

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Long Beach Unified School District...and more!



Volume 25, Issue 151

February 2024



CAMS Wins TWO CIF Championships



(Please see page 18.)

Educational Opportunities

The Port of Long Beach's high school internship and college scholarship applications are open through March 15. Our internships cover areas from engineering to communications, and if you're interested in a career in logistics, trade or business, check out our Port scholarships. Find out more and apply at polb.com/education.



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www.schoolnewsrollcall.com

Covering the
LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
...AND MORE!

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Kay Coop
Founder/Publisher



This is our 25th year publishing the LBUSD *School News*. Dr. Jill A. Baker wrote her first column in *School News* as the principal of Garfield Elementary School. Now 25 years later, as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Baker writes in her column on page 11 about Stepping Into 2024 Ready for Success.

I first met Laura Doud when she was attending Wilson High School with my daughter...fast forward and she has served for many years as the City of Long Beach Auditor. She is a valued contributor to *School News* and writes in this issue on page 5 about the important steps for protection against cyberattacks & identity theft. There

have been many changes in education during the years with technology the biggest transformation and now AI. As Laura Doud says, "If you need help with technology, just ask any 14 year old or younger."

One of our first columnist was Tina Hansen, Mayor of Signal Hill. She continues to serve the community and writes in her column on page 5 about the City of Signal Hill celebrating its centennial year of incorporation.

Time marches on and we thank you for continuing to include *School News* among your reading choices. The quality of public schools set the standard for the quality of a community.



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Rex Richardson
Mayor

Giving a Greater Voice to Our Youth

Happy New Year and welcome back to school, Long Beach students!

2024 is a landmark year for expanding youth opportunity in Long Beach. Right now, there are more opportunities here for youth leadership and development than at any other point in our city’s history. In the last year, we have successfully launched and enhanced programs dedicated to supporting young people, which have created unique opportunities to get involved.

The 2024 Youth Power Participatory Budgeting Process is now underway, which is a process by which Long Beach youth can decide how our city will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in our next budget. In 2023, more than 800 participants, some as young as 13 years old, allocated \$300,000 of dollars in funding to organizations like the Jazz Angels, the CASA Youth Shelter, spcaLA, and the M.O.R.E. Mothers “Summer Full of Art” program.

This year, youth ages 13 – 26 will vote on where to spend \$400,000 in funding. If you or someone you know is interested in participating, you can learn more at investinyouthlb.org.

Another great opportunity is the first “Youth Day in the LBC”, taking place this spring. Youth Day in the LBC will combine the annual Youth Festival and Youth Advocacy Day into one action-packed event. As a participant, you will be able to learn more about available resources, get connected with programs ranging from after school activities to career preparation and beyond, and advocate directly to city leadership about issues that are important. The event is open to students and youth at all levels. The official date will be announced soon.

To our youth, I invite you to participate in these programs and events. You can get connected to important resources, potential future career opportunities, and have a direct impact on the way our city is run. I look forward to engaging with you continuously as we work to build a better Long Beach.

411 West Ocean Blvd., 11th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/570-6801
www.longbeach.gov



Tina L. Hansen
Mayor

Centennial Year of Incorporation

This year, the City of Signal Hill is celebrating its centennial year of incorporation. We are so excited about this celebration and eagerly look forward to several community events whereby students can participate and learn about how our City government functions.

Join us for our Open Houses where you can visit and tour facilities throughout the City in honor of the centennial year. This family event is designed to provide community members with an opportunity to interact with City personnel from various departments, tour City facilities, view various equipment and enjoy food and other activities.

The City will host three different Open Houses:

City Hall Open House - 2175 Cherry Ave, Signal Hill
Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Students can visit our iconic City Hall, the Council Chambers and see the space that houses the City Council and Manager’s office, Finance, Community Development, and Public Works personnel. Students can take photos on the dais and learn more about how City Hall operations are conducted.

Police Department Tour - 2745 Walnut Ave. Saturday, May 4, 2024, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Join police personnel, take a tour through the facility, and check out emergency equipment. You’ll have a chance to speak and engage with police officers and enjoy food and games during your visit!

Public Works Yard & Touch-a-Truck - 2175 E 28th St.
Wednesday, June 26, 2024, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what a water well looks like or where the City houses essential maintenance equipment? If so, take a chance to visit the City Yard. Various work trucks will be available for children to see and touch!

To see a listing of all Centennial events, please visit: <https://bit.ly/47FjOyF> or for more info, call the Parks, Recreation & Library Services Dept. at 562-989-7330.



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Laura L. Doud
City Auditor

Important Steps for Protection Against Cyberattacks & Identity Theft

Do you, like me, feel a bit of angst whenever a prompt pops up asking for online login and password information? Remembering passwords can feel like the bane of our digital existence. However, in an increasingly technological world, using passwords effectively along with other actions can help keep you and your family safe online.

Understanding the risks of not properly protecting online information, my Office conducted an audit on data privacy and security a few years ago. Cyber incidents are happening more frequently across all industries and organizations. The City even recently experienced one. Now that much of our lives exist online—from work access to banking to shopping and social media—it's important to take steps for protection against cyberattacks and identity theft.

Here are some tips to improve digital safety that I found helpful, and I hope you do too.

Back up critical files. Store backups of critical digital files on a separate drive like an encrypted USB. Also, print and store hard copies of important documents in a safe place.

Use Strong Passwords. When creating passwords do not use personal information. Instead, make passwords long and unique with numbers, symbols, and both uppercase and lowercase letters. Although it may be tempting to reuse passwords, use different passwords for different accounts including work and personal accounts. Even consider using a password manager to save passwords and reduce the risk of reusing passwords. Don't let apps and websites remember your passwords and use multi-factor authentication when possible. Also, do not share your passwords with others.

Be aware of suspicious links and attachments. Even if you receive an email that looks like it's from someone you know, be careful with email links and attachments. If something looks suspicious, don't even reply to the email, because the sender's identity or information might have been compromised.

Verify requests for private information. Whenever you are asked to provide sensitive information online, verify the identity of the requester, even if it appears to be somebody you know or a familiar company or organization.

Regularly check the activity of your online accounts — this includes financial statements and credit reports.

Keep your devices, browsers, and apps up to date. Automate software updates and periodically restart your devices to ensure that updates are fully installed.

To find out more important tips and information on cybersecurity visit www.longbeach.gov/ti/news/cybersecurity-at-the-city.

P.S. If you need help with any of these steps, just contact anyone 14 years old or younger.



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

Mentors are Heroes

American writer and civil rights activist famously said, "Children have never been very good and listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."

The truth is that all of learn from those around us, whether we realize it or not. Whether it is a teacher, a sports coach, an aunt or uncle, or just a family friend, exposure to a positive role model can result in imitation by a young person.

LBUSD Board Member Erik Miller credits the mentor he was assigned through Operation Jump Start, a Long Beach-based mentoring organization, for his success.

"There's no way I'd be the same person I am today without my mentor," Erik Miller told me. "The right mentor at the right time can change a life forever," he added.

That experience was so impactful that Miller became a Director at Operation Jump Start so he could create opportunities for other youth.

Those who mentor youth are heroes in my book. Importantly, anyone can be a mentor and it's not that hard.

What does it take to be a youth mentor? Just a little time and patience, and a desire to support a person you do not yet know.

If that describes you, then the next step is to identify a local mentoring group. They will train you and provide opportunities to meet the right mentee.

According to Youth.Gov, the benefits of mentoring are many. The youth are more likely to graduate from high school and enroll in college, while showing more self-esteem and self-confidence. They are also less likely to abuse drugs or alcohol.

Adults who become mentors also benefit – I had the privilege of mentoring a young man and got to watch him transition from high school to collect to career. Now he's engaged to be married and I could not be happier.

The timing right now is perfect for mentoring. Kids who lost time socializing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are ready for social interaction. This comes as a critical time in their development.

The Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office is proud to partner with local mentoring organizations. We are going to double our efforts this year – that is how strongly we feel local mentoring is needed.

For more information about becoming a mentor can visit www.CityProsecutorDougHaubert.com/mentor/ or call (562) 570-5617.



How to Save More in 2024

The new year is a perfect time to reassess our financial habits. If saving more money was one of your new year's resolutions, check out these tips to help you achieve your goal:

Sean Hardeman
President & CEO

Create a Budget. Review your income and regular expenses such as rent or mortgage payment, utilities and groceries. Your budget will help you see where you spend money and where you can save money.

Avoid Impulse Buying. It's easy today to make a purchase with just one click, and every month we're hit with a new sale. Try taking a day (or more) to think over a purchase before you make it. Also, evaluate whether it's a want or a need and how it fits within that budget you created.

Open A High Yield Savings Account. Accounts such as a certificate of deposit, money market, or high yield savings account are not only a safe place to have your savings in, but your money will grow at a faster rate than any traditional savings account.

Best wishes for reaching your savings goals in 2024!



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CathyLyn Brooks

Why is Proposition 13 Important to Everyone?

Proposition 13 is a California law that limits the amount of property tax that can be levied on real estate. Passed in 1978, supporters cite that it provides stability to homeowners, renters, and businesses by making property taxes relatively stable and predictable.

Homeowners benefit because property taxes are not wildly assessed as in many states.

Renters benefit because it makes property taxes predictable and stable for owners of residential rental property as well, and this reduces rent increases. Additionally, Prop 13 increases the likelihood that renters, too, will be able to attain the "American dream" of home ownership.

