



school bulletin

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

May 2, 2014

COLLEGE PROMISE – Nelson Academy student Cleavona Jackson was one of 25 eighth graders who received scholarships during a sixth anniversary celebration of the Long Beach College Promise. Her father, Cleavon Jackson, joined her in a panel discussion. View video at lbschools.net.



Lowell, Twain Earn U.S. Green Ribbon

Lowell and Twain elementary schools each have won the 2014 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award. The acting Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Mike Boots, joined U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in announcing the winners recently in Washington, D.C. The awards recognize exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education.

Secretary Duncan congratulated the winners for serving as examples for schools nationwide.

"What they have in common is a clear and compelling vision, outstanding teamwork and extraordinary leadership," Duncan said of the honorees. "They demonstrate a real commitment to serving students with the most exceptional, healthy and sustainable learning environments and instruction you can find anywhere... Thank you so much for the difference you make in the lives of your students and the example you set for all of us."

Forty-eight schools were honored nationally, and nine school districts were honored for the District Sustainability Award.

View video of the Washington, D.C. announcement at lbschools.net.

Lowell and Twain are the only individual public schools statewide nominated by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson for this year's national Green Ribbon (Continued on next page)

College Promise Going Strong at Six Years

Parents and students who have benefitted from the Long Beach College Promise participated in a panel discussion recently at Cal State Long Beach to help mark the sixth anniversary of the nationally recognized program. Congressman Alan Lowenthal moderated the panel and was honored as a Long Beach College Promise Champion.

Six years ago, LBUSD, Long Beach City College and CSULB committed to the College Promise, which has since provided local students with greater opportunities to pursue and complete their higher education. The College Promise has improved college access by providing key incentives and services, including tuition-free semesters 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.

The program's sixth anniversary report notes a 43 percent increase in CSULB enrollment by LBUSD graduates. More than 5,600

high school graduates have benefitted from free enrollment at LBCC in the fall semester, and LBCC and LBUSD students have shown that they are more likely to remain enrolled at the university than other students.

"My goal is to become a physician one day," panelist and LBCC student Chris Soriano told the audience at the university's Martha B. Knoebel Dance Theater. "I'm very grateful that there was a program such as the Long Beach College Promise that allowed me to gain entry into Long Beach City College for free for the first semester. It was really the encouragement I needed out of high school."

LBUSD students visit LBCC and CSULB in fourth and fifth grades, and middle school students and parents complete an education plan pledging to do what it takes to attend and succeed in college. More than 57,700 of the pledges have been signed.

The College Promise has earned repeated, national recognition, and last year the Little Hoover Commission, an independent state oversight agency, recommended the College Promise as a model that should be replicated.

Congressman Lowenthal, who represents the 47th Congressional District, was honored for his support of the College Promise and his legislative efforts to increase college completions during his tenure as a California state senator. While in the California Senate, he championed the Long Beach College Promise Partnership Act in 2011 to help LBUSD students better transition to LBCC. He also authored and passed the Student Success Act of 2012 to increase access and success in California community colleges by providing effective orientation, assessment and placement, counseling and other education planning services to help more students earn degrees and certificates.

"This is a wonderful program," the congressman said, "and I'm just very fortunate that I've had this opportunity to participate."

School Construction Generates Local Jobs

About 120 construction contractors and trades people participated in the 2014 Contractor Outreach Fair, hosted recently by the Long Beach Unified School District.

The event was designed to give contractors an overview of the 19 upcoming new building and renovation Measure K projects, ranging from \$80,000 to \$44 million.

"We wanted to make sure local people in construction trades are aware of the project opportunities we have coming up in the next

(Continued on next page)

3 Schools Win State Distinguished Honor

Three schools in the Long Beach Unified School District earned the California Distinguished School Award recently for academic excellence. Alvarado, Lowell and Naples elementary schools were among 424 honorees announced by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. Each of the winning schools in LBUSD is a repeat winner.

"I applaud these strong, thriving schools that are making such impressive strides in preparing their students for continued success," Torlakson said. "This award is well-deserved by these school communities for their enduring dedication to high standards, hard work and unwavering support."

The awards honor schools that have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing achievement gaps. Winners must meet a variety of criteria including top performance on national and state accountability measures.

A total of 39 LBUSD schools from all geographic areas of the district have now received this top state honor.

• School Construction Creating Local Jobs

(Continued from first page) several months," said Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "This is the busiest year yet for Measure K projects."

Measure K, the \$1.2 billion school improvement bond measure, was approved by 71 percent of local voters in 2008. Since then, LBUSD has used bond funds to build and open two new schools: Nelson Academy in Signal Hill and McBride High School in Long Beach.

Last year, complete rebuilds of two more campuses, Newcomb Academy and Roosevelt Elementary School, began.

Work has also started on a major \$136 million renovation of Jordan High School and

construction is starting this spring on the new Browning High School. Measure K funds are also being used to upgrade clocks, security systems, intercoms and telephone service districtwide. By this fall, all district schools will have wi-fi capability to enable students and staff to access the Internet on campus.

