



school bulletin

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

January 25, 2013

School Schedules Proposed for K-12

As part of the Long Beach Unified School District's ongoing efforts to make the wisest use of its limited resources, the school district has been examining the efficiency of its school schedules in grades K-12. Over the years, the variety of school schedules here has increased significantly, making the district's transportation services less efficient than they could be with more standardized scheduling. LBUSD could save more than \$1 million in transportation through schedule adjustments.

As part of proposed schedule changes, LBUSD may start the high school day an hour later next school year. Staff first proposed this idea to the school board at a public meeting in November, in part because of convincing research that shows teens perform better

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Long Beach Among 'Data-Savvy' Systems

A feature story in this month's national School Administrator magazine names the Long Beach Unified School District among five "data-savvy districts" where collecting sound data on students was the starting point for improving instruction and raising academic achievement.

In the magazine, published by the American Association of School Administrators, writer Heather Zavadsky praises Long Beach's use of data to create effective interventions, or specialized programs for students who need extra help. Zavadsky also is the author of the book *School Turnarounds: The Essential Role of Districts*.

In this month's article, Zavadsky writes: "Long Beach Unified School District is known for long-term stability in leadership and performance. Already quite data savvy, the district continues to improve its data systems

and data use to push those schools that perform below the district average. When Long Beach leaders found a uniform performance drop between fifth and sixth grades in its eight targeted, low-performing K-8 schools, district leaders moved all sixth graders from those schools (approximately 2,000 kids) into a self-contained 6th-grade academy.

"This unique approach put the students under one roof and provided flexibility to address student needs all day long. With no bells or defined class periods, students could spend a half day or full day in reading with a literacy specialist if needed.

"Using data to refine student interventions, academy leaders used formative assessment results to match student needs with teacher strengths. If a student were struggling with fractions, he or she was paired with a teacher whose classroom work yielded high assessment scores in fractions. After a few weeks, students were reassessed and regrouped as needed.

"In 2010-11, the math proficiency rate of sixth graders in Long Beach's target schools moved from 32 percent to 46 percent, just a few percentage points below the district and state averages. With the success of this intervention, the district's leaders are considering which aspects of the model might be scaled to other schools."

Zavadsky's article also examines successful use of data in Denver, Garden Grove, Sacramento, and Pharr-San Juan-Alamo in Texas. She details the essential characteristics that are common to each of these successful systems, including:

Comprehensive Data Systems. A user-friendly one-stop shop provides detailed information on the instructional and operational needs of students, teachers, schools and central office;

Culture of Data Trust and Transparency. Data are not useful without a culture that trusts, desires, shares and displays data. This culture must be nurtured at all levels and reflected in conversations and actions. Data should be used as a flashlight, not a hammer, Zavadsky writes.

"Several school districts have pulled together these elements effectively and incorporated them across the central-office, school-leadership and classroom levels to improve teaching and learning," Zavadsky states. "The proof is in their outcome data — they all have yielded increased student achievement."

View the full article at aasa.org. Find "The School Administrator" magazine under the Resources tab.



Zavadsky

Non-Profit Aims to Clothe 7,000 Students

The Rick Rackers, an auxiliary of the Assistance League of Long Beach, plans to provide 7,000 children with school uniforms this year, and the organization's volunteers are planning their main fundraiser.

The annual Rick Rackers Ball — Ship to Shore Soiree — will take place from 6 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 aboard the Queen Mary. Tickets, which help to raise money for the Operation School Bell program that provides uniforms to students in the Long Beach Unified School District, are \$130 per person or \$250 per couple and include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live music and dancing with opportunity drawings and a silent auction.

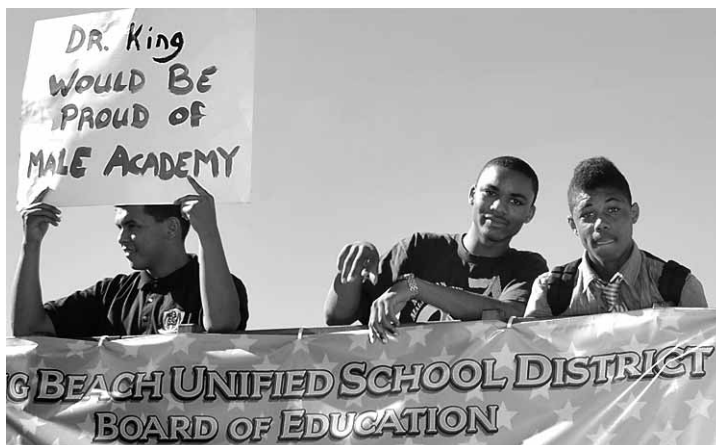
The 1930s themed event will take place in the Royal Salon located on the ship's Promenade Deck. Businesses can help sponsor this year's ball with in-kind donations or by underwriting a portion of the event.

"This is our major fundraiser of the year," said Shannon Cofell, chairman of Rick Rackers. "Our dedicated members are women within the greater Long Beach community who spend hours donating their time, effort and resources to children who desperately need new school uniforms, backpacks and supplies — items that many of us can easily provide for our own families. We hope the community will support our efforts by purchasing a ticket and attending the ball."

