



# school bulletin

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

January 17, 2014



**RECIPE FOR SUCCESS** – McKinley Elementary School third grader Evelyn Mejia earned a new bicycle with her winning recipe in a contest held by Nutrition Services. Evelyn impressed the judges by making broccoli taste good. **Story on next page.**

## Jordan Again Noted For Linked Learning

Jordan High School's Media and Communication (JMAC) teachers recently accepted a plaque and banner from the nonprofit ConnectEd honoring the program with Linked Learning Certification.

The certification means that JMAC meets rigorous standards for combining strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a pathway centered on an industry theme.

JMAC is the Long Beach Unified School District's first non-specialized Small Learning Community, or pathway, to earn such certification. LBUSD's other Linked Learning certified pathways – the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, COMPASS and PEACE at Millikan High School, and the ACE Academy at Jordan – are specialized programs on the high school choice application.

To achieve certification, a pathway or academy must meet rigorous criteria developed by representatives from Linked Learning partner organizations, including the National Academy Foundation, the National Career Academy Coalition, the Career Academy Support Network, The Education Trust-West, ConnectEd, business and industry, and other organizations interested in Linked Learning.

JMAC is led by teachers Jodi Irish and Matt Hedley, who with a team of teachers plan lessons that cross over their curricular areas so students can see the relevance of what they are

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## A National Model for Family Literacy

The Long Beach Unified School District is part of national research released recently by the nonprofit National Center for Families Learning, showing that family literacy programs increase student achievement, expand parent engagement, improve adult reading behaviors and prepare parents to help their children with school.

The Toyota Family Literacy Program, which started in 2003 and was implemented in 30 cities, was the first comprehensive national family literacy program created to address the literacy needs of Latino and immigrant families with children in kindergarten through third grade. The LBUSD program was funded as a TFLP in 2009. LBUSD offers the program through its School for Adults, serving students ages one to eight and their families by providing adult education, parent education, early childhood or school-age education, and parent and child together time. Many participants come from low-income families. Most parents are engaged in English as a Second Language or Adult Basic Education courses at the School for Adults or local elementary school campus while their children are in another classroom learning age-appropriate skills.

Key findings about the LBUSD program include:

- Students enrolled in the third grade outperformed their school peers.
- During the 2010-11 school year, parents almost doubled the number of school visits.

## Governor Proposes Increase in Funding

Based upon preliminary estimates, Gov. Jerry Brown's recently proposed state budget would provide 11 percent more funding, or an increase of about \$60 million, for the Long Beach Unified School District compared to the prior year.

The additional funding would help LBUSD and the state to progress further toward full implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula for schools, a formula that was approved by the state last year.

"Full implementation is likely to take several more years, but we're pleased to be discussing the prospect of funding increases rather than the type of severe cuts that public schools suffered as a result of the Great Recession," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "The governor's latest proposal is a significant step toward providing the resources that our students and schools need."

As always, the initial state budget is the start of a months-long process in Sacramento. The school district will continue to monitor the state budget situation closely, and ultimately LBUSD's publicly elected Board of Education will decide how best to spend any additional resources.

- The program exceeds state benchmarks year after year in adult education proficiency, preschool vocabulary and preschool alphabet knowledge.

- Parents made gains that were more than double the state reading proficiency benchmarks.

- Children who entered kindergarten

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## Civil Rights Leader to Speak at CCEJ Event

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 the Rev. James Lawson, Jr. as keynote speaker at the 23rd Annual Interfaith and Intercultural Breakfast. The event is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center Grand Ballroom.

Lawson is known nationally as a prominent leader of the civil rights movement and one of the central architects of the nonviolence movement. On the eve of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, King called Lawson "the leading theorist and strategist of nonviolence in the world."

Lawson has advocated for nonviolent social change for nearly seven decades, beginning with the first Freedom rides in the 1940s.

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 [kmcilquham@cacej.org](mailto:kmcilquham@cacej.org) to reserve a space by Feb. 4.



**CIVIL RIGHTS** – James Lawson, who worked closely with Martin Luther King, will speak Feb. 11 at the annual Interfaith and Intercultural Breakfast held by the California Conference for Equality and Justice.

**IT'S OFFICIAL –** Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Schools Peter Davis, left, presented teachers Matt Hedley, Jodi Irish, Sandra Del Cid, Whitney Gomes and Dave Barclift with a plaque from ConnectEd honoring Jordan High School with the prestigious Linked Learning Certification for its JMAC media pathway.