Business owners, especially small business owners, benefit because Prop 13 makes property taxes predictable and it helps owners budget and invest in growing their business. This creates jobs and improves the economy.

Local government and schools benefit because Prop 13 provides a reliable, stable and growing revenue source for the counties; a rate of roughly 8 percent on a consistent basis as properties are re-assessed upon transfer at a rate calculated on the current sales price.

Even when property values fall, property tax revenues continue to increase. Neighborhoods are stabilized as owners and residents are no longer driven out by unexpected tax increases. This was among the reasons cited by the U.S. Supreme court when the law was upheld in 1992.

Under current law, citizens are guaranteed the right to vote on new local taxes and a 2/3 vote of the legislature is required to increase state taxes, though this aspect is being challenged next year.

CathyLyn Brooks, CRS, GRI has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI Paralegal Program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. She holds Broker's License No. 00797147 and is affiliated with United Real Estate Professionals in southern California. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions. She can be reached at real.estate.matters@outlook.com

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The Literacy Project



Empower Young Minds, Transform Futures through Reading: Your School's Opportunity Awaits!

By Alba De Luca, Operations Director

Join Our Free Reading Program for 2024-25!

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To embark on this transformative journey contact Laura Rubin, Regional Director, at laura@literacyproj.org.

For more information, visit www.literacyprojectfoundation.org

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By Wendy Van Sickel, Marketing Communications Chair

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Assistance League of Long Beach's Orthodontic Program is located at the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Orthodontic Pavilion, where the Clinical Director of the Orthodontic Program, Dr. Joshua Schneider, and his staff are dedicated to making sure patients receive the best experience possible and a positive final outcome.

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How Valentine's Day Celebrations Impact Children's Emotional Well-being

and the Importance of Nurturing Healthy Relationships from an Early Age

Valentine's Day, often synonymous with romantic love, can have an impact on children's emotional well-being and lays the foundation for nurturing healthy relationships from an early age. Beyond the exchange of age-appropriate romantic settlements, this day can serve as an additional learning moment for guiding children in understanding diverse forms of love, affection, attention, and building meaningful connections.

Children absorb lessons about love and relationships from their surroundings, and Valentine's Day can be a practical form for parents to model healthy behaviors. By engaging in activities that promote kindness such as crafting cards for friends or expressing appreciation, parents show their children the significance of fostering supportive and caring relationships, thinking about others, sharing kind words and meaningful gifts, and generally showing kindness without the need to spend money, necessarily.

Conversations centered on emotions, respect and effective communication become integral on this day as they should any other day. These discussions should be at a child's developmental level and appropriate regarding home and cultural values, emotional expression, healthy boundaries and understanding effective communication.

Early exposure to varied and appropriate forms of love cultivate emotional intelligence and resilience in children. It is essential for parents to ensure inclusivity acknowledging that not all children experience familial or romantic love similarly. Encouraging empathy toward diverse experiences and cultures fosters an environment of acceptance and understanding.

It is important to ensure children understand and value meaningful relationships, fostering compassionate and nurturing consideration for others.

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Athena, Age 2



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Best Diets for Best Health? The Results are In!

Every year *U.S. News & World Report* ranks best overall diets. This years winners: Mediterranean, DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), and MIND (Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay) diets. Why are they the best? Research has shown that consuming these styles of eating patterns may be correlated with decreased risk of health problems such as heart disease, cognitive issues and some cancers... AND may lead to a longer lifespan. We summarize these eating patterns below.



**Carol Berg Sloan,
RDN, FAND**

Mediterranean Diet: There are many different styles of this diet, but in general these are the common components: Eat fruits, vegetables, whole grains, beans, nuts, legumes, olive oil, herbs and spices daily. Eat seafood and fish at least twice a week. Poultry, eggs, cheese and yogurt are OK in moderation. Red meat and sweets are best reserved as occasional treats. The occasional glass of red wine is acceptable.

DASH Diet: DASH is a diet plan that could lower risk for heart disease and high blood pressure by focusing on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein and low-fat dairy, while limiting salt and saturated fat intake.

Try this simple Walnut Falafel recipe:
<https://www.livingdreamnutrition.com/recipes/walnut-falafels>



**Kelly Taber,
MS, RDN**

Interestingly, the **MIND Diet** actually combines the two diets mentioned above: however, the meal pattern suggests eating leafy greens, nuts and berries daily to help with brain health.

Here are the recommendations: Eat seven 1-cup servings of leafy green vegetables weekly. Eat five ½-cup servings of berries weekly. Include whole grains and other vegetables daily. Snack on nuts most days and eat a ½-cup of beans every other day.

Bottomline: Common denominator with all these diets is to consume more fruits and vegetables, beans, whole grains, nuts, and olive oil while cutting back on butter, red meat, bakery items like cookies and cakes, processed foods like crackers and sweet cereals. Making good choices for your family now will be carried forward later!

This column provides insight from Carol Sloan, RDN, FAND and her daughter, Kelly Taber, MS, RDN. They provide tips to help you make healthier and informed food and beverages choices.

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Park 1950 Lemon Ave. (562) 570-4405

Pan American Park

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Silverado Park

1545 W 31st St. (562) 570-1675

Stearns Champions Park

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(562) 570-1888

Bayshore Beach Camp (Ages 8-12)

(562) 570-1888

For information visit lbparks.org
or call 562.570.3150

CITY OF
LONG BEACH



Long Beach Unified School District



Dr. Jill A. Baker
Superintendent

Stepping Into 2024 Ready for Success

As we reimagine education around Vision 2035, co-designed in partnership with our community, we steadfastly uphold our core values to achieve excellence and equity for all. We are committed to cultivating future-ready adults who are trustworthy, resilient, adaptable and justice-oriented. I am excited

about the endless possibilities arising from our collective efforts, promising a brighter future for our 64,000-plus students and 12,000 employees, as well as for all forthcoming students and employees.

2024 marks a beacon of transformative change, transcending the boundaries of our classrooms and resonating throughout the entire community. We celebrate our increased investments in the Arts through Proposition 28, continued community partnerships and planned school upgrades.

For information about our sustainability efforts and ongoing projects, please visit lbschoolbonds.net.

Our Facilities Development and Planning team is dedicated to enhancing and modernizing our learning spaces. By 2028, every classroom in LBUSD will be equipped with heating, ventilation and air conditioning. We continue to express our gratitude to the community and voters for supporting Measure Q in 2022 and other

passed bonds that have contributed to creating a 21st-century learning environment for all Long Beach Unified students. For information about our sustainability efforts and ongoing projects, please visit lbschoolbonds.net.

Wishing the Long Beach community remarkable accomplishments, shared victories and the enduring spirit of togetherness.

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- 9th-12th.....8:00 p.m.

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Empowering Futures: LBUSD Board of Education's Vision for Academic Excellence and Literacy

By Diana Craighead, Board President, District 5

I am delighted to share with you Long Beach Unified's unwavering commitment to academic excellence and literacy. On Nov. 1, 2023, the LBUSD Board of Education adopted four goals aimed at fostering a thriving learning environment and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to excel. These goals were selected to reflect the importance of early literacy and the role reading plays in the overall success of students. Before third-grade students learn to read, and after, they are reading to learn. The goals also reflect the need to focus efforts on providing equity as it pertains to college and career readiness.

Goal 1: Reading Proficiency (June 2023 - June 2028)

Our foremost goal centers on Grade 3 students' proficiency in reading. We are dedicated to prioritizing literacy for our youngest learners, working to elevate the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level standards on the state English Language Arts SBAC assessment from 48% in June 2023 to an impressive 70% by June 2028.

Goal 2: Reading Acceleration (June 2023 - June 2028)

Emphasizing the importance of early literacy, our second goal focuses on accelerating the progress of students in Grades 4-8. We are determined to see a substantial increase in the percentage of students meeting the scale score growth target on the state SBAC-English Language Arts assessment, elevating it from 28% in June 2023 to a commendable 60% by June 2028.

Goal 3: Algebra Proficiency (June 2023 - June 2028)

In our pursuit of equitable outcomes, we aim to see over 80% of Black/African American students meet the Algebra A-G requirement by the end of Grade 9. By narrowing the proficiency gap between Black/African American students and their peers, our goal is to reduce it from 5% in June 2023 to an inspiring 0% by June 2028.

Goal 4: College & Career Readiness (June 2023 - June 2028)

Our commitment to literacy extends to ensuring college and career readiness for graduating seniors. Prioritizing literacy for our youngest learners, we aim to have more than 66% of Black/African American seniors A-G eligible. This involves narrowing the proficiency gap between Black/African American students and their counterparts, from 15% in June 2023 to an equitable 0% by June 2028.

LBUSD's Board goals underscore our collective dedication to providing a quality education for all students, with a specific focus on prioritizing literacy for our youngest learners. As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite you to join us in supporting our students and celebrating their successes. Together, we can empower every student to reach their full potential and achieve academic excellence. The future holds immense promise for Long Beach Unified, and with your continued support, we are confident that our students will thrive and lead us toward a brighter tomorrow.

Early Childhood Education

We are proud of the connection Ms. Rita and so many of our CDC teachers make with children and families!

4400 Ladoga Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/421-8210
www.lbschools.net/Departments/Child-Development



Sarah Forrester
Director
Child Development

Burbank Shines!