Public Schools Week

Public Schools Week is May 19 to 23. This year's theme is "Together we make a profound difference for public education." The theme is determined each year by the philanthropic Masons organization. Learn more at freemason.org.

Names in the News

First grader **Jarod Mendoza** of Twain Elementary School won second place in the state PTA Reflections art contest. He had first won at the school level, then the Long Beach Council PTA level. Mendoza's winning film entry will be shown in the Reflections Gallery at the annual State PTA Convention May 7 to 10 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The Long Beach Council PTA recently hosted its annual Reflections reception at the El Dorado Golf Course, displaying such student masterpieces from schools throughout the district.

Wilson Classical High School Choir Director **Curtis Heard** will conduct "October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard" at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 3 and at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 4 in the 100-year-old National Historic Registered sanctuary of the First Congregational Church of Long Beach, 241 Cedar Ave. The choir director wrote all of the music for the premiere of the musical event, and the concert will include the Wilson High School Women's Chorus. October Mourning is award-winning author Lesléa Newman's literary and theatrical response to the events of October 6, 1998, when 21-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student attending the University of Wyoming, was beaten and hung on a fence to die in one of the most brutal hate crimes of recent memory. The incident served as a catalyst in promoting hate crime legislation. The suggested donation for the event is \$20. For more information, contact Curtis Heard at 243-1936 or Lesléa Newman at (413) 552-3865.

In Memoriam

Mike McGrath
former warehouse supervisor
Jan. 26, 2014

Sandra Cangiano
teacher, Los Cerritos
April 1, 2014

Vivian Eley
former teacher
April 4, 2014

Don Ashley
former assistant superintendent,
elementary schools
April 22, 2014

Dates to Remember

May	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Week
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
4-10	Teacher Appreciation Week
4-10	Be Kind to Animals Week
6	National Teacher Day
5	Anniversary of the First American in Space
5	Cinco de Mayo
5-9	School Nutrition Employee Week
6	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
7	National School Nurse Day
7	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 16 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
8	VE Day
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 15 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation - A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
11	Mother's Day
12-18	National Children's Book Week
14	California Day of the Teacher
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
17	Armed Forces Day
18-24	Classified Employee Week
19-23	Public Schools Week
20	Open House — Middle Schools
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
21	Open House — High Schools
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 22 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 29 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 30 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
22	Open House — Elementary Schools
22	Harvey Milk Day
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
26	Memorial Day
28	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
31	World No Tobacco Day

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Green Ribbon

(Continued from first page) Awards. The other winners from California this year included San Domenico School, which is a private school in Marin County, and the Encinitas Union School District, which won in the school district category.

"I applaud these schools for their excellence in sustainability education, health and wellness, and environmental stewardship," Torlakson said.

At Lowell, every child participates in the Learning Garden, totaling 8,000 instructional hours per year. Student Green Team members divert more than 28,000 gallons of classroom recyclables annually from the trash. Car Free Fridays eliminate more than 150 pounds of carbon dioxide per week and encourage exercise. Fifty-five percent of students walk or bike to school, and students take more than 15 walking field trips each year. Lowell is Energy Star certified.

"This award represents the core and foundation of what makes Lowell a very special place for students, teachers, staff, families and our community," Lowell Principal Sam Platis said. "A special thanks goes out to all of our teachers, school district staff, our PTA and our multiple award-winning Green Team, who have collaborated closely over the course of many years to make this accolade possible. Our school, community and planet are a better place because of all of you."

The Twain Green Team engages 35 percent of students but reaches the entire school community. A monthly "Bottles and Cans Day" earns the school \$2,500 annually in recycling income. Twain is an American Heart Association Teaching Gardens School and is Energy Star certified.

"Our Green Team and our entire school community deserve this prestigious honor," Twain Principal Ellen Ryan said. "Twain's dedicated parents, students and staff have worked tirelessly to save energy and reduce waste, for instance, diverting 85 percent of lunchtime trash from landfills. In the meantime, our students are learning valuable lessons about protecting the environment."

View a Twain Green Team youtube.com video. Search for Mark Twain Green Team.

Hughes Middle School earned the Green Ribbon Award last year. Longfellow Elementary School earned the award in 2012, the inaugural year of the awards.

Among the community partners assisting with several local schools' recycling efforts is the City of Long Beach's Environmental Services Bureau and its recycling specialist Lisa Harris, who helps ensure that schools receive additional recycling bins — the same purple, curb-side ones that residents use. Learn more at longbeach-recycles.org, and find additional information about the Green Ribbon program at ed.gov.

Leaves of Absence

Certificated employees planning to resign, retire or request a leave of absence for the 2014-15 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator as soon as possible. Resignations and requests for full year leaves of absence received after June 30, 2014 will not be approved unless the school district is able to hire a suitable replacement. Questions? Contact Debra Ecung at ext. 8108 or decung@lbschools.net.