



school bulletin

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November 15, 2013

College Promise Catches on in L.A.

The Long Beach College Promise, which provides students greater opportunities to prepare for and complete college, may soon be replicated in Los Angeles, according to a report this week by the Los Angeles Times.

Times reporter Carla Rivera's article examines ways to improve college graduation rates, especially among Latino students, whose college graduation rates lag compared with other Californians.

In Long Beach, the College Promise began five years ago as a collaboration among the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College and Cal State Long Beach.

"A collaboration in Long Beach is showing promise in improving enrollment and graduation rates," the article states. "It helps prepare K-12 students with a more rigorous college-prep curriculum and offers a free semester of tuition at Long Beach City College and

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Los Angeles Times

Linked Learning Here is Among Best in U.S.

Los Angeles Times reporter George Skelton, whose Capitol Journal column covers Sacramento politics, notes in his latest article that "Long Beach has one of the better Linked Learning programs in the country."

Linked Learning is a high school improvement approach that combines strong academics, demanding technical education and real-world experience in a pathway centered on an industry theme, such as engineering, biomedicine and health, or arts and media.

Skelton's page two article in the Nov. 14 edition of the Times reports that the state Legislature devoted \$250 million to Linked Learning and career pathways as part of the June budget. State Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg insisted upon the funding.

"Last spring (Steinberg) led legislators on a field trip to the Long Beach Unified School District, which has one of the better Linked Learning programs in the country. The senator

says he found students there more engaged and focused than in many other public schools," Skelton writes.

Of the 23,000 high schoolers in LBUSD, about 18,000 are involved in Linked Learning.

"It doesn't subtract from regular academic courses — English, science — but refocuses that curriculum toward possible careers," Skelton continues. "Often, students intern at local businesses."

In the article, LBUSD Program Administrator Nader Twal explains that with Linked Learning, "students are able to answer their own question, 'Why am I learning this in class?' Fundamentally, when students understand why they're learning, their attention and performance goes up."

Skelton has covered government and politics for the Times since 1974. Read his full article at latimes.com. Search for Linked Learning.

Board Approves CAMS Replication at Hill

The Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education has unanimously approved a plan to replicate the California Academy of Mathematics and Science, the nationally honored high school that is run by LBUSD on the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus. The plan calls for Hill Classical Middle School in East Long Beach to be phased out over the next three years, allowing a CAMS-like school to be phased in at the site.

In light of the approval, LBUSD will gradually phase out the middle school, which offers grades six through eight. A small high school modeled after CAMS will instead be phased in one grade at a time, eventually serving about 675 students in grades 9 to 12.

The existing CAMS program at Cal State Dominguez Hills in Carson will remain intact. The popular program regularly receives appli-

cations from twice as many qualified students as the school can accept, so replicating CAMS at Hill helps to meet strong demand among students and parents. Hill is located at 1100 Iroquois Ave., in between Studebaker Road and Cal State Long Beach. The location will allow for close partnerships between the high school and the university.

Hill will no longer accept sixth graders in fall of 2014. In the following year, or 2015-16, Hill will no longer accept sixth or seventh graders, and the school will simultaneously phase in a group of ninth graders. By 2016-17, there will be no more middle grades (6-8) at the school.

The phase-out of Hill is due to declining enrollment at the school and districtwide, and because the school district is implementing a

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High School Choice Fairs Prove Popular

Hundreds of eighth grade families have attended high school choice fairs in the Long Beach Unified School District during the past two weeks, with standing-room-only crowds reported at the popular events.

In addition to the school district's usual districtwide High School Choice Fair — which this year is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nov. 16 at Cabrillo High School's main gym — LBUSD has offered four regional fairs this fall where parents learn about high school programs and attend workshops on completing the high school choice application. The first three fairs, offered during evenings at

Bancroft, Washington and Stanford middle schools, attracted more than 1,100 families, with the fourth fair scheduled at Lindbergh Middle School on Thursday, Nov. 14.

"The feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive," said Jennifer Brown, administrative assistant in LBUSD's Office of Equity, Access and Readiness for College and Career. "Our parent application workshops also are receiving positive feedback, as parents feel more comfortable navigating the 40-plus choices we offer for high school pathways."

Learn more under High School Choice in the A-Z index at lbschools.net.



ONE FOR THE MONEY — Cubberley K-8 School's rock-and-roll-themed carnival, complete with Elvis impersonator, celebrated the school's 60th year. The volunteer-driven event brought in \$24,000 in ticket sales, with about \$17,000 after expenses going back to support classrooms, clubs, sports teams and more.

• Replicating Nationally Honored CAMS

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larger Facility Master Plan that calls for the creation of several smaller high schools. Of Hill's approximately 800 students, only about 45 live in the Hill neighborhood. The Facility Master Plan, developed with significant input from parents and others in the community, is helping to guide the expenditure of Measure K school bonds that were approved by local voters in 2008.

