



school bulletin

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

March 31, 2017

‘Nerd Herd’ Heads to World Competition

The self-described Nerd Herd Team 687A from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science is heading to the VEX Robotics World Championship sponsored by the Northrop Grumman Foundation in Louisville from April 19 to 25.

“Nerd Herd 687A has experienced some highs and lows this season, but through it all the team members and my other co-captain, Edward Rodriguez, sought to design, build and program a robot that could rise to the challenges presented this year,” said Ian Clavio, team co-captain. “Participating in the VEX Robotics Competition in school has strengthened my interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and given me the skills I need to succeed well beyond high school. The last time a Nerd Herd team qualified for Worlds was in 2013. I’m excited to attend the VEX Robotics World Championship to compete with teams from around the world.”

Teammates are Michele Boateng-Lee, Joseph Canalita, Gabriel Carrera, Linda Castellanos, Jason Culberson, Saingyou Eung, Carlos Hinojosa, Reggie Hughes, Juan Martinez, Gracelyn Pham, Emily Rodriguez, Emily Teranishi, Ashley Torres, Bradley Turcios, Joshua Visperas, Maya Washington and Jeannie Yang.

Long Beach Unified An ‘Unlikely Success’

Something is missing from America’s ongoing debate about education, says national education writer Jeff Bryant in the first of a series of upcoming articles on the Long Beach Unified School District. Why do school districts like Long Beach succeed despite tough challenges?

“Where both sides in the policy debate start is with the assumption that real progress can’t come from schools themselves but must be imposed from outside by folks who aren’t professional educators,” Bryant writes. “What if that assumption is wrong? What if there are school districts that are bucking the ‘failure’ narrative? What could our policy leaders and think tank ‘experts’ learn from them? Recently, I traveled to a school district in search of answers to those questions.”

In the article, “Yes, schools can improve; Here’s how,” Bryant calls Long Beach “an unlikely success story” and notes that LBUSD outperforms other California school districts that have similar challenges, including significant numbers of students living in poverty and many children learning English as a second language.

“So how did Long Beach get here?” Bryant
(Continued on next page)

Tentative Agreement Reached with TALB

The Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach have reached a tentative contract agreement that includes a 2 percent ongoing salary increase and a one-time “off schedule” 1 percent increase for the current fiscal year. Both increases would be retroactive to July 1, 2016.

A separate tentative agreement on health care had already been reached with TALB in recent weeks. Under that tentative health care agreement, costs have been contained so that TALB members will again avoid paying monthly premium payroll deductions for health benefits.

Retroactive checks for the 2 percent increase would be disbursed as early as June 16 pending ratification of the agreement by TALB’s membership and approval by the LBUSD Board of Education. The ongoing

increase could appear on paychecks starting June 23. The one-time, off-schedule increase would be issued as early as Sept. 8 in a lump sum as 1 percent of the employee’s annual salary.

The tentative agreement makes some adjustments to language in the contract categories of adjunct duties, replacement services during conference periods, electronic grading and communication, class size and staffing ratios and evaluation procedures.

Meanwhile the bargaining team for classified employees also has reached a tentative agreement on health care that mirrors TALB’s. Negotiations on compensation for classified employees continues in the coming days.

View both the healthcare and main agreements with TALB by finding this article under Bargaining Updates at lbschools.net.

Jordan Showcases Three New Buildings

Students and staff at Jordan High School recently showcased the first three classroom buildings to be completed as part of a \$208 million renovation of the 27-acre campus in North Long Beach.

The community open house on March 14 was the first opportunity for the public to tour Building 1100 and Building 1200, which were opened in January, and Building 1300, which will open next month. See photos at lbschools.net.

The three buildings include computer labs, art studios, music rooms and a state-of-the-art manufacturing lab for three academies: Excellence Through the Arts; Media and Communications; and Advanced Manufacturing, Construction and Engineering.

Also opened in January were new north and south parking lots and a new cafeteria and covered lunch area. New clocks, intercom speak-

ers, fire alarms, security cameras and audio-visual systems also were part of the first phase.

The Jordan campus was originally built in the 1930s, with additions and renovations occurring from the 1950s through the 1990s. The current renovation project is the largest and most ambitious funded by Measure K, a school bond initiative that was approved by voters in 2008.

Renovations happen while students remain on campus in 29 portable classrooms. As each part of campus is renovated, displaced students move into the portable classrooms, and then return to their new buildings upon completion.

“This project is particularly challenging due to the constant shifting of students from one building into portables, and then back to their permanent buildings,” said Alan Reising, executive director of Facilities Planning and

(Continued on next page)

VISIONARY – Clippers players joined Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, Mayor Robert Garcia, Vision To Learn Founder Austin Beutner, students and Clippers President Gillian Zucker to announce the donation of eyeglasses to schoolchildren. **Story on next page.**



5,000 Students Receiving Free Eyeglasses

The nonprofit Vision To Learn, the Los Angeles Clippers Foundation and the Long Beach Unified School District announced an effort this month to provide free eyeglasses to every LBUSD child in need throughout grades K-12. Long Beach will be the largest school district in the nation to implement the program.

"Vision To Learn is delighted to expand its partnership with the LA Clippers Foundation as we work toward our goal of providing glasses to every child who needs them," said the organization's founder and chair, Austin Beutner. "Whether it's helping a child to read a book, see a math problem correctly, or catch a ball, glasses will help every child succeed in school and in life."

