

School News

Education + Communication = A Better Nation

Covering the Long Beach Unified School District...and more!



Volume 27, Issue 157

February 2026



Webster Elementary students performed a winter concert for residents & staff at a local nursing home. (page 47)



Renaissance High School for the Arts the Play Production class' student work, "Under Pressure." (page 40)



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Kettering Classical Elementary – Maestros in the Making! (page 29)



Supporting Education

The Port of Long Beach partners with our community – from elementary school to college – to help develop the workforce and leaders of tomorrow.



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Rex Richardson
Mayor

**Don't Miss These
Exciting New Opportunities for
Students and Young People**

As we begin 2026 and move into the second half of the school year, I want to wish every LBUSD student, educator, and family continued success. Whether you are just finding your rhythm this semester or preparing for what comes next, this is a time to stay focused, stay curious, and stay hopeful about the future ahead.

Long Beach remains deeply committed to creating meaningful opportunities for young people at every stage of life. This year, we proudly launched a new cohort of the Long Beach Public Service Corps Fellowship, with more than 50 fellows from our local colleges and universities placed across City departments. These fellows are gaining paid, hands-on experience in public service while contributing to the work that keeps Long Beach moving forward. Their service reflects our belief that the next generation belongs at the heart of civic leadership.

At our recent 2026 Long Beach State of the City Address, themed "A Future Built by All of Us," we were honored to highlight the LBUSD Student Board Member, Chimnazaekpere Nwala, reinforcing the importance of student voice in shaping the future of our schools and our city. When young people are included at decision-making tables, our institutions are stronger.

Our investments continue to back this commitment, from Youth Participatory Budgeting and safe passages to workforce pathways like the Long Beach College Promise, Long Beach Jobs Promise, and Long Beach Housing Promise. Together, these initiatives are designed to ensure that no matter a student's background or pathway, opportunity is within reach.

I also encourage families to mark their calendars for Youth Day on April 25, when we will come together to celebrate youth leadership, achievement, and potential across Long Beach.

To every young person in our city: we see you, we believe in you, and we are building pathways for you to thrive. Stay engaged, take advantage of these opportunities, and keep striving toward your highest potential.

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Tina Hansen
Mayor

Excitement for 2026!

As we enter the year 2026, I am honored to serve as the Signal Hill Mayor in a year with so many exciting moments to come. Thanks to California State Senator Lena Gonzalez helping our City to secure a \$5 million grant, Signal Hill has broken ground on a new state-of-the-art amphitheater located in Signal Hill Park. This beautiful new venue will feature terraced seating, a stunning stage with exceptional sound

equipment, and a top-tier LED screen that will enable us to project during the day. Additionally, it will include a back-of-house building for guest performers to utilize. We are very excited for all the programming opportunities this new amphitheater will give us. Look for our grand opening in late fall of 2026.

We are also excited to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Signal Hill Public Library in 2026. Join us for events and celebrations the week of February 23-28 as we think about how much libraries have changed in the last 100 years, from the Dewey Decimal system (I'm sure there are teachers and administrators who remember using those cards!) to our new digital system. If you have never seen the Signal Hill Public Library, come visit us! It is a beautiful space with a fantastic children's room and a beautiful courtyard with an interactive art piece.

Lastly, please mark your calendars for the Leaders in Training Program and Youth in Government Day to be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2026.

I love LBUSD! My twins were privileged enough to attend Prisk Elementary, Marshall Academy, Lakewood High (son), and Renaissance High School for the Arts. I will always be grateful for the education and care they received at their schools!

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Laura L Doud
City Auditor

Cheering for Each Other

Can you see yourself at 100 years old? To hit the century mark happy amongst family and friends cheering for us would be amazing, wouldn't it?

I reflected on this after listening to the incredible story of Orville Rogers (November 28, 1917 – November 14, 2019). Rogers, a retired military, commercial, and missionary pilot, took up running in his fifties. He went on to compete in track and field events, impressively setting records in his nineties. Though, it was one of Rogers's races in particular that resonated with me. At 100 years old, Rogers entered the 1,500-meter event at the USA Masters Track and Field National Championship for seniors. When the starter pistol fired, the runners took off and Rogers settled into last place. Nearly 3,000 spectators watched as Rogers shuffled slowly around the track. When he began his final lap, the crowd rose to its feet, cheering and applauding. By the time he reached the homestretch, the crowd was roaring. Lifted by this encouragement, Rogers victoriously crossed the finish line to a standing ovation and then was embraced by his fellow competitors. He waved gratefully and humbly to the crowd before walking off the track with his friends. It was his fifth event of the meet and although he finished last in all five of the events, he broke five world records that day while competing in the 100+ age division.

Cheering for one another inspires belief while strengthening confidence and resilience. Encouragement helps people believe in themselves, empowers them to pursue their goals, and supports them in recovering from setbacks. It also creates unity as supporting others strengthens relationships and shifts the focus from competition to collaboration, fostering a culture of mutual support and shared growth.

What does it look like to cheer for each other in our day-to-day lives? There are many ways, both big and small. It might mean showing up for someone, truly listening, offering a compliment, sending a message of support, or lending a helping hand, advice, or expertise. It could be celebrating milestones like a birthday, graduation, promotion, or engagement. Or, as in Rogers's case, it could be cheering from the stands at an event, game, or race. Your encouragement and cheering might be exactly what someone needs to break their own personal world record.

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562/570-6751 • www.CityAuditorLauraDoud.com

City of Long Beach, City Prosecutor



Douglas P. Haubert
City Prosecutor

City Prosecutor Interns are Future Leaders

The Summer Internship started by the Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office 11 years ago continues to grow! So far, over 130 local students have completed this unique program.

Some students advance to law-related fields, but many do not. 100 percent of students learn something about the rule of law, the importance of the U.S. Constitution, and the role of public safety in everyday life.

It is not the goal of the internship to prepare students for law school. Rather, we want to expose students to a wide variety of careers and areas of student relevant in today's world. This includes a wide variety of public service areas in law, as well as law enforcement at the local, state and federal level.

The paid internship includes office work, which is the not-so-glamorous part of the practice of law. Despite what is shown in movies and television, this is a document-heavy profession.

But that is only part of the experience. Students also go on ride-alongs with law enforcement, meet FBI and forensic experts, watch emergency dispatchers in action, and get to see behind-the-scenes of security at the Long Beach Airport and the Port of Long Beach.

Thanks to the Long Beach Workforce Innovation Network (LBWIN), we will offer the internship again in Summer 2026. The program is competitive, so people are encouraged to apply early.

Eligibility is simple. Anyone who is currently a Junior or Senior in High School, or currently attending college, is eligible to apply. Priority is given to students who live or attend school in Long Beach.



Kneeling: Jaclyn Goshert, Michael Miller, Colin Bullivant
2nd row: Lily Danks, Jackson Case, Isabella Dopulos, Aaden Ly, Emily Beck, Sameer Al-Mulla, Kaylee Acevedo, Madison Hindman, Jenny Adame Lazaro, Ashley Richards, Alina Jean Baptiste, Isabella Wooden, Enrique Gil

The City Prosecutor Summer Internship is a great opportunity to "learn and earn" and can help bridge the gap between school and career. To learn more about this program, visit <https://CityProsecutorDougHaubert.com/Student-Internships/>.

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Rancho Los Alamitos

California's History and Social Science Curriculum

By Chris Fountain, Manager of Education and Public Engagement

Rancho Los Alamitos offers third- and fourth-grade field trips that support California's history and social science curriculum. Third-grade classes are invited to participate in the virtual Tovaave: A Tongva Cultural Program. In a series of videos, students will learn about the history and culture of the Tongva-Gabrielino people and respond in an interactive student journal. Fourth-grade tours are facilitated by school docents. Docent-led tours, whether in-person or online, explore the site's ranch house, gardens, and barns in connection with themes in California history. Teachers can learn more about signing up for these opportunities on our website.



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Nutrition Update

New Dietary Guidelines 2025



**Carol Berg Sloan,
RDN, FAND**

The newly released 2025–2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans emphasizes minimally processed, nutrient-dense foods and recommends limits on added sugar, sodium, and saturated fat. This is very similar to what has been recommended for the last several revisions (based on science and evidence), however the United States

Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, who oversee the process, created an upside-down pyramid that highlights saturated fat (contradiction) and red meat. This is a huge change from past recommendations that strongly link the consumption of saturated fat and red meat to increased risk of heart disease. There will be more to come on these guidelines in the coming months.



**Kelly Taber,
MS, RDN**

The new guidelines are confusing, and I have had several clients ask me about eating red meat now. I share to do in moderation and choose lower fat cuts as shared in the recipe below.

Citrus Steak Salad with Rice Noodles

Makes about 3-4 servings.

Dressing:

1 teaspoon orange zest

1 orange, juiced

1 teaspoon finely grated fresh ginger

2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar

1 teaspoon honey

¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

pinch of kosher salt

Directions:

1. In a small bowl or mason jar, combine all ingredients together. Mix well. Store in refrigerator and shake well before each use.

Steak:

1 pound flank steak

2 cups Italian dressing (I use Kraft® Zesty Italian Dressing but you can use your favorite brand - marinate flank steak in dressing preferably overnight, but up to 2 hours before cooking)

For Salad:

1 small cucumber, unpeeled and diced

1 tomato, diced

1/2 red onion, diced

4 cups mixed greens (I chopped up romaine, iceberg, and red leaf)

1- 14-ounce box of rice noodles, cooked (follow directions on packaging - I used Thai Kitchen® gluten-free thin rice noodles)

Directions:

Pour Italian dressing over flank steak. Cover and let marinate in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Grill flank steak until desired level of cooking, for medium rare cook for about 4-5 minutes on each side. Spread more marinade on each side when you flip it.

Remove from heat and let sit for 5 minutes. Slice into 1/2-inch-deep pieces, slicing against the grain.

To assemble salad: add mixed greens, rice noodles and chopped vegetables. Pour dressing over and toss salad. Add flank steak to salad and enjoy!

This column provides insight from Carol Sloan, RDN, FAND and her daughter, Kelly Taber, MS, RDN. They provide tips to help you make healthier and informed food and beverages choices.

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Spotting the Hidden Signs of Heart Conditions in Kids

It's easy to think your child is just tired from a busy day when they seem worn out or get winded faster than usual when exerting energy playing or in sports. But sometimes, these subtle signs can point to an underlying heart condition, especially if they keep happening or don't match your child's typical behavior.

Most serious congenital heart defects are detected before birth or during infancy. However, advances in imaging have made it possible to identify certain conditions, such as anomalous coronary arteries, in older children as well. Heart issues aren't always obvious and can present in unexpected ways, including trouble feeding, slow weight gain, or frequent colds and infections. Symptoms like fatigue, dizziness, and fainting — especially during play or sports — are also important for parents to notice.

