



# school bulletin

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

October 13, 2017

## Bixby Parent Helps Evacuate Puerto Rico

Bixby Elementary School parent Michael Donoghue, who is president and CEO of Amphibious Medics, has been personally piloting the company's plane to evacuate some of the neediest residents of Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria.

The dad of two Bixby students has made five trips to Puerto Rico in recent days since traveling there to help some of his own family who were living on the island. He decided to provide the evacuations for free after witnessing a tremendous need for assistance.

"There's no power. These people are sleeping in a wet, black hangar all night long, just hoping against hope somebody's going to take them back," said Donoghue, who was planning an additional trip to bring relief supplies and bring back more victims. "We got about 50 people in two days off one Facebook post, and it was really difficult to triage and pick who  
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**HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS** – Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna visited students at Oropeza Elementary School this week to share Halloween Safety tips along with reflective trick-or-treat bags, glow sticks and treats. He gave students police badges (stickers) after the students were "sworn in," promising to be good, listen to their parents and do their homework. Safety tips included staying in well-lighted areas, never going out alone, carefully checking treats, carrying a flashlight and going to familiar homes. The Long Beach Police Foundation sponsored the visit. View more photos at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).

## Teachers of Year Advance to State Level

Two Long Beach Unified School District teachers were honored recently as Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year and will advance to the statewide competition.

Kari Milton teaches technology at Bancroft Middle School, and Stephanie Heilig teaches life science and health at Stanford Middle School.

Both will be honored at LBUSD's Oct. 18 Board of Education meeting.

Milton also was recently nominated by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction as a finalist for the 2017 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is described as the highest recognition in the nation for a math or science teacher.

She spent a year in the business world before realizing she would find greater meaning in her life by pursuing coaching and teaching.

"Even as a beginning teacher, I distinguished myself in technology use," she wrote.

After Milton earned a degree in educational technology, her principal requested that she teach computer electives.

"To prepare for my new role, I secured a summer position as a Youth Tech Camp Director to discover engaging methods to teach a comprehensive computer-based curriculum," she wrote. "I took many of the courses alongside the kids to learn basic programming and web design skills."

Her leadership in the field was acknowledged when she was appointed to the National Board Committee to rewrite standards in career and technical education.

"Serving in this capacity gave me a powerful voice in defining my practice, especially in



Milton

how standards pertain to middle school," she wrote. Published in 2015, the standards have been referenced in CTE organizations globally and have reached a much broader audience than anticipated. I spent considerable time refining my practice as I applied the new standards to my daily lessons."

She finds teaching stimulating and rewarding.

"Each day I feel I made a difference in the lives of those I teach," she wrote. "I am glad I changed careers 18 years ago, as teaching allows me to be creative, inspire youth, and to be inspired daily by the students that I teach."

Heilig finds value in helping to guide her middle school students through their adolescent years.

"I have the best job in the world because middle school students are 'wonderfully misinformed,'" she wrote. "From my 19 years of experience, I have realized that it is less about teaching and more about learning."

She begins by creating a safe and welcoming environment. She recounted an experience when she met a student who had missed the first two weeks of school.

"When she approached my door, I saw the anxiety on her face and I remembered the tremendous burden that missing work had on me as a child," she wrote. "To diminish her stress level, I did not greet her with 'Oh my gosh, you've missed so much work,' but instead energetically said 'You must be Danielle. I've been waiting for you.' It worked! She cracked a smile and I saw the rush of anxiety leave her face."

She monitors her own teaching to better  
(Continued on next page)



Heilig

## More Schools Reduce Waste at Lunchtime

Five Long Beach Unified School District schools have received a coveted spot to compete in Grades of Green's 7th Annual Trash Free Lunch Challenge.

The competition kicked off Oct. 10 and is a yearlong contest among 22 selected Southern California schools to see which ones best reduce lunchtime waste and instill environmentally friendly habits in the school community.

Local schools participating include Keller, Lincoln, Prisk, Robinson and Whittier.

Students from participating schools will learn how to decrease waste by packing trash-free lunches (including reusable lunch containers, water bottles and utensils, and cloth napkins). All students, including those who buy

lunch, will also learn how to sort lunchtime waste to be donated, composted and recycled.

Through a combination of sorting waste and bringing reusable lunch containers, TFLC schools reduce an average of 70 percent of lunchtime waste. Winning schools reduce more than 92 percent of trash. In total, 117 schools have diverted 2,300 tons of waste from the landfill since the challenge began seven years ago.

Earlier this year, Lindbergh STEM Academy earned a top regional prize and \$1,000 as part of the contest. Franklin and Burcham schools have been recognized on the Grades of Green Honor Roll.

Learn more at [gradesofgreen.org](http://gradesofgreen.org).

## Transit Employees Donate Supplies

Students in need are receiving help from Long Beach Transit after employees recently donated school supplies, hygiene supplies and food in cooperation with the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials' Southern California Chapter Back to School Drive.

