



school bulletin

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

April 13, 2018

TALB Ratifies Deal, CSEA to Vote Soon

Teachers Association of Long Beach members ratified a tentative contract with the Long Beach Unified School District recently by a 96.3 percent yes vote, and members of Chapter 2 of the California School Employees Association will vote on a tentative contract next week. Both tentative agreements are pending the Board of Education's approval and include an ongoing salary increase of 1 percent, plus a one-time increase of 1 percent.

The vote by CSEA's membership is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17 from 10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center.

The school board is likely to consider the TALB contract along with compensation for nonrepresented employees at its regular April 18 meeting. Consideration of the CSEA contract by the school board would happen at a subsequent meeting once CSEA's membership ratifies.

For more information on the tentative agreements with TALB and CSEA, go to Employees > Bargaining Updates at lbschools.net.

Keller is Regional Trash-Free Lunch Champ

After months of sorting lunchtime waste, hosting educational assemblies on waste reduction, and packing trash-free lunches, several local schools have earned honors in Grades of Green's 7th annual Trash-Free Lunch Challenge — including the grand prize and \$1,000 awarded to Keller Dual Immersion Middle School.

Participating schools diverted more than 460 tons of waste from local landfills.

Robinson, Prisk and Whittier schools each received special awards of recognition.

"Once again, Long Beach schools did amazingly well in this competition," said Allie

State Names Eight Distinguished Schools

Eight schools in the Long Beach Unified School District earned the California Distinguished School Award this month for exceptional gains in student achievement.

"These schools implement outstanding educational programs and practices that help California students realize their potential, and put them on the path to achieve their dreams," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said.

Elementary schools and secondary (middle and high) schools are recognized in alternate years. This year's awards focused on the elementary grades. LBUSD's Alvarado, Los Cerritos, Lowell, Madison, Naples, Riley, Signal Hill and Tincher schools were among 287 schools statewide earning recognition.

The awards honor schools that demonstrate educational excellence and progress in narrowing achievement gaps. Winners must meet a variety of criteria including exemplary performance on state accountability measures.

Torlakson highlighted Los Cerritos Elementary as one example of schools' efforts to close achievement gaps. Los Cerritos teach-

ers look at school data regularly and decided that a top priority was closing the achievement gap for African American students in math and English. After finding studies showing greater success for minority students when offered more opportunities for student collaboration, teachers began building a more collaborative classroom culture. The school's efforts resulted in a 10 percent increase in math scores and a 6 percent increase in English scores for African American students.

Board Election

Two Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education incumbents will return to their seats after running unopposed, while a third seat appears to be headed for a runoff election. That third seat represents District 3, where the winner will replace Board Member John McGinnis. He completes his second four-year term in July, when he plans to retire from the board.

None of the three candidates for District 3 surpassed the 50 percent vote needed to avoid a runoff on June 5, according to this week's unofficial results. Candidate Juan M. Benitez received 46.7 percent, while Cesar A. Armendariz received 33.2 percent, and Eduardo Lara received 20 percent. The top two candidates, Benitez and Armendariz, will vie for the seat.

The school board's five districts are divided by geographic area. In District 1, incumbent Board of Education President Megan Kerr retains her seat after running unopposed. Likewise in District 5, Board of Education Vice President Diana Craighead retains her seat after running unopposed. Districts 2 and 4 were not up for election during this cycle.

Grand Prix Scholars

The Long Beach Unified School District, the Grand Prix Association of Long Beach and Banc of California have partnered to welcome about 100 high schoolers for a day of learning at the Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach this Friday. Meanwhile the Grand Prix Foundation has announced seven local winners of \$1,500 scholarships each as part of the Robert E. Leslie Memorial Scholarships.

The students visiting the Grand Prix will come from Cabrillo, Jordan, Poly, McBride, Millikan, Sato and Avalon high schools. These students were selected because they are studying engineering, green power and business.

"Long Beach Unified is excited to partner with the Grand Prix Association and Banc of California to provide our students a work-based learning experience where students can see, feel, hear and learn about the skills and

(Continued on next page)

EDISON SCHOLARS — Seniors Avey Songco and Shavonna Jackson at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science were surprised with \$40,000 scholarships by Edison International to pursue STEM studies. See 'Names in the News' on next page.



• Trash-Free Lunch

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trash can on the campus with a recycling bin. Keller also implemented lunch sorting to recover recyclables and unused food to be donated to the local non-profit FoodFinders. The school worked with the City of Long Beach to compost fruit and vegetable scraps, and Green Team students trained peers to act as liaisons in each science class to share waste reduction information. Keller used its website, bulletin board, posters, flyers and daily announcements to keep everyone apprised on eco-efforts.

Twenty schools in the greater Los Angeles area entered this year's challenge to see which school could divert the most waste and best inspire lifelong waste reduction habits.

Learn more about Grades of Green at gradesofgreen.org.

• Grand Prix

(Continued from first page)
knowledge needed to build and maintain high-tech racecars," said Peter Davis, LBUSD assistant superintendent of high schools. "The students also learn about the variety of businesses and services needed to create an event like the Grand Prix."