Facility improvements at Hill will include an already-planned demolition of the existing gym, which will be replaced with a physical education facility and locker rooms. The school district also plans to add parking spaces to the site, though the student population of 675 will be far smaller than Hill's peak population of 1,200 about six years ago.

Students who remain at Hill during the phase-out period will continue to be provided with their core subject area classes and electives, minimizing the impact of the phase-out period. The Rogers Middle School attendance boundaries will expand to include the Hill

Names in the News

Cabrillo High School teacher **Ivy Gastelum**, one of three Long Beach Unified School District Teachers of the Year, was a finalist for the Long Beach Press-Telegram's Amazing Women awards in the education category, and retired LBUSD principal **Cynthia Terry** was nominated in the Lifetime Achievement category. Candidates for the Amazing Women Awards were nominated by Press-Telegram readers.

Millikan High School COMPASS teacher **Mary Massich** earned special thanks on the website of The Children's Clinic in Long Beach for working with clinic staff to raise funds and support the recent Beach Walk fundraiser through volunteering. Each year students and staff from Millikan and other local schools help to raise thousands of dollars at the event. Proceeds help to provide low- and no-cost health care for children, many of whom attend local schools.

Philippines Aid

Employees wishing to donate money to assist with relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan may do so through organizations such as the American Red Cross, Unicef and Doctors Without Borders. Each of these organizations provides a website allowing donations to go specifically to the Philippines.

More than 2,000 people have died as a result of the storm, which destroyed at least 80,000 homes, leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

West Side Story

Renaissance High School for the Arts presents West Side Story 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday Nov. 22 and 23 at the Center Theater, located at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Purchase at ticketmaster.com or the Center Theater box office, 436-3661.

neighborhood, and the school choice process still allows for attendance at other middle and K-8 schools in the district.

Like other LBUSD high schools such as McBride, CAMS and Renaissance, which have no attendance boundaries, the new high school will draw students from throughout the school district. The new school also will require students to fill out a supplemental application.

Students at CAMS have the top SAT scores in the state, according to a ranking of America's Best High Schools released in May by Newsweek. CAMS also boasts the fourth highest SAT scores in the nation, according to the ranking. CAMS students on average scored 2,168 on the SAT, out of a possible score of 2,400.

CAMS has repeatedly earned both the California Distinguished School Award and the National Blue Ribbon Award.

U.S. News and World Report, The Washington Post and Newsweek all named CAMS among America's top high schools this year. The Class of 2013 at CAMS earned \$13.5 million in scholarships.

Kindergarten Fests

Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2014-15 kindergartners and their families include parent workshops, free school supplies and dental screenings. Below is the schedule of the Saturday festivals, planned for 9 a.m. to noon (registration begins at 8:45 a.m.).

Call 435-4080, ext. 19 to learn more.

Schedule of Festivals

(9 a.m. to noon)

Saturday, Dec. 7

Dooley Elementary School
5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach

Saturday, Jan. 11

Roosevelt Elementary School
1400 E. 20th St., Long Beach

Saturday, Feb. 8

International Elementary School
700 Locust Ave., Long Beach

Saturday, March 15

Buffum Total Learning Center
2350 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• College Promise

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guaranteed admission to Cal State Long Beach."

Educators in East Los Angeles want to replicate the Long Beach model and are set to launch a pilot program next fall centered on Garfield High School (of *Stand and Deliver* fame), its feeder elementary and middle schools, East Los Angeles College and Cal State Los Angeles, according to the Times.

The College Promise has attracted national and state attention. Last month, the Little Hoover Commission, an independent agency that recommends ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of state programs, released a detailed report citing the Long Beach program as a successful model and calling upon the state Legislature to help replicate the program elsewhere in California.

The College Promise has provided tuition-free semesters for 4,000 students at LBCC, while guaranteeing admission at CSULB for qualified local students, and encouraging college preparation in elementary school.

This year's progress report on the College Promise shows that the number of LBUSD graduates completing college-level English at LBCC increased by 500 percent over the previous year. The number of LBUSD students completing college-level math at LBCC jumped by 200 percent over the same period.

Visit longbeachcollegepromise.org.

Substitutes Needed

The Long Beach Unified School District is now hiring substitute teachers. Candidates may apply at lbschools.net (find "Substitute Teacher Hiring" in the A-Z index).

Requirements include a bachelor's degree; complete passage of the California Basic Educational Skills Test (CBEST) or equivalent or status as a current student teacher; daily availability and a willingness to work at all levels.

Dates to Remember

December

1	Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott
1	World AIDS Day
2	Special Education Day
3	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
10	Emily Dickinson's Birthday
10	Human Rights Day
10	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	Boston Tea Party Anniversary
17	Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' Flight
17	9:00, 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
18	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 19 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Adventures in Poetry: Writing Poetry," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
21	First Day of Winter
23-Jan. 3	Winter Recess
24-25	Christmas Holidays — Observed
25	Christmas Day
25	Clara Barton's Birthday
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa