



school bulletin

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

September 27, 2019

Migrant Parent to Lead State Group

Long Beach parent and farm laborer Daniel Luna was elected this month to serve as president of the state's Migrant Education Parent Advisory Council. The council represents 20 regions and more than 76,000 migrant students throughout California.

Back in 2016, Luna won the Parent Award from the National Association of State Directors of Migrant Education.

"I personally feel very grateful for the trust the parent representatives have placed upon me,"

Luna said of his latest accomplishment. "I thank the parents and administrative team of the Migrant Education Program. It is essential for students to have a group that can voice their concerns. Due to recent changes in the law, many of our students live in fear and insecurity. That is why I feel that our job as advocates at the state level allows us to communicate with

(Continued on next page)



Luna

Wilson Teacher to Receive CCEJ Honor

Wilson High School teacher Marianne Drummond will receive the Gene Lentzner Human Relations Award during a Nov. 13 celebration hosted by the California Conference for Equality and Justice.

Drummond is a long-time volunteer with CCEJ's Building Bridges Camp program, and according to CCEJ "is active with local volunteer groups which organize white folks to show up in solidarity with black folks and people of color."

"My hope is that maybe this is a moment where I can contribute to 'calling folks in,'" Drummond said, describing the social justice alternative to "calling people out."

The Nov. 13 celebration event – scheduled for 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Expo Arts Center, 4321 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach – includes delicious food from local restaurants and an interactive art project to create a mural for CCEJ's office.

Event tickets range from \$50 to \$75. Register at cacej.org/lentzner.



Drummond

Teacher of the Year: Allison Akeo of Marshall

A Long Beach Unified School District teacher was honored recently as a Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year and is eligible to advance to the statewide competition.

Allison Akeo teaches math, science and engineering at Marshall Academy of the Arts. She will be honored at a Board of Education meeting in the coming weeks.

She begins her day at the classroom door, greeting and fist-bumping students as they enter.

"Education of today's students must include educating the whole student, academically, culturally and emotionally," she wrote in her application. "Relationship build-



Akeo

ing is just as important as curriculum building. I believe building relationships with students and making them feel emotionally valued is paramount."

Establishing a relationship with students that makes them feel valued allows for a positive school culture.

"Inside the classroom, I make time and teach students to ask each other about their weekend," she wrote. "We talk about our interests and our families. Initiating a positive classroom community will then spread to the rest of the school."

She continually improves her craft and finds ways to help colleagues do the same.

"The most important skill a teacher must possess is the ability to work effectively with others," she wrote. "Through collaboration, we can gather the best teaching practices and implement them to engage and support all students in learning."

Perfecting the Use of Khan Online Learning

The Long Beach Unified School District is expanding its partnership with the nonprofit Khan Academy, which provides online tutorials and other materials to help boost student achievement.

LBUSD is one of three school districts working with Khan to use a new "Khan Academy Districts" program, which provides special tools, training and data insights to help teachers, principals and school district administrators improve student achievement districtwide.

"Teachers are the heart of learning," said Sal Khan, founder of Khan Academy. "With Khan Academy Districts, teachers have access to content they trust plus the tools and district support they need to accelerate their classrooms in ways they've always wanted."

Khan Academy's mastery learning system and content platform include thousands of exercises, videos and articles that cover a range of K-12 subjects, and they're free for teachers, students, parents and learners around the world. More than 18 million learners use Khan Academy every month.

Khan Academy and LBUSD conducted a joint study in the 2017-18 school year of more than 5,000 students. Research shows:

- Teaching with Khan Academy for one class period per week, for at least 30 minutes, is associated with students gaining an additional 22 points on the state math assessment.

- LBUSD students who use Khan Academy gain twice the district average on the state assessment.

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A LEGEND RETURNS –

Tennis legend, Dodgers owner and Poly alumna Billie Jean King shares a moment with student Maricruz Godinez-Tinajero of Edison Elementary School during a book giveaway and reading event at Oropeza Elementary School. **Story on next page (and video at lbschools.net).**



Billie Jean King, Dodgers Team Up on Literacy

Sports legend and Poly High School alumna Billie Jean King joined Los Angeles Dodgers infielders Gavin Lux and Edwin Rios for a book distribution and reading event at Oropeza Elementary School last week.

The L.A. Dodgers Foundation is working with King to distribute the book "I am Billie Jean King" to all fifth graders in the Long Beach Unified School District. The book shares the journey of the tennis legend and her efforts as a champion of equality.

"The Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation stands for equity and opportunity, which made this an important and logical partnership for us and to be able to connect it with the students in Long Beach makes it extra special," said King, a Dodgers owner and founder of the Billie Jean King Leadership Initiative. "I hope these children enjoy reading this story and are inspired to live their dreams and create their own

groundbreaking path."