By Mary Lopez

Room 8 at Burbank's School Age Care (SAC) through the Child Development Centers is dedicated to supporting and engaging each child. CDC School Age Care provides children and families with high-quality before-and-after-school wraparound services 12 months of the year. Room 8, composed of second-to-fifth-grade students led by teacher Ms. Rita, provides a safe and fun environment where the students and Ms. Rita collaborate in planning the learning activities for the class. Activities such as creating a "sushi bar" provide fun and exciting opportunities to practice a variety of skills, connect with others, and continue to tune in to their creativity.

Knowing the essential role of families, Ms. Rita keeps them apprised of what is happening at Burbank SAC through daily check-ins and up-to-date bulletin boards filled with photographs.

"My daughter has been attending CDC at Burbank for three years now," one parent recently said. "I would like to point out the amazing staff, but mainly Ms. Rita. She has a connection with my daughter, which makes me feel so safe and comfortable having my daughter there."



Addams Elementary

5320 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-0202 • addams.lbschools.net

Parent Engagement Events

By Kathleen Suarez, Assistant Principal

The New Year is a great time for reflection and adjustments. January is our mid-point to reflect on our academic year thus far. One of our goals at Addams has been to increase parent engagement.

We are proud to

share that we have hosted many successful parent involvement opportunities. Ranging from Town Hall meetings to Attendance meetings, our Addams' families are showing up! One of our most talked about meetings amongst our families was "Cafecito con Comunidad" (Coffee with Community). We invited speakers from L.B. Public Library and from our district EEP (Equity,

Engagement, & Partnerships) department. We provided free books by grade level and had a variety of free give-aways, including raffle prizes! And of course, there was "cafecito" and pastries for everyone. We are planning on hosting more parent engagement events. Good things are "brewing" at Addams!



Tracy Fiala
Principal



Alvarado *Elementary*

1900 E. 21st St., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/985-0019 • alvarado.lbschools.net

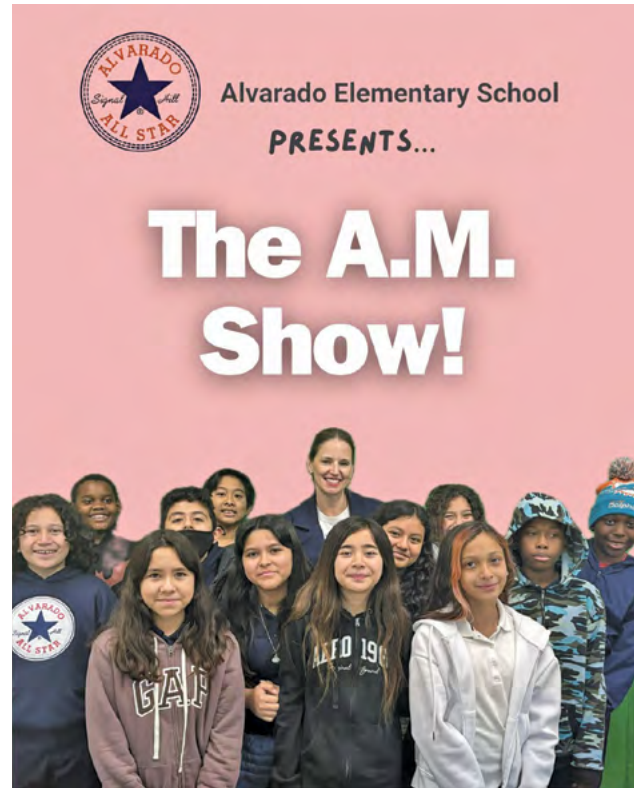


Cheryl Huber
Principal

The A.M. Show!

Excitement buzzes across the campus of Alvarado Elementary every Monday as students eagerly wait to view the latest episode of The A.M. Show! This student news show brings together the vibrant energy of our students, the wisdom of our principal, and has been a delightful addition to our school's culture. Featuring enthusiastic fourth graders, and confident fifth graders,

the program is a collaborative effort that showcases the talent and charisma within our school community. The stars of our show eagerly share announcements, highlight achievements, and even crack a few jokes! The A.M. Show not only keeps us informed but also fosters a sense of unity and joy, making each school day brighter and more engaging for everyone involved.



Avalon School *(TK-12)*

P.O. Box 557, Avalon, CA 90704 • 310/510-0790 • avalon.lbschools.net



Emma Peguero
Principal

The Grinch Visits Mrs. Patti Engel

*By Christian Flores,
Class of 2024*

Mrs. Patti Engel received a surprise visit from the Grinch on December 22, 2024, on her last day before entering retirement. During the Grinch's visit, he took a moment to interview her.

Mrs. Engel moved to Catalina Island in 1980 and started working at Avalon School in January, 1990. Two years later, she became the ASB Banker. Her future plans include traveling, exploring, and spending time with family. "I have really enjoyed working at Avalon School. Each year is just a little different with a different group of students. I walk away with so many great memories." Thank, Miss Patti. We shall miss you.



Bancroft *Middle School*

5301 Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/425-7461 • bancroft.lbschools.net



Dr. Patrick Booker
Principal

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is one of the most important factors of academic success. Their involvement in their child's education leads to better outcomes, such as regular attendance, higher grades, and the likelihood of student involvement in school leadership, clubs, and sports. At Bancroft, we welcome parents to have lunch with their child. Once a semester by grade-level, we see parents, grandparents, and other relatives

sitting, eating, and spending quality time with their child. Weather permitting, this event will return during spring semester. With Mrs. Christina Traylor, Parent Community Facilitator, at the helm, plans are underway to make the Spring Parent Lunch on the Lawn the best one yet. Families want to be invited to our campuses not just for attendance, behavior, and grades; families want to reconnect and contribute, celebrate accomplishments, and collaborate on ways to support our schools. We hear our families, and your involvement makes every day at Bancroft a great day to be a Bruin.



Bixby *Elementary*

5251 E. Stearns St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-3794 • bixby.lbschools.net



Agustin Vieyra
Principal

5th Graders Return from Camp Hi Hill

The return of our 5th-grade Bixby trailblazers from Camp Hi-Hill echoed with success and memories forged in their camping adventure. This educational odyssey aimed to transcend conventional learning. Bixby Beavers engaged in an array of activities, from collaborative challenges to immersive nature explorations, showing resilience and teamwork. The success of this journey was possible by the dedicated teachers and staff who ensured a safe and enriching environment, fostering a holistic learning experience for all.

Upon their return, the 5th graders shared reflections, tales of personal growth and the thrill of discovery out in nature. Augie Wise shared with enthusiasm, "I like that I'm making so many new friends...especially this guy!" as he points to his new friend from Hudson Elementary. The many stories shared by our Bixby Beavers showed how profound an impact this experience had on both collective bonds and individual development.

The return from Camp Hi-Hill marks not just the conclusion of an adventure but the beginning of a new chapter enriched with shared experiences, newfound knowledge, and enduring friendships.

Browning *Early College High School*

2180 Obispo Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/997-1700 • browning.lbschools.net



Tomika Romant
Principal

Browning Earns Linked Learning Silver Certification

The Hospitality Pathway at Browning Early College High School earned Silver Certification from the Linked Learning Alliance. The Certification recognizes that Browning has established a strong integrated program of study that is connected to industry expectations,

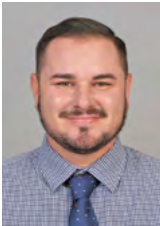
provides a continuum of meaningful work-based learning experiences, and prepares students for postsecondary education.



The Hospitality Pathway also provides students with the opportunity to earn a Hospitality Management Associate Degree from Long Beach City College upon High School graduation. In the Spring, the first group of graduating seniors from Browning will also graduate with their Associate Degree. This cohort of 24 students will participate in two graduations, one for Browning High School and one for Long Beach City College.

Bryant *Elementary*

4101 E. Fountain St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/498-3802 • bryant.lbschools.net



Miller Bailey
Principal

Bryant Scholars Code Robot Cars

Bryant students are becoming coding masterminds, ingenious problem solvers, and collaborative team players this winter! By teaming up with JumpStart Academics and Arts to compete in the Sphero Global Challenge Season Four (presented by STEM It Up Sports), students are embarking on a secret coding mission utilizing Sphero indi robot cars.

This competition engages students by tasking teams with creating a cunning car disguise and crafting a cryptic message. Computational thinking and teamwork are also demanded while they unleash their creativity to design a path for their indi car to navigate undetected.

Competitors will test their limits while performing algorithmic thinking, pattern recognition, and problem solving by applying basic coding concepts.



Buffum Total Learning Center

2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-2431 • buffum.lbschools.net



Danielle Wright
Principal

Farm to School Garden Support Grant

Buffum TLC was awarded a Farm to School Garden Support Grant for the 2023-24 school year. With help from volunteers during the 2023 Buffum Community Day the garden grounds were prepared for this school year. Our first garden project this school year is a student-planted pumpkin patch. Our preschool students decorated pumpkins for Halloween then smashed the pumpkins in the garden. Our students created a small pumpkin patch with the goal of growing pumpkins for next Halloween. As students watch the pumpkin growth cycle, they are enthralled by the magic of the garden.



We have big plans for the garden grant this school year including creating raised planters to grow our student's favorite meals. A pizza planter will grow tomatoes, onions and bell peppers; a spaghetti planter will grow tomatoes, basil, oregano, and garlic. Other raised planter meals include hamburger, french fries, popcorn, lemonade, pie and ice cream. As we look forward to the year ahead, we are excited to share that our small garden was featured as the LBUSD Nutrition Services Garden of the Month in December.

