



school bulletin

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

March 8, 2019

Pathways to College Legislation is Back

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D – Long Beach), has reintroduced the Pathways to College Act (Assembly Bill 751), which passed through the State Legislature last year without any “no” votes but ultimately was not signed by then Gov. Jerry Brown. The bill would open doors to higher education for students by allowing school districts to offer college admissions tests such as the SAT or ACT during the school day at no cost to students. These tests could be given instead of the state-required assessment in 11th grade.

“This will expand access to college and bridge an equity gap for students to take these exams,” said O'Donnell, a teacher and chair of the Assembly Education Committee. “Providing the SAT or ACT at school for free ensures that all students, especially low-income students, are able to meet an important step required for college admission.”

AB 751 is a reintroduction of last year's AB 1951, which moved through the State Legislature with strong support from school districts, school boards and students throughout the state. The bill was supported by approximately 150 school district superintendents.

Last year about 1,000 more Long Beach Unified School District students met minimum California State University requirements compared to two years before. That's largely because so many more of these students had an SAT score than before thanks to LBUSD offering the exam for free during the school day.



FREE CHROMEBOOKS – Roosevelt Elementary School student Vanessa Castellanos-Hernandez receives a free Chromebook as part of LBUSD's partnership with the human I-T organization, which also provides low-cost Internet to qualifying families. **Story on next page.**

Raise Included in Tentative Deal with TALB

Bargaining teams for the Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach have reached a tentative contract agreement that includes an ongoing salary increase of 2 percent, plus a one-time increase of 1 percent.

Pending approval by the TALB membership and the Board of Education, the ongoing 2 percent raise would be retroactive to July 1, 2018. The one-time, or “off-schedule,” payment provides 1 percent of earnings for the entire 2018-19 fiscal year.

The vote on the tentative contract by TALB's membership is scheduled for March 11 to 15. A Board of Education vote is tentatively scheduled to follow on March 27.

The school board is likely to consider a similar compensation adjustment on March 27 for non-represented employees.

Qualifying employees would see the ongoing 2 percent raise reflected on paychecks as

early as May, and retroactive checks for the 2 percent would be issued that same month. The one-time payment of 1 percent would be issued as soon as October.

The school district will begin bargaining with the California School Employees Association in the coming weeks.

The tentative agreement with TALB also makes some adjustments to language in the contract categories of association rights, days and hours, leaves of absence, transfers, safety conditions of employment, evaluation procedures, shared decision making, and Child Development Center job specifications. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to support grant opportunities for the Child Development Center and to continue reassignments.

View the full tentative agreement by finding this article under Employees > Bargaining Updates at lbschools.net.

Top State Honor for Keller Dual Immersion

Keller Dual Immersion Middle School is officially “distinguido.” That's Spanish for “distinguished.” The school, which began immersing students in English and Spanish instruction in 2015, has now earned the Distinguished School Award from the California Department of Education.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond named Keller among 162 middle and high schools to win the award this year.

“I would like to commend these schools for fighting for a better future for our students, closing achievement gaps, and improving academic performance,” Thurmond said. “Thanks to teachers, administrators, classified employees and parents working together, these schools meet the needs of all of their students, provide high-quality educational experiences, and put kids on a pathway to great careers.”

Eighth graders at Keller have passed the Advanced Placement Spanish exam at a rate of more than 90 percent for the past four years, an extraordinary feat considering that the students are taking and passing a college-level exam, for college credit, while still in middle school. The school's attendance rate is about 98 percent.

The success of the Keller lobos (wolves) is the result of a team effort, Keller Principal Thomas Espinoza said.

“I want to congratulate and thank our entire Keller community for this well-deserved recognition,” Espinoza said. “Keller is an amazing place of learning and growth for everyone. I thank our parents for their continued support

and partnership with their children's education. I thank our talented and dedicated staff for going above and beyond to make every child feel part of something special. I especially thank our students for giving their best effort each and every day.”

Espinoza also commended the wisdom of an employee – a painter who recently was among the workers providing ongoing upgrades to the campus. Keller had previously won the Distinguished School Award back when the campus was an elementary school, and a large Distinguished School logo was still emblazoned on the wall at the school entrance. Espinoza asked whether the logo would be painted over “because it's no longer our award,” and the painter recommended leaving it in place “because you never know.” The logo remained.

“So now we're all set,” Espinoza said.

Schools that applied for the award were eligible based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard. While this year's awards recognized middle and high schools, last year's awards recognized elementary and K-8 schools, including eight schools in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Distinguished School award winners represent examples of excellent teaching, learning and collaboration, along with highly successful school climate efforts such as conflict resolution and positive behavior intervention, according to the CDE.

Last fall, Keller won a 2018 America's Best Urban Schools Award from the National Center
(Continued on next page)



• Keller's Top Honor

(Continued from first page)
for Urban School Transformation. Only 15 schools nationally won that award, which honored schools based upon multiple indicators of excellence for each demographic group served.

