



school bulletin

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

January 11, 2013

Bilingual Ed Group Honors Poly Teacher

Poly High School Teacher Maria Constantino has earned the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award from the California Association for Bilingual Education.

"I didn't expect this honor because there are so many extraordinary bilingual teachers working to help students in California," said Constantino, who has taught for 25 years, including two years in Mexico, three years in Peru, and 19 years in the Long Beach Unified School District.



Constantino

Constantino teaches algebra and geometry, including versions of the math classes that offer Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English (SDAIE), allowing her to connect with students who are still mastering English. Her teaching philosophy is that "all students have a right to a good education."

Constantino also teaches Spanish and Advanced Placement Spanish Literature.

Poly Principal Joe Carlson said Constantino's students last year achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the AP Spanish Language exam, with 67 percent earning the highest standard of 5. Carlson also credits Constantino with helping to raise Poly's Academic Performance Index for English Learner students by 57 points in 2012.

"Maria Constantino serves as a model of what teachers can and should be doing for our diverse student population," Carlson said.

Constantino will accept her award on Thursday, Feb. 14 during CABE's annual conference at the Long Beach Convention Center.

Board to Discuss School Start Times

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has rescheduled its Jan. 22 meeting to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29 in the Stanford Middle School Auditorium at 5871 E. Los Arcos St., Long Beach. This meeting will focus on proposed changes to school start times for next school year, and the Stanford location provides additional audience capacity.

The Board of Education will also hold a special workshop session on Tuesday, Jan. 29. The workshop, beginning with a closed session at 8:30 a.m. and followed by an open session at 9 a.m., will be held in the Emphasis Gallery (Room 15) at Renaissance High School, located at 235 E. 8th St., Long Beach.

LBUSD Leads State Pilot on Linked Learning

The Long Beach Unified School District will help lead one of 20 pilot projects statewide designed to help students graduate from high school prepared to succeed in careers and college.

Legislation (Assembly Bill 790) by former Assembly Member Warren Furutani approved last year called for the establishment of these Linked Learning pilot programs. The partici-

pants selected by the California Department of Education in conjunction with outside partners include school districts, county offices of education, and several regional consortia of education agencies. The pilot programs will be used to assess how Linked Learning can be expanded to schools across the state.

Linked Learning programs use coursework, (Continued on next page)

School Lunches Earn High Marks for Health

A recent School Lunch Report Card by the nonprofit Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine ranks the Long Beach Unified School District's meal program as one of the best nationally for serving healthful lunches.

PCRM dietitians analyzed elementary school meals available at more than 20 districts participating in the National School Lunch Program. The average grade is a B (84), up more than five points from the national average (78.7) in 2008. LBUSD far exceeded these

averages, earning 90 points, or an A- grade.

"The days of foot-long hot dogs and greasy tater tots are coming to an end," said Susan Levin, director of nutrition education at PCRM. "By offering vegetarian chili with cornbread, black bean burgers, baked sweet potatoes, and cinnamon apple slices, schools are showing students how to tackle obesity, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease."

The only school district earning a perfect score of 100 was Pinellas County Schools in (Continued on next page)

Former NFL Players Join Students for Lunch

More than 60 students, including classmates from the Bethune Transitional Center for homeless students, were treated to a holiday luncheon, inspiring words from former NFL players, goody-filled backpacks and other gifts during a recent field trip to the newly renovated Rancho Los Alamitos historical site.

Former NFL players Damon Dunn, Ryan Neece and Sam Cunningham spoke to students about the importance of resilience and overcoming adversity. During the talk, the rapt audience got a close-up look at Neece's Superbowl ring, passing the sparkling piece of jewelry from row to row so everyone could try the "bling" on for size.

Providing the backpacks for the occasion

was 15-year-old Zachary Bonner, a Tampa, Florida resident whose Little Red Wagon Foundation has distributed more than 6,000 backpacks to homeless youth. The backpacks are filled with food, personal hygiene kits and other supplies. Bonner has walked more than 4,200 miles to raise awareness about the plight of homeless youth, including a walk from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean (learn more at littleredwagonfoundation.com).

The annual LBUSD Superintendent's Luncheon for Bethune students was coordinated by Mike Murray, director of government affairs for Verizon. Murray also is a past president and long-time board member of the Long Beach Education Foundation.

PEP SQUAD – Former NFL players Damon Dunn, Ryan Neece and Sam Cunningham spoke to students about resilience during a holiday luncheon at Rancho Los Alamitos, where classmates from LBUSD's Bethune Transitional Center enjoyed a field trip. Photo by Justin Rudd.



New Commissioner

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has approved the appointment of Long Beach resident Stacey Lewis to serve on the Long Beach Unified School District Personnel Commission. LBUSD's Board of Education had nominated Lewis to the post.

Lewis is assistant director of human resource services for the Port of Long Beach. Prior to that job, she worked as a human resources manager in Torrance.

The Personnel Commission consists of three LBUSD residents who meet biweekly regarding items affecting the employment and compensation of classified employees.

