



school bulletin

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

November 30, 2018



NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED – Music Curriculum Leader James Petri recently accepted two national honors. He also has performed internationally as a pipe organist, in this case at St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican, where he accompanied student performers from local high schools.

Music Educator Petri Honored Nationally

Longtime music educator James Petri accepted two national accolades at a recent Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education meeting.

Petri, who serves as music curriculum leader for the school district, received a Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association. He also accepted a Patriot Employer Award from the U.S. Department of Defense for his support of the U.S. Army Reserve.

The inscription on his National Band Association Award reads, “Through professional leadership you have inspired and motivated excellence in musical performance. Your record of service to our profession is one of which you may be justifiably proud, and it will serve as a model to others.”

Founded in 1960, the National Band Association is the largest professional organization for bands in the world. The association was organized for the purpose of promoting the musical and educational significance of bands.

(Continued on next page)

LBCC Expands Free Tuition for LBUSD Grads

Free tuition for Long Beach Unified School District graduates who attend Long Beach City College will expand to two years starting in fall of 2019, LBCC announced this month.

California residents already can receive one year tuition-free at California community colleges if they enroll full-time, thanks to last year’s passage of Assembly Bill 19, also known as the California College Promise legislation. With LBCC’s latest announcement, all LBUSD graduates are now automatically eligible for the second year tuition-free if they attend LBCC immediately after graduation. The funding for the second year will be provided by the LBCC Foundation.

“LBCC was one of the first California Community Colleges to provide students with a free first year of tuition prior to the passage of AB 19,” LBCC President Reagan Ferragamo Romali said. “Thanks to the generosity of the LBCC Foundation, we will continue to grow our Long Beach College Promise and help LBUSD students by removing the financial barriers to higher education.”

Cal State Long Beach, LBCC and the school district first committed to The Promise in 2008, extending the promise of a college education to every LBUSD student. The City of Long Beach and its Mayor’s Office joined the initiative in 2014. Most recently the Port of Long Beach joined the effort in September 2018. The Promise has served as a model for communities in California and across the nation to develop partnerships centered on student success.

Elements of The Promise include increased access to early childhood education; college tours for 4th and 5th graders; a middle school pledge by students and parents, committing to college readiness; the free tuition at LBCC; a focus on internships; and guaranteed admission to CSULB for qualifying students.

The LBCC Foundation provided a free semester to LBUSD graduates in 2008 with the

start of the The Promise, and then expanded into a full year in 2015.

“For the past 10 years, the LBCC Foundation has been securing gifts from the community to fund the Long Beach College Promise scholarship,” LBCC Foundation Executive Director Elizabeth McCann said. “The LBCC Foundation is thrilled to offer this wonderful benefit for the second year of college for LBUSD students to achieve their college education with less financial burden. As a proud product of LBUSD, this is particularly near and dear to me.”

“There is a whole community of individuals, corporations and local groups like the Long Beach Rotary who give generously to the LBCC Foundation,” LBCC Foundation Board of Governors President Lorain Brault said. “Thanks to our community, the Foundation can expand this gift of education to our Long Beach College Promise students.”

Bixby Elementary Salutes Veterans

Bixby Elementary School honored active military service personnel and veterans during an annual schoolwide event just before the recent Veterans Day holiday.

Nearly 20 veterans, some of them related to students, were honored at the event, which included a flag-raising ceremony.

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

Honorees included former Bixby student John Harris, who last attended the school as a sixth grader in 1963. Also honored was Mike Murray, a longtime Long Beach Unified School District volunteer who is chairman of the U.S. Vets Long Beach Advisory Council.

View photos and video at lbschools.net.

SALUTING VETERANS – Students at Bixby Elementary School offer a warm welcome during a school-wide salute to veterans. The annual event included a flag-raising ceremony, and Principal Sam Platis presented plaques to nearly 20 veterans, some of them related to students.



• Music Educator ‘Goes Above and Beyond’

(Continued from first page)

Petri earned the second award, from the Department of Defense, after being nominated by LBUSD music teacher Stephanie Faria, a sergeant in the Reserve and a member of the 300th Army Band. She commended Petri for his strong support when she was called to duty.

“He has gone above and beyond when the Army has asked me to go on active duty,” Faria said. “For example, last year when Hurricane Harvey happened they asked if there was a team that would be willing to go out for relief efforts. Sometimes the Army asks with a moment’s notice, and in this case I believe it was less than 24 hours. And I gave Jim (Petri) a call and said, Jim, what do I do? And without hesitation he said Stephanie, you need to go support the military. You need to go support those families. He not only took care of me, he took care of my students. It can be stressful sometimes just dropping everything and leaving not only work but leaving my students. I wouldn’t be able to do that without him.”

“I’m extremely surprised. More than sur-

prised,” Petri said upon accepting the patriot honor. “Stephanie, it is an honor and privilege to know you, to know that you serve in our military, and that you give your best first of all to our students. I’ve been very, very proud to assist you in whatever you need.”

Petri also thanked the National Band Association for recognizing him.