Students will tour race paddocks, the pit lane and the Lifestyle Expo. They'll also watch cars run on the track and hear guest speakers from the racing community.

The scholarship program was established in 1997 and is named after the former Long Beach Fire Department chief who was also a board member of the foundation.

The winning students and their high schools are Briana Contreras Tejado of Jordan, Cameron Johnson of Wilson, Drew Jones of Lakewood, Juliana Lee of Poly, Joy Rowden of Poly, Luke Sams of Millikan, and Erin Williams of Lakewood.

Nominate Classified Employee of Year

The deadline for nominating outstanding colleagues for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award has been extended by one week to Friday, April 20. Further information and nomination forms are available under Employee of Year (Classified) in the A-Z index at lbschools.net. The winner and finalists will be honored at the annual Classified Employee Celebration scheduled for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, May 25 at the Teacher Resource Center.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change schools for 2018-19.

Applications are now available and are due May 1. The application can be completed and submitted online via the myLBUSD portal at lbschools.net (go to Employees > myLBUSD).

Forms are also available at schools and the TALB office, and they can be downloaded and printed out at lbschools.net (select Human Resource Services in the A-Z index, then For Current Employees).

Students Win Global Video Competition

Two Bancroft Middle School students have won top honors in the global Teens Dream Video Competition.

Teens Dream (teensdreamcolab.org) is a collaborative of teens and adults who want to encourage teens to be change agents in their own lives, their communities and the world. The collaborative does this by encouraging youth to express, share and network regarding their dreams as they relate to one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the contest, teens from around the world submit two-minute YouTube videos.

Three winners are chosen for each of three categories: Individual Dream, Community Dream or Global Dream.

Bancroft eighth grader Jacqueline Cade Mendoza won the \$500 Grand Prize and the Global Dream category with her video about ocean life.

Fellow eighth grader Ryann Chalmers won the Community Dream category with her video on mental health and wellbeing.

Find links to the videos in this article at lbschools.net.

The Bancroft winners and their teacher, Kari Milton, will be invited to join a celebration in Washington, D.C. (in person or Skyped in) where they will be honored.

Aetna to Administer HMO, PPO Plans

To continue providing high quality health benefits and services, the Long Beach Unified School District in partnership with the Teachers Association of Long Beach and the California School Employees Association have agreed to change the HMO and PPO medical plan administrator from Blue Shield to Aetna, effective July 1.

Visit lbsudwellness.com for more information.

Weight Watchers

Spring into action for your summer weight loss goals. Weight Watchers is offering a free starter kit to employees who newly enroll by April 27. New enrollees may redeem the free starter kit by May 11 while supplies last.

Look for the promotional flyer at your worksite.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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Names in the News

International environmental charity Earthwatch (earthwatch.org) has awarded California Academy of Mathematics and Science teacher **Crystal Davis** a Project Kindle Fellowship for the upcoming summer. She will conduct research on forest owls in relation to climate change in the Chiricahua mountains of southeast Arizona. Last year Davis earned a senior fellowship with Earthwatch and studied the effect of climate change on huckleberries and grizzly bears. The new fellowship allows her to expand on the skills she learned last summer and will culminate in Davis taking a group of CAMS students on an expedition.

Seniors **Avey Songco** and **Shavonna Jackson** at the California Academy of Mathematics and Science were recently named 2018 Edison Scholars, and each awarded \$40,000 scholarships by Edison International to pursue STEM studies. The students were awarded the scholarships during a surprise presentation by Edison officials at the school. Each year, Edison International awards the \$40,000 scholarships to 30 high school seniors.

Three Poly High School students recently earned honorable mention awards for their videos in C-SPAN's national StudentCam Competition, which receives nearly 3,000 videos submitted from middle and high school students all over the country. This year, Poly students created more than 80 documentaries answering the prompt: "Choose a provision of the U.S. Constitution and create a video illustrating why it is important to you." Find links to the Poly students' videos in this article at lbschools.net, or view all the winning videos at studentcam.org.

In the C-SPAN contest, Poly's **Allie Cain**, **Jane Acuff** and **Monica Grubbs** won for their video, "The Power to Protect." Classmates **Angelica Gonzalez** and **Karen Ferrer** won for "Online Paradox," while **Audrey Moore** won for "A Forgotten Amendment."

Teachers **Christine Carner** and **Nicole Lopez**, both from Addams Elementary School, and **Sarah Cox** of Harte Elementary School, each received \$100 awards to support their classroom activities to enhance literacy. The teachers applied for the Penne Ferrell Awards offered by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, which promotes the professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.

McBride High School student **Zara Banaga** won third prize in the high school documentary film category of a national Civil War essay contest sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Her documentary is titled "How Melodies Masked Massacre: Music during the Civil War." Find a link to the video in this article at lbschools.net. Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, the institute is devoted to the improvement of history education.

Nominations Due for School Nurse of Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association seeks nominations for School Nurse of the Year for 2017-2018. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of students. To obtain a nomination form, contact Nancy Suzuki at nsuzuki@lbschools.net.

Submit nominations by Friday, April 27.