



school bulletin

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

March 17, 2017

National Blog Notes Teachers' Success

A blog on the national Education Week website features a Long Beach Unified School District teacher effectiveness project as an exemplary way to transform instruction.

The Supporting Teacher Effectiveness Project (STEP) is a teacher-driven community of learners in the school district focused on discovering on-site solutions to challenges at schools. Teams of educators are guided through a data-driven process to identify problems, discover potential promising practices, confirm effectiveness of practices and create a systematic plan for sharing.

STEP is a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other groups.

"STEP has been successful at delivering a model that drives teacher engagement in improving their own practice," the article by authors Jason Stricker and Steve Cantrell states. "We're excited to already see positive impact on student learning and initial outcomes demonstrating the power of the model."

Find the article at edweek.org under Blogs. Look for Matthew Lynch's "Education Futures: Emerging Trends in K-12" blog. The entry title is "How the STEP Model Uncovers Local Bright Spots and Transforms Instruction."

Poly Documentaries Win National Honors

Two Poly High School students earned third prize, and several of their classmates earned honorable mention in a national C-SPAN documentary contest.

As part of the National 2017 StudentCam Competition, students answered the question, "What is the most important issue for the new president and Congress to address in 2017?"

Poly students Lucy Nottonson and Heather Davis won third prize and will receive \$750 for their documentary, "The Importance of Wetlands," which discusses the importance of estuaries, the destruction taking place, and what the government needs to do to protect them. The Bolsa Chica Wetlands, Los Cerritos Wetlands and the Aquarium of the Pacific are featured in the documentary.

Honorable mentions, who will receive a \$250 prize, were achieved by Poly students Eric Hatch and Theo Lee for "Affordable Housing: The Solution to the Homelessness Crisis;" Peter Donovan, Zane Witter and Olivia Campos for "Atmosphere of Denial;" Elizabeth Requejo, Bailey Cervana and Megan Dines for "Underwater Noise Pollution;" Morgan King, Sophia Callan and Sydney Matas for "What's the Catch?" and Jude McCarthy for "Plastic Ocean Pollution."

View winning documentaries at www.studentcam.org/winners17.htm.

Rogers, Franklin Earn State Green Ribbon

The Long Beach Unified School District added two more schools to its growing list of California Green Ribbon Schools this month. Rogers Middle School's Green Team earned a gold level award while Franklin Middle School and its Eco Club earned a silver level honor. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson announced the winning schools and districts.

The awards honor schools that conserve resources while promoting health and environmental literacy.

"These schools and districts serve as role models for their students," Torlakson said. "They manage their own facilities wisely by saving energy, conserving water, and reducing their impact on the environment. They provide innovative education programs that teach students about nature, the importance of clean air and water, and how to make good choices to preserve the environment for future genera-

tions."

Torlakson said the recognition is especially important now that the environment is facing so many threats such as climate change.

"These schools follow and advance a proud California tradition of caring for the environment and preserving our state's stunning, natural resources that are celebrated and known throughout the world," Torlakson said.

Green Ribbon Schools specifically demonstrate exemplary achievement in three areas: (1) reducing environmental impact and costs; (2) improving the health and wellness of schools, students and staff; and (3) providing effective environmental education that teaches many disciplines and is especially good at incorporating science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, civic skills and green career pathways.

Rogers teacher Pamela Weinstein and the
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Guest Principals See Excellence Up Close

About 150 guest principals shadowed Long Beach Unified School District principals last week during the annual Principal for a Day event. Afterward, the guest principals, other educators and community leaders gathered for a debriefing at the Beverly O'Neill/Center Theater. This year's debriefing doubled as a discussion on the State of Early Childhood Education.

Participants in the debriefing included California State Assemblyman Patrick O'Donnell; Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia; Michael Burke, vice president, Buffett Early Childhood Fund; Sonia Campos-Rivera, director of Education and Public Affairs, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce; Maria Harris, principal, Educare Los Angeles at Long Beach; Lou Anne Bynum, executive vice presi-

dent, College Advancement and Economic Development, Long Beach City College; Claudia Sosa-Valderama, director of LBUSD Head Start; and Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna.

Assemblyman O'Donnell had just spent the morning at Stanford Middle School, where his children attend.

"I have a sixth grader and an eighth grader at Stanford Middle School, and I can't tell you how proud I am of that institution," said O'Donnell. He encouraged the audience to advocate for further support of early childhood education in California's draft budget.

The "State of Early Childhood Education" discussion included a description of the Educare of Los Angeles in Long Beach project
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HARMONIOUS – Students from the Harmony Project perform at the annual Principal for a Day debriefing. The school district began partnering with the nonprofit Harmony Project last school year, allowing students to learn violin, viola and cello as early as second grade. View more photos at lbschools.net.



• Green Ribbon

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school's Green Team, along with Franklin teacher Ruth Lisha and the school's Eco Club were recognized by Torlakson at a recent ceremony. Honored along with those teachers was Franklin's library teacher Nina Jackson, who helped to write her school's application, and LBUSD's energy manager, Petter Hennum.