The project will support every LBUSD school from now through the end of 2017, serving thousands of students. In 2016 the project supported a project serving every student in need throughout Inglewood.

"We are honored to continue this critical partnership and have the opportunity to provide much-needed vision care for thousands of students across our community," said LA Clippers President Gillian Zucker.

Members of LBUSD's Board of Education,

Free Lunches for Children at 14 Sites

The Long Beach Unified School District will provide free lunches to children at 14 locations through May 5 as the Summer Food Service Program extends primarily to assist Track B (year-round) students while they are off school during spring recess.

The school district offers open sites, available to all children, and closed-enrolled sites, where priority is given to neighborhood students (though any students may attend pending space availability). Schedules vary, and some sites offer open and closed-enrolled schedules. Schools offering open-site schedules are Burbank, Edison, Roosevelt, Smith and Whittier. Schools with closed-enrolled site schedules are Addams, Burbank, Edison, Grant, Harte, Herrera, Lafayette, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Smith, Stevenson and Willard. Find this article at lbschools.net for schedules.

College, Career Fair Offered by WRAP

The Long Beach Unified School District's WRAP afterschool program, a partnership with community-based organizations, will offer a College and Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 8 at Admiral Kidd Park, 2125 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach.

The event includes parent resources, a kid zone with fun activities, free prizes, food trucks, two-year and four-year college representatives, youth employment resources, backpacks and supplies for the first 100 students, and performances by Hughes, Cabrillo, Jordan and Lincoln schools.

In the event of rain, the alternate location will be in the Cabrillo High School Gymnasium. Call the WRAP (Winners Reaching Amazing Potential) Office for more information at 498-2324.

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser attended the announcement event at Washington Middle School, where 58 students received free glasses from the program.

Vision To Learn brings mobile clinics to schools. Students who don't pass a basic vision screening receive a vision exam from an eye care professional. Glasses are then provided at no cost for children who need them.

Since Vision To Learn first began helping children in Long Beach in September 2014, more than 2,200 students in the school district have been provided eye exams, and more than 1,600 of those have been provided with free glasses. The collaboration with the Clippers Foundation will allow the program to serve about 4,000 more students who need glasses.

Founded in 2012, Vision To Learn's mobile clinics and licensed optometrists visit schools and youth service programs in 176 cities. The organization has screened more than 420,000 children, examined almost 75,000, and provided almost 60,000 with glasses, all free of charge.

Dates to Remember

April

	National Autism Awareness Month
	School Library Month
	National Poetry Month
1	April Fools' Day
2	International Children's Book Day
4	Third Quarter Ends
4	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
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 6 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 11 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 12 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 13 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
6	California Poppy Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 25 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 28 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
9-15	National Library Week
11	National Library Workers Day
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
14	Admissions Day Observed (Holiday)
16-22	National Student Leadership Week
17-21	Spring Recess
17-21	Public School Volunteer Week
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
21	John Muir Day
22	Earth Day
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
23-24	Holocaust Remembrance Day
23-29	National Volunteer Week
23-29	Administrative Professionals Week
26	Administrative Professionals Day
26	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
27	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
27	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
28	National Arbor Day
29	International Dance Day

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Unlikely Success

(Continued from first page) says. "When I posed that question to former California State Superintendent Bill Honig, who encouraged me to come see these schools, he replied, 'Long Beach could do it because it has a long history of people who put curriculum and instruction first and who were willing to put into place the supports for that.' Honig maintains that any school district can do this, 'but you have to have the clear belief to keep curriculum and instruction first.'"

Bryant is the editor of the Education Opportunity Network website and has written extensively about public education policy. He says that educators throughout LBUSD spoke of "The Long Beach Way" during his visit here.

"The Long Beach Way, I learned, is a relentless devotion to the process of 'doing school' that puts the essentials of good education – curriculum and instruction and an intense devotion to the well-being of students – at the heart of the work rather than technocratic changes meant to solve problems quickly or disrupt the system."

View the full article at educationopportunitynetwork.org.

• Jordan Buildings

(Continued from first page) Development. "Despite the challenges and inconveniences, we are confident the newly renovated campus will greatly improve the learning environment and be a great asset to the North Long Beach community."

The next phase of renovations has already started, with demolition of two more buildings and the beginning of construction of Building 1400 and Building 1500. When completed in two years, these buildings will house the Architecture, Construction and Engineering Academy and the Academy of Hospitality and Tourism. Modernization also is scheduled for the current band building and auditorium.

Future phases include the renovation of the administration building, career center, library, gym, science building, the addition of two more classroom buildings, an outdoor swimming pool and new stadium and athletic fields.

Nearly 400,000 square feet are being renovated or added, including 132 classrooms for seven academies. The campus will serve up to 3,600 students.

Rendezvous with French Astronaut

Students from McBride High School's Amateur Radio Club worked with NASA to establish radio contact with the International Space Station as it passed over Long Beach this month, speaking directly with French astronaut Thomas Pesquet.

Students asked questions ranging from "Do you ever feel afraid in space?" to "Could you navigate the International Space Station with calculations done by hand like in Hidden Figures?" Students from Rogers and Bancroft middle schools also participated.

At McBride, 15 students have earned their amateur radio licenses from the FCC and have contacted radio operators internationally.