Carver Elementary

5335 E. Pavo St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-2697 • carver.lbschools.net



Monica Manipon
Principal

A Spark of Joy

At Carver Elementary our Cougars are enjoying The Spark Room. Our TOSA Candice Matthews had an idea to open her classroom a few days a week to spread some joy for our 3-5th grade Cougars. Together with support staff we extended the joy outside in the playground. Now our k-2 have board games, magna tiles and lawn Jenga games. Now all of our students enjoy games a few times of the week. This rotation allows kids to go outside and enjoy a variety of activities during their recess time. The result has been an overwhelmingly high five from our students. They enjoy a break from their normal activities and enjoy making new connections with peers. Go Cougars!



Cabrillo High School

2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/951-7700 • cabrillo.lbschools.net



My Ngoc Nguyen
Principal

Keisha Clark-Booth Named Dance Teacher of the Year

Keisha Clark-Booth, Cabrillo Teacher since 2006, was recently named the California Dance Teacher of the Year by the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD). The award recognizes outstanding



teaching performance and the ability to motivate today's youth to participate in a lifetime of physical activity. Clark-Booth graduated from Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in physical education, recreation, and dance. Clark-Booth is a professional dancer & choreographer. She continues to bring her skills, experience, and excellence to Cabrillo High School and beyond.

CAMS

11000 E. Victoria St., Carson, CA 90747 • 310/243-2025 • cams.lbschools.net



Cheryl Cornejo
Principal

CAMS Wins TWO CIF Championships

This Fall, CAMS' girls tennis team went undefeated all season, won 1st place in Moore League, and won the Division 5 CIF title. The last CIF title CAMS won was back in 2006. Coach Lorant Lassu has been a coach for about 3 decades at CAMS and was so inspired by his team. It was a total team effort with great commitment, growth, and talent. CAMS' girls volleyball team won the CIF championship in Division 7. This was CAMS' first CIF win for volleyball. Our coach, Joemar Abeton, was named coach of the year. Their victory was the result of a tremendous amount of dedication, teamwork, determination, and grit displayed all season long.



Chavez Elementary

730 W. Third St., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-0904 • chavez.lbschools.net



Brenda Ocampo
Principal

Future Leaders

Through a grant, Ms. Chai's fifth grade students got the opportunity to visit city hall and learn about our Long Beach community leaders. Students received a tour and explored the city council chamber as well as learned about civil service from our very own mayor Rex Richardson!



Our 4th/5th grade chorus students, led by Mrs. Vinnard, brought some holiday cheer to city hall and sang for Mayor Rex Richardson and staff.

Students sang a variety of multicultural seasonal songs in English, Spanish, Hebrew, and Swahili. Mayor Rex Richardson and staff offered our talented musicians a rousing standing ovation as well as gave out high fives and the mayor's pin.

It was an unforgettable experience for all! Si se puede!

Cleveland Elementary

4760 Hackett Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-7552 • cleveland.lbschools.net



Kimberly San Jose
Principal

Being My Best Self!

*By Dr. Heidi Akin,
Program Facilitator, SEL Coordinator*

Social Social-emotional learning supports the well-being of all students. At Cleveland Elementary I have the privilege of working with teachers to help students recognize their emotions, the emotions of others, and direct their emotional responses into positive actions.

We play games, share, and encourage students to practice positive self-talk such as I believe that I can...and I am kind to myself by... In addition, we teach students to use positive steps to regulate very strong emotions.

Stop & Notice: What am I feeling?

Think: How strong is my emotional reaction?

Cool Off: What strategy should I use to calm my reaction?

All great strategies that can be practiced at home to support student well-being, lifelong learners, and future leaders.



Edison *Elementary*

625 Maine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-8481 • edison.lbschools.net



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

Garden Educator

By Ariel Dela Cruz, Garden Educator

My name is Ms Ariel and I've been the school's garden educator for the past 3 years. My organization, Ground Education, provides school gardens to elementary schools in LBUSD. I enjoy teaching students about nature and how everything is interconnected, from honey bees to the soil. Our Earth provides so much that it's

important that our youth learns the value of taking care



of our planet. The garden means more than just growing plants. It's a place for kids to be outside in a green space, create a deeper connection with nature, and understand what it takes to get food onto our plates. My time at Edison has been wonderful and I love watching our students grow!



Emerson *Parkside Academy*

2625 Josie Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/420-2631 • emerson.lbschools.net



Sunday Dominguez
Principal

Building Brighter Futures

By Dr. Ruth Gomez, SEL Facilitator

Together, the Emerson Parkside Academy community is "building brighter futures" for our students as we approach the final stages of the Measure E updates to our campus. Underway since June 2023, the project includes the installation of new heating and air

conditioning systems, integrating educational technology into our classrooms, and a revamp of the cafeteria and kitchen. Aimed at enhancing the learning experience for our Emerson Eagles (grades TK-5), this initiative began its preparations in June 2023 and is set to conclude in August 2024. Let's go Eagles!



Franklin *Classical Middle School*

540 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-4952 • franklin.lbschools.net



Jorge Montanez
Principal

The Magic of the Holiday Season

By Ruth Lisha,
Parent and Community Facilitator TOSA

The magic of the holiday season was brought to life this past December at Franklin Middle School. The Community Outreach Committee, which is made up of seven teachers, partnered with a local church to bring gifts to students and their families.

Students were given a survey in November to help identify insufficiencies at home or school.

This is the fourth holiday season that Franklin has partnered with the church. Gifts included blankets, grocery gift cards, hygiene baskets, and uniforms. Additionally, over 150 pairs of shoes were fitted, then sent home with students. Some families were lucky enough to receive a bike, a small sofa, and one family even received a bunk bed. We appreciate all the community support!



Fremont *Elementary*

4000 E. 4th St., Long Beach, CA 90814 • 562/439-6873 • fremont.lbschools.net



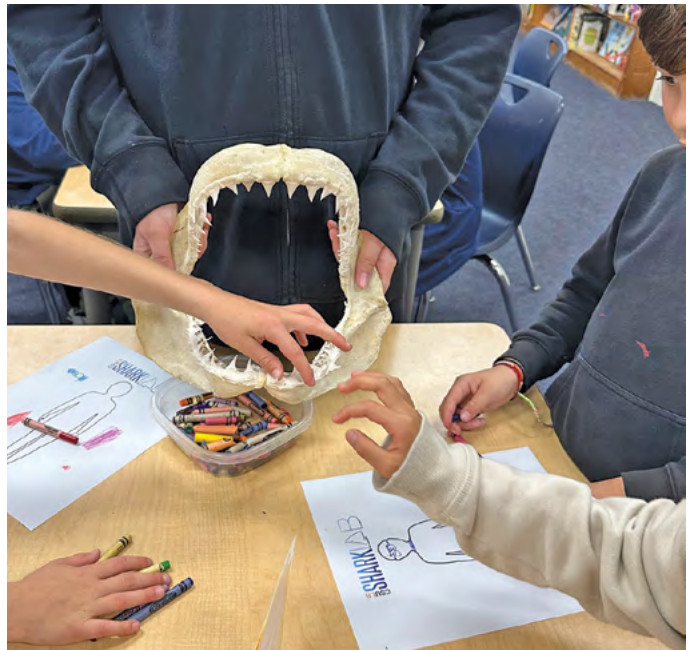
Christopher Lounsbury
Principal

CSULB Shark Lab Visits Fremont

STEM teacher, Andrea Gallo, arranged for CSULB Shark Lab to bring NGSS-aligned programs to students in January. Their goal was to create interest in STEM careers and interesting fields across disciplines and to invoke excitement about marine science and beyond.

K-2 students experienced the life of Eugenie Clark, or "Shark Lady" by participating in story-time and an interactive activity about this pioneer in the field of shark research.

3-5 grade scholars dove into four different center activities exploring the elasmobranch, or shark family. By handling jaws from skates, rays, leopard, and white sharks, students were asked to observe, record, and draw conclusions about each species' eating habits and adaptations. What a thrilling experience for Fremont!



Gant *Elementary*

1854 Britton Dr., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/430-3384 • gant.lbschools.net



Tracy Hall
Principal

Music Makes Us Happy

Music makes us happy, music stimulates the brain, and music is beautiful. Here at Gant we are so fortunate to have two amazing, talented music educators who are bringing their talents to our students and broadening their musical horizons. We have Mrs. Anne Yoon teaching vocal music and Mr. Maxfield Maynard teaching instrumental music. Thanks to Proposition 28, we have received additional funding making it possible for us to have music

on campus 5 days a week. Mr. Maynard is teaching violin,cello, flute, clarinet,trumpet,and trombone to 204 3rd-5th graders. Mrs. Yoon sees all of our classes throughout the year for 15-32 lessons and teaches chorus to 64- 4th and 5th graders. As stated by Mr. Maynard, "I'm grateful for the increased music time at Gant. It's important because it's really beneficial for students' cognitive development, both intellectually and emotionally." As a site we are grateful that our students have opportunities to find their creative voices in a multitude of ways while discovering what they are capable of.

Grant *Elementary*

1225 E. 64th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-4616 • grant.lbschools.net



Clarissa Tolentino
Principal

Welcome Grant Community!

