

FREE

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Serving the communities of Long Beach, Lakewood & Signal Hill

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SUPERINTENDENT



Giving a Special Gift

The season of giving is upon us. But for our employees and our many supporters, giving is not limited to a certain time of the year. Day in and day out, they give of their talents, time and even their own resources to support the students in our schools.

I was touched by the recent donation of a beautiful, \$800 violin that we received as part of an instrument drive to maintain the high quality of our music programs. Amazingly, the violin was donated by one of our recently laid off teachers.

This selfless act illustrates better than any numerical performance index or test score why our schools are some of the best in the nation.

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When Students Succeed, Communities Prosper



LBUSD Superintendent of Schools, Chris Steinhauser, President of CSULB, F. King Alexander and Superintendent-President of LBCC, Eloy Ortiz Oakley committed to the Long Beach College Promise.

By Judy Seal, Executive Director
LB Education Foundation

When Students Succeed, Communities Prosper – The Long Beach College Promise

We have something special in Long Beach, the Long Beach Way. The Long Beach Way is our abiding concern for the welfare of our residents, our education, our many ways of life, our various traditions. A key component to the Long Beach Way is our collective dedication to creating a world-class seamless education system where students can begin here in preschool, grow up in Long Beach and succeed in school through a Masters Degree or professional doctorate. "We want to ensure that the pathway from preschool to graduate education is as smooth as possible," said CSULB President F. King Alexander. Everyone is involved from

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BOARD OF EDUCATION



Local Schools Excel in All Neighborhoods

As school board president, it's a privilege to witness first-hand the tremendous academic gains that the Long Beach Unified School District is

making. Our schools are repeatedly recognized as some of the best in the nation, and even the world, for their ability to serve students no matter what daunting challenges we face.

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December On the Hill



Brunch with Santa

Santa Claus is coming to town and he would like to have brunch with you! Tickets are still available for both breakfast and lunch with Santa for Saturday,

December 10, 2011. Make your reservation today by calling (562) 989-7330. The cost is \$12 for Signal Hill residents and \$17 for non-residents. Ticket price includes: a delicious meal, crafts for children, entertainment by Wilson High School Choir, and a visit with Santa.

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State of the Port Address



Randy Gordon
President/CEO
Long Beach Area
Chamber of
Commerce

Long Beach unemployment has increased over the last few years, but there's a bright spot on the horizon thanks to one of the community's oldest residents.

The Port of Long Beach has steadily employed residents here and in the region for over a century. Despite dire economic conditions, the Port remains committed to providing employment with modernization and environmental efficiency projects that have and will provide thousands of jobs for

SEE LB AREA CHAMBER PAGE 34

On the Road to Safety



Douglas P.
Haubert
City Prosecutor

Now that families are settled into their school year rituals, it's a good time to consider an important, but often overlooked topic: safety.

It's true that students are safer on campus than just about any other place. Parents, however, need to make sure their children get to school safely and teach them how to be safe at all times.

If your child walks, bikes or scooters to school, make sure he or she understands and obeys traffic signals and signs. Quiz them to

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Signal Hill *Elementary*

2285 Walnut Ave., Signal Hill, CA 90755 • 562/426-8170 • <http://signalhill-lbusd-ca.schoolloop.com/>



Lauren Price
Principal

Eagle Scout Beautifies Kindergarten Playground

When I was approached a few months ago by a young man about his Eagle Scout project, I had no idea what to expect! But after a great deal of planning and hard work, on one hot September weekend, **Nick Bass of Troop 212** made a miracle happen for our Kindergarten students!

Nick and his team of young scouts worked over a period of two days on a project which included repainting and roofing the play equipment shed, sanding and repainting a wooden table, covering a fenced off area containing electrical equipment, and building four

beautiful planter boxes. The project was conceived and executed by Nick, and the results are just amazing!

Thank you, Nick, for making the playground a more beautiful place for our youngest students to learn and grow!



Stanford *Middle School*

5871 E. Los Arcos St., Long Beach, CA 90815 • 562/594-9793 • www.lbstanford.schoolloop.com



Kathleen Cruz
Principal

Getting Acclimated

All Stanford Middle School sixth-graders participate in the Where Everyone Belongs (WEB) program. WEB begins prior to the first day of school when seventh- and eighth-grade WEB Leaders introduce themselves to small groups of incoming sixth-grade students and assist in their orientation to our campus. It doesn't end with that day, however. The leaders "follow" their sixth-grade friends throughout the year, teaching lessons in advisory classes, such as how to stay organized, attending the sixth-grade welcome dance to ease students into their first middle school dance, and meeting periodically for fun activities, such as a picnic held on the front lawn of our campus.

On October 27, all Stanford sixth-graders had the opportunity to participate in our annual Abilities Awareness Day through their physical education classes. This event allows students to experience challenges our special needs students face each and every day. During a single period, students learned the basics of American Sign Language and how our visually impaired pupils maneuver around

campus. They participated in a wheelchair obstacle race and communicated with friends by way of vocal output communication devices. Pupils had great fun learning about the many different abilities that make up our Stanford community!



Stanford 6th graders receive a lesson on how pupils use Vocal Output Communication Devices to converse with friends.

Stephens *Middle School*

1830 W. Columbia St., Long Beach, CA 90810 • 562/595-0841 • <http://lbstephens.schoolloop.com/>



Diane Prince
Principal

Walk & Bike to School

Stephens Middle School encourages all students to arrive at school safely each day. A co-sponsored program by the LB City Council and Long Beach Bike to school was a huge success, "Walk & Bike to School Day." Safety first was the message, use the crosswalks,

look both ways, if you ride a bike, scooter or skateboard to school wear a helmet. Raffle tickets were given to students who were arriving safely to school. A brand new bike and helmet were donated by the Safe Moves Program won by 7th grade student Victor Ramos! The bike and helmet was given on our video broadcast by the Safe Moves Program to Victor and his mother. Congratulations Victor enjoy your new bike and helmet!



Stevenson *Elementary*

515 Lime Ave., Long Beach, CA 90802 • 562/437-0407 • www.lbusd.k12.ca.us/stevenson



David Zaid
Principal

Red Ribbon Week and Fall Fun

Pumpkins, candy apples, brown leaves, costumes and sweaters always mean that fall is here.

And this season our students also learned about the dangers of drugs during our Red Ribbon Week celebration. Red ribbons and banners were hung outside the school and in hallways to help engage the entire community. Each class offered lessons and activities that empowered the student's hopes and dreams to commit them to education and the goal of keeping their lives drug free.

The students dressed in red and received red bracelets. They even decorated their classroom doors. The week concluded with a schoolwide assembly and an announcement of the winners of the decorating contest.

The fall season also brought other activities, such as a costume contest, a student costume parade and a spooky story time that shared reading experiences in a secret reading room. Each class was tiptoeing as they waded through fog, spider webs, flashing lights and spooky sounds.

This enjoyable school experience fostered a love for reading in the kindergarten through third-grade classrooms, as well as an appreciation for writing imaginative narratives in the fourth- and fifth-grades.