“It’s quite an honor, and it is my privilege to be part of the Long Beach Unified School District. The support we get from the administration, the support we get from each of the schools, this is what makes Long Beach so unique. It’s just the partnership that we have and everyone working together to make this an exciting and truly remarkable school district.”

Petri has worked for more than 30 years as a music educator and advocate. He has taught choir here, helped coordinate the annual Long Beach Symphony Youth Concerts, directed musical theatre for Longfellow Elementary School, and coordinated the Harmony Project, which helps to bring music education to children from disadvantaged communities. He also performs locally as a pipe organist and last summer played pipe organ at the Vatican, among other international locales, accompanying student performers from LBUSD high schools.

Harmony Project Gala on Dec. 12

The Long Beach Unified School District continues to partner with the nonprofit Harmony Project, which helps to provide instrumental music education for children from lower income communities. The project’s fourth annual gala – a reception and fundraiser hosted by the school district and the Long Beach Education Foundation – is 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 12 at the Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach. Special guests at the event include Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna.

RSVP at harmonyproject@lbschools.net, or call 997-8448.

Dates to Remember

December	
1	Anniversary of Beginning of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1	World AIDS Day
2-10	Hanukkah (Festival of Lights)
4	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Celebrate,” Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
5	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “The Wright Brothers,” Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
6	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Hanukkah/Passover,” Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “December Holidays,” Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
10	Emily Dickinson’s Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
11	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Silversmith of Williamsburg,” Grade 5, ed.tv 8
12	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Christmas,” Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “What Liberty and Justice Mean,” Grades 3-4, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Anniversary of Boston Tea Party
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ Flight
18	9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “Kwanzaa,” Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
19	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00 – “New Year’s Day,” Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
20	9:30, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “A Christmas Carol,” Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
21	First Day of Winter
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 – “Ebenezer,” Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
24-Jan. 4	Winter Recess
24	Christmas Eve – Holiday
25	Christmas – Holiday
25	Clara Barton’s Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa

Sato Saves Lives with Inaugural Blood Drive

Sato Academy of Mathematics and Science earned high praise from the American Red Cross for the small high school’s inaugural blood drive, crediting the students and staff with saving up to 111 lives.

While the school had aimed for 28 pints to be collected, a total of 37 pints were donated.

“You would never have known that this was Sato’s first blood drive. It ran so smoothly. We blew our goal out of the water,” said Lisa Love, an account manager with Donor Resources Development for the American Red Cross. “We appreciate and value our new partnership with Sato High School in our life saving efforts.”

The advisor for Sato’s Red Cross Club is Brett Wiley, who teaches about human body systems.

Sato is the Long Beach Unified School District’s newest math and science specialty high school and will celebrate its first class of graduates in June. The school is modeled after LBUSD’s nationally recognized California Academy of Mathematics and Science. Learn more at lbschools.net/sato.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Superintendent of Schools

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Names in the News

Vanessa Aguire of Jordan High School’s Class of 2018 recently earned a Military Order of the Purple Heart National Scholarship for her grade point average and volunteer work for Long Beach Veterans Affairs. The graduate of Jordan’s Aspirations in Medical Services (AIMS) pathway volunteered more than 200 hours and qualified for the award of \$1,800 toward her tuition at Cal State Long Beach, where she plans to study criminal justice and forensics.

Cabrillo High School senior **Danyelle Shaw** recently earned the Youth of the Year Award and a \$5,000 scholarship from the Boys & Girls Club of Long Beach. She plans to attend Cal Poly Pomona and become a manufacturing engineer. She also moves onto the Los Angeles County level in the national Boys & Girls Club competition. Cabrillo schoolmates **Christian Leal** and **Tyler Wilson** each will receive \$2,500 scholarships as finalists. Leal wants to become an elementary school teacher, and Wilson plans to be a software developer.

Rotary Offers \$9K In Literacy Grants

Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation are offering up to \$9,000 for creative, teacher-driven literacy projects. Teachers in preschool through third grade, including Special Education, may apply for grants from \$500 to \$2,500. The deadline to apply is Jan. 25. Grants will be awarded by March 29 and may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aids, training programs or other materials beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

Find the grant application under Rotary Literacy Grants in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.

Since 1999 the Rotary Club of Long Beach has held an annual Reading by 9 fundraiser where its members and others donate to the Long Beach Rotary Charitable Foundation to support early education and literacy and the program’s goal to promote grade level reading by age 9. This year more than \$55,000 was raised. Since the inception of the program more than \$675,000 has been raised, and Rotary has donated than 250,000 books and e-books to local literacy efforts.

Reading by 9 provides funding and children’s books to Long Beach area schools, libraries, childcare centers, nonprofits and other literacy organizations that promote reading and literacy. The classroom literacy grants are now in their fifth year.

In Memoriam

Suzanne Miguel

former counselor

Oct. 10, 2018

Karen Quigley

former assistant director, OCIPD

Oct. 30, 2018

Dean Braunstein

grounds equipment operator, Grounds

Nov. 10, 2018