



school bulletin

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

Jan. 22, 2016

Nine Teachers Earn National Certification

Nine teachers in the Long Beach Unified School District recently earned National Certification, the highest professional distinction in teaching.

More than 150 teachers here have earned the honor over the years. The rigorous certification is a year-long process that involves submitting portfolios, videotaping classroom instruction and participating in a day of written exercises.

New National Board Certified teachers and their schools are Catherine Bates, Cleveland; Annasarah Ferguson, Poly; and Donnel Richardson, Gant.

Teachers who recently renewed their certification are Joan Calhoun, Tincher; Caryn Cobb, Lakewood; Tara Escobar, Roosevelt; Samantha McCarthy-Lurie, Stanford; Jessica Parker, Garfield; and Kam Weller, Lakewood.

National Board Certification is valid for ten years. Teachers can renew their certification by completing a portfolio to demonstrate professional growth.

Learn more at lbschools.net under National Board Certification in the A-Z index.

Thousands Apply for High School Choice

Nearly 98 percent of eighth graders have submitted applications on time for their preferred high schools.

Of a total 5,985 eighth graders, 97.84 percent, or 5,856 students, submitted applications on time. School district staff made a concerted effort to inform students and parents about the school choice process, and the nearly 100 percent participation rate validates those efforts. In fact, 14 schools earned a perfect 100 percent on-time participation rate, including Bancroft, Cubberley, Franklin, Gompers, Hamilton, Hill, Hudson, Intellectual Virtues, Keller, Lindbergh, Lindsey, Powell, Robinson and Tincher schools.

At most high schools, the Long Beach Unified School District gives priority to neighborhood children when it comes to attending their local school, but it also offers a thriving school choice program that allows students to choose schools outside their attendance area. This system has earned high marks from parents, including the Long Beach Council PTA, which represents nearly 19,000 members.

Earlier this school year, thousands of students and parents participated in high school choice fairs, including a districtwide event at Cabrillo High School, and several regional events at local middle schools. High schools also offered information events and "shadow days" pairing eighth graders with high school students for a day.

IN UNISON – Members of the Poly High School cheer team participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Parade and Celebration. The weekend's events also included a keynote address by former Board of Education President Bobbie Smith at an intercultural celebration. **Story on next page.**



A \$5M Boost to Career, Technical Education

The Long Beach Unified School District will receive a state grant of about \$5.5 million for career and technical education. The school district is among the first round of grantees statewide who will receive \$900 million over the next three years to help schools provide high-quality, sequenced career and technical education.

The Linked Learning Alliance, founded by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation, congratulated the first round of state grantees in a statement last week. Linked Learning is a proven approach that is transforming education for California students by integrating rigorous academics with career-based learning and real world workplace experiences. Linked Learning creates meaningful learning experiences through career-oriented pathways in fields such as engineering, health care, performing arts, law and more.

"The Linked Learning Alliance congratulates the districts and charter organizations receiving CTE (Career and Technical Education) Incentive Grant funds," said Darrell

Steinberg, Chairman of the Linked Learning Alliance. "We applaud their commitment to use these resources to help prepare all students, the next generation of leaders and innovators, for college and career. When integrated with college preparatory academics, work-based learning, and student supports, CTE helps students prepare for college success while gaining skills and earning credentials valued by employers."

Many school districts selected for this funding, including Long Beach, are already implementing the Linked Learning approach, and the latest funds will help to augment those efforts.

Linked Learning and California's investment in this approach are gaining national recognition. Last November at the White House Summit on Next Generation High Schools, the White House highlighted Linked Learning as a strategy for reinventing the high school experience.

In March, the State Board of Education is expected to announce a second set of grantees for the CTE Incentive Grant.

Internships Up 50 Percent in 18 Months

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia announced during his State of the City address that internships for Long Beach students have increased by 50 percent.

The mayor said the gains place the city ahead of schedule for meeting Garcia's goal of doubling internships in his first term.

Internship opportunities in Long Beach numbered roughly 1,500 about 18 months ago. Since then, more than 750 new internships have been created for high school and community college students.

Garcia also discussed the creation of 800 additional preschool seats across the city in the last year in partnership with the Long Beach Unified School District and other providers.

An emphasis on internships and early education is part of an expansion of the nationally recognized Long Beach College Promise. The College Promise was first signed in 2008 by leaders from LBUSD, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach to help students prepare for, and succeed in, college. LBUSD graduates can receive a tuition-free semester at LBCC and guaranteed admission to CSULB if they meet minimum requirements at the university.

The renewed and expanded College Promise was signed by leaders of the three educational institutions in October 2014. At that time, the Mayor's Office also signed on as a formal partner in the endeavor.

Annual Education Celebration Jan. 23

The 19th 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. 23 at McBride High School, 7025 Parkcrest St., Long Beach.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options.

For more information, call Sharon Lazo-Nakamoto at 997-8307.

First Graders Learn Robotics at Bixby

Bixby Elementary School's budding robotics and computer programming learning academy recently held its first official event, the Robot Showcase.

First grade teachers Amy Dahl and Joan Parker helped to launch the new effort.

After reading and writing about robots, the first graders at Bixby designed and built "practice" robots out of recycled materials. Then students worked with volunteer college students to build working robots to demonstrate their skills in a Battle Bot arena.

Under the guidance of the volunteers, the students decided how to program their robot to push an opponent out of the arena. While the robots battled it out, friends and families viewed robot displays and talked to the young inventors about their non-moving creations.

Names in the News

Cabrillo High School's Reach to the Stars program, which brings Ivy League grads and industry leaders in science, technology, literature and the arts to Cabrillo students, recently welcomed Rhodes Scholar **George Newhouse**. The former scholar-athlete at Harvard also attended UC Berkeley and Oxford, and he is a former varsity football player for Long Beach's Wilson High School. He has 30 years of experience trying criminal cases and complex commercial litigation in state and federal court. He is now a partner at Dentons in Los Angeles, a global law firm, and he is an adjunct professor at USC. Cabrillo Spanish teacher **Ethel Seminario-Laczko** helps to facilitate the program, which also includes workshops on leadership, college entrance exams and interviews.

In Memoriam

Rita Lares

former middle school office supervisor
Jan. 1, 2016

Artie Boyd

former teacher and baseball coach
Jan. 3, 2016

Shirley Black

former principal
Jan. 4, 2016

Students, Educators Pay Tribute to Dr. King

Students, staff and school district officials remembered Martin Luther King, Jr. by participating in the annual Unity Parade and Celebration in Long Beach last Saturday.

Playing a prominent role in the weekend's festivities was former Board of Education President **Bobbie Smith**. She earned a standing ovation for a keynote speech at the Interfaith and Intercultural Celebration, where she discussed the importance of a good education.

Among the parade participants were members of the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education, LBUSD Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer, school marching bands, dance and cheer teams, and many other student groups.

Smith addressed an audience of more than 200 at Gospel Memorial Church of God in Christ in Long Beach. The retired educator was the first African American member on LBUSD's school board, where she served from 1988 to 2004. She completed four terms as president on the school board during major reforms that earned national recognition for the school district. In 2014, Long Beach's Bobbie Smith Elementary School was named after her.

Smith's speech, "Leading the Way to a Just and Compassionate Society," detailed the progress she has witnessed in society and in public schools during her 83 years.

"As I told the children at Bobbie Smith Elementary school during the renaming ceremony about a year ago, Dr. King's dream is a very big dream. It's easier said than done, and we're still working on it," Smith said.

"Dignity and equality come from a good education. Once you get a good education, no one can take that away, ever. Our young people have tremendous opportunities right here in Long Beach schools, which are recognized as some of the best in the country and the world."

Smith described her childhood in segregated Mississippi, where African American children attended separate schools from white children. When she finished eighth grade at age 13, there was no high school in her Mississippi community, so she traveled sixty miles away from home to finish high school. During that time, she was tasked with housekeeping duties to cover the cost of her room and board.

"After high school, I also worked my way through college. Mississippi was so segregated



Smith

at that time that the state government paid African Americans to get their graduate and professional training outside the state, so I took advantage of the situation and earned my master's degree from the University of Illinois," she said.

She and her husband arrived in California in 1965 during the Watts riots.

"As many of you know, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s was in full swing as Los Angeles and the entire nation were struggling to reconcile the realities of urban America with the ideals of this nation and the ideals of Dr. King."

Recent months have been especially rewarding, Smith said. After the elementary school was named after her, Long Beach's mayor presented her with a key to the city. And an exhibit called "Breaking Through, Lighting the Way" at Long Beach's Main Library recently chronicled the lives of Smith and 11 other pioneering African American women.

"It's moments like those that give me optimism," Smith said. "It's not just about the personal recognition, though it's always nice to know that people appreciate the work that you devoted your life to. These moments also are very important because they reinforce the whole idea of thinking big and dreaming big..."

"I encourage all of you to continue thinking big and dreaming big. I'm certain that Dr. King would not have it any other way."

To read more of Smith's keynote address, find this article at lbschools.net.

Dates to Remember

February

	National African American History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	Spring Semester Begins
1	National Freedom Day
2	Groundhog Day
3	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
5	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Presidents Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
6	Ronald Reagan Day
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
8	Lincoln Day—Holiday
8	Chinese New Year
8-12	National School Counseling Week
10	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	Thomas Edison's Birthday
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "New Zebra in Town," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
14	St. Valentine's Day
15	Washington Day—Holiday
15	Presidents Day
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day," Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Women's History Month," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "School Bus and the Exceptional Child, Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
20	Frederick Douglass Day
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Jackie Robinson Story," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
23	W.E.B. DuBois's Birthday
24	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "The American Parade: We The Women," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 — "Helen Keller," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
26	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "Reading Rainbow: Once There Was a Tree," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 — "One Fine Day" and "Take the Power," Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8

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Superintendent of Schools

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