The LBUSD Board of Education in 2015 approved the re-use of the former Keller Elementary School site to offer dual immersion instruction in English and Spanish for grades 6 to 8.

The middle grades program moved from nearby Patrick Henry K-8 School, which returned to its original K-5 configuration. The reconfiguration allowed the school district to expand the sought-after dual immersion program in Henry's elementary grades by devoting a separate, entire site to the middle grades immersion program.

Dual immersion programs remain in high demand among parents. By next year the program at Keller will have doubled in size since its inception and will serve about 420 students.

Engineering Council Lauds Poly Robotics

Poly High School's "Rabbotics" team has earned an Outstanding STEM Program Award from the Orange County Engineering Council.

The name Rabbotics is a play on the school mascot, the jackrabbit. Poly accepted the science, technology, math and engineering honor at a recent gala event honoring "the accomplishments, merit, quality and diversity of the engineering and related scientific communities in and around Orange County, California."

"Congratulations! Rejoice in your accomplishments!" said Dhananjay Kulkarni, vice president of engineering for OCEC.

Poly Rabbotics receives mentoring and funding from Boeing employees.

Summer Jobs for Classified Workers

The Personnel Commission is accepting applications for 10-month employees interested in working for Summer School and SEAL for 2019. To qualify for summer employment, the applicant must be a permanent/probationary classified employee working on less than a 12-month calendar.

The dates of the program are June 24 to July 19 for elementary, middle and K-8 schools. High school dates are June 24 to July 26.

Instructions on accessing electronic or paper applications are available under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at lbschools.net (then select Summer Information).

The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 15.

In Memoriam

Edward Turner, Jr.
former custodian
Feb. 22, 2019



FIRST PLACE – This artwork by Millikan High School student Aaron Baldwin won first place among high schoolers in the Gottlieb Youth Art Show at the Alpert Jewish Community Center.

Art Show Winners

Hundreds of students, families and educators attended the Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Show award reception recently at the Alpert Jewish Community Center in Long Beach.

Student winners at the high school level were: first place, Aaron Baldwin of Millikan; second, Benjamin Maedo of Wilson; third, Emma Hastie of Poly. The Board of Directors Award went to Kalea Ono of Millikan. Honorable mention went to David Moore of Poly, Ruth Garcia of Millikan, Khanh Truong of Poly, Lily Fast of Wilson, and Emeri Cinco of Millikan.

Winners at the middle school level were: first place, Kaleb Ganley of Stanford; second, Tara Nguyen of Hughes; third, Sophia Valenzuela of Marshall. Honorable mention went to Katelyn Van Andel of Hughes, Makayla Molio of Hoover, Josie Chong of Rogers, Roselyn Grijalva of Hughes, and Eva Goddard of Marshall.

Art teachers Nick Kincaid of Poly and Erin Brady of Rogers received the Honigman Award for Inspired Visual Arts Education.

Nominations Due for School Nurse of Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association seeks nominations for School Nurse of the Year for 2018-19. 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.

The deadline for submission is Thursday, April 18.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Free Chromebooks, Low-Cost Internet

Nearly 300 students and their families have now benefitted from low-cost Internet, with many of them also receiving free Chromebooks as part of a partnership with the human-I-T organization that started in September.

By reusing instead of recycling electronics, human-I-T transforms e-waste into opportunities for under-served communities while promoting digital inclusion and online access. High-speed Internet access is available for as low as \$14.99 per month. Participants may qualify for a free Chromebook with low-cost Internet sign-up.

Each LBUSD school provides a "Low-Cost Internet" link at the bottom of the school's website, in the footer. This link leads to more information and an online application.

Rotary Makes Special Delivery to Preschool

Preschoolers at the Powell Child Development Center recently enjoyed a special delivery from Long Beach Rotarians, who donned Dr. Seuss-inspired hats while reading to the children and providing each them a book to take home. View video at lbschools.net.

The visit was part of the service club's Reading by 9 early literacy effort.

"Every year we provide a book to all of the children at the CDC sites, and a group of Rotarians comes out to one of the sites to deliver the books, read to the kids and enjoy the fun," said Rotarian Frank Newell, a local attorney and Poly High School alum who has supported Reading by 9 for many years.

Long Beach Rotary has now raised in excess of \$675,000 since the inception of the program 20 years ago. In all, the club has donated more than 250,000 books and e-books to local literacy efforts.

Sato Academy's Engineering Day

Students from the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science visited 26 elementary schools recently to share information about careers in engineering as part of Sato's annual Elementary Engineering Day. The high schoolers helped to guide elementary students through hands-on activities. View video at lbschools.net.

Sato student Kathryn Handen-Llopis said she was inspired by her interaction with the elementary students and "the infinite potential of the new generation."

Sato, modeled after the Long Beach Unified School District's highly acclaimed California Academy of Mathematics and Science, will produce its first graduating class this year.

Weight Watchers

Did you enroll in WeightWatchers between Feb. 11 and March 1 this year? If so, you still have time to receive your free Journey Kit by March 15 while supplies last.