a prize of \$1,000. Her winning essay was titled "The Founders and the Role of Government."

Victor Flores, a senior at Jordan High School, scored highly enough on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB exam) to earn the Army job of surgeon assistant. He will take seven to eight months of pre-med classes. He plans to become a surgeon.

Diego Perez, a seventh grader at Washington Middle School earned a first place award for Technical Arts, Graphic Design in the Los Angeles County Office of Education Digital Voice Awards contest.

Judy Reynolds, school nurse at Buffum TLC, was named 2016 West Region Nurse.com GEM Award Finalist in the Excellence in Community Care category.