By Sheila Duran, Assistant Principal

"No matter their income or background, students with involved parents are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school."-National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education

Every month, the Grant Staff organize a community event. In August- Dodgers Backpack Giveaway, September- Welcome Back Picnic, October- Trunk or Treat, November- Bubble Run, and December- Hot Cocoa Day. Staff along with LBUSD's All In Attendance & Office of Student Support welcomed parents, guardians, and students on campus with a cup of hot cocoa.



Stay tuned for Grant's upcoming events...Snow Day, Lunch with Loved Ones, Jog-A-Thon, Movie Night, and more!

Holmes *Elementary*

5020 Barlin Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/633-4427 • holmes.lbschools.net



Lori Grady
Principal

Socratic Seminar

By Paulette Mashaka, Intervention Teacher

The Socratic Seminar is a method of teaching in which you constantly pose questions to the students, forcing them to push the dialogue forward. In my class, we are using higher-level books that the students find especially intriguing, and our dialogue is a constant back-and-forth of "Why this?" and "Why not this" or whether something could be a possibility. Anytime a statement is made, you must have proof from the text to justify your conclusion. So, we are reading, writing, expressing

our thoughts, and incorporating myriad new ideas and thoughts.

For example, in Ms. Jones's class, we are reading *The Strangers*, which so far appears to be about a dual world. This duplicate world is taking these students on an adventure that they find fascinating. They can't wait for the next session! Everyone is questioning and sharing wide differences of opinions about what is perceived and what the future brings.

As a teacher, I love the students' enthusiasm for what we are experiencing, and I implement these strategies in my intervention and enrichment classes. It's enlightening for teachers and students!

Hamilton Middle School

1060 E. 70th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-0302 • hamilton.lbschools.net



Laura Martin
Principal

Lunch with A Loved One

Hamilton Middle School is proud to share the success of our 2nd Lunch with a Loved One event of this school year. This event takes place once a quarter, and students are encouraged to invite a “loved one” to join them during the lunch hour.

Families join their students in the garden area of campus either at our shaded lunch tables, or on the grassy lawn where they sit on picnic blankets or beach chairs.

We had approximately 100 families join our last Lunch with a Loved One event! The purpose of the event is to build community with our families, and to help create important memories for our families.

This past event highlights the important community partnerships that have been established this year. Thank you to LA Care Community Center, Equity Engagement and Partnerships, YMCA, and The TCC (Children’s Clinic) for being in attendance and having resources and prizes for our families.



Henry (K–5) Dual Immersion School

3720 Canehill Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-3754 • henry.lbschools.net



Rose Vitetta-Lewis
Principal

Giving Back

The Patrick Henry Student Council led by our counselor Yvette Gjonovich (Mrs. G) is a dynamic group of 4th and 5th graders. They enjoy spreading joy with classroom visits delivering Holiday Grams and

leading assemblies with their messages of collaboration with our community. The month of December they collaborated with our community by hosting a toy drive. This was the most successful drive. Our generous community filled three bins. These toys were then delivered to our LBUSD Foster students and unhoused LBUSD students. Mrs. G says “I am ecstatic of the endless support from our

Henry community. The Student Council did a great job encouraging their peers to help the less fortunate”. Go Patriotas!



Herrera Elementary

1620 Temple Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/494-5101 • nieto-herrera.lbschools.net



Allison Kargas
Principal

Herrera Students Learn to Swim!

When the Herrera principal received an email from the Los Altos YMCA last spring asking if they could provide free swim lessons for all second grade students, she couldn't respond

fast enough with an enthusiastic, "Yes!" Learning to swim is a valuable life-saving skill that not many Herrera students had been exposed to and this chance couldn't be passed up. The school held a series of parent meetings to cover logistics and safety and the Los Altos YMCA provided the transportation each Tuesday and Thursday. As the weeks passed, students learned to float, kick, and paddle; it was incredible to see how much they improved. The partnership continues this year and the students are eager to get into the water!



Hoover Middle School

3501 E. Country Club Dr., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/421-1213 • hoover.lbschools.net



Dr. David Costa
Principal

iReady, You Ready, We Ready!

By Karlene Cluff, Instruction and Intervention Coordinator.

Students at Hoover proved they were READY for the iReady tests. After the first diagnostic test, students set goals on "growing" their iReady levels, studied hard, and completed individualized lessons to improve their skills.

We learned about reaching typical and stretch growth, and students were excited to show how much they had learned and improved since the first diagnostic test. One schoolwide goal was to have 40% of all students meet their "typical growth" in math and reading. The students exceeded this goal, and their principal, Dr. Costa, celebrated this achievement by getting pied in the face. The testing culture has shifted, and students are READY to show everyone how much they've learned on the upcoming iReady and SBAC tests.



Jefferson Leadership Academies

750 Euclid Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/438-9904 • jefferson.lbschools.net



Dr. Connie Magee
Principal

Much to Celebrate!

In this issue of school news, Jefferson has many celebrations. Omar Sanchez earned a scholarship for free private piano lessons from Arrow Bear Company. The following teachers earned the Teacher of the Month Certificates: Mr. Gaschen, Ms. Ashby, Ms. Orozco, Mr. Chavez, Mr. Bigornia, and Mr. Shani. Students with perfect attendance, meaning 97% or higher, were celebrated with a Pizza and Free Dress Day band each month.

We earned the ALL IN attendance Trophy for the third consecutive month. We hosted our second

Education is a Family Affair event in which parents visited their children's classrooms. It was a hit with the parents that attended. Our music department held its Winter Recital, where our talented musicians showed off their skills. The Black Student Achievement Club held its first of several meetings lead by Ms. T. Martin and Ms. Johnson.

On another note, we look forward to the rest of our Parenting Partners Workshops, which have begun for a 10-week period. Parents who complete the program will receive a certificate and be part of a district graduation. Additionally, eighth-grade students are preparing for high school through High School Choice.



Jordan High School

6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-1471 • jordan.lbschools.net



Keisha Irving
Principal

Inclusive Prescription

Aspirations in Medical Sciences (AIMS) is a long-established pathway at Jordan High School. Last year feedback revealed to lead teacher, Ms. Canlas, that students with disabilities wanted to be more involved in the pathway. With this insight, Ms. Canlas and Ms. Brust worked to develop an inclusive prescription. This year, a portion of the AIMS 12th grade Internship students are working directly with students with disabilities to

teach skills and also create clinical experiences. The AIMS Interns have taught hand washing, CPR, reading, and sorting of medication, as well as other skills. After students are taught and have had time to practice these skills, AIMS Interns assess student learning. During clinical sessions in the hospital lab, AIMS seniors take on clinical roles regarding patient assessment and care. AIMS Interns have learned firsthand about patients' needs and differentiated care. The partnership has developed a wealth of real-life experience for both groups of students and provided them with learning and opportunities that will benefit them in the future.

Kettering *Classical Elementary*

550 Silvera Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/598-9486 • kettering.lbschools.net



Rachel Peters
Principal

Kettering is Ready for Our District's School of Choice!

Kettering Elementary stands out as “The Best Little School in the District” due to its exceptional blend of dedicated scholars, motivated teachers, and unwavering support from both staff and families. The acronym KIDS perfectly captures

the essence of our school community, where students are Kind, Intelligent, and Dedicated Scholars. Our teachers, driven by passion and equipped with excellent training, foster an environment where curiosity thrives. The support staff adds a caring touch, ensuring a holistic educational experience. The commitment of our students to academic excellence is truly commendable. Beyond academics, the sense of community at Kettering is unparalleled, with families actively engaged and supportive. In every aspect, Kettering Elementary stands as a shining example of a nurturing and thriving educational institution.



King *Elementary*

145 E. Artesia Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-1232 • king.lbschools.net



Osvaldo Ocampo
Principal

Celebrating Buddy-Up Week

By Erin Starks, SEL Facilitator

King Elementary School recently wrapped up our first Buddy-Up Week, a special initiative that brought students together, to ignite new connections across our school community. In response to insights from the recent Student

Wellness Pulse Survey, Buddy-Up Week featured a lineup of exciting activities that all students were invited to participate in. Using the Harmony SEL Curriculum Buddy-Up Structure, students embraced the opportunity to engage in daily, interactive activities, designed to help them cultivate positive relationships with others. From lively games to collaborative art projects, every activity encouraged students to try something new, while building new friendships with their peers. The success of Buddy-Up Week is a great example of King Elementary's commitment to creating a positive and supportive school environment for our students!



Lakewood *High School*

4400 Briercrest Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/425-1281 • lakewood.lbschools.net



Mona Mero
Principal

Odyssey Academy is One of a Kind *By Elizabeth Frayre, Linked Learning Pathway Coordinator*

Odyssey Academy is the only Environmental Pathway in LBUSD that falls under one of the fastest growing industry sectors: Energy, Environment and Utilities. It's a conservation and sustainability pathway with a marine themed focus on environmental solutions to global challenges such as climate change, renewable energy,

pollution, and a growing world population. It provides opportunities and experiences that give students voice to affect change.

Odyssey has valued industry partners that provide Lakewood High students with unique opportunities to

practice industry skills and gain meaningful experience in the field. While in Odyssey, students are exposed to work-based learning opportunities, industry nights, symposiums, guest speakers, presentations, and internships. For example:

- Coastal Habitat Survey at Cabrillo State Beach and Aquarium
- Aquarium of the Pacific Family Science Night and Internship Opportunity
- Wetland and Watershed Study with Newport Bay Conservancy
- CalNat Naturalist Certification

Odyssey's ultimate vision is to develop environmentally conscious critical thinkers and problem solvers, who utilize their knowledge and skills to become agents of change and innovators in their career field.

