



school bulletin

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

June 8, 2018

Student Competes in National Spelling Bee

Stanford Middle School seventh grader Dina Miranda progressed to the seventh round of the third and final day of the Scripps National Spelling Bee last week.

Miranda advanced to compete among the top 19 contestants. The contest began with 516 spellers taking a written test, and by the final day the competition had been narrowed to 321.

The word that finally stumped Dina was "orans," a Medieval Latin, plural form of orant, a figure in a posture of prayer, usually standing upright with raised arms. On the other hand, she spelled these words correctly earlier in the competition: nephelognosy, laparotomy, polymorphous and piedmont.

Earlier this year, Miranda became the first student from the Long Beach Unified School District to win the countywide spelling competition, qualifying her for the national contest.

In 2016, when Miranda was a fifth grader at Gant Elementary School, she won second place in the county competition.

Miranda also earned People Magazine's praise for leading the pack of national competitors when it came to Twitter shout-outs.



Miranda



SPECIAL GUEST – American Airlines pilot Conrad Marcano, a member of the Poly High School Class of '03, visited King Elementary School students for Career Day. He was the youngest among his class of new hires at the airline. See 'Names in the News' on third page.

Retiring Employees Served for 70 Centuries

A total of 283 Long Beach Unified School District employees with a combined 7,030 years of service are retiring.

Leading retirees in seniority is 48-year teacher Barbara Cantor.

Certificated Retirees

48 years—Barbara Cantor, Gant;

46 years—Mari Fedak, Kettering; Horace Hall, Wilson;

42 years—Brenda Taylor, Hamilton and McKinley;

40 years—Silvia Hernandez-Cano, Jordan; Christopher Kinder, EPHS; Richard Perruccio, Robinson/Marshall;

39 years—Yvonne Potter, McKinley;



Cantor

38 years—Barbara Masuyama, Burcham; Laura Wilkerson, Riley; Susan Bernstein, Herrera; Donna Corn, Twain; Stephanie Dyo, Stephens; Janice Macon, Jordan;

37 years—Stephanie Wright, Cubberley; Bonnie De Padua, Willard; Cindy Mendez, Hamilton; Gerianne Smith, Gant; Carol Pratt, EACCR; Bruce Osterholt, Webster;

36 years—Patricia Nelson, Burcham; Jose Garcia, Jr., Jordan; Susan Lyon, Webster; Thomas Lawler, Cabrillo; Steven Porrazzo, Jefferson;

35 years—Camille Wilson, Muir; Mary Nelson, Birney;

34 years—Jill McCoy, MacArthur; Janet Rykert, Lakewood; Michelle Martinez, Cubberley; Karla Lucas, Twain; Lisa Toth, Burbank; Shirley Romito, Whittier; Naomi Norwick, Hughes;

33 years—Sylvia Morgan, Mann; Kenneth
(Continued on next page)

'Bug Man' is Classified Employee of Year

About a half hour before pest control technician Everardo Avila accepted the Classified Employee of the Year Award at the Teacher Resource Center, he was removing some skunks from a nearby elementary school. Such delicate operations are all in a day's work for Avila, affectionately known as "The Bug Man" for the Long Beach Unified School District.

Avila accepted his award in front of cheering colleagues at the annual Classified Employee Celebration last month. He was selected after a committee sifted through 87 nominations that ultimately produced 18 nominees (some employees received multiple nominations). The nominees and nine finalists were honored along with Avila at the celebration.

"It was a surprise. I'm very excited to be here," said Avila, a 21-year employee of the

school district. "Work is a place where you spend more time than with your family, so it becomes like a second family. I happen to work with a lot of the people up there, and they also deserve the award."

Avila was nominated by Susan Perkins, assistant director of Transportation/Grounds.

"He demonstrates his commitment by working in a wonderfully cooperative way with schools and district sites," Perkins said of Avila. "He gives each situation a complete
(Continued on next page)

Board Election

Board of Education candidate Juan M. Benitez defeated candidate Cesar A.

Armendariz in this week's run-off election to replace retiring Board of Education Member John McGinnis, who represents District 3. McGinnis completes his second four-year term in July, when he plans to retire.

Benitez earned 62.4 percent of the vote, according to semifinal results, while Armendariz earned 37.6 percent. The school board's five districts are divided by geographic area. In District 1, incumbent Board of Education President Megan Kerr retains her seat after running unopposed. Likewise in District 5, Board of Education Vice President Diana Craighead retains her seat after running unopposed. Districts 2 and 4 were not up for election during this cycle.



CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF YEAR – Pest control technician Everardo Avila

School Nurse of Year

Nancy Suzuki, a nurse at Lakewood High School, has won the School Nurse of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Nurses Association.

