



school bulletin

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Assistive Tech Makes Learning Accessible

Long Beach Unified School District speech pathologist Emily Perez-Yi joined forces with her colleagues, parents and students recently to fuse and solder wires during a two-day “hack-a-thon,” installing buttons or switches on dozens of battery-operated toys to make them accessible to students with disabilities.

The self-named “Toys4All” group of volunteers adapted the toys for students in the school district’s Specialized Health Care Program. For many of these students, fine movements like a pinching motion using the thumb and index finger can be difficult due to severe motor impairments. Adding buttons and switches makes the toys more accessible.

The two-day event happened at Alvarado Elementary School and Buffum Total Learning Center. All of the adapted toys were wrapped to be given to students for the holidays.

Many of Perez-Yi’s colleagues are part of the school district’s Assistive Technology Team, also known as the “A-Team.” These professionals provide access to education for students with disabilities through the use of technology and tactile tools, meeting with teachers and parents to help them problem-solve and determine the most ideal educational experience for students with disabilities.

View a Board of Education Workshop presentation on assistive technology by finding this article at lbschools.net.



FREE CHROMEBOOK – Franklin Middle School student Nicole Sise receives a free Chromebook as part of LBUSD’s partnership with the human-I-T organization, which also provides low-cost Internet to qualifying families. **Story on next page.**

FITNESS DAY – Long Beach Police Officer Vic Feria, right, and other police personnel visited Lincoln Elementary School recently for an hour of sports, games and talking. The goal was to improve fitness and build bridges with police. P.E. teachers in training from Cal State Long Beach led activities.



Students Outperform State, County in P.E.

A greater percentage of physical education students in the Long Beach Unified School District are passing the state’s physical education tests compared to students in Los Angeles County and California as a whole, according to the newest data from the California Department of Education.

Students take a series of six separate tests that measure aerobic capacity, body composition, abdominal strength, trunk extensor strength, upper body strength and flexibility. Meeting five of the state exam’s six Healthy Fitness Zone requirements is considered to be a passing score. By state law, high school students who meet this standard qualify for exemption from physical education classes in their junior and senior years (though many of these students still opt to take P.E. electives such as yoga, dance, basketball, soccer and weight training).

LBUSD students’ performance on the P.E. tests surpassed the performance of their peers at the county and state level in just about each

grade level tested. The one exception was fifth grade, where LBUSD students’ performance was about the same as the state as a whole.

State Physical Fitness Exam % of Students Passing 2017-18*

Grade	LBUSD	L.A. County	State
5	46.4	44.1	46.9
7	54.3	49.4	53.3
9	62.8	54.0	57.9

* The state considers meeting five of six Healthy Fitness Zones to be a passing score.

Ninth graders here significantly outperformed their peers countywide and statewide, surpassing the county by almost 9 percentage points, and surpassing the state by nearly 5 percentage points.

Cabrillo Hosts International Econ Summit

Cabrillo High School hosted an International Economic Summit recently with nearly 150 Cabrillo students participating.

Teams of students from the Cabrillo Academy of Global Logistics (AGL) gathered in the gymnasium, representing about 30 different countries. The Economic Summit event is modeled after the International Economic Summit Institute at Boise State University. The hands-on activity teaches concepts related to international economics, globalization and the free enterprise system.

During the event, students created trade alliances, joined trading and banking sessions, and competed in a global issues debate.

The summit model has gained national recognition as an effective educational program

for teaching economics, finance and technology. Students gain a multicultural understanding of how the world works and what they can do to prepare for life as a global citizen.

Cabrillo’s AGL teacher Jim Dowding led the event, and the nonprofit Long Beach CaLL organization recruited 20 members of the local business community to provide professional feedback to the students. These dedicated volunteers evaluated students on their table displays and costumes, and also acted as bankers and scorekeepers for the event.

“Long Beach CaLL would like to thank all the volunteer judges, teachers and student ambassadors for contributing to such a meaningful learning experience,” said Kehau

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• Econ Summit

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Fujikami, a business development and marketing consultant for Long Beach CaLL. “A special shout out goes to Terri Billups with the U.S. Small Business Administration for her awesome outreach efforts to SBA members.”