## • Jordan Honored

(Continued from first page) learning. Students discover how world history, for instance, is associated with biology, which is associated with English.

The centerpiece of JMAC is a full television station setup. Housed under the auditorium stage, the setup includes a green screen and a bank of TV monitors, along with an army of students who film events on campus. JMAC students write editorials and scripts for news broadcasts, perform in front of the camera, conduct interviews and edit film. Twice a week, JMAC students broadcast a school-wide news program.

## Parent VUE Website Offers Wealth of Info

Parent VUE is a new website that allows Long Beach Unified School District parents to view their children's current and historical information, including daily attendance, grades, report cards, test scores, discipline, graduation status, preparation for college and more. It is also a one-stop location for links to other parent services including School Loop and MySchoolBucks (school meal accounts).

With one simple activation, parents can view information on all of their children, from elementary school to high school. Parents also will be able to update emergency card information electronically.

The school district is mailing letters to parents no later than Jan. 22 regarding the new website and how to activate accounts. Parents who do not receive a letter or need assistance activating accounts may contact their school's office.

Learn more at [parentLBUSD](http://parentLBUSD) near the top of [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## • Family Literacy Program Engages Parents

(Continued from first page) increased their English skills at a rate of 2.5 times more than the federal benchmark. Children in the program leave preschool possessing the skills to succeed in kindergarten and beyond, and their parents gain the language and literacy skills to support them.

• The program ranks in the 90th percentile for attendance and retention.

"We're pleased to be part of the Toyota Family Literacy Program study," said LBUSD

Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauser. "The study confirms what we have known for some time, based upon our experience. Family literacy programs can make a tremendous, positive difference for students and their families by breaking the cycle of illiteracy."

The national review included a synthesis of more than three years of data reports for seven selected TFLP communities, including Long Beach.

"These programs are laboratories of learning – not just for the families they serve but for the entire country as they provide a model of successfully engaging parents with low literacy in their children's education," said Sharon Darling, president & founder of the NCFL.

Last May, the NCFL and Toyota honored Long Beach School for Adults teacher Carolyn Blocker with the Toyota Teacher of the Year Award at the National Conference on Family Literacy in Louisville, Ky.

## McKinley Student Wins Recipe Contest

In celebration of National School Lunch Week, the Long Beach Unified School District's Nutrition Services branch held a Healthy Recipe Contest open to all students in the district. Recipes were required to include a fruit or vegetable, five ingredients or less, a written story about the recipe, and a picture or drawing of the recipe.

Recipes were prepared, tasted and voted on by a panel of food service professionals. A large majority of the judges agreed that "Parmesan Broccoli," submitted by third grader Evelyn Mejia of McKinley Elementary School, was the tastiest of the bunch. As the grand prize winner, Evelyn received a new bike during an assembly at McKinley. Her recipe was featured in the recipe spotlight section of the January elementary school menu.

Evelyn's recipe along with two other finalist recipes can be viewed at Nutrition Services in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Location Changed For CalSTRS Seminar

The location for an upcoming California State Teachers' Retirement System seminar has changed. The seminar scheduled for 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29 will be held in the Lakewood High School library, 4400 Briercree Ave. in Lakewood, instead of at the Teacher Resource Center.

No remaining seats are available for this seminar. Call 997-8214 for more information.

## In Memoriam

**SherryAnna Lim**  
instructional aide, Jordan  
Dec. 16, 2013

**Marsden Burton**  
custodian, Naples  
Jan. 4, 2014

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Names in the News

Teacher **William Diaz-Brown** of Willard Elementary School is one of 32 teachers nationwide chosen through a highly selective competition to receive one of Raytheon Company's Engineering is Elementary (EiE) Teacher Scholarships. The \$2,500 award includes professional development and curriculum materials for one of the nation's leading elementary engineering programs. Raytheon, with 2012 sales of \$24 billion and 68,000 employees worldwide, is a technology leader in defense and security. Learn more about the EiE curriculum at [EiE.org](http://EiE.org).

Poly High School senior **Caroline Quach** earned a merit award in visual arts from the National YoungArts Foundation. Of 11,000 applicants nationally, 687 young artists earned recognition.

## 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. 25 in the McBride High School gym.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options.

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