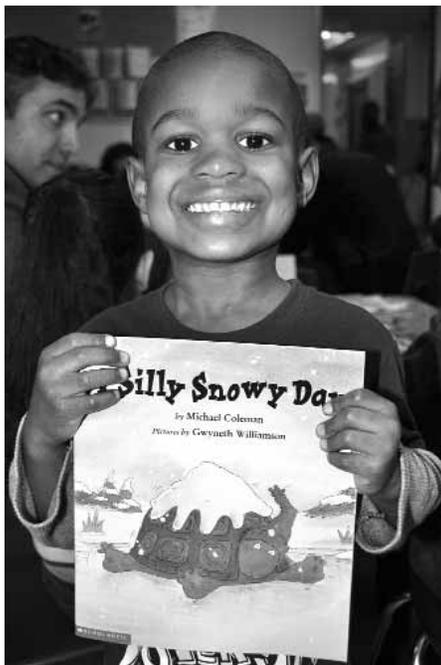




March 22, 2013



A BOOK TO KEEP – Local preschoolers recently thanked members of Long Beach Rotary for donating \$6,000 in books to LBUSD's Child Development Centers. Each child at the Central Child Development Center selected a book to keep during a visit by Rotarians. Bryson Smith chose "A Silly Snowy Day," about a tortoise named Shelly who refuses to hibernate for the winter. Rotary and the Reading by 9 program are donating more than \$37,000 in books to preschoolers and other children in LBUSD this year. By year's end, the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation will have provided more than 190,000 books, thanks to \$390,000 in donations and matching funds, for local students and school libraries since 1999.

100,000 Dictionaries Donated to Students

The Long Beach Public Library Foundation and the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation recently celebrated the donation of their 100,000th dictionary to Long Beach third-graders.

The two foundations marked the 100,000 milestone at their annual dictionary giveaway, Dictionary Day, at the El Dorado Neighborhood Library.

Now in its eleventh year, the event ensures that Long Beach children have dictionaries in their homes to help them with spelling, vocabulary and reading comprehension. Along with

A Breakthrough Year for College Promise

The nationally recognized Long Beach College Promise strives to improve three key experiences for students: college preparation, college access and college success. While the effort has produced encouraging results since the program's inception five years ago, the latest student achievement data reveal a true breakthrough, according to a report released this week by the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

The rate of student progress has increased much more dramatically in the last year, states "A Breakthrough in Student Achievement," a five-year progress report on the College Promise. For example, the number of LBUSD graduates completing college-level (non-remedial) English at LBCC increased by 500 percent over the previous year. The number of LBUSD students completing college-level math (again, non-remedial) at LBCC jumped by 200 percent over the same period.

The College Promise has aimed to improve college access by providing key incentives and services, including tuition-free semesters for 4,000 students at LBCC, guaranteed admission at CSULB for local students who qualify, and college preparation and guidance as early as elementary school to help children understand that college is within reach.

"We had a hunch that more of our students could successfully complete college courses, if only we gave them the chance," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "That hunch is now confirmed, and the College Promise is giving more students that chance."

Five years ago, leaders from LBUSD, LBCC and CSULB signed the College Promise, committing the three institutions to providing local students with greater opportunities to complete their higher education. Today, more high school graduates are enrolling in college, and many more of those students are prepared for rigorous college-level classes. The College Promise is the legacy of the Seamless Education Partnership, which began in 1994.

In addition to the significant progress seen

at LBCC this year, under the College Promise, the number of new CSULB freshmen from LBUSD has increased from 519 in fall 2008 to 743 in fall 2012. That's an increase of more than 43 percent. The increase in LBUSD students came despite the fact that CSULB enrolled 2,000 fewer students for two consecutive years (2009-10 and 2010-11) because of cuts in state support.

The LBUSD graduates who attend CSULB are achieving success. While the number and proportion of freshmen from LBUSD has grown, the percentage of those students requiring math and English remediation has decreased due to targeted advising and initiatives such as CSU Early Start. Since the College Promise was enacted, freshmen from LBUSD and transfers from LBCC have remained enrolled, or persisted, at a higher rate than non-local California students, who are admitted to the university with more rigorous criteria.

This year's big increase in college course completions at LBCC is attributed to The Promise Pathways, the college's signature initiative in support of the College Promise. The Promise Pathways launched in the fall of 2012

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School Schedules Back on Agenda

A Board of Education decision on proposed school schedule changes is on the agenda for the board's next regular meeting, set for 5 p.m. Monday, March 25 in the Community Room at 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach. The agenda item had tentatively been set for a vote last month but was postponed. Two initial options were presented to the school board by staff (Plan A and Plan B). Staff is now recommending Plan B, with the modifications detailed in the agenda item, available at lbschools.net under School Schedules (Proposed) in the A-Z index.

As part of the school district's ongoing efforts to make the wisest use of its limited resources, LBUSD 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.

In one of the proposed schedules (Plan A), the high school day would start an hour later next school year. Staff first proposed this option to the school board at a public meeting in November, in part because of research that shows teens may perform better academically when they start school later.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services is accepting transfer requests from teachers who wish to change school sites for the 2013-14 school year. Refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

The application can be accessed through the myLBUSD portal at lbschools.net. Log into the portal using your Novell username and password. Computers are available for use in the HRS lobby, if needed.

Requests for Transfer forms are also available at school sites and the TALB office, and they can be downloaded at lbschools.net under Human Resource Services. Select "For Current Employees."

Requests are valid through the end of the first seven student days of the following traditional school year. The deadline to apply for transfers is Wednesday, May 1. For more information, call ext. 8635.