Last weekend, the Long Beach Main Library was named in King's honor, and the Dodgers hosted a Billie Jean King bobblehead night at Dodger Stadium featuring LBUSD youth.

As part of the LA Reads literacy initiative, the Dodgers Foundation will host ten additional reading events in the school district.

"We are honored to partner with such an icon like Billie Jean King," said Chaitali Gala, LADF Chief Operating Officer. "Her story, her work, and all that she stands for are such great examples for children everywhere, and now 5,000 kids will receive the gift of reading and owning her story."

What Others Say

"As your voice in Sacramento, I can assure you that Long Beach Unified is repeatedly held up as an example to other school districts," Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, who chairs the State Assembly Education Committee, wrote in a back-to-school commentary piece at [gazettes.com](http://www.gazettes.com). "I commend our school board, superintendent, school administrators and teachers for their innovative, forward thinking approach to education, and I will continue to share with my colleagues our successes and how we can replicate them throughout the state."

Weight Watchers

With the holidays just around the corner, WW (Weight Watchers) has a new Starter Kit promotion. During the last three years, many employees and retirees have reached their weight loss goals, with workshop members losing 5,554 pounds. One of those success stories belongs to Jesus Rios, Jr. (previously part of the Human Resources staff and now part of Personnel Commission staff). Look for the Starter Kit promo flyer and Jesus' story at your worksite and email.

Dates to Remember

| October | |
|---------|---|
| | National Bullying Prevention Month Crime Prevention Month National Principals Month Child Health Day |
| 1 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Columbus Controversy: Challenging How History is Written," Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8 |
| 2 | Back to School Night—High Schools |
| 2 | International Walk to School Day |
| 2 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Christopher Columbus," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 3 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 4 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 6-12 | Fire Prevention Week |
| 8 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 8-9 | Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) |
| 9 | Anniversary of Benjamin Banneker's Death |
| 10 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 11 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "First Tuesday (Voter Registration)," Grade 12, ed.tv 8 |
| 14 | Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day |
| 14-18 | National School Lunch Week |
| 15 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 16 | National Bosses Day |
| 16 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Louis Pasteur," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 17 | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 18 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8 |
| 21-25 | National School Bus Safety Week |
| 23 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 |
| 23-31 | Red Ribbon Week |
| 24 | United Nations Day |
| 25 | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8 |
| 26 | Make a Difference Day |
| 29 | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 30 | First Quarter Ends |
| 30 | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "William Bradford: The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8 |
| 31 | Halloween |

• Migrant Council

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elected officials to promote through public notices that schools are sanctuaries where students can feel safe and protected."

The federally funded Migrant Education Program is offered by the Long Beach Unified School District and provides migrant students and parents supplemental instruction and numerous services, including after-school tutoring and Saturday classes. Luna and his wife earned their GED high school equivalency certification through the program in 2014.

"I might lack a formal education, but I compensate with the desire to work for our children," Luna said.

The Long Beach program began in 1994 and serves children whose parents or relatives work in fishing, forestry, nurseries, livestock and agriculture. The aim is to prevent the discontinuity in education that can occur when a family relocates repeatedly due to seasonal work. Such families also are at a disadvantage because most live in extreme poverty, and some students must work with their families.

• Khan Academy

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• Findings hold true regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, family income or English language learner status.

"In Long Beach we continually seek ways to boost student achievement," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser said. "We're heartened to see the results and extremely proud of the hard work our students put in and the tremendous support their teachers provided."

Students have access to Khan materials at the level just right for them, and teachers receive year-round support.

"Khan Academy has been a great support for students and teachers," Millikan High School teacher Erin Hill said. "Teachers have been given the power to choose the tools they need to be most effective and give their students the resources needed to be most successful in the classroom."

Other participating school districts include Madera Unified and Compton Unified. The program will become available to school districts everywhere in the 2020-21 school year.

In Memoriam

Maria Hernandez
former nutrition services supervisor
July 21, 2019

Jean Davis
Teacher, Millikan
Aug. 12, 2019

Robert Sokol
former custodian
Aug. 17, 2019

Dora Bush
former teacher
Aug. 20, 2019

Maria Gutierrez
custodian, Jordan
Aug. 22, 2019

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Careful Management Buoys Bond Ratings

The Long Beach Unified School District's credit rating remains high because of careful management, according to the latest bond ratings. Moody's Corporation, the global credit rating and research service, recently assigned a high AA2 rating to the school district. To investors, this rating signifies high quality and low risk.

A high credit rating helps to save taxpayers millions of dollars in interest on bonds approved by local voters to build, repair and upgrade school campuses. The latest favorable rating cites the district's large tax base, sound financial operations and prudent reserves. Independent auditors also have consistently given LBUSD's finances, including its school bond finances, the highest possible ratings.