"She is a wonderful, selfless, hardworking, generous and thoughtful school nurse," said Lead Nurse Rose Van Meeveren. "She takes care of approximately 3,500 students at Lakewood High School, deals with so many students' health issues each day and never complains. Nancy is truly a dedicated soul to her school nurse profession."

Suzuki has served as a school nurse in the Long Beach Unified School District for more than 20 years.

The Nurses Association also recently announced the winner of its Friend of School Nurses Award. This honor went to Susan Cortés, a foster youth social worker for the school district. She was recognized for always being available as a valuable resource to assist school nurses.



Suzuki



Cortés

• Employee of Year

(Continued from first page) inspection, identifies the lowest-risk treatment options available and follows through on his work with exceptional diligence."

Avila was praised for tirelessly conducting safety trainings and educating other employees on the importance of keeping schools critter-free in the safest manner possible. He is so devoted to his job, Perkins said, that he once returned to Long Beach in the middle of his Mammoth vacation to address an important issue at a school. He was key in designing and creating a beautiful reading garden for students at Los Cerritos Elementary School this year. He's also a talented cook and treats co-workers to his chile verde and cakes.

The other eight finalists were Joanne Begley, staff secretary at Tucker/Student Health Services; Dawn Couch, office supervisor at Lakewood; Teresa Cullen, office supervisor at Prisk; Emil Espejo, campus security officer at Lakewood; Gloria Gilmore, plant supervisor at Browning; Kathy Shabel, payroll technician; Rhsheda Slayton, plant supervisor at Renaissance; and Melissa Wolney, behavior intervention supervisor at Buffum TLC.

The remainder of this year's nominees were Kurt Atkins, production center supervisor at Nutrition Services; Cheryl Dennison, office supervisor at Cubberley; Claudia Flores, staff secretary at Tucker; Christa Guntner, instructional aide-special at Tincher; Tiffany Lopez Alvarado, instructional aide-special at Buffum TLC; Ana Moya, school support secretary at Whittier; and Cynthia Williams, instructional aide-special at Tucker ACT.

Avila and fellow honorees will be recognized at a June 20 Board of Education meeting.

• Years of Dedicated Service from Retirees

(Continued from first page)

Munger, Poly; Heidi Dalton-Sklars, Jordan;

32 years—Randall Ludwig, Lakewood; Bruce Gilman, Millikan; Diane Nyquist, Fremont; Laura Rocca, Gompers; Andria Davidson, Tucker;

31 years—Claire Gauthier, Burcham; Akhlesh Kumar, Lakewood; Marie Newton, Gompers/Riley; Joan Parker, Bixby; Wenelyn Atwell, Millikan;

30 years—Thomas Valdez, Cabrillo; William Kacoullas, Gant; Gerald Cox, Nelson; Patricia Rumbellow, Burbank;

29 years—Michael Vitale, Lakewood; Rebecca Robbins, Stephens; Terri Young, Cleveland; Mark Oberjuerge, Jordan; Mary Spear, CDC; Josie Toth, Burbank; Claudia Paquette, Kettering; Lou Ellen Underwood, Cubberley;

28 years—Valerie Farrell, Newcomb; 27 years—Lenore Behar, Muir; Jayne Beckham, Cubberley; Robert Floyd, Garfield;

26 years—Elsie Holden, Head Start; Erin Zhou, Muir; Cheryl Von der Hellen, Beach; Jacqueline Jones, Head Start; Grace Ewert, Cubberley; Debra Hunt, Avalon;

25 years—Patricia Ferris, LOA;

23 years—Jo Ann Pike, Stephens; Hermelinda Duron-Gomez, Henry; Amanda Flores, Henry;

22 years—Mary Poper, Madison; Debbie Lindsey-Satiriano, Emerson CDC;

21 years—Jeanne Vitale, Poly; Mary McCarthy, Smith; Judy McClain, CDC; Julianne Schleining, Lincoln; Linda Braithwaite, Riley; Mary Pollaro, Burcham/Marshall/MacArthur; Ronald Iseri, CAMS; Valerie Bohner, Roosevelt; Serena Dank, Millikan;

20 years—Paula Pettit, Madison; Silvia Battigalli, Poly; Nora Kuzay, Longfellow; Christy Cleveland, Harte;

19 years—Marilyn Stiltz, Hoover; Gail Anderson, Beach; Audrey Euwers, Lafayette; Laurie Keller, Wilson;

18 years—Renee Higashi, Dooley; Alice Rachal, Head Start; Gary Jenkins, Powell; Barbara Ohanessian, Lincoln;

17 years—Michelle Alongi, Powell; Deborah Ingstand, Lindsey; John Gaskins, Cabrillo; Carolyn Amberry, Lincoln; James Cross, Lakewood; Nancy Daus, CDC;

15 years—Jodi Gladstone, Cabrillo; Charlyne Schmeer, Lindbergh;

16 years—Roger Wong, Harte;

14 years—Pamela Showley, Reid;

13 years—Ruth Watson, LOA;

12 years—Sherri Gonser, Chavez.