If you're concerned, trust your instincts. Start by talking with your pediatrician and sharing details: how long symptoms have lasted, what seems to trigger them, and any changes in growth, appetite, sleep, or activity. Keeping a simple symptom diary can help your doctor spot patterns. Sometimes, it's something common like asthma. But if you're still worried, ask about seeing a pediatric cardiologist or getting an echocardiogram. These tests are gentle and can catch most heart problems. If more detail is needed, scans

like CT or MRI can help doctors see exactly what's going on.

At the Children's Heart Institute at Miller Children's & Women's Hospital, our team of cardiologists, surgeons, nurses, social workers, and child life specialists work together to guide families from diagnosis through treatment. Because children aren't just small adults, it's important for those with heart concerns to be seen by pediatric specialists or at a dedicated children's hospital. These experts complete additional years of specialized training to understand and treat the complexities of growing bodies, ensuring care is tailored to each child's unique needs.

The good news is that most children with heart conditions can look forward to active, fulfilling lives. Early recognition, the right tests, and specialized care make all the difference.

If something doesn't feel right, don't wait — get it checked out. Your instincts matter, and taking action can lead to better outcomes for your child.



Scan to learn more about the hidden signs of heart conditions in youth.



Pablo, Age 6

At 11 months, Pablo was fighting for his life.

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Failing organs. Eight months in a coma. Fighting for every breath. At 11 months old, this is what Leukemia brought Pablo. The one bright spot, he was at MemorialCare Miller Children's & Women's Hospital where a team of top doctors, nurses, and specialists helped save his life. For over a year in the PICU, our highly-trained staff never stopped caring for Pablo and his family. *Caring is our calling.*

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CathyLyn Brooks

Changing Ownership to A Trust Breaks A Joint Tenancy

Owning property with family or friends can be straightforward and simple — until someone decides to place their share into a trust, perhaps unbeknownst to other owners. That single step can dramatically change how title is held, and many co-owners do not realize the consequences until it's too late.

Consider a common scenario: Three people own a property together as joint tenants. Later, one party transfers their interest into their family trust. The moment that transfer occurs, the joint tenancy is automatically severed.

In California, a trust cannot hold title as a joint tenant, because joint tenancy is designed for individuals, not entities. One of its defining features—the right of survivorship—allows a deceased owner's share to pass instantly to the surviving joint tenants. A trust cannot receive that automatic transfer, so once any owner moves their interest into a trust, the ownership structure converts automatically to a tenancy in common.

In the situation above, should an owner pass away, say hello to probate or maybe to a new partner. Because the joint tenancy no longer exists at the time of death, the decedent's share cannot transfer to the surviving owners. Instead, it will be handled according to their will, or probate, to establish title to the asset.

This issue arises far more often than people realize. Be aware, when taking title, of the limitations of each vesting. Seek a qualified attorney or tax professional to help you navigate these complex details so there are no surprises.

CathyLyn Brooks, CRS, GRI has worked as a real estate broker since 1980, is a graduate of USC, the UCI Paralegal Program, and serves FINRA as a public arbitrator. She holds Broker's License No. 00797147 and is affiliated with United Real Estate Professionals in southern California. Consumers should seek legal and tax advice pertaining to their transactions. She can be reached at real.estate.matters@outlook.com

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Sean Hardeman
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Create & Achieve a Savings Goal for 2026

Setting a savings goal is one of the most powerful steps you can take in your finances. Here's how to do it:

1. Decide what you're saving for (emergency fund, home improvement project, vacation)
2. Set a realistic savings goal amount and deadline (ex. \$2,000 by June)
3. Break down your savings goal into manageable amounts (\$500 saved each month)
4. Review your spending habits and look for ways to reduce expenses
5. Automate your savings by setting up a direct deposit into a separate savings account so you don't get tempted to spend

Finally, track your progress and celebrate small milestones along the way. With commitment, consistency, and a plan, you can hit your savings goal in 2026.

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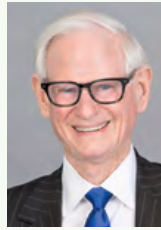
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Chimnazaekpere Nwala
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Superintendent



Dr. Jill A. Baker
Superintendent

Our Schools are Safe Spaces for Every Student and Family

At Long Beach Unified, our work through [Vision 2035](#) is centered on creating safe, supportive learning environments where every student can succeed.

Recent events and national conversations may be causing fear or uncertainty for some of our families. Long Beach Unified stands in unwavering solidarity with our immigrant students and families. To date, there has been no presence from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on any LBUSD campus. Our campuses are safe zones, supported by established monitoring and safety protocols, and trained staff remain vigilant at all times. We encourage families to visit our [Standing in Solidarity: Empowering Our Immigrant Students and Families](#) webpage, which outlines guidance and resources to support the wellness and safety of our students.

Our Board of Education has set clear goals to improve reading proficiency, accelerate learning, strengthen Algebra achievement, and increase college and career readiness. The [Board of Education Goals and Guardrails](#) ensure decisions are grounded in community voice.

To strengthen learning environments and support student focus and mental health, the District has implemented a districtwide [cell phone policy](#) across all schools.

Safety also includes the physical spaces where students learn each day. Through our bond program, we are continuing our ongoing investments in essential infrastructure, including upgraded security cameras, phone and intercom systems, HVAC improvements, and the implementation of a single-point-of-entry with Electronic Visitor Screening Systems. These bond investments secure campuses, improve indoor air quality, and strengthen communication across our school sites.

Through the [Center of Black Student Excellence](#), we continue focused efforts to improve outcomes, belonging, and opportunity for Black students through targeted support and community partnership.

As we navigate fiscal challenges facing districts nationwide, we are committed to transparency. We have launched a public [budget landing page](#) to share our financial realities and decisions, while protecting core instructional priorities and student services.

We remain committed to what matters most: supporting students, strengthening schools, and delivering on our promise of creating safe, supportive learning environments where every student can succeed.

Child Development Centers

4400 Ladoga Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/421-8210 • <https://www.lbschools.net/departments/child-development/home>



Dr. Jacqueline Williams
*Director
Child Development*

A Strong Foundation Begins in CDC

The Office of Child Development Centers (CDC) is a place where children learn, grow, and shine. We offer full-day preschool programs, before- and after-school care for school-age children, and partnership programs, including CDC/TK and Co-Collaborative

Teaching (CCT). Through CDC/TK, CDC partners with LBUSD's Transitional Kindergarten at select elementary schools to provide children with a supportive start to school. In these classrooms, children benefit from two teachers who provide increased attention, encouragement, and opportunities to build strong early academic skills. Our CCT classrooms are grounded in inclusion, with two educators jointly planning and sharing responsibility to support all learners.



CDC is also excited to welcome two-year-olds at select sites. Toddlers learn through play in safe, nurturing classrooms led by trained, certificated teachers, fostering language development, confidence, and early friendships. Children enjoy free, healthy meals and engaging activities that spark curiosity and joy. Subsidized care is available for qualifying families, expanding access to high-quality early learning opportunities. CDC further supports working families by offering extended-day, year-round care designed to meet varied schedules. To learn more, contact the Enrollment Center at 562-429-8636 today.

Head Start

1260 E. 33rd St., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8144 • <https://www.lbschools.net/departments/head-start/head-start-home>



Maria Harris
*Director
Head Start
Programs*

On the Move

This year, the Support Services Team at LBUSD Head Start has been on the move, connecting students and families with the support they need to learn, grow, and thrive. Through parent workshops,

stronger community partnerships, and access to services and resources, we're building a caring network around every child.

We're proud to partner with the City of Long Beach ECE Mental Health Program, supporting the adults around our children, teaching staff and parents so they feel equipped to support children. Because healthy learners are



Chavez Head Start student and caregiver receives a food basket funded by Long Beach Food Access fund.

stronger learners, we provide dental, vision, and hearing screenings at all 24 of our centers.

During the holiday season, we teamed up with Performance Plus Tires to provide non-perishable food boxes to 60 families and grocery cards to 25 families. Through our Adopt-a-Family program, 24 families received gifts for their entire household. In November, the Long Beach Food Access Fund helped us address food insecurity by providing a grant that provided food baskets to 50 families.

We're proud to meet full enrollment for the second year in a row. A reflection of the trust our families place in us and the dedication our staff brings every day. Here's to continued high-quality services so our students and families can keep thriving and shining!

Addams *Elementary*

5320 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-0202 • addams.lbschools.net



Dr. Osvaldo Ocampo
Principal

Winter Festivities

Addams Elementary School transformed into a seasonal wonderland for its annual Winter Fest on December 18. Students made handmade holiday art projects, enjoyed a train ride around the playground and interacted with animals at a mobile petting zoo.

The festive atmosphere included entertainment from our Black Student Union (BSU) dancers and classic holiday songs performed by the Addams choir. A special visit with Santa allowed children to share their holiday wishes.

Neighborhood vendors and local food trucks provided a variety of refreshments, turning the school grounds into a lively community hub. The event successfully brought the neighborhood together for a memorable start to the winter break.



Alvarado *Elementary*

1900 E. 21st St., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/985-0019 • alvarado.lbschools.net



Dr. Jennifer Kolb
Principal

Bubble Run Brings Community Together

By Dr. Kolb, Principal and Dr. Mónica Santiesteban, Parent Community Facilitator

In November, Alvarado hosted a fun-filled Bubble Run fundraiser that brought students, families, and staff together for an unforgettable day. Sponsored by Signal Hill Petroleum, the event was made possible through countless hours of planning and dedication by our amazing PTO. Their hard work truly showed as smiles filled the course from start to finish. The YMCA of Los Altos set up an exciting obstacle course that challenged runners of all ages, while Foam Time



LA delivered waves of bubbly foam that turned the run into a colorful, laughter-filled experience. Adding to the excitement, Mayor Keir Jones stopped by to show support and cheer on our students. The Bubble Run was more than

just a fundraiser; it was a celebration of the community. Students had a blast, families joined in the fun, and everyone left with happy memories. Thankful for all who helped make this event such a success!



Avalon School (TK-12)

P.O. Box 557, Avalon, CA 90704 • 310/510-0790 • avalon.lbschools.net



Emma Peguero
Principal

Measure E Construction Completed

Long Beach Unified School District has completed Measure E Bond construction at Avalon School, marking another milestone in the district's ongoing facilities improvement program. The completed

project enhances the campus with modernized learning spaces designed to better support student achievement, safety, and accessibility and also included a brand-new sports field with artificial turf. Improvements reflect the goals of the Measure E Bond to upgrade aging infrastructure and create high-quality educational environments for all students. The updated

Avalon School campus now provides a more functional, welcoming setting that supports teaching, learning, and community pride. A grand reopening of the field date has yet to be determined.



Bancroft Middle School

5301 Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/425-7461 • bancroft.lbschools.net



Dr. Patrick Booker
Principal

Coming Together: Bancroft Welcomes the Hoover Community

*By Christina Traylor,
Parent-Community Facilitator*

Change can come when you least expect it. As Hoover closes, we are committed to warmly welcoming the Hoover community to Bancroft—a focus of our Culture and Climate Leadership Team as we strengthen belonging, engagement, and support for all Bruins.