Lewis replaces Vera Mulkey, whose term expired in December. Mulkey served on the commission for 15 years.



Lewis

Retiree Gives \$50K

Retired Long Beach Unified School District coach Peter Tsamous recently donated \$50,000 to the Long Beach Education Foundation for the Rogers Middle School music program.

Board of Education President Jon Meyer, a retired LBUSD principal and coach, reported the donation during a recent school board meeting. Meyer said he was invited to Tsamous' home and presented with a check.

A year ago, Tsamous also donated \$10,000 to the Foundation, with the funds going toward graduating seniors' caps and gowns, visually impaired and other special needs education, and middle school sports.

Kindergarten Fest Saturday at Dooley

The second of four Kindergarten Festivals this school year is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon this Saturday, Jan 12 at Dooley Elementary School, 5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach.

The festivals for incoming 2013-14 kindergartners and their families include parent workshops, free school supplies, dental screenings, and lots of fun activities.

The final two festivals, also from 9 a.m. to noon, include a Feb. 2 festival at Alvarado Elementary School and a March 2 event at International Elementary School.

Call 435-4080, ext. 19 for information.

In Memoriam

Clint Rankin
former teacher
Dec. 27, 2012

Dennis Keizer
former principal
Jan. 1, 2013

• Long Beach Helps Pioneer Linked Learning

(Continued from first page)
technical training, work-based learning and related support to create connections between high school and college and careers. Students in these programs are more likely to graduate from high school than their statewide counterparts, and do so with the skills and knowledge that California employers say they need.

"These 20 pilot projects combine two of California's greatest strengths: our diversity and our capacity for innovation," said State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, who announced the pilot projects this month. "They aim to serve hundreds of thousands of students from districts all over the state, and I am confident they will help students use their time in school to learn real-world skills and graduate prepared to contribute to the future of our state."

LBUSD will serve as a mentor to school districts in the Linked Learning San Diego Consortium, a partnership of five school districts within San Diego County. The partnership is being supported by the nonprofit ConnectEd and the University of San Diego. The consortium will work to develop and share

innovative Linked Learning strategies among its members, take advantage of economies of scale through regional collaboration, build transition strategies with feeder middle schools, strengthen collaboration with local institutes of higher learning, and serve as a model for replication of best practices.

Long Beach high schools already have helped to pioneer Linked Learning. Several of the high schools' small learning communities or academies here have earned the coveted Linked Learning Certification. To achieve certification, an academy must meet rigorous criteria developed by representatives from various Linked Learning partner organizations.

Learn more under Linked Learning at lbschools.net.

• Healthful Lunches

(Continued from first page)
Florida. Long Beach's score of 90 made it the only California district to earn an A- grade, with Oakland Unified School District following closely at 88 points, or a B+.

To receive a high grade on the School Lunch Report Card, schools must go above and beyond USDA nutrition guidelines.

The survey found that schools are serving an increasing number of healthful vegetarian and vegan dishes. Fifty-nine percent of schools evaluated in the report serve at least one vegetarian option every day, and of these schools, 76 percent offer a vegan entree.

Seventy-seven percent of school food service departments now offer nutrition education, and 95 percent of districts offer additional inventive nutrition programs, such as farm-to-school programs and the USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program.

The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine is a nonprofit health organization that promotes preventive medicine, conducts clinical research and encourages higher standards for ethics and effectiveness in research.

Jordan Students Help Clean Up North L.B.

More than 20 students from Jordan High School and Jordan Plus spent one of their winter break days cleaning up the allies and streets near their school. The students are part of the Male Academy, which provides additional support to at-risk youth, in this case by helping to build community relations and neighborhood pride.

Jordan Plus students also delivered 180 hand-made Christmas cards to veterans recently and provided 50 blankets to the nearby Windsor Convalescent Hospital.

Celebrate Education

The annual Education Celebration, which provides information on local elementary, middle and K-8 school programs, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26 in the Cabrillo High School main gym.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options.

Call Sharon Lazo-Nakamoto at 997-8307 for more information.

Board OKs \$13.3M In Budget Savings

The Board of Education has approved another \$13.3 million in budget savings, including the closure of Monroe K-8 School at the end of the school year and the elimination of grades six through eight at Burcham K-8 School.

The December and January rounds of reductions also included \$1 million in transportation savings, the elimination of 2013 summer school, a reduction in the number of teachers and support staff through attrition, and a reduction in the amount of Special Education expenses that encroach on the school district's general fund, or operating budget. The school board also approved a \$470,000 reduction to the AVID college readiness program.

Last November's passage of Proposition 30 by California voters means fewer budget cuts for schools, but LBUSD still faces some reductions because of multiple years of state cuts to public education. LBUSD has a structural deficit of about \$20 million, but had Prop. 30 failed, that structural deficit would have been \$55 million.

A detailed list of the latest budget cuts is available under Budget Update at lbschools.net.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbschools.net

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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