A total of 55 others with a combined 1,290 years of service asked not to be listed.

Classified Retirees

42 years—Lori Shanteau, Cabrillo;

38 years—Lee

Darrington, Jr., Operations; Flexie Silpa, Muir;

37 years—Ronald

Capps, Prisk;

36 years—Laurella

Theus, Nutrition

Services; Brenda Phelps,

Tucker; William Faulk,

Jr., Longfellow;

35 years—Jeffrey

Howard, Head Start;

34 years—Robin

Carlson, Henry; Mark

Gertjensan,

Maintenance;

33 years—Roger Howes, Warehouse;

Brenda Biggart, Accounting;

32 years—Marianne Dexter, Information Services; Debra Bush, Operations; Jeff Crouse, Maintenance;

31 years—Mark Mongey, Reid;

30 years—Marsha Esparza, Bixby;

29 years—Angelia Brooks, Purchasing;

James Esswein, Maintenance; Lucy Ramirez,

Millikan;

28 years—Veronica Valdez, Tucker; Cecilia

Sebastian, Accounting; Isabel Hildreth, Harte;

Robin Gurule, Cleveland;

27 years—Bruce Sunrise, Poly; Flor

Podrasky, Lakewood; Irene Hecht, Jordan;

26 years—Charles Lowe, Jordan;

25 years—Frankie Parker, Wilson; Valorie

Amesse, Bixby; Paula Orbison, Nutrition

Services; Andrea Olsson, Naples;

24 years—Antonio Ruelas, Lindsey; Delbert

White, Beach;

23 years—Matthew Brigham, Jefferson;

Teresa Gonzalez, McKinley; Suzanne Johnson,

Franklin/Sato;

22 years—Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, Head

Start; Wanda Tucker, Lindsey; Ava Barker,

Special Education;

21 years—Cydney Arenda, Whittier;

Barbara Christensen, Nelson; Arlene Wilson,

Head Start; Gwendolyn Woods, Poly; Kenneth

Mixon, Head Start; Cherry Williams, Lincoln;

20 years—Lorelei Blataric, Maintenance;

Tracy Light, Lakewood; Teresa Clark,

Lakewood;

19 years—David Rizo, Tucker; Teresita

Valenciano, Special Education; Betty Farmer,

Muir; Vanessa Morrison, Lakewood; Karen

Davis, Millikan;

18 years—Antoinette Mowery, Millikan;

Guadalupe Monzon, Head Start;

17 years—Margaret Morey, CDC; Alvin

Hayes, Jr., Cabrillo; Mier Manalastas, Nutrition

Services; Tim Koenig, Maintenance;

16 years—Debra Barr, Wilson; Lenetha

Williams-Ross, Lowell; Nancy Cardwell, Los

Cerritos; Vanessa Trotman, HRS; Larry Dean

Hasset, Nutrition Services;

15 years—Steven Keo, Hamilton; Mindy

Zumwalde, Washington; Maraia Sapitan,

Edison;

14 years—Alfredo Alonzo, Renaissance;

13 years—William Nelson, Personnel

Commission;

12 years—Elizabeth Masters, Wilson;

William Vlcan, Avalon;

11 years—Devon Austin, Transportation;

10 years—Peggy Vesneski, Lakewood.

Forty-six others who served 998 years asked that their names not be printed.



Shanteau

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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ART CONTEST WINNER – Rogers Middle School student **Ella White**, pictured with Principal Doug Jordan, won a meet-and-greet at an LA Galaxy soccer game.

Names in the News

Rogers Middle School student **Ella White** recently won an LA Galaxy meet and greet with her art contest submission on science, technology, engineering and math. The youth sports company Sports for Learning brought Ella and her parents to an LA Galaxy soccer game to celebrate the student's winning drawing. Ella got to walk down the players' tunnel and meet Galaxy player Sebastian Letget. In addition, representatives of the LA Galaxy Star Squad spirit team visited Rogers to celebrate Ella's accomplishment.

Kris Damon, an early transitional kindergarten teacher at Bixby Elementary School, recently received the 2018 Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) California Distinguished Career/Professional Service Award during the organization's annual convention in Irvine. This award is given annually to recognize a DKG California member who has developed an innovative educational activity that has impacted the profession and is recognized as an example for other educators. Damon was honored for her innovative work with Transitional Kindergarten in LBUSD. One of DKG California's purposes is to honor women of distinction in the field of education. Damon was instrumental in creating a pilot program known as Preppy Kindergarten, which led to the creation of Transitional Kindergarten in LBUSD and across the state of California. In addition to her classroom teaching, Damon served as an instructional coach for Transitional Kindergarten and has represented the district on committees and at conferences on the topic of Transitional Kindergarten. Also attending the award ceremony was Jill Baker, deputy superintendent of schools, who wrote a letter in support of Damon's nomination.