On January 15, Hoover families and staff visited Bancroft and were greeted by ASB leaders with hot chocolate, performances led by Mr. Picanco and Ms. Hamm, and a presentation and Q&A hosted by Dr. Booker. WEB leaders gave campus tours, while Special Education, clubs, electives, and our amazing PTA hosted breakout sessions. A truly wonderful event—and as always, go Bruins!"



Barton Elementary

1100 E. Del Amo Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/428-0555 • barton.lbschools.net

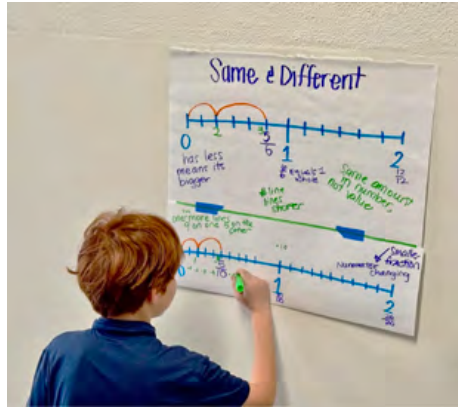


Eleni Makridis
Principal

Barton Elementary School Loves Math!

By Kimberly Duenas, Cotsen Mentor

Barton Elementary is partnering this year with Number Sense Routine consultant Berkeley Everett for dynamic staff professional development and lab days. Our most recent lab day centered on deepening mathematical thinking through Same/Different and True/False routines using open equations. Teachers engaged as learners first—wrestling with multiple solution paths, justifications, and representations—mirroring the kind of sensemaking we aim to cultivate in classrooms.



The lab experience emphasized how open equations invite curiosity and productive struggle, positioning all students as capable mathematical thinkers. Through intentional questioning and annotating student thinking, educators explored how Same/Different and True/False routines surface student reasoning, honor diverse strategies, and strengthen conceptual understanding rather than focusing solely on answers.

This collaboration reflects Barton Elementary's ongoing commitment to Cognitively Guided Instruction and number sense-rich practices that elevate student voice and agency. By learning alongside one another with expert facilitation, Barton staff members continue to build a shared vision for mathematics instruction that is inclusive, inquiry-driven, and grounded in joyful exploration.



Birney Elementary

710 W. Spring St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/427-8512 • birney.lbschools.net



Katria Hernandez
Principal

Drumming Circle

By Alana Hernandez, School Counselor

At Birney Elementary School, there is a social-emotional support group happening through a drumming circle program led by Mrs. Katy Tinsley, our Care Center Coordinator at Birney. This program is designed to support students who may be experiencing challenges with emotional regulation and self-expression.

Mrs. Tinsley has received training in the positive effects of drumming through Beat the Odds- Social and Emotional Skill Building Delivered in a Framework of Drumming. Beat the Odds® integrates

group drumming with counseling-based strategies to help students build essential social-emotional skills. Throughout the program, students practice focus and active listening while engaging in activities that promote teamwork, leadership, positive risk-taking, and self-confidence. Additional areas of growth include expressing feelings, managing anger and stress, developing empathy, awareness of others, and practicing gratitude.

Drumming circles provide students with a safe, engaging, and hands-on way to regulate emotions and connect with peers in a positive environment. Groups are being offered to students across all grade levels, TK through 5th grade. We are so lucky to have Mrs. Tinsley conduct this amazing group at Birney

Bixby Elementary

5251 E. Stearns St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-3794 • bixby.lbschools.net



Agustin Vieyra
Principal

Bixby Families March in Unity at the Long Beach MLK Parade

Bixby families proudly joined fellow Dual Language Immersion Sankofa schools to march in the annual Long Beach MLK Parade, standing together in joy, solidarity, and shared purpose. The morning was filled with celebration, community, and a powerful sense of belonging.

A special highlight was a student-designed T-shirt featuring an image of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Worn by all participants, the shirt symbolized unity, creativity, and student voice at the heart of our DLI community.

We were also honored to have Superintendent Dr. Jill Baker join our families for a photo, capturing a meaningful moment of connection and collective pride.



Browning Early College High School

2180 Obispo Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/997-1700 • browning.lbschools.net



Dr. Tomika Romant
Principal

Dual Enrollment Success

Analysis of fall semester data shows that Browning Early College High School students continue to demonstrate strong academic performance in dual enrollment courses at Long Beach City College. Browning students achieved an 88%

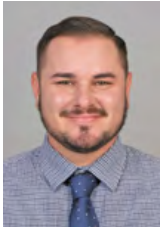
course pass rate, the highest in the school's history and an increase from last year's 82% average, exceeding the success rates of the general LBCC student population. This level of achievement reflects the collaborative partnership between Browning and LBCC, including aligned instructional practices, consistent data sharing, and targeted student supports. Through this

partnership, students are provided with the structure and resources needed to successfully complete college-level coursework, reinforcing Browning's commitment to equity, access, and high academic expectations for all students.



Bryant Elementary

4101 E. Fountain St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/498-3802 • bryant.lbschools.net



Miller Bailey
Principal

Walk through California

By Bryant 4th Grade Students and Kim Kittleson, SEL/Family Engagement Facilitator.

Bryant's Fourth grade students recently participated in Walk Through California. This is a highly engaging, hands-on learning activity where

all students have a role in the music, story telling and assembling of the room-size map of California. The students prepared by being put into teams, given information cards, and rehearsing their parts. Points were given to teams as students participated. The students utilized their presentation and listening skills throughout the experience. The program covered significant historical events and notable historical people in California history, including Russian and Spanish influences. The topography was clearly illustrated on the map.



The urban and rural parts of California were explored and indicated on the map with realia and props. Every participant received a certificate at the end.

The following are a few student responses:

This was a great way to learn about California history.

— Frances

I would recommend this for kids. I loved this and would do it again.

— Charlie

I learned that I don't have to be afraid to speak out loud.

— Ryder

I didn't like it, I LOVED it!

— Genevieve

Buffum Total Learning Center

2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/498-2431 • buffum.lbschools.net



Danielle Wright
Principal

Special Olympics Unified Champion School

Buffum Total Learning Center has been designated as a Special Olympics Unified Champion School, a program serving schools from Pre-K through university that promotes meaningful social inclusion.

The program brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities to create accepting school environments through three interconnected components: Special Olympics Unified Sports®, inclusive youth leadership, and whole-school engagement.

Through this initiative, students with disabilities have opportunities to build confidence and develop foundational sport skills such as running, kicking, and throwing, while fostering teamwork, friendships, and a sense of belonging. Participation supports both physical development and social-emotional growth in an inclusive setting.



The program will culminate in a celebration ceremony in June, during which students will demonstrate the skills they have learned and be recognized with medals to celebrate their effort, progress, and achievements. This event will honor the dedication of our students and highlight Buffum's ongoing commitment to inclusion and equity for all learners.

Burcham (TK-5)

5610 Monlaco Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-2685 • burcham.lbschools.net



Darron Evans
Principal

Vehicle Day 2026

On January 9, Burcham's students felt a strange rumbling go through their classrooms. It was the arrival of twenty vehicles for the 2nd Annual Burcham Vehicle Day.

With leadership from Burcham TK teacher Pam Bee and a special spirit of collaboration with district leaders Dyaisha Yarber and Juan Rivera and staff, Burcham's students got to touch, learn about, and see in action a wide variety of vehicles, including race cars, lowriders, an ambulance, LBFD Engine 19, classic cars, a box truck, a wood chipper, a school bus, a mower, a dump

truck, a trash truck, a backhoe, a mail delivery truck, a police car and motorcycle, an ice cream truck, a tow truck, a forensics van, and more!



Cabrillo High School

2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/951-7700 • cabrillo.lbschools.net



My Ngoc Nguyen
Principal

Cabrillo Hosts Alumni Author for Fireside Chat

Cabrillo had a great author's visit on Friday, Dec. 12th where a little over 300 students and 6 teachers experienced a Fireside Chat with Cabrillo Alumni Author

David McGill-Soriano and Teresa Gomez, Human Dignity Program Manager for the City of Long Beach over the course of the day. David, who grew up in the Washington neighborhood and graduated from Cabrillo, has worked to improve his community and detailed his journey in his new book, *Neighborhood Kid: Don't Just Make it Out, Make it Better*. David didn't just share

his story, he provided inspiration and ignited a passion in our students to shape their future and work together to be leaders in their community!



CAMS

11000 E. Victoria St., Carson, CA 90747 • 310/243-2025 • cams.lbschools.net



Muslim American Heritage Month

By Kayden Cooper, ASB Member

At CAMS, we celebrated Muslim American Heritage Month to recognize and appreciate the contributions of Muslim Americans. ASB and the CAMS Mentorship class worked together to organize events and show

continued support throughout the campus. Mentorship decorated the school with moons, lanterns, stars, and other meaningful symbols, while also highlighting influential quotes and figures who have contributed to the Muslim American community. The mentors provided opportunities for students to enjoy halal treats and try temporary henna tattoos to explore Muslim culture. ASB hosted a coloring station where students could learn about arabesque designs through geometric shapes. To close out the month, ASB hosted a Jeopardy-style game during lunch, giving students the opportunity to learn more about Muslim Americans.



Cheryl Cornejo
Principal

Carver Elementary

5335 E. Pavo St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-2697 • carver.lbschools.net



Amazing Art Teacher

We are so blessed at Carver to have an amazing Art teacher creating art projects for all of our students! Tere Corona has an impressive resume with over 30 years teaching drawing, history of art,

visual communication and painting. Every class from TK to 5th Grade gets to create a masterpiece that focuses on the specific style and genre of many different famous artists in history. Most recently students learned all about Leonardo da Vinci and Frida Kahlo and created masterpieces! Her goal is to make art accessible to everyone. She enjoys making sure students understand that there is not a single right way to do art. It's the individual way that students see art that matters the most!



Monica Manipon
Principal

Chavez *Elementary*

730 W. Third St., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-0904 • chavez.lbschools.net



Dr. Brenda Ocampo
Principal

Winter Chorus Showcase

Congratulations to our Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus on a fantastic winter performance led by Mrs. Vinnard chorus teacher!

Students worked hard on their vocal skills since September learning proper sitting and standing postures as well as fun and engaging warm-ups such as “bumblebee” and “Doe a Deer” learning important melodies, intervals, and solfège techniques.

Learners prepared several choral works such as songs in unison, partner songs, and rounds.

Scholars enjoyed singing both traditional winter song repertoire such as “Feliz Navidad” in both English and Spanish to singing song greetings in different languages like French, Hebrew, German, Italian, and Swahili (African language).

We are so proud of our Chavez Sealions and can't wait until their next awesome musical performance- whether it be singing, dancing, or drumming!