The supplies will go to the Long Beach Unified School District's Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center for Homeless Students, which assists more than 500 homeless students each year with referrals for health exams, tutoring and mental health counseling. The center also provides transportation and necessities such as school uniforms, backpacks, hygiene packs and school supplies.

"Long Beach Transit fosters employee engagement and promotes a focus on community," LBT Chief Executive Officer Kenneth McDonald said. "The level of employee participation reflects the deep commitment LBT has for the communities we serve."

LBUSD Director of Student Support Services Erin Simon commended LBT employees for the donations.

"On behalf of the families we serve, please accept our heartfelt thanks for the donation of school supplies. The generous gift of LBT employees will enable LBUSD to serve more students and families who are affected by homelessness."

## • Teachers of Year

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adapt and change it to meet current circumstances.

"Not only does this provide me with student misconceptions in content knowledge, but it also reveals struggles that my students might have in processing skills such as comprehension or analyzing," she wrote. "Students know that I am not 'grading them,' but I am gathering information that will allow me to design lessons to put students in a position to succeed."

She pointed to gifted teachers in her past as examples that have helped her to develop the tools and skills necessary to help students succeed.

"My greatest accomplishment is that I build positive relationships with all students. This is easy because I love being a teacher."

## Mentor Group Gives Bikes to Reid High

A local youth mentoring group recently provided 16 bicycles to Reid High School students.

The Long Beach BLAST mentoring organization partnered with Waste Management to deliver the bikes to the alternative education high school.

Students receiving the bicycles were part of Long Beach BLAST's Bridge to Success Program, which is designed to support, engage and inspire alternative education high school students to look at their futures from all angles.

BLAST staff help students work toward their high school diploma and set goals for the future. The goal for every student is a positive attitude toward their future and a vision for higher education.



**HUMANITARIAN PILOT** – Bixby Elementary School parent and humanitarian pilot Michael Donoghue talks to media on the tarmac during a recent trip to Puerto Rico.

## • Puerto Rico

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needed it most. So we started with the oldest people with the biggest health problems, and we're working our way down that list."

Donoghue has set up a donation page at [gofundme.com](http://gofundme.com) (search for Michael Donoghue). The page states that Donoghue has already donated \$100,000 but is seeking donations to continue evacuating Puerto Rico residents.

Bixby Principal Sam Platis commended Donoghue's efforts.

"I love these kinds of stories, and our world needs more of them," Platis said.

Donoghue served in the U.S. Navy for eight years, then attended The College of Oceanography. He created Amphibious Medics ([amphibiousmedics.com](http://amphibiousmedics.com)) in 2001 to serve the marine side of Los Angeles area media productions. Then he became a pilot, flying charters for celebrities and international heads of state.

## CalPERS Workshop

A California Public Employees' Retirement System planning workshop for classified employees will be offered from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2 at the Personnel Commission, located at 4400 Ladoga Ave., Lakewood.

Representatives from CalPERS and Long Beach Unified School District Payroll and Risk Management will answer questions during the session.

Contact the Personnel Commission at 435-5708 for more information, or find the registration form under Personnel Commission in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net) (click on Classified Staff Development).

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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## Arts Council Honors Longtime Educators

The Arts Council for Long Beach recently honored two Long Beach Unified School District educators during its annual State of the Arts event.

James Petri, music curriculum leader for the school district, received the Incite/Insight Award for more than 30 years of work as an arts educator and advocate. He has taught choir here, helps coordinate the annual Long Beach Symphony Youth Concerts, directs musical theatre for Longfellow Elementary School, and coordinates the Harmony Project which helps to bring music education to children from disadvantaged communities.

Vickie McCloyn, a 23-year teacher at Hughes Middle School, also received an Incite/Insight Award. McCloyn teaches algebra and founded Young, Gifted and Talented, an after-school program that brings together students, parents and neighbors to celebrate black history through the performing arts. She conducts grassroots fundraising to provide the experience for students.

The Arts Council is a nonprofit organization that promotes, advocates for and helps fund the arts in Long Beach. Learn more at [artslb.org](http://artslb.org).



Petri



McCloyn

## CalSTRS Seminars

California State Teachers' Retirement System seminars will be offered 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25 and Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 1515 Hughes Way (Room 143), or 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10 at the same location.

Presentation topics include CalSTRS service retirement allowance and retirement options, and updates on legislation and disability and survivor benefits. Staff from Human Resource Services and Risk Management will be available to answer questions.

Space is limited. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 20 at 997-8214 or via myPD (course #7702, sections 7675, 7676 or 7677).

## In Memoriam

**Shirley Kennedy**  
former clerk typist  
Aug. 31, 2017

**Jack Johnson**  
former area custodial manager  
Sept. 15, 2017

**Michele Turner-Blackburn**  
teacher, Hamilton  
Sept. 28, 2017