



school bulletin

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

May 1, 2015

7 High Schools Make Washington Post List

The Washington Post's newest rankings of America's top high schools include seven schools in the Long Beach Unified School District. The 2015 rankings include schools in the top 11 percent of the approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools in terms of their ability to offer rigorous college prep instruction.

"Congratulations to our high schools on this well deserved national recognition," said LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer. "We continue to expand access to Advanced Placement college prep courses and exams so that more students can prepare for college and earn college credit while still in high school, often saving families thousands of dollars in tuition."

The Post calculates a Challenge Index by dividing the number of AP, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2014 by the number of graduating seniors.

The report by the Post includes the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches, a figure illustrating the poverty challenges that schools face.

Local high schools' national rankings on the report (with the percentage of students receiving subsidized lunches) are:

- 868 – Wilson (56% subs. lunch)
- 964 – California Academy of Mathematics and Science (47% subs. lunch)
- 1,068 – Millikan (52% subs. lunch)
- 1,246 – Poly (59% subs. lunch)
- 1,651 – Lakewood (50% subs. lunch)
- 1,811 – Renaissance (55% subs. lunch)
- 1,890 – Avalon (72% subs. lunch)

Each of these schools has repeatedly appeared on the Post's annual rankings.

In addition to the latest rankings that are based on 2014 data, newer data for 2015 from LBUSD show significant increases in the number of local students taking AP exams.

WINNING PLAN – Poly High School students Nia Kelley, Pasha Hao, Sasha Rosenthal and Christine Morrison won a first place prize and \$1,000 in the Project ECHO business plan competition at UCLA. The team proposed a robotics and engineering tech center. **Story at lbschools.net.**



Grad Rates Up for Third Year in a Row

Graduation rates in the Long Beach Unified School District have increased for the third year in a row, again surpassing state and county rates. Students of color in Long Beach schools also outperform their peers countywide and statewide, according to data released this week by the California Department of Education. Six of the school district's high schools now report graduation rates above 90 percent.

"The overall trend of improvement contin-

ues," LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer said. "Our students continue to surpass their peers statewide despite the fact that we have a greater percentage of students living in poverty than California does. We also know that we have more work to do. We continually analyze the data by school and demographic subgroups to make sure we're providing support where it's needed most."

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Los Cerritos Earns National Green Ribbon

Los Cerritos Elementary School has won the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Award recognizing exemplary efforts to reduce environmental impact and utility costs, promote better health, and provide effective environmental education.

Managing Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Christy Goldfuss joined U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in announcing the 2015 honorees

last week in Washington, D.C. Los Cerritos was nominated by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

"We're so pleased that the U.S. Department of Education has chosen our school as a national Green Ribbon School," said Los Cerritos Principal Marie Hatwan. "This award represents a lot of hard work by our students, parents and staff. Our students are learning

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Academy at Jordan Nationally Certified

Jordan High School's Business and Entertainment School of Travel, Trade and Tourism (BESTT) has achieved the National Academy Foundation's Certified Level, an assurance of quality for college-prep programs that also prepare students for careers and entry-level jobs.

Students in NAF academies typically take both career-themed and academic classes together. These courses are linked to academic and industry standards and encourage high achievement. Work-based learning, including internships, are part of the NAF model.

Due to a partnership with the nonprofit ConnectEd, an academy that earns certification

through NAF is also considered to be a certified Linked Learning Pathway. This means that the academy meets rigorous standards for combining strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a pathway centered on an industry theme.

Jordan's BESTT coursework focuses on global travel and tourism, computer literacy, finance, accounting, sales, marketing and hospitality management.

NAF will recognize BESTT and other newly certified academies at a July conference in Anaheim.

Tentative Deal With CSEA on 5% Raise

Bargaining teams for the Long Beach Unified School District and the local chapter of the California School Employees Association have reached a tentative agreement that includes the same 5 percent salary increase retroactive to July 1 and the same health benefit package that was provided to Teachers Association of Long Beach members and to non-represented employees earlier this year.

The tentative agreement is subject to ratification by CSEA's membership and then approval by the Board of Education. Pending approval, employees could receive retroactive checks as early as June.

Additional information, including supporting documents, is available at lbschools.net under Bargaining Updates.

Names in the News

Sheila Young, Jordan Class of 1998, is the first doctor from Jordan's Aspirations in Medical Services Academy (AIMS) to return to work in Long Beach. She is featured in an April 9 article at gazettes.com. Young has accepted a residency at Long Beach Memorial. Over the years, AIMS has helped to produce at least one other doctor, several pharmacists, nurses and specialists. Young said her time at Jordan and the guidance of AIMS lead teacher **Sabrina Arney** contributed to her success.

Several students from the California Academy of Mathematics and Science performed well during the recent History Day L.A. event at Azusa Pacific University and will move onto statewide competition. The students explored leadership and legacy in history through writing, documentaries, exhibits, websites and performances. Going to state are **Alexander Fuentes**, **Thomas Allbright**, **Helman Gabalunos**, **Marina Garcia** and **Vincent Perez** for their documentary, "Christine Sterling: The Mother of Olvera Street;" **Kenny Diep** for the documentary, "The King of the Bootleggers;" **Celeste Goodwin** for the exhibit, "There it is. Take it: William Mulholland Deals Water to Los Angeles;" **Kaitlyn Blake** for the exhibit, "Tall or Small? Harvey Cushing and the Pituitary Body;" **Kate Finn** for the exhibit, "John Muir and the Legacy of the Sierra Club;" and **Adam Oshan**, **Dino Rozac** and **Daniel Nguyen** for their website, "Maurice Hillemann: The Father of Modern Vaccines." Runners up were **Natachi Onwudiwe** for the website, "Taking a Stand, Leaving a Legacy;" and **Troy Daley**, **Lena Mourad**, **Eric Cao** and **Luis Orozco** for the website, "Ellen H. Swallow Richards: Legacy in the STEM Fields."

