



# school bulletin

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

April 19, 2019

## Librarian of Year 'A Great Resource'

Jack Hobusch of Millikan High School has earned the Teacher Librarian of the Year Award from the Long Beach School Librarians Association. Hobusch was recognized at this week's Board of Education meeting.

"This honor means a great deal to me," said Hobusch, now in his 30th year with the Long Beach Unified School District. "I feel so very lucky to work alongside such exceptional teacher librarian colleagues who support each other so deeply and do such incredible work."



Hobusch

Hobusch started in Long Beach as a classroom teacher at King, Lee and Butler schools. He went on to serve as teacher librarian at Twain, Holmes, Keller and Jefferson schools. In 2011, he arrived at Millikan, where "he has worked hard to make it a warm and welcoming place," said Nina Jackson, president of the local librarians association.

A man of many talents, the National Board Certified teacher librarian also rides a unicycle, and he can tap dance and sing, having performed at Disneyland and in Disney TV specials. He also has performed in various productions with the Fullerton Civic Light Opera, La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts and the Conejo Players Theater in Thousand Oaks.

"Students love him and find him humorous," another colleague said. "He's a great resource, he provides helpful lessons for teachers to use in their classroom, has great ideas and is always willing to help."

## Open Enrollment in May for Benefits, FSA

From May 1 to 31, employees can enroll in, or make changes to, their medical, dental, vision and Flexible Spending Account plans for the 2019-20 plan year. The new plan year starts July 1 and ends June 30, 2020.

For employees who do not make changes, current elections will continue for the 2019-20 plan year, with the exception of the FSA plans. By IRS rules, current FSA enrollment does not carry over to the next year. For those with a current plan year (7/1/18 - 6/30/19) FSA, you have until 9/15/19 to use your available balance, and until 9/28/19 to submit those expenses to WageWorks.

Enroll online at [www.lbusdbenefits.com](http://www.lbusdbenefits.com), or call 866-844-9744, option 4, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Attendance Effort Named Statewide Model

The Long Beach Unified School District is one of 23 honorees designated as models of attendance improvement by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond.

The Model School Attendance Review Boards honor goes to school systems that demonstrate innovative and effective practices to reduce absenteeism.

"In order for students to reach their full learning potential, they need to be in school," Thurmond said. "These exemplary attendance programs have reduced chronic absenteeism rates at the district level and have been able to provide the necessary support to students who are the most vulnerable and at risk of becoming a chronic absentee. This recognition is well-deserved, and I hope that other districts

will follow the lead of the model SARBs and replicate their methods so we can get all of our students back in class and on the pathway to graduation and a successful future."

The state's own School Attendance Review Board (SARB), an expert panel convened by Thurmond, reviewed the applications. The state SARB brings together key agencies and community partners to promote a three-tiered model for reducing chronic absenteeism rates and drop-out rates in the state: prevention, early intervention and intensive intervention.

"Schools cannot succeed alone in addressing high chronic absenteeism rates," Thurmond said. "It is not just about what schools can do but what schools, communities and parents can do working together."

(Continued on next page)

## Retired Board Member Earns CSULB Award

Former Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Mary Stanton, who served for an unprecedented 24 consecutive years on the school board before retiring in 2014, will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award during a May 9 banquet at Cal State Long Beach.

"I was pleasantly surprised to be notified of this great honor," Stanton said. "I think this award reflects the significant progress that our beloved school district has made. To move a large school system in a positive direction requires a tremendous team effort, and I was honored to be a part of such important work. It's nice to be remembered for whatever contribution I made during my time there."

During Stanton's six terms on the school board, LBUSD received extensive national recognition for improving student achievement, including during lean times for public schools statewide.

She supported the first districtwide K-8

public school uniforms in the nation and a successful third grade reading initiative.

Several new schools were built during Stanton's tenure on the board, including the Cabrillo, Chavez, Powell, International, Butler and Dooley campuses.

Stanton was a leading advocate for the preservation of arts and music programs. In 2014 she received an award from the Long Beach Symphony Association for her dedicated support of arts in education.

After attending Long Beach's Mann Elementary School, Jefferson Junior High School and Wilson High School, Stanton

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Stanton

**STATE HONOR –** Teachers James Orihuela and Elizabeth Vaqué, Principal Thomas Espinoza, recreation aide Margarita Cabezas and office supervisor Martha Sowa accepted the California Distinguished School Award for Keller Dual Immersion Middle School this month. Learn more at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net).



## • Attendance

(Continued from first page)

LBUSD staff have made a concerted effort to work more closely with families who face challenges such as transportation barriers, or situations in which older siblings are kept home to care for younger ones. The school district also has partnered with local agencies such as the City Prosecutor's Office on a program called "All In," which assists students who are chronically absent from school, linking them to support systems.

All 23 of the honored SARB programs will be recognized at the state conference of the California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance on April 19 in Napa. The chairperson of each SARB has agreed to mentor other SARB chairpersons in the state.

## • CSULB Award

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earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from CSULB in 1965, with a concentration in music. She was the first person in her family to graduate from college.