Cleveland *Elementary*

4760 Hackett Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-7552 • cleveland.lbschools.net



Nicole Reyes
Principal

Yoga and Mindfulness Classes

Through a partnership with The Mobility Muse, a community partner, all Cleveland TK and kindergarten students enjoy yoga and mindfulness classes filled with balance, breathing, and fun poses. These joyful sessions help students move, stretch, feel calm and strong, and build focus and happiness—skills they can use both in school and at home.



Cubberley (TK-8)

3200 Monogram Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/420-8810 • cubberley.lbschools.net



Brooke Hogan-Primous
Principal

Cubberley Celebrates Black History Month

By Sirena Delmar-Edmonds,
8th Grade Journalism Student

Where on campus can you find Kobe Bryant, Mayor Richardson of Long Beach, and Ruby Bridges? At Cubberley's Black History Month Museum! Several parent-led committees on Cubberley's campus have taken their time to create an amazing walk through museum celebrating Black History Month. Throughout the month classes will be able to experience the museum.

One of our PTA-DEI committee members shared that there will be three Black-owned food vendors in attendance this Feb. 5th from 5-7 pm for the open house celebration selling yummy food and treats! She also stated that there are "many exhibits including 'Spotlight On Ten Black Icons' featuring handmade felt dolls of the icons. A 'Youth Making History' featuring Cubberley grad Genesis Butler who is an animal rights activist, and a new section highlighting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's)." Like last year, students will have the opportunity to be taken on a tour by their teachers. By visiting this Black History Museum, you can support the Black community here in LBUSD, and celebrate Black History in style.

Dooley Elementary

5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-7274 • dooley.lbschools.net

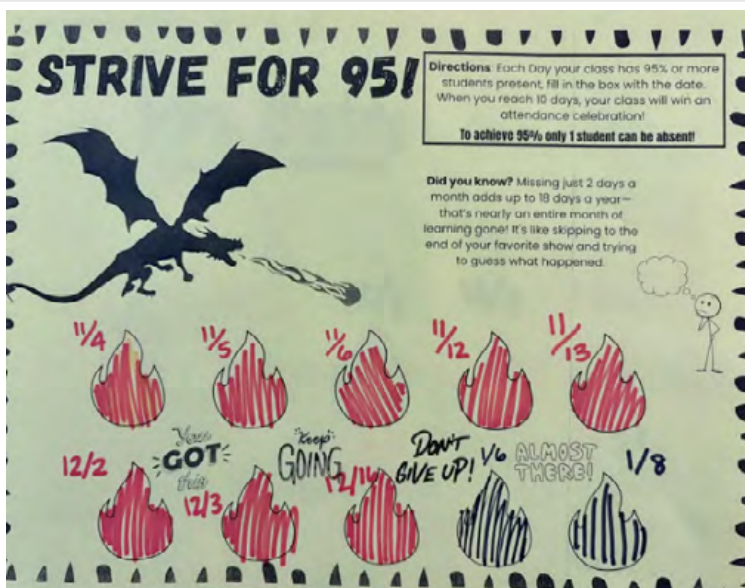


Nancy Claiborne
Principal

Strive for 95: Every Day Counts at Dooley!

At Dooley, showing up is more than attendance—it's opportunity! Our Strive for 95% Attendance Challenge reminds us that missing just two days a month can add up to nearly a full month of lost learning each year. Using our attendance tracker, students can see their progress, leading to schoolwide fun—like this week's Carnival Celebration!

In just six weeks, 10 classes have already completed the challenge—way to go, Dooley Dragons! We have seen that when students are here every day, they build routines, friendships, and confidence. Strong attendance is a team effort, and together we're building habits that help every Dragon thrive—because every day truly counts!



Garfield Elementary

2240 Baltic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/424-8167 • garfield.lbschools.net



Monica Alas
Principal

Garfield Community,

As we reflect on the completion of Semester 1, I want to take a moment to celebrate the many successes of our students and the incredible support of our staff and families.

Our students demonstrated strong academic growth in both reading and math. These achievements are the result of hard

work by our students, dedicated teachers, and partnership with families who support learning. We are proud of the progress our students are making and excited to build on this momentum in the months ahead.

Beyond the classroom, our community has come together to celebrate student Winter Concert performances that filled us with joy and pride. Grateful to our Music Teacher for inspiring our young musicians.

Edison *Elementary*

625 Maine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/590-8481 • edison.lbschools.net



Juan Gutierrez
Principal

6-7 Club

By Sarah Anderson, M.Ed., M.A.

Edison is proud to spotlight the 6-7 Club, an Attendance Engagement Group made up of students selected to strengthen their commitment to showing up and staying engaged. The group meets weekly and provides a fun, supportive space where students

talk about the importance of attendance in creative and meaningful ways.

Students are excited to attend each session, where they build connections, share ideas, and learn strategies to improve their school experience. The 6-7 Club is led by Veronica Loza, MTSS Counselor from the Student Support Services Office, who works closely with students to encourage positive habits and academic success.

We are proud of these students for taking an active role in their education and look forward to seeing their continued growth!



Emerson *Parkside Academy*

2625 Josie Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/420-2631 • emerson.lbschools.net



Dr. Sunday Dominguez
Principal

Emerson Snow-Social

The Emerson Snow Social, hosted by our amazing PTA, was a joyful way to wrap up our first semester and kick off Semester 2 with smiles all around. Students and families enjoyed a winter wonderland right on campus—sledding through the snow, playing with

friends, warming up with hot chocolate, and rotating through fun activities that brought our community together. Laughter filled the air as students experienced the magic of snow and shared special moments with classmates and family members. This memorable event reflected the strong sense of community at Emerson and the dedication of our PTA to creating meaningful experiences for our students. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Snow Social such a fun and festive success!



Franklin Classical Middle School

540 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/435-4952 • franklin.lbschools.net



Jorge Montanez
Principal

Lights, Camera, Learning: Franklin Middle Launches Multimedia Program

By *Eden Amans,*
Computer teacher

Franklin Middle School proudly launched an innovative Multimedia class that immerses students in hands-on digital media production. Each week, students produce a polished news broadcast featuring anchors and guest speakers, using teleprompters, professional audio equipment, and Adobe Premiere for editing.

Working in collaborative teams, students plan, film, and edit segments while mastering essential skills such as camera presence, shot composition, and post-production techniques. Beyond the news, they are creating short films that promote school culture and will soon dive into stop-motion animation. This dynamic program blends creativity with technical expertise, preparing students for future opportunities in media and communication.



Camila prepares to interview a teacher!

Gant Elementary

1854 Britton Dr., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/430-3384 • gant.lbschools.net



Tracy Hall
Principal

Meet the Gant "Office Squad" Teamwork in Action

Behind the scenes at Gant, there is a powerhouse team that keeps our school running smoothly each and every day—the Gant Office Squad. This amazing group works in constant collaboration to support our students, staff, and families with care, professionalism, and heart.

Leading the way is our outstanding Office Supervisor, Miss Sandra, who is often the first face that greets you and who keeps everything moving forward. Miss Kristen, our incredibly organized IOA, ensures that details are handled and manages all the attendance. Our caring counselor, Ms. Huttenhoff, brings compassion and guidance to students and families, always putting well-being first. Nurse Chi, our wonderful Health Assistant, provides lots of TLC and first aid, and finally Nurse Ana, our knowledgeable

and caring school nurse, provides expert medical support and reassurance to our entire community. Together, this team works seamlessly to create a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment where students can thrive and staff and families feel valued. The Gant Office Squad truly embodies teamwork in service to our school community.



Gompers (K-8)

5206 Briercrest Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/925-2285 • gompers.lbschools.net



Linda Soto-Reynolds
Principal

Attendance Awareness Week

At Gompers we are sharing with the community that daily attendance is fundamental to academic achievement and overall student wellbeing. We are proposing the “Strive for 95!” district goal campaign. We are hoping to foster a culture of commitment where every student is valued. Through monthly incentives, events, and friendly class competitions, we hope to increase awareness and outreach to the Gompers’ community.



Grant Elementary

1225 E. 64th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-4616 • grant.lbschools.net



Clarissa Tolentino
Principal

Student Council News Bulletin

By Luke Davis, Assistant Principal

The Grant Student Council is an active and interested group of student leaders who take pride in representing their fellow students. These outstanding scholars are working to raise the voice of their peers and to support the

implementation of our school expectations.

With the assistance of our school counselor, Allison Voortman, our Student Council has created their first news bulletin. These monthly bulletins are delivered in the form of a fabulously produced video. The students collaborate to select the content, generate and practice their scripts, deliver the content, and

film the segments. The intent is to share events, news, and important information about Grant with the entire student population.

In the future, the Council will continue delivering monthly news bulletins. They have even solicited the input from staff in order to select topics for future episodes.



Hamilton Middle School

1060 E. 70th St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/602-0302 • hamilton.lbschools.net



Laura Martin
Principal

Family Engagement and Centennial News

By Blanca Zamorano-Tillett,
Family & Community Facilitator

Family Math Night

Hamilton families enjoyed an engaging evening with the math department, exploring concepts of translation and reflection before participating in a festive pumpkin carving activity. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for families to combine learning with creativity, fostering connection, and lasting memories. We look forward to hosting our next Family Night and continuing to celebrate learning together.

Centennial

We have a variety of celebrations planned throughout the year, so please be sure to check your email regularly for dates. If you are a Hamilton Middle School alumnus—or know someone who is—please use the QR code. We warmly invite all former students, staff, and community members who have been part of Hamilton’s history to join us in celebrating this special occasion.

CELEBRATE 100 YEARS WITH US!



We are looking for Hamilton Alumni and former staff to help us celebrate our centennial school year.

Please scan this code to get involved!



Are you, or someone you know, a Hamilton graduate? Were you a teacher or staff?

Henry (K-5) Dual Immersion School

3720 Canehill Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-3754 • henry.lbschools.net

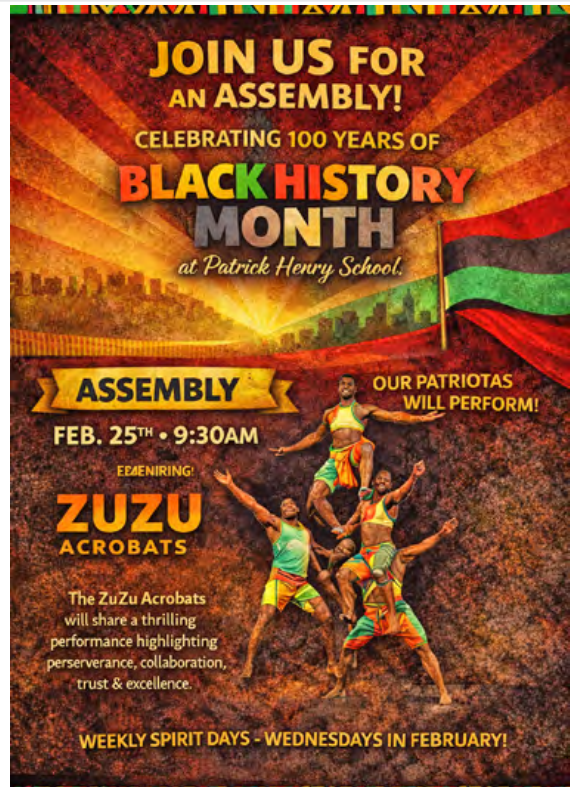


Rose Vitetta
Principal

Month Long Series

Patrick Henry Elementary School will proudly celebrate the 100th year of Black History Month with a meaningful month-long series of events honoring Black excellence, history, and culture. Throughout February, students will participate in weekly spirit days that promote pride, reflection, and student voice. An essay contest will give

students the opportunity to share their learning, perspectives, and hopes for the future. Each grade level will also create culminating projects that will be displayed in our office foyer, showcasing student learning and creativity. The celebration will conclude with a powerful schoolwide assembly featuring music, poetry, a guest speaker, and an exciting performance by the Zuzu Acrobats. Together, our community will celebrate history, resilience, and joy.