Jordan High School senior **Kristina Hale** qualified for the Special Olympics of Southern California Summer Games at California State University, Long Beach June 9 to 10. Learn more at sosc.org/summergames.

Conrad Marciano, a member of the Class of '03 at Poly High School, was among 646 American Airlines pilots hired last year, and he was one of only 60 who did not come from a military background. More than 17,000 pilots applied to American Airlines last year. He was also the youngest new hire in his class. Marciano has completed his first year as a Boeing 737 First Officer. He recently conducted three presentations at King Elementary School's Career Day.

Pathways to College Act Moves Forward

The California State Assembly recently passed Assembly Bill 1951, which would allow school districts to offer college admission tests like the SAT to students for free during the school day in lieu of the state-required 11th grade assessment.

The legislation, which was authored by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (D — Long Beach) and is known as the Pathways to College Act, now awaits referral to its first Senate policy committee.

Tenacious Students Earn Lough Awards

Five eighth graders have each earned \$500 college scholarships, courtesy of the Lyman W. and Nancy E. Lough Eighth Grade Scholarship Fund.

The awards go to students with a minimum GPA of 2.0, good citizenship and a potential for future success. The winners traditionally are students who are beating the odds and continuing to learn despite tough circumstances such as a disability, a difficult home life or other challenges.

The winners and their schools are Ahmad Diouf, Hamilton; Alvaro Gomez, Lindsey; Tasha Napeli, Powell; Kiriraththa Sokhom-Khou, Rogers; and Edwin Torres, Washington.

As part of the Lough Awards an additional \$180-per-year scholarship from the Frangesch Memorial Fund went to student Cal Griffith of Newcomb.

The Frangesch award selection criteria are the same as those used for the Lough Awards.

Burcham Earns City's Golden Wheel Honor

The Long Beach City Council recently honored Burcham Elementary School with the city's first-ever Golden Wheel Award for Long Beach Walk to School Week.

A National Walk or Ride Your Bike to School Day is held once a year, but Burcham has gone many steps further, with students, staff and parents gathering every Wednesday morning to walk laps on the campus before school starts.

"It's been really fun," Burcham Principal Chris Eckert said. "It's just a good way of getting kids out, moving."

View a related video by finding this article at lbschools.net.

Aetna ID Cards

With the HMO and PPO medical plan administrator switching from Blue Shield to Aetna effective July 1, Aetna ID cards will be mailed to homes after June 15.

If you are leaving town and will not be home to receive your mail but want your card quickly, you can also call the Aetna Concierge on or after June 15 at 888-290-6620, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday through Friday, and with your Social Security number obtain your new ID number. With your ID number, go to www.aetna.com, create an account, and print or download your ID card with the Aetna mobile app.

The Long Beach Unified School District already offers the SAT for free during school and has supported the legislation.

"AB 1951 is about opening the door to higher education for all California students," Assemblymember O'Donnell said. "As a parent and a teacher, I understand the importance of local choice and flexibility to offer assessments that provide the most college and career benefits to every student, no matter where they are from or how much their parents make. I am grateful for the overwhelming support we have received for this bill, and I especially want to thank LBUSD Superintendent Chris Steinhauer for his leadership and support of this effort."

Steinhauer and LBUSD Board of Education President Megan Kerr joined O'Donnell at a Sacramento news conference in February to introduce the legislation.

"The Pathways to College Act opens doors for all students to have college and career choices by making college admissions testing more accessible and affordable," Kerr said.

AB 1951 has the support of a diverse coalition of school districts and educators.

Youth Leadership LB Offering Applications

Youth Leadership Long Beach applications are now available for the 2019 class. The unique program is for youth in grades nine to eleven. Applications are due June 25.

The 2018-19 program is a partnership of Leadership Long Beach, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Port of Long Beach, Southern California Edison, the City of Long Beach and other community partners. This will be the 20th class of Youth Leadership Long Beach. To date more than 500 youth have graduated from this program ready to make a positive difference in their communities.

Learn more and find the application at Leadershiplb.org/yllb-application.

In Memoriam

Ronald Kane
former intermediate office assistant
Nov. 30, 2017

James Baldwin
former plumber
April 11, 2018

John "Mick" Newport
former teacher
May 23, 2018

Antonio Ruelas
former school community liaison
May 23, 2018

Maria Alvarez
teacher, Gompers
May 30, 2018

Annie Ruth Dunn
former instructional aide-special
June 3, 2018