



# school bulletin

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

Jan. 8, 2016



## Board OKs 5% Raise for Teachers, Non-Reps

The Board of Education at its regular meeting this week unanimously approved a 5 percent salary increase for teachers and non-represented employees, retroactive to July 1 of 2015.

The raise for teachers was part of a bargaining agreement approved by both the school board and the Teachers Association of Long Beach. The board's final approval came after TALB's K-12 membership ratified the agreement by a 99.2 percent vote.

The target date for retroactive checks to be issued to qualifying employees is Feb. 26. Then the 5 percent increase will be reflected on subsequent paychecks. The 5 percent increase also would apply to career increments (longevity), retroactive to July 1 for TALB members and non-represented employees.

When combined with last school year's 5 percent raise and the prior year's 3 percent raise, the newest agreement brings the total salary increase to 13 percent over three years for these employees, with no monthly premium co-payment for health plans.

The agreement with TALB includes the

adoption of the National Formulary pharmacy plan for the Blue Shield PPO effective July 1, 2016 and provides for a school district subsidy for participation in Weight Watchers as part of LBUSD's wellness program. The same pharmacy plan change and Weight Watchers subsidy holds true for non-represented employees.

Other modifications to the TALB contract include updating CDC/Head Start teacher evaluation language and evaluation forms, salary schedule placement, maternity and paternity leave for child bonding and the school district technology guidelines. Two LBUSD/TALB joint committees will be formed to review the electronic grading and communication systems and review the language for the re-establishment of a Peer Assistance and Review Program.

The new TALB contract runs through June 30, 2018 with reopeners on selected articles each year.

The school district plans to negotiate compensation with the local California School Employees Association chapter in the coming weeks.

**NATIONAL RECOGNITION –** During a recent visit to Tincher Preparatory School, U.S. Congressman Alan Lowenthal talked to students about going to college, and he helped the school to celebrate its redesignation as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle School Reform. The K-8 school earned the School to Watch honor for the third time last year in recognition of academic excellence in the middle grades. Tincher was among 15 schools statewide to retain their designation. These model schools host educators from California and beyond who are looking for practices that will help them to improve.

## Independent Audits Rate LBUSD Highly

Detailed, independent audits of the Long Beach Unified School District's finances and its Measure K school bond program have resulted in the highest possible rating from certified public accountants.

The results of the audit of the school district's finances by a team of independent auditors were presented to the school board recently by the Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman firm. The auditing firm deemed that the school district

(Continued on next page)

## Queen Mary, LBUSD Launch New Partnership

A new partnership between the Long Beach Unified School District and the Queen Mary Heritage Foundation will allow fourth graders at Prisk Elementary School to explore science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) as they learn about the legendary ship.

The partnership was announced during a recent ceremony at the school, where city and school officials joined fourth graders as they visited various tables staffed by Queen Mary crew members, who outlined the new curriculum to be used in the coming weeks.

Students will learn how propellers and

steam engines work, and how steel ships stay afloat. The course will explore navigational tools used in the past and present, and how the crew members and passengers aboard the ship communicate. The ship provides real-world examples of concepts such as transfer of energy and other science and engineering principles.

"This gives students the opportunity to hone their critical thinking skills," Prisk Principal Damon Jespersen said. "The Queen Mary is a driving force for that."

Prisk teacher Joseph Sarabia created the

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**BON VOYAGE –** Queen Mary crew member Zaccheus Hankins wears the historical bellman uniform from the ship's seafaring days. The Jordan High School graduate was among Queen Mary staff to help unveil a pilot curriculum at Prisk Elementary School. Students will learn about science, technology, engineering, arts and math.



## L.B. Rotary Offers Grants to Teachers

Long Beach Rotary and its charitable foundation are offering up to \$7,500 for teacher-driven literacy projects. Long Beach Unified School District teachers in preschool through third grade, including special education, may apply for grants of \$500 to \$2,500 for innovative and creative reading and literacy programs.

Grants will be awarded by June and may be used to purchase books, e-books, teaching aids, training programs or other educational materials beginning in the 2016-17 school year. Teachers receiving awards may be invited to present their project at a Long Beach Rotary luncheon and will be required to complete a one-page report at the end of the grant period.

Find the application under Rotary Literacy Grants in the A-Z index at [lbschools.net](http://lbschools.net). The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 15.

The grants are part of Rotary's Reading by 9 programs. Rotarians each year donate more than \$40,000 toward this program, and they have donated more than 215,000 books to local children, school libraries and nonprofit literacy programs. The goal is to help students learn to read at grade level by age nine.