Lincoln *Elementary*

1175 E. 11th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-5005 • lincoln.lbschools.net



Caroline Nemec
Principal

Champions for Students

The Support Staff at Lincoln Elementary School are Champions for students. They contribute to "Bring Joy" to our students from the moment they arrive on campus assisting with the daily operations. The Plant Supervisor, Jose Aguilar walks the campus to ensure it's safe and ready for the day. Every student receives a "Good Morning and Have a Great Day" upon entering the gate.

Fresh meals are prepared daily by the Cafeteria Team led by Ms. Luz Toscano. There is a balance at Lincoln between academics and fun. When the students come outside for recess, they are excited to participate in the organized activities and games led by the Recreation Team. In the front office, Liliana Alba, Office Supervisor and Martha Fonseca, IOA are ready with welcoming smiles to assist the families. These are indicators that the Support Staff actions reflect their commitment to creating an environment to help our students thrive and grow.

Longfellow *Elementary*

3800 Olive Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0308 • longfellow.lbschools.net



Sam Platis
Principal

Plan for Community *By Carol Alwood, Longfellow Site Facilitator & Harmony Coordinator*

Would hot coffee and pastries bring parents and caregivers to Longfellow to learn about the Common Core Standards?

On Friday, December 8, 2023, we set up a food table and 45 cup coffee percolator in the art room, hopeful they would come. And they did! Twenty-nine adults attended the training. Parents shared ideas and questions as they ate breakfast treats



and sipped coffee. The tone was productive as adults interacted and built promising new connections. It went so well, we plan to do another event where we'll teach about Harmony SEL and iReady.

To plan a similar event, get flyers out early, provide quality food, be warm and welcoming, and honor the schedule. You can build a vibrant community.

Lindsey Academy (6–8)

5075 Daisy Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-6451 • lindsey.lbschools.net



**Danyett
Armstrong-Lee**
Principal

Long Beach Youth Orchestra

Perry Lindsey Academy is proud to support Ms. Yuki Fujimura and her music students! This year Fujimura and her students were invited to play in the Long Beach Youth Orchestra on December

16th. The students had a great time playing for a crowd and showing off their skills. Fujimura also oversees the Mariachi Halcones de Lindsey Academy and Jazz Angels groups. These two groups were invited to play at the Belmont Shore Holiday Extravaganza on December 17th. Fujimura continues to work with her students



and gives them as many opportunities to play and improve their skills here at Lindsey. Fujimura has dedicated 7 years to the Lindsey Music program and we appreciate all of her time and effort!

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

515 W. San Antonio Dr., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-6337 • los-cerritos.lbschools.net



Liseeth Ramos
Principal

Snow Day

By Dr. Ruth Gomez, SEL Facilitator

In a burst of joy and excitement, our Los Cerritos Roadrunners recently experienced an unforgettable Snow Day! The chilly and cloudy morning in late January set the stage for a snowy adventure funded by our fantastic PTA. This special day, initiated after the challenges of Covid, brought our students together for pure winter delight. Mrs. Ramos even made a surprise

appearance, transforming into Pikachu for an extra dose of fun. Decked out in an array of snow gear, from boots to scarves, the Roadrunners enjoyed two snowy sections, complete with a thrilling snow slide and a field of snow. The hot cocoa and water station added the perfect touch to this heartwarming and frosty gathering!



Lowell Bayside *Elementary*

5201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-6757 • lowell.lbschools.net



Cassandra Fanton
Principal

Students Like Lowell

By Michelle Williams, First Grade Teacher

There are many reasons to like Lowell School... Here are some reasons from my students:

"I like Lowell Elementary because we get a Kitty Cat Celebration when we make it to the top of the Kitty Cat Jar!" — Camila

"I like my friends because they are nice to me." — Amelia

"I like it because we have a treasure box and we get (a treasure) on our birthday and Fun Friday." — Eewon

"I like the carnivals because they are fun and have a bunch of games." — Shonda

"I like playing on the playground because I play with my friends." — Grace

"I like Fun Friday because we can play with Legos." — Ryder

"I like the Art Lab with Miss Moss because it's fun and we made a big poster." — Cove

"I like the Coachies because they are nice to me all of the time." — Savannah

"It is fun! I like Fun Friday!" — Uros

"I like my friends because they play with me." Alexandra

"I like after school because I get to play on the playground." — Franco

"I like (the Lowell Learning Garden) gardening class because I also have a garden in my backyard!" — Pearl

MacArthur *Elementary*

6011 Centralia St., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-3588 • macarthur.lbschools.net



Maria Yopez
Principal

Bubble Fun Run

By Dr. Heidi Akin,
Program Facilitator,
SEL Coordinator

What a wonderful year it has already been at MacArthur ES! Our amazing PTA kicked it off with a Bubble Fun Run. TK-5 ran like the wind with staff, students, and parents cheering on. It was a wonderful day of sportsmanship and team building. Literacy is one of the great equalizers and our schoolwide read-aloud demonstrated the vital importance of literacy.

MacArthur promotes excellent citizenship with Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum and an overarching character trait each month. Last month was trustworthiness and this month we are discussing the importance of goal setting. Our upcoming SEL lessons are titled Being My Best Self. All great learning opportunities to promote lifelong learners and future leaders here at MacArthur Elementary School.



Madison *Elementary*

2801 Bomberly St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-7731 • madison.lbschools.net



Ann Erskine
Principal

Vocal Music

The music program at Madison has been growing this year. Every class gets Vocal Music once a week for 30 minutes. In addition, each grade level will also be part of a musical or performance. Kindergarten students already participated in a Holiday concert. The 4th and 5th graders have the option to participate in the school chorus, which practices once a week and performs twice a year. Mrs. Riley, the music teacher, also started a new Inclusion Program called Music Buddies. This is a designated time where students from the Special Day Class work with students from the General Education classes to learn and perform music. The students are building friendships, learning about diversity, and building empathy.



Mann *Elementary*

257 Coronado Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/439-6897 • mann.lbschools.net



Donna Robertson
Principal

Giving Back

The second annual MLK In-Service Day at Mann had students come together to clean up and participate in campus beautification. The purpose of the day's event encompasses our educational, social, and personal development goals. It also aligns with the principles of Martin Luther King Jr., and serves as a meaningful way for our students to contribute to their community.

Engaging in community service at a young age helps to instill a sense of civic responsibility in students. They learn that they have a role to play in making their communities better. They also develop empathy

and compassion for others, which fosters a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives and experiences.

Saturday's event also helped to foster teamwork and collaboration, with our students learning the importance of working together towards a common goal. This special day created a sense of belonging and connection to the broader community too, as our students felt a greater sense of pride and attachment to their community. It inspired our future leaders, and served as a catalyst for our students to become active and engaged citizens who will contribute to society.

MLK's message emphasizes the importance of embracing diversity and promoting equality. This event brought together people from various backgrounds, and provided an opportunity for our students to celebrate diversity and learn from different perspectives.

Marshall Academy of the Arts

5870 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/429-7013 • marshall.lbschools.net



Edward Steinhauser
Principal

Parent Partners at Marshall!

Parenting Partners is a leadership class offered to parents to help equip them

with the tools necessary to create independent, self-confident, responsible children who will have more

success at home and at school. We recently started a bi-lingual class for Spanish and English speaking parents where we learned the benefits of the Parenting Partners class on student achievement, the challenges kids face, and how to better prepare them to face those challenges. Parents left the class with a SMART goal for their family to create more connection for them and

their children, and excitement for the upcoming classes where they will learn more strategies for communication, structure and discipline to support their student's success.



McKinley Elementary

6822 N. Paramount Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/630-6200 • mckinley.lbschools.net



Dulnari Edirisinghe-Aga
Principal

Grab n' Go

McKinley Elementary is proud to partner with Nutrition Knights/ Help Me Help You food pantry to provide nutritious food to students and our community. Our grand opening ribbon cutting had representatives from Mayor Richardson's office, Dr. Ricks-Oddie, 9th District Council Members' office, and Lieling Hwang, LBUSD Nutrition Services Director.

"We are grateful to have the Grab n' Go pantry at McKinley Elementary. Our families and the community appreciate the support this service provides. With rising costs of food, the pantry plays a significant role in meeting the needs of the community and is a valuable resource. The additional grocery support provided by Grab n' Go eases the financial burden on our community," said Principal Dulnari Edirisinghe-Aga in a public statement.



Naples Bayside Academy

5537 The Toledo, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-0489 • naples.lbschools.net



Paula Gregg-Spenker
Principal

Naples Mini Museum

Our theme for the 2023-24 school year is Spark Curiosity, so what better way to encourage curiosity and questioning, but by having a school mini museum! Here at Naples Bayside Academy, we have created our own

mini museum by borrowing specimens for students to observe, touch, and ask questions about. Some of our favorites were Mako shark jaws, dinosaur teeth, and a giant woolly mammoth tooth! Our newest collection includes ammonites, trilobites, and fossilized sand dollars. Our special museum room opens up during lunch recess and our regular student visitors have turned into museum docents!