In keeping with the ship's Art Deco elegance, guests are encouraged to dress in 1930s garb; however, black-tie is optional. In addition, modern-day passengers will receive a crash-course in swing dancing as the Jumpin' Joz Swing Band takes to the stage with lively tunes from the era. Adding a bit of verve to the evening will be students from Poly High

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MLK PARADE — Members of the Long Beach Unified School District's Male Academy, which provides additional support to at-risk students, rode in a stakebed truck with members of the Board of Education during Long Beach's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.



Author to Speak on Power of Forgiveness

The California Conference for Equality and Justice, which partners with the Long Beach Unified School District on the Building Bridges Human Relations Camps and other youth programs, will welcome keynote speaker Azim Noordin Khamisa at the 22nd Annual Interfaith/Intercultural Breakfast. The event is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.



Khamisa

Committing his life to halting violence among youth, Azim became a social activist after his 20-year-old son Tariq was murdered by a 14-year-old gang member while delivering pizzas in 1995.

Khamisa was inspired to transform his loss through the power of forgiveness. Believing that there were "victims at both ends of the gun," Azim forgave the gang member and founded the Tariq Khamisa Foundation to break the cycle of youth violence. He is now an author, activist and inspirational speaker.

The nonprofit CCEJ is a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism in America.

The event is \$40 per person, with table sponsorships available. Call 435-8184 or email amize@cacej.org to reserve a space by Feb. 5.

Dates to Remember

February

	National African American History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	National Freedom Day
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Klan—A Legacy of Hate in America," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
2	Groundhog Day
4-8	National School Counseling Week
5	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Presidents' Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
10	Chinese New Year
11	Lincoln Day—Holiday
11	Thomas Alva Edison's Birthday
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
13	Ash Wednesday
13-March 30	Lent
13	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
14	St. Valentine's Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
17	National PTA Founders Day
18	Presidents' Day—Holiday
19	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
20	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
23	W.E.B. DuBois's Birthday
26-27	Conference Days—Elementary Schools
26	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8

• Rick Rackers

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School who will assume the roles of 1930s paparazzi and candy girls as guests are transported back to the ship's sailing days.

For tickets and information, call 627-5650. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.ALLB.org/rickrackers.

The Assistance League has provided thousands of uniforms to LBUSD students since the inception of the school uniform program here.

"Other school district superintendents often ask how we managed to establish and continue our nationally recognized uniform policy," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "I tell them that the Assistance League of Long Beach and Operation School Bell are key to our success. Our students are so excited when they come to school ready to learn in their new school uniforms. Thank you, Assistance League."

• School Schedules

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academically when they start school later. Considering that the school district also has cut non-mandated transportation, a later start time also would allow additional time for students to get to school.

At its Jan. 29 meeting, the LBUSD Board of Education will discuss the revised school schedules that staff is proposing. Staff is providing the school board with two options (Plan A and Plan B), which may be viewed under School Schedules (Proposed) in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

No action is expected on this matter at the Jan. 29 meeting, but the board may act on the matter at its Feb. 5 meeting.

In Memoriam

Robert Wyatt, Jr.
former custodian
Jan. 5, 2013

Mae Powell
former teacher
Jan. 8, 2013

Elizabeth Wallace
former Board of Education member
Jan. 23, 2013

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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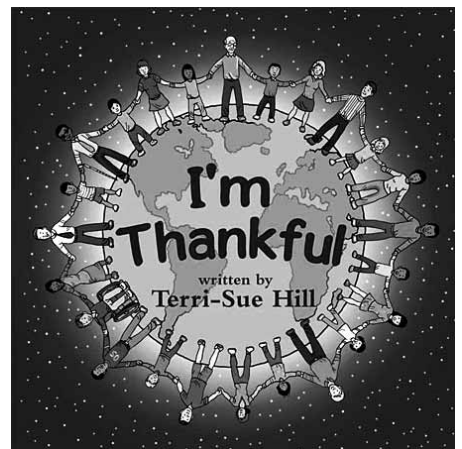


LOGO CONTEST – Wilson Classical High School student Edem Tialengko created this winning entry for the Long Beach Container Terminal Logo Contest.

Names in the News

Wilson Classical High School student **Edem Tialengko** earned a \$1,000 scholarship as winner of the Long Beach Container Terminal Logo Contest. Two finalists, **Mike Rivera** from Jordan High School, and **Jeffrey Chhim** from Cabrillo High School each were awarded \$500. Their teachers included **Jill Egan** from Wilson, **Matt Hedly** from Jordan and **Ryan Blackwell** from Cabrillo. All Long Beach high schools were allowed to participate, and the contest attracted 170 entries. The winner was announced at a recent harbor commissioners meeting.

Emerson Parkside Academy teacher **Terri-Sue Hill** has published a new book, "I'm Thankful," that reminds children of the many things we have to be grateful for. The book is available from online booksellers. The author is a former Long Beach Unified School District Teacher of the Year.



TEACHING GRATITUDE – Emerson Parkside Academy teacher Terri-Sue Hill has published a new children's book.