Millikan Scholarship

The first annual Patricia Parish Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Millikan High School PEACE Academy senior in May. Family and former colleagues of the 36-year English educator established the scholarship fund after the retiree died last September. Parish was devoted to social justice, a key theme of the PEACE Academy where she was a teacher. She had volunteered for more than 20,000 hours of community service. She served in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps and assisted victims of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. President George Bush honored her with the U.S. Service Award for Community Service.

Donations to the Patricia Parish Memorial Scholarship are being accepted until April 15. Make checks out to Millikan High School, 2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach, CA, 90815. Write "Patricia Parish Memorial Scholarship" in the memo section of the check.

Dates to Remember

April

1	April Fools Day
1-2	Passover, Concluding Days
1-5	Spring Recess
2	International Children's Book Day
6	California Poppy Day
7	Holocaust Remembrance Day
9	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "The Velveteen Rabbit," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
10	Third Quarter Ends
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Arbor Day/Earth Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry I," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "No Time to Waste," Grades 4-12, ed.tv 8
13	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday
14-20	National Library Week
16	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 18 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 23 - 9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00; 24 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 25 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
18	Anniversary of Paul Revere's Ride
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
21	John Muir Day
21-27	Administrative Professionals Week
21-27	Public School Volunteer Week
22	Earth Day
23	William Shakespeare's Birthday
24	Administrative Professionals Day
25	Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
26	National Arbor Day
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 30 - 9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 2:00— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
29	International Dance Day

College Promise

(Continued from first page) and implemented two key innovations: predictive placement and prescriptive scheduling. Participating LBUSD graduates were placed into English and math courses based on their high school grades, rather than the traditional method, which relies heavily upon standardized assessment tests. These students are also required to enroll in these foundational courses beginning in their first semester at LBCC.

The College Promise effort includes field trips to LBCC and CSULB for fourth and fifth graders. Local middle schoolers sign a pledge that sets clear expectations for what students must do to prepare for college. More than 57,000 students have signed the pledge.

The latest results of the College Promise have the potential to help transform California's public colleges and universities, which are seeking ways to trim spending on costly remediation courses while increasing student retention and graduation rates.

Go to longbeachcollegepromise.org to view the full report.

Nurse of the Year

The Long Beach School Nurses Association is seeking nominations for the 2012-13 School Nurse of the Year.

Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to the health and wellbeing of students in the Long Beach Unified School District.

To nominate a school nurse, request a nomination form from Nancy Suzuki at nsuzuki@lbschools.net. The deadline is Friday, April 26.

Free Tax Help at Poly

Poly High School PACE teacher Dan Adler, in conjunction with his Advanced Placement Economics students and the IRS, is offering free tax help from students trained and certified to prepare taxes.

The free tax preparation is available to people earning less than \$52,000 per year who are filing under any status other than "Married Filing Separately." The students handle both state and federal forms, filing electronically with TaxWise software.

For the remainder of the tax season, these free services are available Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Call for an appointment at 537-9142.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Names in the News

Cabrillo High School art teacher **Alice Bolstad** received the Honigman Award for Inspired Visual Arts Education at the Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Exhibition. Her photography student, **Eduardo Placido-Lozada**, received the Director's Choice award.

Poly High School students earned high honors at the recent National History Day Competition's History Day L.A. Two Poly teams were selected to advance to the state finals in Sacramento in May. Earning top honors were two sophomores, **Katy Stringer** and **Rex Lee**, for their documentary on the impact of rifling as a technological turning point. Seniors **Will Stringer**, **Emerson Bahr**, **Danny Siegel**, **Josh De Leon** and **Alex Johnson** won for their project on the modernist movement as a literary and cultural turning point. These boys have now advanced to the state finals for three years in a row. Poly junior **Christian Vasquez** took home the big individual award of the day presented by the Reagan Library for best original research related to presidential history, for his project on Lincoln's death and the failure of reconstruction. Vasquez is also the first runner-up in the finals in his category. Classmate **Alina Tucker** was a finalist for her exhibit on the development of birth control as a turning point in history.

Poly students also earned high honors in this year's C-SPAN StudentCam competition, which asked students to create a video documentary with a "Message to the President." Two Poly teams were winners in a national competition of about 1,900 entries. Third Prize went to "Renewable Energy" and Poly students **Destin Bigsby**, **Carl Olson** and **Kieran Reiser**. Honorable mention went to "You're Fired," about unemployment, created by students **Luke Van Lant**, **Jordan Peacock** and **David Nguyen**.

Andy Osman, instructor and conductor of the Poly High School Symphony Orchestra, led student musicians as they debuted an original score by composer Sean O'Loughlin. "The Art of Racing in the Rain," the novel chosen for the Long Beach Reads One Book citywide reading festival, was transformed into an original symphonic piece by the highly regarded composer. Students performed the piece at the Carpenter Center for Performing Arts.

Wilson Classical High School students **Sarah Tachine**, **Alyse Kollerbohm**, **Samantha Newman** and **Philip Poppler** presented at the 4th National Student Summit on Oceans & Coasts in Washington, D.C. Their video, "We Need Wetlands," was so well received that the director of education for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has asked the students to travel to the Aquarium of the Americas in New Orleans to present their video. The Wilson students were the only delegates from 23 groups throughout the nation to be extended this invitation.

Professional Growth

The Personnel Commission recently approved an attendance and professional growth incentive to be added to the composite score of each promotional candidate competing in a promotional or dual certification examination. Details on how classified employees can receive the incentives will be posted at each site and in future job announcements and bulletins. Visit the Personnel Commission website at lbschools.net for full details.