Nelson Academy (6-8)

1951 Cherry Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/591-6041 • nelson.lbschools.net



Kathleen Reed
Principal

Free Event

On Saturday, November 18 select Nelson families were invited to attend a free event at the Burnett Public Library. Families were provided essential clothing, food and community resources cost free and non-profit organization. We could not

be more thankful to this organization for the approximately \$5,000 worth of items including a pair of shoes for their Nelson Knight and groceries for the Thanksgiving break. The FairField YMCA and Bayfront Mental Health Services hosted booths with community resources. Families were greeted by the familiar faces of Mrs. Lucio (parent facilitator) and Mr. Fernandez (LCSW) who shared school information at the Nelson booth. We look forward to working with our many non profit community organizations in the years to come.



Newcomb Academy (K-8)

3351 Val Verde Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/430-1250 • newcomb.lbschools.net



Christopher J. Thompson
Principal

Congratulations Girls Track and Field

Congratulations to the Newcomb Girls Track and Field Team for winning the Division II All City Championship. This win is a testament to their dedication and determination! Under the guidance of the remarkable Coach Renee, these talented athletes

soared to new heights, showcasing not only their athletic prowess but also embodying qualities of courage, heart, and determination. Coach Renee stands as a true mentor, inspiring these young women to reach beyond their limits and strive for greatness. Her unwavering commitment to their success has not only shaped formidable athletes but instilled in them invaluable life skills. This triumph is a reflection of the collective spirit, hard work, and

resilience of our outstanding girls' track and field team, who have not only conquered the track but also exemplified sportsmanship and unity. Here's to an amazing team and Coach. The Newcomb Community is very proud of you.



Oropeza Elementary

700 Locust Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/436-4420 • oropeza.lbschools.net



Edward Garcia Jr.
Principal

The Art and Beauty of Ballet

The Ballet Folklorico Dance Club at Oropeza Elementary teaches the art and beauty of Ballet Folklorico to students from transitional kindergarten through fifth grade. Under the direction of Christine and Isabella

Franco, the club has grown to teach many students, both boys and girls. Throughout its time at Oropeza, the club has successfully performed various shows! In the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year, the club honored and embraced Dia de Los Muertos by performing dances like "La Bruja" and "La Llorona." The club then went to an assisted living

facility in Long Beach and performed for the residents there. However, the club is not finished there and plans to continue to teach students about Mexican culture, community, and teamwork!



Reid High School

3701 E. Willow St., B-1., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/426-6846x6680 • reid.lbschools.net



Troy Bennett
Principal

Working to Recoup Credits

The Fall semester is quickly coming to an end and students are working diligently to recoup credits. While there is much to celebrate this school year, two events I would like to highlight in particular, the Food Bank and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Swarm. Reid High School and the Long Beach School for Adults have

been working with the Food Bank of Southern California. There have been two events in which they have come to our campus and provided both Reid and LBSA families with food items. The Reid FAFSA Swarm will be held on January 23, 2024. We are optimistic about the impact that our FAFSA Swarm will have on our students who decide to attend college. We look forward to students taking one step closer to completing high school requirements and enrolling in college.

Roosevelt Elementary

1574 Linden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-3418 • roosevelt.lbschools.net



Alissa Gamboa
Principal

A Special Gift at Roosevelt

For the last seven years students in the Roosevelt Specialized Healthcare program have received a very special and accessible gift. Engaging in play is a necessary part of child development, helping learners understand that we all have an effect on the world around us. This year Sato High School hosted the annual Hackathon on November 30th, 2023, where students and other LBUSD community members came together to “hack” a variety of toys to make them switch-accessible. Then on December 19, 2023, these special toys were given as gifts to Roosevelt students while special guests Dr. Jill Baker and Dr. Erin Simon visited for the occasion. There was a lot of excitement as students took turns opening gifts and cheering for each other. The top toys this year were the blue crab bubble machine and tube man. Roosevelt sends a big THANK YOU to Sato students and the LBUSD community for their genius, generosity and care.



Signal Hill Elementary

2285 Walnut Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8170 • signal-hill.lbschools.net



Scott Tardibuono
Principal

From “I” to “We”

There’s a famous quote by Helen Keller, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” This quote emphasizes the importance of working together and believing that collectively we are stronger. Thanks to the leadership of our principal, Mr. Tardibuono, we created the shift from “I” to “We”. This shift allows a plethora of ideas to be shared and collaborated amongst teachers, students, and parents. The idea also enables all members to work collectively to ensure that the decision-making process moves students academically, socially, and emotionally in a positive direction. As a result, we have seen positive growth. It’s a team effort!



Sato *Academy of Mathematics & Science*

1100 Iroquois Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-7611 • sato.lbschools.net



Veronica Coleman
Principal

Dual Enrollment

We are so grateful to be able to offer LBCC Dual Enrollment classes at Sato. In Fall 2023, we had instructors from LBCC teach an Introduction to Philosophy class and a Drawing and Painting class at the end of the school day. At the end of the semester, the Drawing and Painting class held an art exposition. Parents were invited to see the artwork displayed and students provided critique of one another's artwork. Thanks to this on campus dual enrollment opportunity, our students were able to learn new skills and showcase their artistic talent. We are so proud of them and look forward to the continued LBUSD-LBCC partnership to provide more course offerings to our students on campus.



Smith *Elementary*

565 E. Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/595-9466 • smith.lbschools.net



Hugo Figueroa
Principal

Smith Bears' School News

The past months have been busy at Smith with activities promoting fun, academic engagement! To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, students attended an assembly with talented Folklorico and Mayan dancers.

In November, Smith held a book fair. It was heartwarming to see our students excited to support the joy of reading.

The theme of books continued as Smith hosted an "Author's Day" visit with Vilayvanh Bender. Mrs. Bender wrote the children's book, *Mommy Eats Fried*

Grasshoppers. Mrs. Bender read her story and taught the students about Laos culture. And yes, the students got to taste a fried grasshopper! December 8th was dedicated to Literacy. During DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) families visited the classrooms and read books with their students. After DEAR, parents attended the workshop "Literacy and Learning: A Common Core State Standards Presentation on Foundational Reading Skills." The parents were informed of the importance of reading foundational skills, participated in hands-on activities to practice these skills at home, and even received free books for attending! We can't wait to begin 2024 with the same enthusiasm for learning!

Stanford *Middle School*

5871 Los Arcos St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/594-9793 • stanford.lbschools.net



Lester Lawson IV
Principal

Stanford's Female and Male Leadership Academies

By Kathleen Kilkenny and Scott Alkire

Stanford's Female and Male Leadership Academies provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills, explore potential careers, and develop a sense of belonging both at Stanford and within the greater Long Beach community.

In MLA, students had the opportunity to go on a field trip to Campfire's challenge courses. Students worked together during a variety of team building games that challenged their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills. After,

students went on the high ropes course where they pushed themselves to overcome their fears and step out of their comfort zones. The boys had an experience they will never forget!

The focus of FLA has been to foster connections and grow as leaders. Some activities include community-building circles and creating post-its for the girls' locker rooms and bathrooms to spread kindness and positivity. In addition, our FLA serves as mentors for Prisk Elementary's FLA and plan monthly visits. Finally, our leaders have had the opportunity to interview local female professionals, including two Disney Imagineers, to learn more about possible careers. We look forward to another semester of discovery!

Stephens *Middle School*

1830 W. Columbia St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-0841 • stephens.lbschools.net



Eric Cabacungan
Principal

Family Lunch

*By Adrienne Wong, Parent Facilitator,
Learning Director*

Imagine a middle school lunch. Students in line waiting for a warm lunch, some walking to their teachers doors awaiting a tutoring session, and some playing a game of hoops, all while birds are hovering waiting for their yummy eats. Seems pretty typical. Well, let's insert our Stephens Family Lunch. Back in September, we had a week of families

joining their loved ones during lunch in exchange for completing the Annual Verification Form and signing up to be a Canvas observer. It was a hit! Families have been asking for family lunches ever since. We had our 2nd round of family lunches towards the end of Semester 1 and boy was it popular as ever! We had families lined up and flowing in with huge smiles at the gate ready to have lunch with their loved ones. Building positive relationships with our families is one of our core values. Now, imagine: a middle school community filled with families! That image. That image is, Stephens Middle School!



Stevenson *Elementary*

515 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/437-0407 • stevenson.lbschools.net



Nancy Dalton
Principal

The Morning Show!

Excitement buzzes through the halls of Stevenson Elementary every Monday as students eagerly wait to view the latest episode of The Morning Show! This student news show brings together the vibrant energy of our

students, the wisdom of our principal, and has been a delightful addition to our school's culture. Featuring two enthusiastic fourth graders, and two confident fifth graders, the program is a collaborative effort that showcases the talent and charisma within our school community. The stars of our show eagerly share announcements, highlight achievements, and even crack a few jokes! The Morning Show not only keeps us informed but also fosters a sense of unity and joy, making each school day brighter and more engaging for everyone involved.



Tincher Preparatory School (K-8)

1701 Petaluma Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/493-2636 • tincher.lbschools.net



Donna Ryono
Principal

Taking it to the Skies

Tincher students in 3rd and 5th grade were treated to a once in a lifetime opportunity to study with Japanese Kite Master Mikio Toki, an artist trained in the Edo (Tokyo) style tradition of kite

making. Through the generosity of the Japan America Society, Master Toki presented the history of kite making and shared some of his amazing creations with the students, who then had the opportunity to design and build their own kites. The highlight of the day was students taking their kites to the skies. This was the first time students had the opportunity to build a kite and for many students this was the first time they had ever flown a kite.



