



school bulletin

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

November 22, 2019

Board Approves Raise for CSEA

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education approved a contract agreement this week with the local chapter of the California School Employees Association. Included in the tentative agreement are the same 2 percent ongoing salary increase and one-time “off schedule” 1 percent increase that parallel a recent agreement with the Teachers Association of Long Beach. The increases are retroactive to July 1, 2018.

CSEA members had voted to ratify the agreement earlier this week.

Retroactive checks for the 2 percent increase and the one-time 1 percent increase will be disbursed to qualifying employees as early as December. The one-time increase is 1 percent of the employee’s annual salary. The ongoing 2 percent increase also will be reflected on paychecks as early as December.

Jordan Psychologist Earns State Honor

Mireya Cervantes has earned an Outstanding School Psychologist Award from the California Association of School Psychologists.

Cervantes won the Nadine M. Lambert Outstanding School Psychologist award for Region V, or South and East Los Angeles County, one of the largest regions. She accepted the award during a recent CASP convention at the Westin Hotel Long Beach.

“It was an honor and very special to me to receive this award in the city where I’ve worked since I was a school psychologist intern,” said Cervantes, who has served for 19 years as a psychologist in the Long Beach Unified School District, including the past four years at Jordan High School.

Cervantes was instrumental in creating the Jordan Wellness Center, a place on campus to support, guide and provide counseling services to students. Services also include parent education and access to community resources.

“I’ve had the privilege and unique opportunity at Jordan to provide direct social-emotional support for students,” Cervantes said. “This recognition is one that I share with the students, who truly define strength, and teach me lessons on a daily basis. I’m proud to work at Jordan, and I’m fortunate to work with a supportive school staff and community that recognizes the need for overall social emotional wellness and health.”



Cervantes

Recognizing Outstanding Growth in Schools

By Christopher J. Steinhauser
Superintendent of Schools

As students head off to a well-deserved Thanksgiving week, I wanted to express my deep appreciation for everyone’s concerted efforts to support teaching and learning. Your hard work is making a huge difference. We were pleased to celebrate 35 of our schools this week for outstanding academic growth in English and math as we mark a fourth straight year of student achievement gains districtwide. View related videos and further details by finding this article at lbschools.net.



Steinhauser

Celebrations are always fun, but they also serve a practical purpose here in the Long Beach Unified School District, sparking dialogue about what techniques are making the

biggest impacts on closing achievement gaps. When we find a method that works well, we strive to replicate it more widely. This approach has helped our students to achieve greater gains than other large school districts in California. Ultimately our students are outperforming their counterparts statewide in terms of graduation rates and college-going rates.

These results require a tremendous team effort among our employees, parents, students and valued community partners under the guiding vision of our publicly elected Board of Education.

As superintendent, I often have the privilege of sharing your successes with educators in other school districts. Most recently our school district hosted educators from 12 states to discuss equity for all students. Each time I engage with educators from elsewhere, I am reminded just how special Long Beach is, and I develop renewed appreciation for our people.

Thank you to everyone who makes us proud to be LBUSD. Best wishes for a joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

LBUSD Partners with Agencies on Career Ed

A regional collaborative of five school districts, including Long Beach, has partnered with local colleges and workforce boards to launch a Career Pledge, committing to help develop a qualified workforce for employers.

The Pledge was launched during a ceremony last week at Dignity Health Sports Park in Carson, where representatives from education, industry and government jointly signed a large Career Pledge banner.

The Pledge “is a groundbreaking commitment to increase the economic vitality of the region,” said Amy Smith, executive director of educational partnerships for the Advancing Linked Learning Innovation Network (aLLin). The network and LBUSD are authors of the pledge, and they sponsored the event, where agencies pledged to work together to increase industry-aligned educational opportunities for students.

Other participating school districts include

ABC, Centinella Valley, Lynwood and Norwalk-La Mirada, five postsecondary institutions (Cerritos College, Cal State Long Beach, Compton College, El Camino College and Long Beach City College), and three workforce boards (Pacific Gateway, South Bay and Southeast Los Angeles County).

New Staff Aboard At Long Beach CaLL

The nonprofit Long Beach CaLL (Career-Linked Learning) has announced that Michelle Thomassian will serve as the organization’s new administrator. Thomassian, who most recently had served as the career access manager for Highline Public Schools just outside of Seattle, WA, will fill the Long Beach CaLL position as part of her new role as

(Continued on next page)



HONORING VETERANS – U.S. Navy veteran and Bixby Elementary School parent Ben Corpuz, with daughter Nicole, was among more than 20 veterans and active military service personnel honored during a recent school-wide assembly. View more photos at lbschools.net. Story on next page.

