



# school bulletin

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

March 20, 2020

## Henry Student Wins State Essay Contest

Patrick Henry K-5 Dual Immersion School fifth grader Calliope Quinn wrote the winning bilingual essay in English and Spanish for the 3rd to 5th grade level in a statewide contest sponsored by the California Association of Bilingual Education.



Quinn

The award for the essay titled "Someday" was scheduled to be presented during the CABE 2020 Annual Conference, April 8 to 11 at the Hilton San Francisco.

Quinn's proud parent, Jennifer Larsen, happens to be a former teacher at Henry, which offers Dual Immersion instruction in English and Spanish.

"I think this is a true testament to the strength of the DI program and that this supports the expansion of Dual Immersion. I am extremely proud of my daughter, but being a former teacher at Henry, I want the teachers to get the recognition they deserve for putting in those extra hours and hard work," Larsen said. "It really is such a challenge teaching in a DI program and navigating instruction in two languages, not only for the teacher, but for the students as well. This is a great accomplishment for LBUSD and it speaks to their focus on student achievement."

The winning essay states in part:

*Someday I'll be a marine biologist  
Discovering, documenting, diving  
Off the coast of Spain,*

(Continued on next page)

## Schools Closed Until April 20 Due to Virus

After careful deliberation, the leadership of the Long Beach Unified School District decided last week to close schools beginning Monday, March 16. School will resume Monday, April 20. The closure is an extra measure of protection to help prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, or COVID-19.

LBUSD did not have any presumptive or confirmed cases of the new coronavirus in local schools but is taking this step to help protect public health. This closure includes the Friday, April 10 Admission Day holiday and the spring recess from April 13 to 17.

The school district is working with local, regional and state partners to continue supporting student learning and nutrition. Support includes providing free meals to children during the coronavirus school closure period. Nutritious meals were being offered free at breakfast and lunch to children ages one to 18 at all LBUSD school locations (except for California Academy of Mathematics and

Science located at the California State University, Dominguez Hills campus) for the first week of the closure.

The school district planned to evaluate its meal services and revise as the schedule and operating locations as necessary for all future weeks of the school closure period.

"We are grateful for the tremendous support of our communities. It is because of our ability to work together that we will get through this difficult time," Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer said.

"We are working around the clock to plan for the well-being of our students and staff," Steinhauer continued. "Further information on those developments and others will be forthcoming from our schools and will be communicated through various means, including the school district's website at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net), individual school websites, email, text, phone messages, social media and online videos in the coming days and weeks."

## Ed Week Notes Achievement Gains Here

Education Week, known as "American education's news site of record," has published an article on the Long Beach Unified School District's "multi-faceted strategy to raise math rigor and achievement."

An article titled "How One District is Raising Math Rigor and Achievement for Students of Color" by associate editor Christina A. Samuels describes how LBUSD is working to help more students from low-income families, English-language learners, African American students and Latino students thrive in advanced math courses.

Samuels notes that school district leaders decided in 2014 that students must take four high school courses in math to earn a diploma.

"That's twice as many as what California requires, but more in line with what it takes to be a competitive candidate for the University of California and for California State University," Samuels wrote.

Along with the higher standard, "Long Beach has seen a steady rise over the past five years in the percentage of students meeting the standards for college admission, based on their grades, completed coursework and scores on standardized tests. Notably, that increase is across all demographic groups," Samuels wrote.

To meet the higher standards, Long Beach built ongoing support for students well before they start high school. In elementary school, for instance, Long Beach takes "an expansive view" when identifying students for gifted education. The school district is piloting an enriched preschool-through-grade 2 curriculum at some elementary schools with a high percentage of African American students and students in poverty.

In middle school, the school district created a unique position, a "math assistant principal," or math coach who divides her time among three middle schools that need the most help based upon math scores. Across middle schools, a math development class provides eighth graders enrolled in Algebra I additional opportunities for math practice and review, the article notes.

In high school, Long Beach is among the California districts embracing a math class called Introduction to Data Science, developed with the assistance of the University of California, Los Angeles. The course gives students an alternative to Algebra 2 that is accepted by California universities as a prerequisite.

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## SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH –

Harte Elementary School students marvel at an air-powered rocket as part of the Sato Academy for Mathematics and Science annual Engineering Day. The high schoolers at Sato visited 22 elementary schools recently to share hands-on activities. **Story on next page.**



## • Education Week

(Continued from first page)

For a select group of high school boys who show potential but need extra support, the Urban Math Collaborative provides a peer group that teaches study skills and provides math enrichment. Samuels quotes a former Urban Math Collaborative student who is now a senior at the University of Laverne and remembers that “my experience when I was going through high school is that I had love, I had support.”