Herrera Elementary

1620 Temple Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/494-5101 • nieto-herrera.lbschools.net



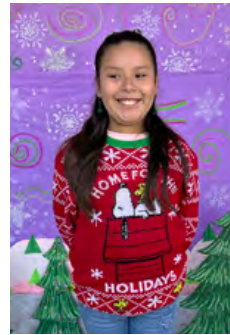
Allison Kargas
Principal

Holidays Around the World Celebration

Our Holidays Around the World celebration was a joyful and memorable event for our K–5 students, families, and staff. Thanks to our new sound system, students could finally be clearly heard singing and speaking, making the performances even more meaningful. The fresh, green grass created a beautiful setting as our school community came together to celebrate many cultures through music.



Each grade proudly shared a song: TK/Kindergarten sang “Jingle Bells,” first grade performed “This Little Light of Mine,” second grade celebrated with “Kwanzaa Celebration,” third grade sang “O Tannenbaum,” fourth grade performed “Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah,” and fifth grade energized the audience with “Burrito Sabanero.” Our choir also did a wonderful job singing “This Is My Wish,” spreading a message of hope and unity.



Holmes Elementary

5020 Barlin Ave., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/633-4427 • holmes.lbschools.net



Lori Grady
Principal

Holmes Elementary Students Visit The Broad Museum

*By Carol Alwood,
Site Facilitator &
Parent Involvement
Coordinator*

Students from Holmes Elementary School enjoyed an inspiring trip to The Broad Museum in Los Angeles, where they explored contemporary art from around the world. While viewing large-scale installations, modern paintings, and sculptures, students learned how artists use creativity to express ideas and emotions.

The visit extended learning beyond the classroom by encouraging critical thinking, thoughtful questions, and meaningful discussions about art and culture. One student from Mr. Rebullar’s class especially enjoyed the reflection room, saying the mirrors made it feel like outer space.



When asked why others should visit the museum, a student shared, “I enjoyed learning about how artists created their work.”

This field trip demonstrates how real-world experiences spark curiosity, imagination, and a passion for learning.

Hughes *Middle School*

3846 California Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-0831 • hughes.lbschools.net



Edward Sigur IV
Principal

Y2K Glow Up

On January 8th & 9th, the Hughes community gathered for our second annual Art & Dance Showcase, Y2K Glow Up. More than 500 students, families, and community members attended the event, exploring a vibrant student art gallery featuring an impressive range of mediums alongside a series of energetic dance performances.

Upon arrival, guests were welcomed by art teacher Dr. Deborah Bober and immersed in a visually rich experience that included student-created ceramic displays and fine art exhibited throughout the campus foyer. The evening continued with dynamic and engaging dance performances, choreographed by dance teacher Mr. Darrell Hardaway, which truly captivated the audience. The Hughes art and dance programs are excited to continue creating opportunities that bring our community together through the arts.



Jefferson *Leadership Academies*

750 Euclid Ave., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/438-9904 • jefferson.lbschools.net



Dr. Renée Shipman
Principal

Celebrating Family Partnerships at Jefferson Leadership Academy

Family engagement is strong at Jefferson Leadership Academy and reflects our commitment to LBUSD's Vision 2035 Core Value of Authentic Community Engagement and Collaboration, which emphasizes building community and working

together. This year, we are excited to announce the start of a JLA PTO. This new group gives families a chance to connect, build community, and share their voices on campus.

Each month, our Sunday JLA Parent Walks bring families together to connect, enjoy the outdoors, and show school pride. We also celebrate a JLA VIP of the Month to honor parents who show outstanding leadership and support. Coffee with Dr. Shipman gives families a friendly place to talk

and build relationships. All of these efforts help make JLA a welcoming and supportive community for everyone. We are grateful for our families and community partners who make our JLA community thrive!



Jordan High School

6500 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-1471 • jordan.lbschools.net



Keisha Irving
Principal

Jordan Pathway Partners Luncheon

Our Jordan Pathway Ambassadors planned and led a highly successful luncheon in January that strengthened partnerships and created meaningful connections among students, teachers, and community professionals. More than 50 industry partners attended, engaging in facilitated table discussions centered on student perspectives, educational and career journeys, real-world challenges, and the transition from school to career.

Throughout the event, students gained valuable insight from professionals across diverse career fields, while

partners connected directly with students and shared their experiences. We also recognized community partners who have supported our Panthers through work-based learning opportunities.

The second half of the luncheon, led by Jordan staff in pathway-specific groups, focused on deepening partnerships through commitments such as guest speaking, site tours, mentoring, and curriculum feedback. Partners collaborated on ideas to further strengthen support for student success.

The dedication and leadership of our Jordan Pathway Ambassadors resulted in a meaningful, engaging, and impactful event, and we look forward to continuing this partnership opportunity in the future.



Kettering *Classical Elementary*

550 Silvera Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/598-9486 • kettering.lbschools.net

Nicole Kelly, *Principal*

Kettering's Maestros in the Making

*By Makena Thomas and Emmi Linkogle,
Fifth Grade Scholars*

Kettering Elementary's musical performances were a spectacular success! Taught by Ms. Strand, Kettering students have learned trumpet, trombone, clarinet, violin, and flute. These young musicians showed exemplary skills and were taught over the course of just 10 weeks. This was a show of skills by the fifth-grade wind and brass instruments, 5th grade advanced violinist, and the fourth-grade violin instrumentalist. Ms. Strand has been a great

teacher and has taught the students well. This was a great experience and performance for all the students.

The fifth graders were all new to the wind and brass instruments, but with the teachings of Ms. Strand, they were able to pull off an outstanding performance. This year was also an introduction to the new varieties of instruments that can be played by the fifth-grade scholars. Violinists showed their continued growing skills which they started to acquire in second grade. The performance, overall, was a great success and we hope these young musical artists will continue to develop their talents in the future.



King Elementary

145 E. Artesia Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/428-1232 • king.lbschools.net



Jandella Faulkner
Principal

Parent Center

King Elementary was buzzing with excitement as families gathered in our Parent Center for Java & Juice with Principal Jandella. This Parent University School Engagement Series workshop on Balancing Technology at Home was led by

our partners from the Equity Engagement and Partnerships Office and grounded in meaningful, family-centered learning. With the warm welcome and thoughtful coordination of our amazing Parent Community Facilitator, Erin Starks, families felt seen, valued, and supported. Parents collaborated, shared best practices, and created individualized family technology plans focused on

healthy habits, clear boundaries, and positive modeling at home. The energy was inspiring—families left empowered and motivated. We are proud that our work centers family voice and needs and grateful for the strong community partnerships that make this possible.



Lakewood High School

4400 Briercree Ave., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/425-1281 • lakewood.lbschools.net



Mona Merlo
Principal

4th Annual Career Day

By Erica Kelly, Pathways and Business Engagement Facilitator

On Monday, January 26th, Lakewood High School hosted community partners for our 4th Annual Career Day. Students experienced several different presentations throughout the morning, in their classrooms or with larger groups in places like the gym, auditorium, and aquatics center. Industries including aerospace, health care, environmental planning, cybersecurity, and the arts were represented.



At the Career Readiness Fair, over forty organizations welcomed students at tables to answer questions about their industries and institutions. One student commented, “I learned about how I can start progressing within a career of my choice, starting as a teenager”. Our guests were welcomed and escorted by our Pathway Ambassadors who were excited to speak with them and practice their networking skills. Presenters commented on how engaged and inquisitive the students were, and how welcomed they felt on our campus.



Lincoln *Elementary*

1175 E. 11th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-5005 • lincoln.lbschools.net



Caroline Nemece
Principal

Camp Oakes

Lincoln 5th graders had the opportunity to go to Camp Oakes the first week of December. All 5th grade teachers accompanied their students up to the mountains. Students participated in team building activities such as building a fort for survival and navigating obstacle courses with ropes.



They also had responsibilities in the cafeteria like setting the tables and cleaning up afterwards and washing the dishes. Working together in this new environment with different challenges was definitely a growing experience for all. Lincoln Elementary was complimented by the entire camp staff for being the most well-behaved and respectful students there. Well done, Lincoln Scholars!

Lindbergh *STEM Academy*

1022 E. Market St., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/422-2845 • lindbergh.lbschools.net



Dr. Stacey Benuzzi
Principal

Student Clubs at Lindbergh

At Lindbergh, student voice matters. Through our Pulse Survey, students shared a strong desire for more opportunities to connect through clubs and extracurricular activities. In response, we have been intentional about expanding our after-school offerings to reflect their interests and passions.

Providing diverse ways for students to get involved strengthens their connection to school and increases their sense of belonging. This year, students can choose from a wide range of clubs, including Crafters Circle, 3D Printing & Design Club, Young Black Scholars, Ubuntu Sense of Belonging Club, College Club, Jazz Angels, Basketball Club, Soccer Club, Theater Club, Running Club, Art Club, Cooking Club, Dance Club, Volleyball Club, We've Got Talent Club, and Girls' Flag Football Club.

Lindsey *Academy (6-8)*

5075 Daisy Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/423-6451 • lindsey.lbschools.net



Danyett Armstrong-Lee
Principal

The Magic of Togetherness

One of our well-rooted principles at Perry Linsey Academy is our commitment to our Falcon Families. We are very proud to have successfully rolled out our own Lindsey Sankofa Village.

Sankofa Village is a dedicated space for our African American Families to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of our Black Scholars and to plan ways to overcome challenges our students might face. We have had three meetings so far, each with a unique theme: Sip and Paint, Friendship, and Kwanzaa, celebrating Perfect and



Improved Attendance. The response from the families of Black Scholars has been very positive, and our attendance at the meetings has surpassed our expectations. Stop by our Village to be part of the magic of togetherness.