• Long Beach CaLL

(Continued from first page)
 administrator, K-16 collaborations and external programs for the Long Beach Unified School District.

Long Beach CaLL is a partnership among LBUSD, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach. The goal of the program is to help young people develop personal and professional skills that contribute to their success in the workforce.

"I am thrilled to begin the 2019-20 school year together and join the esteemed Long Beach community," Thomassian said. "This work cannot be done alone, and I am both fortunate and eager to work alongside all of you to encourage students in Long Beach to be curious, find their purpose, and relentlessly pursue their college and career goals."



Thomassian



Fujikami

In other staffing developments at Long Beach CaLL, Kehau Fujikami, who served the organization as a consultant in recent years, is now an official LBUSD employee and was named Long Beach CaLL's business development and marketing specialist. Learn more at longbeachcall.org.

A Salute to Veterans

Bixby Elementary School honored active military service personnel and veterans during a schoolwide event just before the recent Veterans Day holiday. More than 20 veterans were honored, and student council officers raised a new American flag atop the school's flagpole.

Principal Sam Platis presented plaques of appreciation to the veterans on the school's playground as students cheered and waved American flags.

Among the plaque recipients was Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President Felton Williams, who served in the U.S. Army during the 1960s. View photos at lbschools.net.

Harmony Project Gala on Dec. 11

The Long Beach Unified School District continues to partner with the nonprofit Harmony Project, which provides instrumental music education for children from lower income communities. The project's fifth annual gala, a reception and fundraiser hosted by the school district and the Long Beach Education Foundation, is scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 in the Pacific Room at The Long Beach Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. The evening will include musical performances and special guests. RSVP at harmonyproject@lbschools.net or 997-8448.

Free Flu Vaccinations

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services will offer free flu vaccinations during a clinic scheduled for 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 at the Health Department offices, 2525 Grand Ave.

No appointment is necessary for the free clinic. Learn more at longbeach.gov/flu.

Dates to Remember

December

1	Anniversary of Montgomery Bus Boycott
1	World AIDS Day
3	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "The Wright Brothers," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
5	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
10	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Silversmith of Williamsburg," Grade 5, ed.tv 8
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "What Liberty and Justice Mean," Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Anniversary of Boston Tea Party
17	Anniversary of Wright Brothers' Flight
17	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
19	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
21	First Day of Winter
22-30	Hanukkah
23-Jan. 3	Winter Recess
24	Christmas Eve — Holiday
25	Christmas Day — Holiday
25	Clara Barton's Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
31	New Year's Eve



'STANDOUT STUDENT' — Kate Rael, a senior at Wilson High School, was recognized as a "Standout Student" on Fox LA's Morning Show. She wrote and illustrated a book to benefit the Huntington's Disease Society of America. View video at lbschools.net.

Names in the News

Wilson High School senior **Kate Rael** was featured as a "School Standout" on Fox LA's Morning Show this month. Kate has published a children's book, "Why Dorothy Dwight Feels Quite All Right and Hudson Hill Feels Very Ill." The proceeds from the sales of this book benefit the Huntington's Disease Society of America.

Long Beach physician **Christina Lee**, who as a young child survived Cambodia's Killing Fields and later attended Long Beach Unified School District schools, recently addressed administrators at a K-12 principals' meeting here. Dr. Lee shared her experiences as a way of inspiring leaders to consider how the power of a story can help to build empathy, understanding and cultural competency in staff and students. The former Tincher, Hill and Poly student also spoke last June at the commencement ceremony of the first graduating class of the Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science.



Lee

Elementary music teacher **Valerie Vinnard**, who was featured in the Nov. 8 School Bulletin as winner of a top award from the California Music Educators Association, also has been recognized on the pages of drum manufacturer Remo Inc.'s website.

The Remo website describes Vinnard's successful "Classroom Drum Circle Project" and includes a related video produced by the school district's Office of Multimedia Services. Remo is the world's largest manufacturer of drum heads, and the company's website features tributes to internationally renowned musicians.

View the Vinnard feature by searching for "Classroom Drum Circle Project" at Remo.com.

In Memoriam

Jan Tunncliff
 former nutrition services supervisor
 October 10, 2019

Mary Cassara
 former teacher
 October 26, 2019

Dorothy Choice
 nutrition services worker, McKinley
 November 5, 2019

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
 Superintendent of Schools

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