Find the full article at [edweek.org](http://edweek.org). Search for “How One District is Raising Math Rigor.”

## • Essay Contest

(Continued from first page)

*Sharing my curiosities with the multilingual scientists...*

*Using my languages and helping the world is Someday.*

*Communicating with friends and family is Today.*

Read the entire essay (in Spanish and English) by finding this article at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Sato Engineering Day Reaches 22 Schools

Students from the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science visited fifth graders at 22 local elementary schools recently to share some hands-on engineering activities.

The annual Engineering Day event introduces elementary students to the art and science of designing tin-foil boats to hold cargo, creating wind-powered vehicles, and testing air-powered rockets, among other projects. The aim is to help the elementary students understand the importance of science, technology, math and engineering, and their application to problem solving.

Among the participating students was Sato senior Guillermo Molina, who reported on the Engineering Day event while serving as the student representative at a recent Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education meeting.

“Being able to take part in Sato’s Elementary Engineering day was extremely rewarding. Not only did we get to give back to our Long Beach schools, but we got to provide younger students with the opportunity to experience something they might not have the chance to at home or during normal instruction. I think this is particularly beneficial to minority and low-income students who might need that extra and early exposure to get more involved in STEM education and careers,” Molina said.

“It was awesome seeing the wonder and excitement in the fifth graders’ eyes as they tested their paper hoop gliders and stomp rockets,” Molina continued. “Even better was coming back together as a group to go through the engineering design process and working with each other to come up with better designs. Hopefully having fun with Sato engineers now will convince them to come to our school in the future, as potential students.”

**ED WEEK FEATURE –** Student DJ Cruz practices taking apart a device used by astronauts as Bob Barboza, founder of the Barboza Space Center, watches. The project is part of the Urban Math Collaborative featured in a recent Education Week article. *Photo by Morgan Lieberman, Education Week.*



## Weight Watchers

If you’re still looking for help with your 2020 resolution to get healthier, WW (Weight Watchers) is offering another opportunity to receive a bonus for signing up. Register at [ww.com/us/lbusd](http://ww.com/us/lbusd) through March 28, and you can redeem your bonus by April 11 while supplies last. Look for the promotional flyer at your worksite.

## Two Board Meetings Rescheduled in June

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has rescheduled both of its June meetings.

The meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 will instead occur on Tuesday, June 2. The meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 will instead occur on Monday, June 15.

The meetings will be held at 5 p.m. at the usual location in the Community Room at the LBUSD Administration Building, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach.

## In Memoriam

**James P. Fitzgerald**  
former teacher  
March 5, 2020

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Apply for Summer Classified Jobs Now

The Personnel Commission is accepting applications for 10-month employees interested in working for Summer School, as well as the School Enrichment and Learning (SEAL) Program for 2020. The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. this Friday, March 20.

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 programs are June 22 to July 17 for elementary, middle and K-8 schools. High school dates are June 22 to July 24. Instructions on accessing the online application are available under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) (then select Summer Employment).

## Employee of Year Nominations Due

Long Beach Unified School District employees who know outstanding colleagues deserving recognition may submit nominations for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by Monday, April 20. Instructions, award criteria and nomination forms are available under “Employee of the Year (Classified)” in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Dates to Remember

### April

|       |  |
|-------|--|
|       | World Autism Month   |
|       | School Library Month   |
|       | National Poetry Month  |
| 1     | April Fools’ Day   |
| 2     | International Children’s Book Day  |
| 3     | 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— “You Can Refuse,” Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8                        |
| 8-9   | Passover (Pesach), First Days  |
| 10    | Admission Day — Holiday observed   |
| 12    | Easter Sunday  |
| 13    | Thomas Jefferson’s Birthday  |
| 13-17 | Spring Recess  |
| 15-16 | Passover (Pesach), Concluding Days   |
| 19    | Orthodox Easter  |
| 19-25 | National Student Leadership Month  |
| 19-25 | National Library Week  |
| 19-25 | Administrative Professionals Week  |
| 20-24 | Public School Volunteer Week   |
| 22    | Earth Day  |
| 22    | Administrative Professionals Day   |
| 22    | 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— “Arbor Day/Earth Day,” Grades K-12, ed.tv 8              |
| 23    | 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— “The Paper Crane,” Grades K-3, ed.tv 8                 |
| 24    | National Arbor Day   |
| 28    | 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— “Cinco de Mayo,” Grades K-4, ed.tv 8 |
| 29    | International Dance Day  |