Los Cerritos *Elementary*

515 W. San Antonio Dr., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/595-6337 • los-cerritos.lbschools.net



Liseeth Ramos
Principal

Igniting Young Minds: A Memorable STEM Experience

Our PTA proudly hosted our very first STEM Night, and it was an incredible success! We were thrilled to welcome two amazing organizations to our campus, whose interactive activities brought science, technology, engineering, and math to life for our students. From the moment the event began, our Roadrunners were fully engaged—asking questions, building, experimenting, and exploring with excitement and curiosity. The fun didn't stop with students; families eagerly joined in the activities, making it a true community experience. Even our very own Ms. Debi jumped in and enjoyed the hands-on learning alongside our students. Thank you to all the families who attended and helped make the evening so special. We hope this is an experience our students will be talking about for a long time to come!



Lowell Bayside *Elementary*

5201 E. Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-6757 • lowell.lbschools.net



Cassandra Fanton
Principal

Lowell has more than 90 years worth of experience among the Kindergarten Teachers!

By Sharon Sueki, Kindergarten Grade Level Representative

Mrs. Reeder has taught in Fullerton and Long Beach. Her father and aunt went to Lowell! She enjoys working out, movies, gardening, Disneyland, and Knott's. Ms. Sueki attended Tincher, Hill, Wilson, LBCC, CSULB, and National. Her hobbies are watching movies, reading, and volunteering in Long Beach. Mrs. Crecelius went to Gompers, Bancroft, and Lakewood. She teaches Special Education. She has fun traveling with her husband and daughters. Mrs. Shaw attended Lowell, Rogers, and Wilson! She likes traveling, shopping, and family time. The team love being part of Lowell



Miss Stephanie (Paraprofessional), Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Crecelius, Ms. Sueki, Miss Gaby (Student Teacher), and Mrs. Reeder

community and watching their students blossom under their tutelage.

Everyday is a great day to be a Sea Star!

MacArthur *Elementary*

6011 Centralia St., Lakewood, CA 90713 • 562/420-3588 • macarthur.lbschools.net



Beth Cohen
Principal

PTA: Helping Our Eagle Community SOAR

Our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is the heart of our Eagle community here at MacArthur

Elementary School. They bring fun and inclusive programs to our school, including Meet the Masters, Home Reading Club, Family Fall Movie Night, Family Spring Dance, Spirit Days, Stuffie Sleepover, Lunch With a Loved One and the Fun Run. The PTA also helps fund cultural activities and special projects on campus. Through their hard work, students get more exciting learning experiences and families feel more connected to school life. They also advocate for our staff, students, and families, making sure everyone's voice is heard. We are grateful for our PTA and all they do to make our school a better place.



Madison *Elementary*

2801 Bomberly St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-7731 • madison.lbschools.net



Ann Erskine
Principal

Enrichment Opportunities

Teacher-led after-school enrichment classes are bringing new energy and excitement to the Madison Elementary School community this season. Designed to inspire curiosity and creativity, these programs give students the opportunity to explore new interests, build skills, and enjoy time with friends in a relaxed, engaging setting.

One popular offering is the Storybook Art Club, where students combine imagination and artistic expression by bringing stories to life through art projects. Language learning is also a highlight, with a Spanish Club available for lower-grade students and a separate Spanish

Club designed specifically for upper grades. These clubs help students develop language skills through games, conversation, and cultural activities tailored to their age level.

Looking ahead, an Algebra Club will be launching within the next few weeks, offering students extra support and enrichment in math through hands-on problem solving and collaborative learning. In addition, the Chess Club will be starting again soon. Offered through an outside agency, this program is free of charge to families thanks to full coverage by the school.

Together, these enrichment opportunities encourage students to try new things, strengthen friendships, and discover interests beyond the regular school day.

Mann *Elementary*

257 Coronado Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/439-6897 • mann.lbschools.net



Dr. Donna Robertson
Principal

Celebrating Our Instructional Leadership Team

Mann is so fortunate to have an incredible Instructional Support Team.

Sabrina Antoine and Kelley Rice bring expertise, professionalism, and genuine care to supporting

both teachers and students. They take professional development and turn it into practical strategies that teachers can confidently use in their classrooms. Built on trust, they are a go-to resource academically and emotionally—co-teaching, modeling lessons, and providing ongoing coaching to keep high-quality instruction at the center of our work.

With Kelley as our ELA coach and Sabrina supporting interventions in both ELA and math, their guidance directly helps students grow, build their confidence, reach their potential, and achieve academic success.



Kelley Rice ELA Coach and Sabrina Antoine Intervention Coordinator

Marshall *Academy of the Arts*

5870 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/429-7013 • marshall.lbschools.net



Edward Steinhauser
Principal

Art of Achievement

At Marshall Academy of the Arts, success is referred to as the Art of Achievement. This is achieved with every student grow

academically, socially, and emotionally while discovering their unique talents. Through engaging instruction,

strong relationships, and high expectations, Marshall students are encouraged to take risks, think critically, and persevere through challenges. The Art of Achievement comes to life in our classrooms, visual and performing art spaces, performances, and games, where creativity and learning go hand in hand. All Marshall students take two elective classes, giving them

opportunities to explore interests, build new skills, and express themselves in meaningful ways. By nurturing confidence, curiosity, and character, Marshall Academy of the Arts prepares students to thrive in high school.



McBride *High School*

7025 Parkcrest St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/425-3539 • mcbride.lbschools.net



**Dr. Stephanie
Dunn-Cooper**
Principal

Congratulations Jackson Thomas

Jackson Thomas, a Port of Long Beach Neighborhood Here Award Winner, is dedicated to making a difference. Inspired by a ninth-grade engineering project on the heat island effect, he co-founded H.E.L.P. of Long Beach with friends after receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Dragon Kim Foundation. The

student-led organization focuses on sustainable landscaping in underserved neighborhoods and includes an environmental science component for students volunteering. After interning at the Port of Long Beach, Thomas, now a senior, plans to major in environmental engineering or science at colleges like Cal State Long Beach, UC Irvine, and UCLA. He is mentoring younger students to continue H.E.L.P. and aims to expand it to the collegiate level.



McKinley *Elementary*

6822 N. Paramount Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90805 • 562/630-6200 • mckinley.lbschools.net



**Dulnari
Edirisinghe-Aga**
Principal

Literacy Fair

McKinley Elementary recently hosted an exciting Literacy Fair to celebrate and inspire reading among students, families, and the community. Teacher run booths offered activities such as sight word games, storytelling, and hands-on literacy challenges, giving students creative ways to practice reading

skills. The event also featured a book fair where families could browse and purchase books to take home, encouraging reading beyond the classroom. Local vendors provided snacks, pizza, and beverages, creating a lively, family friendly atmosphere. A special thank you to Nymol Coa from the McKinley PTO for chairing this successful event and to our PTO for partnering with us to support students and families. The Literacy Fair reflected McKinley's commitment to fostering a love of reading and strengthening community connections.



Millikan High School

2800 Snowden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/425-7441 • millikan.lbschools.net



Stacie Alexander
Principal

Five Pathways

Our five pathways are keeping students engaged with exciting opportunities!

COMPASS students recently explored art and culture at LACMA, with upcoming work-based learning trips to the Long Beach Symphony, Musical Theater West, and OTIS on the horizon. Fashion students are hard at work preparing for the highly anticipated Spring Fashion Show.

MBA is undergoing course revisions to better serve students, while planning the Bite of Reality financial literacy simulation and a spring field trip to LBCC.

QUEST teachers are exploring CTE pathways to enhance curriculum offerings, while students look forward to upcoming field trips to Algalita and Universal Studios Physics Day.

PEACE students have already gained valuable insights from work-based learning trips to the Long Beach Courthouse and Algalita, with college visits to UCLA and Chapman University coming soon.

SEGA students participated in the LA EDC workshop and a VR Escape Room experience, and are now preparing for the professional world through resume workshops and mock interviews.

Each pathway continues to provide students with hands-on learning experiences that connect classroom knowledge to future careers.



Muir Academy

3038 Delta Ave., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/426-5571 • muir.lbschools.net



Maria Yeppez
Principal

Continuing the Journey of Making Muir TK-8 Academy "A Great Place to Grow"

Muir continues to live out the motto through projects that promote sustainability, community partnerships, and campus improvement. In October, we partnered with the City of Long Beach for a tree-planting event that added shade and beauty to our community. Muir also collaborated with the Long Beach Bar Foundation on the Green Garden Project to plant two new gardens in front of the school.

Our commitment to sustainability continued with the construction of solar panels on the north and south playgrounds. In December, a new digital marquee was installed to share school news and celebrate achievements. Additionally, two native garden projects, led by our PTO and volunteers, are underway to create inviting outdoor spaces where students can grow and thrive.



Naples Bayside *Academy*

5537 The Toledo, Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/433-0489 • naples.lbschools.net



Paula Gregg-Spenker
Principal

Naples Bayside Academy's Environmental Literacy Club

Naples Elementary's 3rd Grade After-School Environmental Literacy Club provides students with hands-on opportunities to better understand the world around them while reinforcing the school's monthly character trait. Through outdoor exploration, discussion, and creative projects, students

learn about environmental responsibility, observation skills, and respectful decision-making. In the pictured activity, students participated in an ephemeral art project in which they collected natural and found materials from the schoolyard, collaborated to create temporary artwork, and then thoughtfully returned items to the land, recycling bin, or trash as appropriate. This experience encouraged creativity, teamwork, and stewardship, while helping students practice responsibility and respect for their environment and community.



Nelson *Academy* (6–8)

1951 Cherry Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/591-6041 • nelson.lbschools.net



Dr. Tanya Ennover
Principal

Grow and Accomplish Goals

As Nelson wraps up the fall semester, students, families, and staff enjoyed Lunch with a Loved One during the fall and winter months. Nelson also

participated in its second annual Turkey Trot in November, where families were

invited to campus to cheer on their children. Teachers joined students in the run, creating a fun and supportive atmosphere.



All students competed by grade level and gender, resulting in 36 winners. Every participating student received a Turkey Trot bracelet to encourage and motivate them throughout the run. Top finishers were awarded gift cards, while second- and third-place winners received pumpkin pies.

To kick off the new year, the Safe Passage (F.O.C.U.S.) program has arrived at Nelson. This program positively impacts school safety by supporting students as they walk to and from school. Several Safe Passage volunteers also assist during lunch periods and engage with students to foster community and build positive relationships with our scholars. These volunteers are community members and college students who are giving back to support our students. Nelson will continue to grow and accomplish goals for all students into the second semester.



Newcomb Academy (K-8)

3351 Val Verde Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/430-1250 • newcomb.lbschools.net



Christopher J. Thompson
Principal

Career Day

Newcomb Middle School proudly hosted its first-ever Middle School Career Day, organized by the Newcomb Sankofa Village, welcoming more than 20 community professionals to campus for a morning of inspiration and exploration. Centered on the theme “Be Curious. Be Bold. Be You.”, the event was designed for 6th–8th grade students and emphasized that there is no single path to success.