LBUSD now has seven schools that have earned Green Ribbon honors, including the two newest winners. Prior winners include Los Cerritos, Hughes, Longfellow, Lowell and Twain schools.

Learn more at cde.ca.gov (search for Green Ribbon).



Weight Watchers

The Long Beach Unified School District is committed to employee wellness and is paying 50 percent of the discounted cost for Weight Watchers offerings for all benefit-eligible active employees and spouses, as well as medical-plan-enrolled retirees and retiree spouses.

Weight Watchers provides a personalized approach to weight loss through food and fitness.

Weight Watchers offerings and LBUSD Special Pricing:

- Meetings (Includes OnlinePlus), \$18.25 per month
- OnlinePlus, \$8.05 per month
- Weight Watchers for Diabetes (Includes OnlinePlus and meetings), for members diagnosed with type two diabetes, \$18.25 per month

To learn more, go to LBUSD.join.weight-watchers.com.

Event Offers Youth Dialogue with Police

The Long Beach Branch NAACP will offer a Dialogue for Youth of Color with Law Enforcement from 3:15 to 4:30 p.m., and a reception from 4:30 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 19 at Ernest McBride Sr. Park, 1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Long Beach. Participating agencies include the Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol and the Long Beach Unified School District.

The goal of the event is to seek proactive solutions and strategies that will enable law enforcement and communities of color to work together, developing trust, respect and effective communication to create a safe, inclusive community. RSVPs are required for attendance and must be submitted by March 15. Email requests to attend and provide questions, concerns, suggestions and prior experiences with law enforcement to mnaacp@gmail.com.

Learn more at lbcanacp.org.

Teacher of Year Nominations Due

The Long Beach Unified School District Teacher of the Year Program is accepting nominations. While anyone may nominate a teacher, it will be up to the teacher to complete the application for the program.

Eligibility is limited to candidates who have been teaching for at least eight years and meet any of the following criteria:

- Fully credentialed teachers in public or private schools who teach any of pre-kindergarten through grade twelve
 - Teachers of adults who provide instruction in the same curriculum as those who teach in elementary or secondary grades
 - Instructors who have some administrative responsibilities but for whom teaching students is the primary responsibility
 - Teachers who are available to fulfill ambassadorial duties during the year
- Nominations are due by Friday, March 31. To nominate a teacher, visit <http://bit.ly/2018TOY>.

Employee of Year Nominations Due

Long Beach Unified School District employees who know outstanding colleagues deserving recognition may submit nominations for the annual Classified Employee of the Year Award by Friday, April 14.

Instructions, award criteria and nomination forms are available under "Employee of the Year (Classified)" in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

School Nurse of Year Nominations Due

Do you know of an exceptional school nurse who deserves recognition?

The Long Beach School Nurses Association is seeking nominations for the 2016-17 School Nurse of the Year Award. Each year, the association recognizes one special nurse for outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of Long Beach Unified School District students.

To nominate a school nurse for this honor, contact Nancy Suzuki for a nomination form at nsuzuki@lbschools.net. The deadline for submission is Monday, May 8.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

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• Guest Principals

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planned at LBUSD's Barton Elementary School. The new Educare facility will be located on 2.6 acres of the existing Barton Elementary School campus, and it will serve nearly 200 infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The Educare project fits into The Long Beach College Promise initiative, a partnership among the school district, Long Beach City College, Cal State Long Beach and the City of Long Beach. The Promise initiative includes an emphasis on early childhood education.

"I'm happy to be here and happy to support the College Promise. We have a world-class school system," Mayor Garcia said at the debriefing. "Anywhere we can be of service and support to the great work that's happening in the school district, that is our role and mission in the City of Long Beach."

The Educare project will consist of a new 32,000 square-foot facility with a two-story administration and support services building and three one-story classroom buildings surrounding an outdoor educational space.

Construction is set to begin this month and continue through March 2018, though some students will start in fall of this year. The project began with an anonymous donation of \$7 million, and efforts to raise matching funds are well under way.

LBUSD is partnering with the national Educare organization and other agencies on the project. Learn more about the Educare organization at educareschools.org.

Raising Awareness Of Trafficking

Cabrillo High School hosted an event to promote awareness of human trafficking recently, educating students on the dangers of trafficking and what help is available.

Cabrillo's Lori Andrews, dean of students, helped to organize the event, working with the City of Long Beach, YMCA, Long Beach Police Department, City Prosecutor's Office, Los Angeles County Probation Office and other groups to provide students with information and resources.

View a video about the Cabrillo event by finding this article at lbschools.net.

In Memoriam

George Johnson
former school psychologist
Feb. 25, 2017

Judy Mason
former teacher
Feb. 25, 2017

Lynn Green
former teacher
March 5, 2017

Frances Ruiz
former cafeteria supervisor
March 5, 2017