National Board Certified teacher and English Co-chair **Susan Carle** of CAMS earned a \$10,000 Character Lab Teacher Innovation Grant. The nonprofit Character Lab (characterlab.org) sponsored the contest to find promising practices for teaching character.

Seven local students recently received awards from the Long Beach Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108. The students, who were nominated by a teacher, principal counselor or other school staff for showing tremendous improvement in the classroom, were **Dayna Bawolski** of Bancroft; **Sam Snuggs** of Bixby, **Rusty Totman** of Kettering, **Luke Veloz** of Lindsey, **Tallulah Adkins-Bonilla** of Alvarado, **Mia Perez** of Buffum and **Justin Dimas** of Cabrillo.

Cabrillo High School Assistant Principal **Matt Brown** was named Educator of the Year by the nonprofit International Trade Education Programs (ITEP). The organization connects the international trade business community to the classroom to develop career-ready, college-prepared high school students.

Among the 28 people and organizations honored at the City of Long Beach's Go Long Beach Awards for outstanding contributions to the community were former Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President **Mary Stanton**, Poly High School Teacher **Jeff Montooth** and LBUSD Child Development Center Director **Lois Irving**. Stanton served on the school board for 24 years before her recent retirement. Montooth's students have earned numerous regional and national honors including C-SPAN's top prize for documentaries. Irving volunteers for the African American Health Project and has helped to organize the Martin Luther King Jr. parade for 22 years.

Student Art Exhibit At LBMA Until June

An exhibit of artwork created by local middle school students will continue through June 7 at the Long Beach Museum of Art, located at 2300 E. Ocean Blvd.

Nearly 100 works of art were chosen to be displayed in the Toyota Children's Gallery at the museum. About 150 people attended a related artists' reception recently, including teachers, administrators, students and parents.

For the exhibit, "Reading Ignites the Imagination," students created artwork based upon a story, novel or poem.

For more than a decade, LBMA has hosted a biennial juried exhibition of artwork created by either middle or high school students.

Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyally Day
1	10:00, 1:30, 12:00, 12:30; 8 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 14 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation: A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Week
3-9	Teacher Appreciation Week
3-9	Be Kind to Animals Week
4	Horace Mann's Birthday
4-8	School Nutrition Employee Week
5	California Day of the Teacher
5	National Teacher Day
5	Anniversary of First American Man in Space
5	Cinco de Mayo
5	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
6	National School Nurse Day
6	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 12 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 15 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
8	VE Day
8	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
10	Mothers Day
11-17	National Children's Book Week
13	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 22 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
16	Armed Forces Day
17-23	National Educational Bosses Week
19	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 20 - 9:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 21 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 26 - 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00; 28 - 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 29 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry III," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
22	Harvey Milk Day
25	Memorial Day — Holiday
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
25-29	Public Schools Week
26	Open House — Middle Schools
27	Open House — High Schools
27	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
28	Open House — Elementary Schools
31	World No Tobacco Day

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• Grad Rates

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Six high schools here posted graduation rates above 90 percent, including the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, along with Avalon, Lakewood, Millikan, Renaissance and Wilson high schools. Cabrillo, Jordan and Poly high schools all reported graduation rates exceeding the state average of 80.8 percent.

LBUSD's overall graduation rate is 81 percent, up 0.2 percentage points over last year and surpassing both Los Angeles County's rate of 78 percent and California's rate of 80.8 percent. Long Beach students outperformed their peers statewide despite greater poverty challenges here. About 68 percent of students here qualify for subsidized meals at school, compared to about 59 percent statewide, according to 2013-14 data.

The school district's African American and Latino students outperformed their peers at the county and state levels. The African American graduation rate in LBUSD is 73.7 percent, surpassing California's rate of 68.1 percent and Los Angeles County's rate of 67.9 percent for the same subgroup. LBUSD's Latino students graduated at a rate of 78.8 percent compared to the state's 76.4 percent and the county's 74.8 percent for the same population.

• Green Ribbon

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valuable lessons about reducing waste and helping to create a greener and healthier world."

An Urban Farmyard at Los Cerritos has been cited by the California School Gardens Network as a model school garden and is a designated Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Butterfly Way Station. The garden is complemented by after school programs focused on environmental awareness, including Cool the Earth, Roots & Shoots, and Green Team. A comprehensive Safe Routes to School program includes Walk-to-School Wednesday, Walking School Bus and Bike-Friendly Fridays.

Hughes, Longfellow, Lowell and Twain schools have earned Green Ribbon honors in prior years.

A ceremony to celebrate the honorees is scheduled for June 3 in Washington, D.C.

Librarian of the Year

Lakewood High School's Sandra Patton was named Teacher Librarian of the Year by the Long Beach School Librarians Association.

Patton has been an active member of the Librarians Association and chairs the Teachers Association of Long Beach School Librarians Task Force. She served as treasurer on the California School Library Association State Board and is a member of several other professional organizations.

"Everything she has done comes from a foundation of wanting all children to succeed," Nina Jackson, secretary of the Librarians Association, said during her announcement of the award at the most recent Board of Education meeting. "In her many years at Long Beach Unified, she has been a true gift and inspiration to the hundreds of staff members she has collaborated with and advised, and to the multiple thousands of students of all ages whose lives she has touched."