Students rotated through four small-group sessions, hearing directly from professionals who shared their

personal stories, career journeys, and lessons learned along the way. Guest speakers represented a wide range of fields, including medicine, engineering, education, real estate, law enforcement, mental health, public service, arts and design, wellness, technology, and entrepreneurship. Several speakers were also Newcomb alumni, making the experience especially meaningful and relatable.

The morning began with a welcome program featuring school and district leaders, followed by engaging classroom conversations that encouraged students to ask questions and reflect on their interests. Throughout campus, students could be heard discussing sessions, exchanging ideas, and imagining new possibilities for their futures.



Oropeza Elementary

700 Locust Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/436-4420 • oropeza.lbschools.net



Edward Garcia Jr.
Principal

Bikes for Kids Program

Oropeza was chosen to participate in the Bikes for Kids program sponsored by YMCA of Greater Long and Long Beach Rotary Club. All third-grade students were thrilled to receive a new bike, helmet, and lock.



Polytechnic *High School*

1600 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/591-0581 • poly.lbschools.net



Alejandro Vega
Principal

Inside Poly's ROTC Program

By Allisson Villa Martinez, Poly senior

Polytechnic's ROTC program gives students a chance to explore leadership, teamwork, and discipline in a way that many of their peers don't expect.

Most students only know ROTC as the class where students wear uniforms, but freshman Nayla Williams joined because ROTC sounded more interesting than regular PE, and she enjoys the freedom the class gives her.

Junior Jacob Luce didn't even plan to join but it was placed in his schedule and once he experienced the community and the activities, he decided to stay.

Alexander Peña, 12th grade, said that he joined to challenge himself, and his favorite part is Raiders, a competitive physical team that pushes students to their limits.

Lieutenant Colonel Tyrone Hines, a retired U.S. Army veteran and Poly's ROTC instructor, explained that his favorite part is building strong relationships with motivated cadets who push

him to give 110% every day. He hopes that students leave the program as better leaders whether they choose college, the workforce, or the military. His message to all cadets is simple: don't give up. ROTC can sometimes go unnoticed, but it offers opportunity, community, and growth for any student willing to give it a chance.



Prisk *Elementary*

2375 Fanwood Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-9601 • prisk.lbschools.net



Dr. Katie Hickox
Principal

Group Investigations Fuel Student Curiosity

Prisk is embarking on a schoolwide group investigation into how the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics apply to the Native Garden.

Group investigations are a Gifted and Talented Education strategy in which students are presented with a "puzzlement," or an area of intrigue around a topic. Students then generate questions about the topic and research the answers, presenting their findings to their peers.

Students in January and February will be visiting the Prisk Native garden to launch their STEAM-based group investigations. Group investigations may be in a small group, or as a whole class. Teachers may also contribute research questions, to steer learning towards specific content standards. For example, teachers are asking kindergarten students to distinguish between living and non-living things in the Prisk Native garden, part of the NGSS standards for their grade level.



The Prisk library will also be part of the school-wide group investigation, which culminates in a STEAM Fair at Prisk during late March. Students will present their findings at the fair.

Renaissance *High School for the Arts*

235 E. 8th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/901-0168 • renaissance.lbschools.net



Michael Navia
Principal

Under Pressure: Drama and Donuts

By Kayleen Rauseo, Class of 2026

January 22nd and 23rd saw the performances of the Play Production class' student work, "Under Pressure." Appropriately taking place in a company named C.Y.C.L.E, "Under Pressure" is a dramedy about the perils of the corporate world, highlighting the toxic cycles that often form in such environments. The play chooses to symbolize the destruction of these cycles through donuts brought in by the optimistic new hire. AKA, eating the nice new girl's donuts helps the main characters realize their jobs are awful. It was a great show! And with a history of success, Renaissance is sure to be seeing a lot more wonderful student work coming out of Play Production.



Riley *Elementary*

3319 Sandwood St., Lakewood, CA 90712 • 562/420-9595 • riley.lbschools.net



Jennie Salazar
Principal

SNOW Much Fun— Being a Riley Roadrunner

*By Sheila Duran,
Parent & Community Facilitator*

Riley Elementary has been buzzing with joy and school spirit! Each month, our Wonderful Wednesday shines a spotlight on our Roadrunner Scholars, celebrating their hard work, positive behavior, and academic growth. In October, our campus transformed

for Trunk or Treat, a truly spooktacular schoolwide event filled with creative costumes, festive trunks, and lots of smiles. And who says it doesn't snow in Lakewood? December's Winterfest brought the magic of the season with photos with Santa, beautiful vocal performances by our WRAP students, hot chocolate and sweet treats, cozy read-alouds, and hands-on arts and crafts for families. These events continue to strengthen our community and create lasting memories.



Robinson Academy (K-8)

2750 Pine Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/492-6003 • robinson.lbschools.net



Rebecca Ngo
Principal

Jackie Robinson Academy Receives the Hope in Action Award

This past December 2025, Jackie Robinson Academy was honored with the Hope in Action Award from The Salvation Army. This meaningful recognition honors groups or individuals who use their skills, abilities, influence, or connections to advance The Salvation Army's

mission of meeting people's needs, bringing hope to the community, and doing the most good. Through service projects, partnerships, and student leadership, our school has worked alongside The Salvation Army to support families, uplift neighbors, and respond with compassion. This award reflects the dedication of our students, staff, families, and volunteers who believe service is a responsibility, not an option. We are grateful for this honor and inspired to continue serving with purpose, kindness, and hope for our community and beyond.



Rogers Middle School

365 Monrovia Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803 • 562/434-7411 • rogers.lbschools.net



Renny Chu
Principal

Rogers Visits Long Beach CAAM

Rogers' Umoja Club had an exciting day at the California African American Museum in Long Beach! From colorful artwork to powerful stories, students explored history, culture, and creativity

in a fun and welcoming space. Everyone enjoyed asking questions, sharing ideas, and learning something new together. The museum inspired students to celebrate Black excellence, resilience, and community. Laughter, curiosity, and teamwork filled the day as friends learned side by side. It was a meaningful trip and a memory the club will proudly carry forward! "Umoja" is a Kiswahili word meaning unity,

representing the first and foundational principle of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Kudos to our teachers, Mr. Charles and Mrs. Hayes for their leadership.



Roosevelt *Elementary*

1574 Linden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90813 • 562/599-3418 • roosevelt.lbschools.net



Alissa Littlejohn
Principal

Roosevelt Celebrates Growth!

Roosevelt Elementary School recently celebrated students who met their growth targets in both English Language Arts and Math on the December iReady assessment with a well-deserved game party. Organized and led by the Instructional Leadership Team, the event recognized students for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to academic growth. Students enjoyed a variety of fun activities, including board games, Twister, chess, and card games, while spending time with friends and building positive connections. The celebration also included snacks, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere for everyone involved. This special event served as a meaningful way to thank students for doing their best and staying focused on their goals. As always, Roosevelt is so grateful for the teachers and families who support our Roosevelt PTO for generously funding the snacks and helping make this celebration possible for our students. Go Teddy Bears!



Sato *Academy of Mathematics & Science*

1100 Iroquois Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/598-7611 • sato.lbschools.net



Veronica Coleman
Principal

Navigating Tomorrow: Sato Academy at GPS Your Future

Midori Sanchez, Pathways & Business Engagement Facilitator

We were thrilled to bring our Sato Academy 9th and 10th graders to the 15th Annual GPS Your Future career discovery event at CSU Dominguez Hills! This special opportunity from EXP brought together students from both our biomedical and engineering pathways. Typically, our students attend separate field trips tailored to their pathway, but this event allowed both groups to explore diverse industries together. Our students joined over 400 high schoolers for a day of inspiration and hands-on learning, including an entrepreneurial mindset workshop where they learned to think like creators and changemakers. They explored a career expo featuring more than 30 organizations, from maritime companies to tech giants and healthcare providers. Our Sato Academy students connected with industry professionals and discovered exciting possibilities!



Signal Hill *Elementary*

2285 Walnut Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8170 • signal-hill.lbschools.net



Scott Tardibuono
Principal

Lunch with Loved Ones

Every year, Signal Hill Elementary sponsors two to three Lunch with Loved Ones events. These special occasions give parents, family members, and friends the opportunity to share lunch on campus with their scholars during the students' designated lunch schedules. Parents are invited and welcome to bring outside food to share with their child.

Students of all grade levels truly appreciate these special treats. Most importantly, Signal Hill Scholars'

smiles and spirits are lifted when they are greeted by their loved ones. This is why Lunch with Love Ones is such a valuable event.

This event also serves to build a strong sense of community by bringing together students, families, teachers, and staff in a warm and welcoming environment. In addition to lunch, community booths are set up around campus, such as the Cambodian Community Center and the Signal Hill Public Library. These organizations hand out informational flyers and hosted fun games where students and families could win prizes, making the day even more exciting and engaging.

Smith *Elementary*

565 E. Hill St., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/595-9466 • smith.lbschools.net



Hugo Figueroa
Principal

New Mural at Smith!

Bobbie Smith Elementary has recently welcomed a vibrant addition that celebrates our rich, multicultural school community. Through the collaborative efforts of our administration, Art teacher Lori Adamo, and artist-educator Corey Bilicko, a new large-scale mural has been coming to life on campus. As an urban

school rooted in diverse cultural traditions, it was important that students' voices guided the process. Mr. Bilicko worked closely with students throughout the creation of the mural, and the final design was voted on and approved by our students. Displayed on the side of one of our bungalows, the mural reflects our campus and neighborhood identity and thoughtfully complements the other murals that already enhance our school campus.



Stanford Middle School

5871 Los Arcos St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/594-9793 • stanford.lbschools.net



Lester Lawson IV
Principal

Celebrating Black Excellence

At Stanford, Black students comprise 11% of the population, and it is important for them to feel represented and valued. Through school activities and cultural events, students are at the forefront of our guiding principles.

This year, we are so excited about the work we are doing to highlight and emphasize Black excellence at Stanford.

Students will engage in activities like the second annual “I Have a Dream” rap and poetry slam, Black History bingo, trivia, door decorating contests, and field trips to CAAM and CSULB. Our BHM display case

theme is: “I am Black History!” Instead of focusing on historical figures, we will identify living history, from Stanford alumnus to current history makers right in our classroom. Students will have the opportunity to nominate friends and interview staff right here at Stanford.

The Umoja Festival will serve as the grand finale, with students fully represented across the diaspora. We’re aiming to have speakers from various industries set up booths, allowing students to learn about different careers while celebrating Black Excellence.

This festival is a passion project to help students see representation and successful Black professionals while enjoying culturally-relevant activities.

Stevenson Elementary

515 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/437-0407 • stevenson.lbschools.net



Sherita Clemons
Principal

Cozy Cocoa Friday

By Sherita Clemons, Principal and Dr. Mónica Santiesteban, Parent Community Facilitator

The principal, counselor, and facilitator hosted a cozy Cocoa Friday to encourage attendance on the last day before the break. The morning was made extra special thanks to the Stevenson Student Council, whose students arrived earlier than usual to help pass out cocoa and guide students.

