



school bulletin

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June 3, 2016

Colleagues Honor Employees of the Year



EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR – Custodians Ninski Menchavez of Tincher Preparatory Academy, and Fernando Nieves of MacArthur Elementary School, tied for the school district's annual Classified Employee of the Year Award.

Two employees have tied for the Long Beach Unified School District's annual Classified Employee of the Year Award. Custodians Ninski Menchavez of Tincher Preparatory School, and Fernando Nieves of MacArthur Elementary School accepted their awards at a recent celebration in honor of classified employees.

Menchavez has worked at Tincher for 16 years.

"Thank you to the Long Beach Unified School District – my second family," Menchavez said as he accepted the honor.

Nieves has worked for the school district for nearly 20 years. His wife, Beatriz Nieves, earned the same award two years ago as a campus security officer at Millikan High School.

"I'm in shock, but thank you very much," Nieves said upon receiving his award. He credited the school's principal, front office staff and "great teachers" for their support.

Both employees earned several nominations. Menchavez was described as a hardworking, dependable role model for students and staff.

"He is one of the most respected individuals at Tincher," said the school's principal, Rosemary Sissons. "Staff members and parents frequently comment on his work ethic and the quality of his interactions with the entire

Tincher family. In addition to his work as a custodian, he can often be found working with children. He counsels students who are on lunch detention and finds meaningful work for them to do. He helps children feel connected to and part of our school community."

Colleagues praised Nieves for going above and beyond to maintain a clean campus and assist with schoolwide events like the school carnival and PTA movie nights.

"Mr. Nieves is such a wonderful person to work alongside," teacher Melissa Quintero said. "He always has a positive attitude and his smile always brightens the day of both myself and my students. Whenever I need him for maintenance work, he always answers right away. He is such an amazing presence at MacArthur, and we are lucky to have him."

A total of 24 people were nominated for the award this year, with many of the nominees receiving multiple nominations each. Six finalists included the two winners plus Nick Altenhofen, carpenter at Maintenance; Cathy Anderson, instructional aide special at Emerson; Julie Baldrige, intermediate office assistant at Poly; and Vanessa Hill, instructional aide special at Tucker.

The winners and finalists will be honored at the June 6 Board of Education meeting.

Legislator O'Donnell Recognizes Teachers

State Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell hosted a recent Teacher Appreciation Reception where he honored several local teachers for making a positive impact.

A teacher for more than 20 years and now chair of the Assembly Education Committee, O'Donnell accepted online nominations before selecting honorees.

The honorees included Eric Brundin, science curriculum leader at the Teacher Resource Center; William Diaz-Brown, bilingual teacher at Willard; Deborah Drab, science teacher at Tincher; Paula Gregg-Spenker, teacher at Barton; Edward Hauck Jr., English teacher and track/cross-country coach at Wilson; Annemarie Lander, social studies teacher at Tincher; Mary Lang, teacher at Hughes; Janet Leis, reading specialist at Wilson; Melinda Mendez, TK teacher at Burcham; Gina Miller, teacher at Chavez; Julie Mortensen, teacher at Longfellow; Wendy Salaya, government teacher at Wilson; Adrienne Sandstedt, science teacher at Marshall; Stephanie Sasaki, teacher at Jefferson; Cathy Tillack, teacher at Lincoln; Racquel Welch-Kitchen, teacher at EPHS; and Paula Riley, teacher at Stanford. Also honored was Connie Donati, who serves as a crossing guard for Tincher students.

State Business Group Lauds 14 Schools

Fourteen schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are listed on the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence Honor Roll for academic excellence and reducing achievement gaps among student populations.

"The American education system has a secret. Many schools are doing well and the Honor Roll proves it," said Jim Lanich, president and CEO of Educational Results Partnership, which partnered with CBEE to analyze student achievement data. "Students are achieving at higher levels than anyone admits and more students than ever are succeeding when given the opportunity. All schools, no matter what zip code they are in, can achieve this kind of success. Leadership from the business community is critical to ensuring successes for all students."

The recently released honor roll consists of three parts, the first being "Star Schools," or those with significant populations of disadvantaged students who have shown high achievement. Making this list was the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, along with Alvarado, Bancroft, Bixby, Gompers, Kettering, Longfellow, Los Cerritos, Madison, Renaissance, Signal Hill, Tincher and Twain schools.



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Another tier of recognition is "Scholar Schools," or those that show significant levels of academic achievement without a significant population of disadvantaged students. Naples Elementary School made this list.

The business group also recognized a subset of the honor roll that has both high percentages of low-income students and high levels of math and science achievement. Among these schools were CAMS and Kettering Elementary School. This year's honor roll included 1,714 schools in California. View the full list of schools at edresults.org.

Record Number of Business Partners

Schools in the Long Beach Unified School District have formed 173 more business partnerships this year, bringing the total to a record high of 1,371 new and ongoing partnerships.