Long Beach CaLL is a partnership among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

Learn more about Long Beach CaLL at longbeachcall.org, and learn more about the summit events at econsummit.org.

Young Women’s Conference Jan. 26

Congressman Alan Lowenthal will host the Young Women’s Empowerment Conference for seventh and eighth grade students from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Browning High School, 2180 Obispo Ave., Long Beach. Event check-in and registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

The free event provides an opportunity for young women to experience leadership building, be inspired and interact with peers and successful women of different backgrounds. Information sessions will be presented by women in varied careers. Discussions will focus on education, transition to high school, careers, self esteem, community engagement, personal growth and other topics. A “career café” with multiple stations will allow students to interact with women in various fields. Lunch will be provided.

More information and a registration form can be found at bit.ly/YWEC2019.

Names in the News

Millikan High School senior **Alyssa Jackson**, described by Millikan Principal Michael Navia as “an amazing student” who has overcome difficult obstacles, was recently crowned Miss Teen Southern California while wearing her grandmother’s prom dress from 1963.

Wilson High School senior **Verak Monh** earned a four-year, full tuition scholarship from the Posse Foundation to attend Tulane University. The Posse Foundation identifies, recruits and trains students with extraordinary leadership potential for this scholarship. Due to the increase of early decision applications, Tulane’s class of 2022 acceptance rate was 17 percent this year, creating the most selective class in the university’s history.

Apply for Job Sharing

Permanent elementary or secondary teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2019-20 school year. Job share deadlines are as follows:

Jan. 18 – Submission of written request to have your name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

March 1 – Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships, or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services, Attention: Job Share. For more information, call ext. 8106

ECON SUMMIT – Cabrillo High School students represent the Republic of Mali as they participate in the school’s International Economic Summit. Teams of students created trade alliances, joined trading and banking sessions, and competed in a global issues debate.



Harmony Project

Young musicians displayed their skills at the recent Harmony Project Gala held at the Terrace Theater, where school district officials and community partners including Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia and Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna offered words of encouragement during the fourth annual fundraiser. The Long Beach Unified School District continues to partner with the nonprofit Harmony Project, which provides instrumental music education for children from lower income communities. View video of the event by finding this article at lbschools.net.

Weight Watchers

To help kick off the new year, Weight Watchers is offering a free starter kit to employees who newly enroll from Jan. 2 to 25. Register within that timeframe to redeem the free starter kit by Feb. 8 while supplies last. Look for the promotional flyer at your site.

Metro Blue Line Closures Planned

Attention, Metro Blue Line commuters: the Blue Line will be out of service at 12 stations from Jan. 26 to late May due to upgrades.

Metro will provide various bus shuttle services during closures. Details and information on more travel options are available at metro.net/newblue.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Free Chromebooks, Low-Cost Internet

Dozens of Long Beach Unified School District students and their families have benefited from low-cost Internet access and free Chromebooks as part of a partnership with the human-I-T organization that started in September. About 100 households have subscribed to low-cost Internet, with about 85 families qualifying for free laptops.

By reusing instead of recycling electronics, human-I-T transforms e-waste into opportunities for under-served communities while promoting digital inclusion and online access. High-speed Internet access is available for as low as \$14.99 per month. Participants may qualify for a free Chromebook with low-cost Internet sign-up.

Each LBUSD school provides a “Low-Cost Internet” link at the bottom of the school’s website, in the footer. This link leads to more information and an online application.

Ed Celebration

The annual Education Celebration, which provides information on local elementary, middle and K-8 school programs, is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Cabrillo High School Gymnasium, 2001 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach.

Meet principals and teachers, and learn about enrollment options. For more information, contact Dulnari Edirisinghe-Aga at 997-8307.

Kindergarten Fests

Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2019-20 kindergartners and their families include parent workshops, free school supplies, dental screenings and lots of fun activities.

Following is the schedule of the Saturday festivals, which are planned for 9 a.m. to noon (registration begins at 8:45 a.m.):

- Jan. 12 at Dooley Elementary School, 5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach;
- Feb. 2 at Roosevelt Elementary School, 1574 Linden Ave., Long Beach;
- Feb. 23 at Oropeza Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave., Long Beach;
- March 9 at Burcham Elementary School, 5610 Monlaco Road, Long Beach.

For more information, call 435-4080, ext. 19.