She went on to become a teacher in local schools and was active in various school district committees and in several community organizations including the PTA.

The May 9 awards event starts with a 5:30 p.m. reception and 6:30 p.m. dinner at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach, 200 S. Pine Ave. Tickets are \$200. RSVP by May 2. Contact noemi.guevara@csulb.edu or call 985-7536 for additional information.

## Robo Bowl on May 4

The Long Beach Unified School District's annual Robo Bowl, a competition where dozens of middle school students show off their robotics projects, is scheduled for 8 a.m. (team check-in) to 4 p.m. (closing ceremonies) Saturday, May 4 at McBride High School, 7025 E. Parkcrest St. in Long Beach. Qualifying rounds start at 9:30 a.m., with elimination rounds at 2:45 p.m.

The fun-filled competition includes robot obstacle courses and prizes for winning teams. The event also provides families a better understanding of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) efforts in local schools.

## Poly BioMed Team Heads to Nationals

Twenty-six students from Poly High School recently headed to Sacramento to participate in the Health Occupations Students of America State Competition and Leadership Conference, and some of the students will continue on to a national contest.

HOSA is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Association for Career and Technical Education. The group's mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of health science technology students.

A team from Poly won a conference award for Biomedical Debate and will travel to the June nationals in Florida.

## Elementary Students Join Robotech Fest

Fourth and fifth graders from six local schools participated in a robotics tournament this month at Long Beach City College. The Long Beach Robotech Festival welcomed teams from Carver, Hudson, King, Lowell, Prisk and Smith schools, where students have been learning how to program and run Lego robots all year as part of a combined effort with a local nonprofit group called Shared Science.

In preparation for the event, students participated in after-school classes, with teacher-coaches at each site. Students learned how to make the robots move by using motors and sensors. The tournament was a chance for students to show the skills they mastered this year.

Participating teachers included Candice Mathews at Carver, Brandon Kent at Hudson, Nicholas Kertz at King, Nancy Schmitt at Lowell, David Macander at Prisk and Karla McKenna at Smith.

Shared Science secured a \$10,000 grant from the Crail-Johnson Foundation to support the schools, and the program started last year with a teacher driven Institute for Teaching grant provided with the help of the Teachers Association of Long Beach, California Teachers Association and Shared Science Executive Director Michelle Wells.

## Employee of Year Nominations Due

Long Beach Unified School District employees who know outstanding colleagues deserving recognition may submit nominations for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by Tuesday, April 30.

Instructions, award criteria and nomination forms are available under "Employee of the Year (Classified)" in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). The annual Classified Employee Celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 24 at the Teacher Resource Center.

## In Memoriam

**Cindy McChesney**  
former teacher  
April 3, 2018

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. [www.lbschools.net](http://www.lbschools.net)

**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## Names in the News

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International will publish a photography submission "Harmony in Drumming" by Long Beach Unified School District music teacher **Valerie Vinnard** in an online DKG Gallery of Fine Arts at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Vinnard photographed McKinley Elementary School kindergarten scholars/drummers and used the auditorium's inspirational mural as background.

Grand Marshals selected for the May 19 Long Beach Pride Parade include a school board member and a student from the Long Beach Unified School District. Board Member **Megan Kerr** will be honored with the Whitey Littlefield Community Bridge Building Award. Renaissance High School senior **Oliver Nieto** will be honored with the Dr. Robert Garcia Youth Grand Marshal Award. Nieto is the first transgender student to be student council president at Renaissance.

## Yokkaichi Trips for High School Students

Each summer, high school students and a chaperone from Long Beach schools participate in exchange programs with Long Beach's sister city in Yokkaichi, Japan. Four students take part in a 10-day Environmental Summit study program, and two students participate in a three-week Cultural Exchange study program. Expenses while in Japan are covered.

Visit [longbeach-yokkaichi.org](http://longbeach-yokkaichi.org) for more information. The contact for the Environmental Summit, tentatively scheduled for July 28 to Aug. 5, is Jeanette Schelin at 833-4106. The contact for the Cultural Exchange program, scheduled for July 20 to Aug. 7, is Joe Aihara at (714) 883-5146.

## Dates to Remember

May	
	Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
	National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
1	Law Day
1	Loyalty Day
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Week
3	School Lunch Hero Day/School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Day
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Cinco de Mayo," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
5	Anniversary of the First American Man in Space
5	Cinco de Mayo
5-11	Be Kind to Animals Week
6-10	Teacher Appreciation Week
7	National Teacher Day
7	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
8	California Day of the Teacher
8	VE Day
8	National Bike to School Day
8	National School Nurse Day
12	Mothers Day
18	Armed Forces Day
20-21	Lindbergh Flight Anniversary
20-24	Public Schools Week
21	Open House — Middle Schools
21-27	Classified School Employees Week
22	Open House — Elementary Schools
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 24 - 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Memorial Day/Veterans Day," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
23	Open House — High Schools
23	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Total War (Memorial Day)," Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
25	Ralph Waldo Emerson's Birthday
27	Memorial Day — Holiday
29	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Flag Day/Citizenship Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30; 31 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "High School Graduation - A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
31	World No Tobacco Day