## Names in the News

Former Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education President **Bobbie Smith** received a key to the city from Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia at a recent City Council meeting, honoring Smith's service to the community, including her pioneering leadership as the first African American woman on the school board. Also receiving keys to the city at the same ceremony were former California Gov. **George Deukmejian** and his wife, **Gloria Deukmejian**.

Brothers **Jason** and **Justin Barnett**, both students at Millikan High School, competed in the International Dance Organization's World Tap Dance Championship held recently in Germany, where Justin earned the top spot among U.S. dancers in the male junior solo category. The two also performed as a duo and earned the third highest spot among U.S. teams. Their mother, **Kimmi**, teaches at Melodie's Dance Theater in Los Alamitos.

Lakewood High School musicians **Tre Adams**, **Nick Lobato** and **Johnny Sanchez** were pictured in the December edition of the Lakewood Community News for successfully trying out for the Tournament of Roses Parade Honor Band. The Honor Band marched down Pasadena's Colorado Boulevard on New Year's Day. Adams plays the snare drum, Lobato plays the trumpet, and Sanchez plays the bass drum. Their band instructor is **Paul Copeland**.

## In Memoriam

**Deborah M. Johannes**  
former school nurse  
Dec. 17, 2015

**Mary Ellen Balmer**  
former teacher  
Jan. 2, 2016

## Civil Rights Expert to Keynote CCEJ Event

The California Conference for Equality and Justice, which partners with the Long Beach Unified School District on several youth programs, will welcome civil rights scholar and professor Margaret Burnham as keynote speaker at the 25th Annual Interfaith Intercultural Breakfast. The event is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 at the Long Beach Convention and Entertainment Center.

Burnham is founder of the Northeastern University School of Law's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, which engages students in legal matters relating to the 1960s U.S. civil rights movement. Her fields of expertise are civil and human rights, comparative constitutional rights and international criminal law.

In 2010, Professor Burnham headed a team of outside counsel and law students in a landmark case that settled a federal lawsuit: Professor Burnham's team accused Franklin County, Mississippi law enforcement officials of assisting Klansmen in the kidnapping, torture and murder of two 19-year-olds, Henry Dee and Charles Eddie Moore. The case and settlement were widely covered in the national press.

Burnham began her career representing civil rights and political activists at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. In 1977 she became the first African American woman to serve in the Massachusetts judiciary, and in



**Burnham**

1982 she became a partner in a Boston civil rights firm with an international human rights practice. In 1993, South African President Nelson Mandela appointed Professor Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress.

The nonprofit CCEJ is a human relations organization dedicated to eliminating bias, bigotry and racism in America.

The breakfast event is \$40 per person, with table sponsorships available. Call 435-8184 or email [kmcilquham@cacej.org](mailto:kmcilquham@cacej.org) to reserve a space by Feb. 12.

## Kindergarten Fests

Kindergarten Festivals for incoming 2016-17 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. 9 at Dooley Elementary School, 5075 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach;
- Jan. 30 at International Elementary School, 700 Locust Ave., Long Beach;
- Feb. 20 at Roosevelt Elementary School, 1574 Linden Ave., Long Beach;
- March 19 at Burcham Elementary School, 5610 Monlaco Road, Long Beach.

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

## • Queen Mary

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course with Gant Elementary School teacher Kellee King and Longfellow Elementary School teacher Lisa Yarak.

The aim is to expand the pilot project to grades K-5 at Prisk and throughout the school district.

After several weeks of study, the Prisk students will visit the Queen Mary for an interactive experience featuring the new 4-D theater, deck, engine room, bridge and stern.

The Queen Mary is one of the world's most revered passenger liners, with the 80th anniversary of the ship's maiden voyage approaching. The ship has served as an icon for the City of Long Beach since 1967, and its important status has linked the port and surrounding community to a global network of shipping enthusiasts, art aficionados, history buffs and those with respect for the golden age of ocean liner transport.

## • Independent Audits

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has earned the coveted unmodified opinion, meaning the financial statements give a true and fair view of LBUSD's finances.

The accounting firm arrived at the same opinion after conducting two audits related to the school district's Measure K school construction and modernization program. One audit examined the school bond fund in detail, while a performance audit determined that the school district has expended funds appropriately.

## Local Partners Give 6,000 Toys at CDC

The Long Beach Unified School District's Child Development Centers teamed with the Long Beach Day Nursery and Lakeshore Learning to provide 6,000 toys to children ages three to eight just before the winter break.

The Santa's Workshop Toy giveaway was an impressive sight even as workers prepared for the event, according to Cindy Young, CDC director for the school district.

"My entire auditorium was full of empty boxes. Six thousand boxes is amazing," Young said.

The toy giveaway took place at the CDC main offices at the former Monroe School site in Lakewood.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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**CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER**  
Superintendent of Schools

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