Master Mikio Toki teaching the art of Edo style kite making to 5th grade students.

Twain Elementary

5021 E. Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8421 • twain.lbschools.net



Juan C. Gonzalez
Principal

Harmony Curriculum

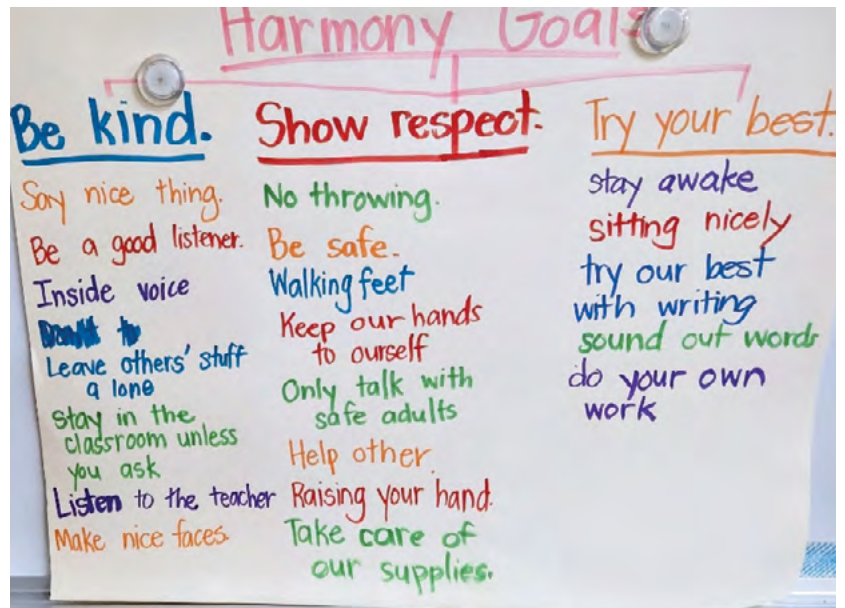
By Mrs. Ashley Rhoads, SEL Facilitator

In support of LBUSD's vision 2035 around Social and Emotional Learning, the community at Twain has been working with students around developing identity, a sense of belonging, and building agency.

Twain students have been accessing LBUSD's newly adopted SEL Harmony Curriculum. This curriculum offers a comprehensive opportunity for whole-child success. Guided by the latest research in social and emotional development, Harmony equips educators with instructional tools and classroom resources that support healthy relationships, promote emotional well-being, and encourage enthusiastic and engaged learning that can ignite positive lifelong outcomes.

Using the Harmony curriculum, Twain teachers alongside Twain's SEL Facilitator and counselor, have incorporated goal setting through Harmony Goals, and building classroom community through Harmony

Meetups and Buddy-ups. Through these daily experiences while building relationships, Twain has seen growth in all areas of our Fall 2023 PULSE survey compared to results from Spring 2023 (+1 in Identity; +2 in Belonging; +6 in Agency). Go Twain Frogs!



Washington Middle School

1450 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-2434 • washington.lbschools.net



Roshann Williams
Principal

Design and Craft Event

In a heartwarming display of community engagement and creativity, Habitat for Humanity of Greater LA partnered with our school to sponsor a Design and Craft event for a group of students in December. This collaboration aimed to empower our students by allowing them to unleash their artistic potential, creating personalized designs and transferring them onto various items like t-shirts, tote bags, and backpacks.



This hands-on experience enabled students to experiment with different mediums to bring their visions to life. Students learned the intricacies of the silkscreen process, which added a professional touch to their creations, transforming ordinary items into personalized pieces of wearable art.

This heartwarming collaboration serves as a shining example of how organizations can contribute to the holistic development of the communities they serve.



Webster Elementary

1755 W. 32nd Way, Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-6568 • webster.lbschools.net



Matthew Monaghan
Principal

Season of Giving at Webster!

The holiday season is a time of giving! Lowell Elementary's Student Council organized a food drive to support Webster families! The Lowell community donated "everything but the turkey" boxes for over thirty-five families. Webster's student council

welcomed Lowell's student council to receive the donations! It was fun to share the Webster campus, talk about student council and show gratitude. Thank you Lowell! We're so proud of your goals of community service!

Webster's Student Council organized a coin drive to help spread some holiday cheer to our families. The top donating classes, Sra. Monroy and Srta.

Muñoz, received hot chocolate parties! Webster raised over \$1200! Twelve families received gift cards to help with the holiday season. A coin drive is a great way to practice math skills, teamwork, and show how if we all contribute, we can make a big impact. Go Webster Wildcats!



Wilson Classical High School

4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/433-0481 • wilson.lbschools.net



Rebecca Suzanne Caverly
Principal

AVID Study-A-Thon

This year we celebrated our 17th year of our AVID study-a-thon. Students gathered in the media center with study guides, classmates, snacks and volunteer teachers who encouraged and guided them in the study process. Students were given a safe inclusive environment where they were able to study with friends, and help one another prepare for this year's finals. During this time, raffle tickets were given out every 30

minutes to those who were studious with their time, and pizza was passed out for the scholars who were able to stay until the end. We hope that our AVID students feel prepared for next week, and we wish all Wilson students the best of luck for the final stretch of our first semester.



The following charter school is an independent public school authorized by the Long Beach Unified School District. The charter school is responsible for its own educational programs, operations and enrollment procedures. Please contact the school directly for more information.

Intellectual Virtues Academy *Middle School (6-8)*

3601 Linden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/912-7017 • ivalongbeach.org



Jacquie Bryant
Founding
Principal

A Charter Middle School in Long Beach

At Intellectual Virtues Academy, this is our first time being included in School News Roll Call and we are honored to be featured alongside the many great schools in Long Beach.

IVA is a free, public charter middle school authorized by LBUSD and we've been serving Long Beach Families since

2012. Founded by a small group of parent and community advocates, IVA implements an innovative and research based educational model aimed at developing students' intellectual virtues. Virtues like curiosity, open-mindedness, and intellectual humility help students learn well and live well in middle school and beyond.

With a school size of 234 students and class sizes of 27 or less, both staff and students regularly comment on our intimate and supportive school culture. If you'd like to learn more about us, please give us a call, send an email, or join us on one of our weekly school tours to see the interaction of students with each other and their teachers. We'd love to open our classrooms to you!



Los Angeles County Office of Education

9300 Imperial Hwy., Downey, CA 90242 • 562/922-6360 • www.lacoe.edu

New Guidance for Mandated Reporters in Los Angeles County

By Alicia Garoupa, Chief of Wellbeing and Support Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education



Debra Duardo,
M.S.W., Ed.D.
Superintendent

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) is creating a framework and catalyzing a movement alongside critical partners to transform the mandated reporting process for educators in Los Angeles County to better support historically underserved children, youth, and families.

New training is taking shape to help mandated reporters make better decisions when it comes to determining whether a situation constitutes a ‘reasonable suspicion’ of reportable child abuse or neglect.

Mandated reporters are individuals who have regular contact with children as part of their job, such as teachers, social workers, healthcare providers, law enforcement officers, and childcare providers. The push for improved training has been accelerated locally by the [Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors motion](#) to create the “LA County Mandated Supporting Initiative” in May 2023. The initiative aims to reform how Mandated Reporters report general neglect cases, improve training, and enhance systems for supporting vulnerable families.

The training is being developed in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services, the Los Angeles County Prevention & Promotion Systems Governing Committee and other key partners. The aligned effort is supported by the county board of supervisors and philanthropy, including critical support from the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation and the Anthony and Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.

General neglect is the most common allegation reported to the LA County Child Protection Hotline. However, the vast majority of allegations are not substantiated according to the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. Inaccurate reporting resulted in the child welfare system’s oversurveillance and harm of marginalized communities of color. The reports made by educators were also found to be the least likely to be substantiated among mandated reporter types. Over reporting and oversurveillance have dire consequences, causing fear, stress, trauma for

families, leading them to lose trust in public entities, such as schools and disrupting the relationship between families and Mandated Reporters. In other words, some reports may actually do more harm than good.

To limit overreporting of families whose needs can be met outside of child protective services agencies, AB 2085 narrowed the legal definition of general neglect to only include circumstances where the child is at substantial risk of suffering serious physical harm or illness and provides that general neglect does not include a parent’s economic disadvantage (i.e., poverty). Eliminating inaccurate reports of general neglect is a key goal of AB 2085 and understanding that poverty does not equal neglect is crucial.

LACOE leaders and representatives from aligned partners have been introducing the mandated supporting framework to various audiences and networks. These meetings drive awareness of the underlying problems, establish improved educator training as a solution, drive early adoption and support regional implementation over time.

The first broad training for mandated reporters was offered to about 700 participants in November 2023 and covered strategies to help improve Mandated Reporters’ capacity to make more accurate, consistent, and equitable decisions about whether to report to the Hotline, or to connect a family to community-based resources.

More focused training will be offered in 2024 that includes sector and discipline specific content to address distinct mandated reporter groups (e.g., educators, law enforcement, health care providers). Additionally, LACOE aims to hold a regional convening in 2024 to continue to raise awareness and build momentum around the mandated supporter concept and aligned implementations strategies. LACOE continues to strive to build regional capacity relevant policy among educators and districts around important changes in law and policy, including AB 2085, and accelerate our call to action to collectively ensure student safety and evolve the mandated reporter process in service to our children, youth, and families. LACOE will provide more details on upcoming training and guidance for Mandated Reporters in 2024.