Earlier that week, Mr. San & Mr. Valenzuela, our Run Club coordinators, hosted the annual Reindeer Romp, giving students in TK through 5th grade the opportunity to run a few laps around the school. PTO parents also volunteered their time, and all students participated in the event. We are also grateful to our PTO parents for their continued

support and to a local market for their generous donation of cookies and conchitas. The warm treats, movement, and teamwork helped create a welcoming, festive send-off into break. I've attached all pictures for both events.



Stephens Middle School

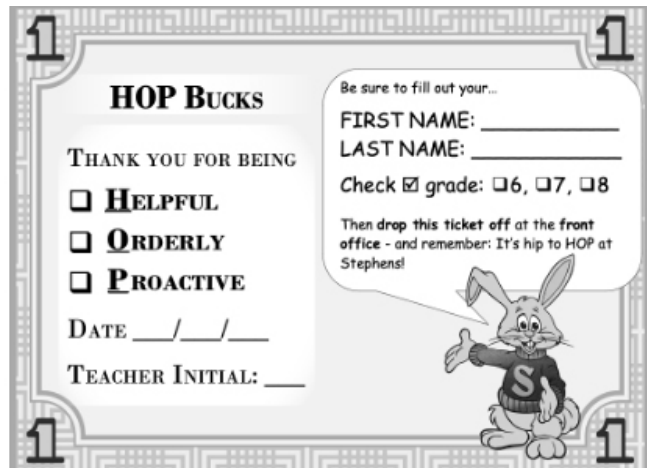
1830 W. Columbia St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-0841 • stephens.lbschools.net



Eric Cabacungan
Principal

Stephens Culture, Climate, and Community (CCC) Team

The Culture, Climate, and Community (CCC) Team at Stephens Middle School is a Tier 1-focused group working through the PBIS framework to promote a positive school climate. The team is composed of various staff members- administrators, school psychologist, social worker, and teachers- who provide their expertise in behavior, data analysis, and team collaboration. CCC incorporates both student and family voices into school-wide initiatives through monthly meetings and focus groups. Examples of school-wide programming include explicitly taught behavioral expectations around various settings on campus, acknowledging positive behavior through the use of HOP Bucks, and redirecting negative student behavior through the use of restorative conversations and practices.



The CCC team received PBIS state recognition last school year highlighting work around Tier 1 preventative practices and the impact these supports have on student discipline outcomes.



Tincher Preparatory School (K-8)

1701 Petaluma Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/493-2636 • tincher.lbschools.net



Cheryl Huber
Principal

A Positive School Culture

With the new semester, Tincher continues building a positive school culture by implementing a new program that reinforces uplifting behaviors throughout the campus. Uplifting actions are now recognized with Paw Passes—a token of appreciation that shows students that their positive actions are recognized. Students have been excited to redeem their passes for prizes!

Tincher also recognizes uplifting teacher behaviors such as going above and beyond, offering support, and spreading positivity. Colleagues receive praise on our new staff bulletin board in our remodeled staff lounge, celebrating the everyday moments that make our school such a special place to work.

Meanwhile, our schoolwide instructional focus of making thinking visible continues as teachers work with students in using evidence to support ideas. Examples include practicing evidence-based talk with sentence stems, providing more opportunities for peer reviewing, and immersing students in appropriate models.

In December, Tincher's PTA held its annual Scholastic Book Fair, earning record revenues. Due to this success,

Tincher's teachers are now able to order class sets of various novels—courtesy our generous, student-centric PTA!



Twain *Elementary*

5021 E. Centralia St., Long Beach, CA 90808 • 562/421-8421 • twain.lbschools.net



Juan C. Gonzalez
Principal

After School Enrichment Programs at Twain

At Twain, we strive to provide a variety of after-school enrichment opportunities that support the whole child. Currently, Twain offers free after-school basketball every Friday through June. Beginning in January, we are also excited to introduce TGA Golf!

Additional after-school enrichment opportunities include:

- Art with Mrs. Tanya
- All Things Science
- After-School Tutoring (for Not Met/ Nearly Met students)
- One-on-One Basketball (Kids Club students only during winter)
- TGA Golf

After-school enrichment programs play a vital role in creating a well-rounded educational experience

for our students. These opportunities help students build confidence, explore new interests, strengthen academic skills, and remain connected to school in positive and meaningful ways. Providing structured and engaging activities also supports social-emotional growth while offering a safe space for students to learn, create, and thrive beyond the regular school day.

We look forward to continuing to offer enriching opportunities that inspire curiosity, build skills, and support our scholars' growth.



Washington *Middle School*

1400 East 20th., Long Beach, CA 90806 • 562/591-7477 • washington.lbschools.net



Roshann Williams
Principal

Engaging Minds and Celebrating Culture: Highlights from Our ELOP After-School Enrichment Program

Our ELOP After-School Enrichment Program continues to provide engaging and meaningful opportunities for students beyond the school day. One of our featured programs is Ballet Folklórico, where approximately 24 students are actively participating. Students are excited to learn traditional dances that

represent different regions of Mexico, each with its own unique movements, music, and cultural story. The program promotes cultural pride, discipline, and artistic expression.

In addition, our Gaming Club brings together about 25 students who meet twice a week to build teamwork, strategy, and sportsmanship through video game play. Students are especially excited as they prepare for our first upcoming Gaming Club Tournament. These programs are just a snapshot of the amazing enrichment opportunities taking place at our school.



Webster *Elementary*

1755 W. 32nd Way, Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-6568 • webster.lbschools.net



Matthew Monaghan
Principal

Sharing the Gift of Music

A Webster tradition! Mrs. Vinnard led her fifth grade Webster chorus on a field trip this past December as they made the short walk, across the street, to Beachside Post Acute nursing home to perform a winter concert for residents and staff.

To the delight of students, residents and staff enjoyed the music of their favorite carols as well as other multicultural songs sung by students. After the performance, choristers sang the music around the neighborhood as they walked back to school. Scholars' melodies filled the air with joyful sounds as they walked past businesses, homes, apartments, and stores. We are grateful to our parent volunteers and VIPS who assisted with the event.

Great job Webster Wildcats! We are proud of you for making your light shine in giving back to the community!



Wilson *Classical High School*

4400 E. 10th St., Long Beach, CA 90804 • 562/433-0481 • wilson.lbschools.net



Rebecca Suzanne Caverly
Principal

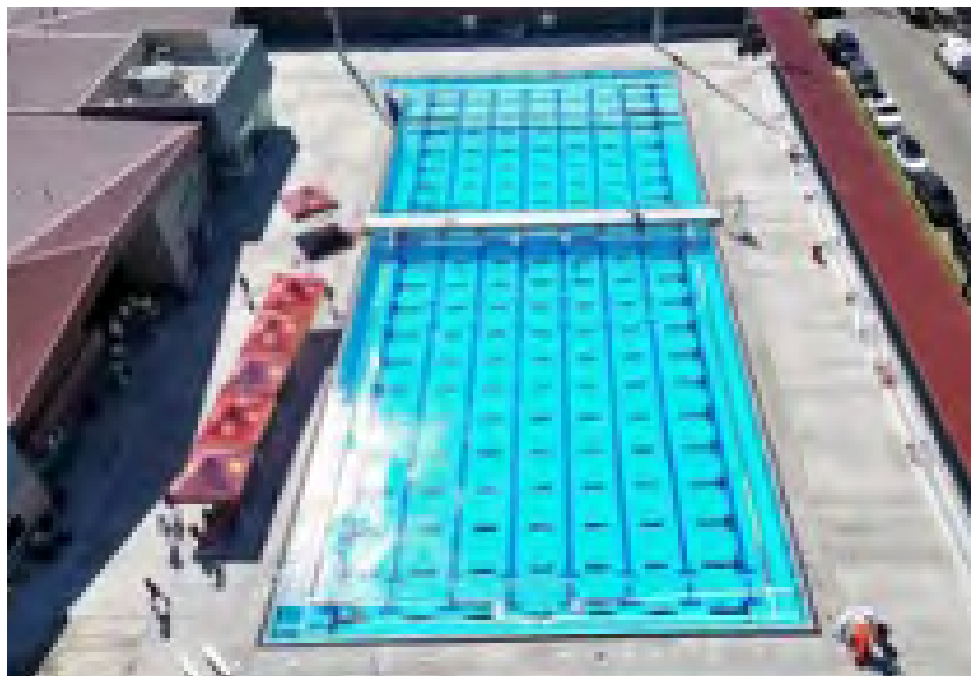
A New Era of Excellence: Wilson High Unveils State-of-the-Art Aquatics Center

Woodrow Wilson High School officially inaugurated its brand-new, state-of-the-art Aquatics Center, marking a historic milestone for one of the

nation's most storied high school aquatic programs. The pool is a world-class outdoor competition space. Designed to honor Wilson's unparalleled legacy, which includes 40 Olympians and dozens of CIF titles. "It's an incredible feeling to finally be home," said one student-athlete. "Practicing in a facility that matches the history of this program makes us want to work even harder." With this new facility, Wilson High will continue its

tradition of excellence, developing the next generation of aquatic stars right here in Long Beach.

Go Bruins!



The following charter school is an independent public school authorized by the Long Beach Unified School District. The charter school is responsible for its own educational programs, operations and enrollment procedures. Please contact the school directly for more information.

Intellectual Virtues Academy *Middle School (6–8)*

3601 Linden Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 • 562/912-7017 • ivalongbeach.org



Jacquie Bryant
Founding
Principal

How do families meaningfully connect with their kids' middle school?

We eat together! This year IVA celebrated the fall semester with a family breakfast. Even an unexpected downpour did not dampen our fun. With the help of families, we turned our classrooms into picnic rooms and continued to enjoy connecting with food, games, and line dancing.

Some IVA family events center around fun, others engage us in the deep thinking and creativity of our students. January was book-ended by the third annual Art & Community Night organized by Social Science teacher Ms. Alex Rosas. Students shared their Social Justice art alongside the work of local artists and businesses and we all salsa danced together. We're grateful for each opportunity to connect and deepen our sense of community.



Novelist –Word Search Contest

Rules! One word in the list is NOT in the word search.

When you have completed the word search, one word will be left and that word you email to: SchoolNewsKay@gmail.com Please put Long Beach in the subject line.

Entries must be received by March 15, 2026

From the correct entries one name will be drawn to win a \$20 gift card to Barnes & Noble.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| COMPUTER | BROWSER |
| EDITOR | GOOGLE |
| IPAD | INTERNET |
| SPELLCHECK | BING |
| PRINTER | ASPIRIN |
| PUBLISHER | KEYBOARD |
| NOTEPAD | TELEPHONE |
| READERS | WIFI |
| PENCIL | IMAGINATION |
| IDEAS | |
| PEN | |



Congratulations to **Sandra Conrad**
Winner of our October Word Search Contest!