The Association of Long Beach Educational Managers has donated plaques for schools to present to their new business partners in the coming weeks.

TLC – The Buffum Total Learning Center (TLC) received tender loving care as nearly 100 volunteers from the school and Kaiser Permanente spent a day sprucing up the campus. The nonprofit Sharefest organization partnered with the school on the project. Here, volunteers paint a new mural on a playground shed.



Exceptional Children Council Gives Awards

The Council for Exceptional Children Chapter 108 recently honored 10 students and 10 employees. Student of the Year awards went to Andrew Catalan of Kettering, Martin Elizarrarza of Tucker ACT, Esmeralda Gonzalez of Kettering, Marcus Hughes of Bancroft, Eddie Khoo of Gant, Jonathan Lopez of Lakewood, Alexis Rojas of Hill, and Dondara Son of Hill. The Tom Theborge Speech and Language grant went to Molly Trinh of Kettering. Receiving the Peggy Stivers Outstanding Senior grant was Priscilla Valencia of Millikan. Students were nominated by their teacher, principal, counselor or other

school staff and selected for showing tremendous improvement in the classroom and enriching the lives of all they meet.

The Council's "Hats Off Awards" for employees went to Terence Booth, counselor at Lindsey; Chris Bynum, campus security officer at Lakewood; Guadalupe Hernandez, school nurse at Lindsey; Maria Leon, librarian at Cleveland; Stephanie Manion, science teacher at Marshall; Elizabeth Martinez, math teacher at Lindsey; Anne Oberjuege, math curriculum leader; Rebecca Robbins, librarian at Stephens; Ashley Williams, campus security officer at Wilson; and Jeff Wood, principal at Gant. These awards went to people outside the field of Special Education who provide exemplary support to students who have special needs.

Nurse of the Year

Sandra Muth, who is retiring after 43 years as a nurse – 18 of them in the Long Beach Unified School District – has earned the School Nurse of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Nurses Association.

Muth has worked at Jefferson, Mann and Nelson schools.

A physical education teacher nominated her "because she is an educator as well as a nurse. She is a wonderful resource and support which we could not function without."



Muth

Student Artists Help Homeless Children

Students from Millikan High School and Biola University helped to raise more than \$30,000 for Precious Lamb, a preschool for children facing homelessness.

The preschool's third annual art gala featured artwork by the Millikan and Biola students. The portrait subjects were homeless children from Precious Lamb. About 350 people attended the event at the Summit Aviation hangar at Long Beach Airport. More than 100 pieces of student artwork were sold, with proceeds going toward the preschool's operations.

Inclusive Art Show

Jordan High School held its annual Best Buddies "Art for Inclusion" Art Show recently at the Museum of Latin American Art, raising funds while showcasing the work of students who have moderate to severe disabilities.

"I love having the opportunity to showcase the students' talents and their emotions and feelings," said teacher Anne Boyer. "I can't even describe in words what it's like to see their faces when they know that their art is up on the wall. They are so proud."

Best Buddies promotes one-on-one friendships, pairing students who have disabilities with those who don't.

Summer Enrichment

The award-winning Summer Enrichment Program will be held at Gant Elementary School. Children entering first through eighth grades can attend this fee-based program held in three-week sessions from June 27 to July 14 and from July 18 to Aug. 4.

Classes in science, music, art, cooking, Spanish and more are held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost for each three-week session is \$290 or less (early and sibling discounts available).

Recreation supervision is included at no additional charge for those enrolled in the program. Recreation hours are from 8 to 9 a.m. and from noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays from July 8 to July 29. Learn more and find printable registration forms under Summer Enrichment in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Solar Challenge

Students from McBride High School earned second place in the Central and Bay Region of the Metropolitan Water District's 14th annual Solar Cup. The competition is the largest student-based solar-powered boat race in the nation. Students apply their skills in math, physics, engineering and communications while learning about water resources, conservation and alternative energy.

Finishing just ahead of McBride in the same region was Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. Schools from 38 teams and six counties competed at Lake Skinner in southwestern Riverside County. Learn more at mwdh2o.com.

A Parting Lesson

National Board Certified Teacher Laura Kusaba is retiring this year after 29 years with the Long Beach Unified School District. As the Stanford Middle School teacher accepted a retirement resolution at the last Board of Education meeting, she explained why Long Beach is known as a leading school system.

"I am the teacher I am today because of the professional development provided by this district," Kusaba said. "The district's commitment to providing quality, consistent professional development for all teachers is the reason our district is considered a leader across the nation. I have improved my instructional practices each year that I've been a teacher in Long Beach Unified."

In Memoriam

Brian Howcroft
teacher, Lakewood
May 15, 2016

Norma Lewis
former teacher
May 20, 2016

Don Keller
former principal
May 22, 2016

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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