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Long Beach WordMasters Finish 10th in Nation

One Student Earns Perfect Score

A team of fifth graders representing Long Beach Public Schools won highest honors in the WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition that challenges students to complete word analogies by thinking both analytically and metaphorically. They participated in the competition through the district’s Learning Activities for Raising Creativity (LARC) program based at East School.

Competing in the difficult Blue Division, and coached by LARC teacher Beverlee Bertinetti, the team tied for tenth in the nation among the 699 school teams competing at this grade level and in this division. Long Beach produced the only fifth-grade team in New York State to place in the top ten.

Fourth grader Paulina earned a perfect score in the meet.

Of the 35,460 fourth graders competing from around the nation, only 39 achieved this distinction. This was an especially proud accomplishment for Paulina, as she is a first-generation American, whose parents are from Medellin, Colombia.

Fragments Wins National and State Awards

Editors of Long Beach High School's literary magazine, Fragments, earned top honors in three prestigious competitions. The Columbia Scholastic Press Association awarded a Silver Medalist certificate to Fragments at its 2009 competition, where it was judged alongside student literary magazines from all over the country. The publication also received the Superior-Highest Honors award from the National Council of Teachers of English. At the state level, Fragments received an overall Silver Award from the Empire State Scholastic Press Association, as well as a Gold Medal for cover design.

At the Columbia Scholastic Press competition, Alyssa Blumenthal and Sophie Corwin both earned Gold certificates in the nonfiction category. Sophie also walked away with Silver and Bronze for fiction, while Kaitlin Egan was awarded one Silver and two Gold certificates for her photography. At the Empire State competition, 2009 graduates Kali Quinn, Meghan Stanger and Bailey Robertson also earned awards.
The School Preservation Plan (SPP) is comprised of four separate project phases. Each phase is broken down into different stages from conceptual design to construction and closeout.

**Phase 1 - Lindell Masonry Repair and Window Replacement**
Masonry restoration work and grinding resumed, with re-pointing to begin in March. Review of window mock-up completed and window replacement installation to begin in April. Front entry steps and ramp in final stages of construction.

**Phase 2 & 3A – West, Lindell, East, MS & HS**
State Education Department (SED) approval of construction documents pending. Bidding is anticipated this spring, with completion by January 2011. Early SED approval was granted for the partial roof replacement at the MS, and construction is in progress. Bidding for the fields is anticipated in April 2010 with completion by September 2010. Work at West, Lindell and HS is expected to begin in June 2010 with completion projected for September 2011 and closeout by December 2011.

**Phase 3B – Lido Complex**

**Phase 4 – High School**

**Other Capital Projects**
The District is proposing use of its state allocation of EXCEL funding for repairs of the HS pool filtration system, and north parking lot of the Lido Complex. The District will still be eligible to receive reimbursement of costs at the current state building aid rate of 42.4% in addition to the EXCEL grant.

**State Audit Results**
The NYS Comptroller’s audit of Long Beach Public Schools examined the district’s operations from July 1, 2007 to October 31 2008 and found no major areas of concern, irregularities or inaccuracies. The Comptroller’s office made recommendations for improving some procedures and policies, which the district has already taken steps to implement, either through procedural modifications or revision of Board policy.

**Board Policy Review**
Prior to the release of State audit results, members of the Board of Education had already embarked on a broader review of all Board policies. Board members have begun identifying areas where policy should be revised, expanded or updated, with special priority placed on policy recommendations made by the Comptroller’s office.
**Character Education in Action**

*Students raise thousands to help Haiti*

Moved by the plight of the Haitian people in the wake of the devastating earthquake, students rallied together to contribute to disaster relief efforts, raising over $11,000 as of mid-February. “Community service is an important component of our district’s character education program,” said Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Vincent Butera. “Our goal is to educate the heart as well as the mind. I am very proud of the way students and staff have come together to help those in need.”

East School students organized a Hearts for Haiti coin drive to coincide with their annual Multicultural Week. Each class studied the culture and history of a different Caribbean country, comparing those countries to Haiti. Every day they collected a different denomination of coins. Parents also sent in checks. They graphed their daily results, which totaled close to $4,000.

The Lido Student Council sprang into action with a January coin drive. Teachers contributed to the cause by hosting a fundraising breakfast for staff. Together they collected over $1,500. Staff members also collected much-needed first-aid supplies.

Lindell students and staff also reacted quickly, with each grade contributing to the cause, raising a total of $1,000.

A schoolwide cafeteria coin drive was held. Kindergarteners made Wreaths of Hope, which they sold to their parents. Fifth graders created and sold hand-made beaded bracelets, necklaces and pins. Staff members also made monetary donations.

At West School, students organized a Healing to Help Haiti Campaign, selling rubber neon bracelets, and staging a We Can “Change” the World coin drive. In a striking example of generosity, siblings Trey and Charlie Regan donated $100—the entire contents of their piggy bank. Through these combined efforts, the school raised more than $2,400.

The Peace Club at Long Beach Middle School teamed up with the Student Organization and the Foreign Language Club during lunch periods to organize a Dollars for Haiti campaign, and also accepted donations at their school musical. In total they collected $1,500.

High School students have been selling bracelets, stamped with the words “LB Supports Haiti,” which they also sold at performances of their school musical, amassing $1,800 in relief funds. In addition, at press time they were planning a talent show for later this month.

The students at the district’s Adult Learning Center, many of whom have relatives in Haiti, were especially moved by the tragedy. While waiting to hear of the fate of friends and loved ones, they joined forces to raise over $1,500 through collections, a bake sale and a benefit luncheon.

**Blackheath Pre-K: Taking the Next Step to Educate the Whole Child**

The Blackheath Pre-K School engages students in daily activities to support social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. This year, with the formal adoption of the Second-Step character education program, administrators, teachers and parents have made a renewed commitment to nurture each student’s positive social growth to provide a strong foundation for learning.

This award-winning program integrates academics with social and emotional learning in age-appropriate lessons that help children develop empathy, manage their emotions, control impulsive behavior and practice problem-solving techniques. With the help of structured kits that incorporate songs, stories, posters and puppets, students learn to identify and manage their own feelings and understand and accept those of other people. Language concepts and vocabulary are incorporated into lessons to promote consequential and critical-thinking skills, teaching children key concepts such as “same/different” and “why/because.”

At the start of each new lesson, parents receive a letter and packet of material that helps them understand and reinforce the techniques that are used in the classroom, such as belly breathing and counting out loud. The school’s Site-Based Team has been instrumental in organizing a network of parent volunteers to act as guest presenters. Using puppets named Impulsive Puppy, Be Calm Bunny and Slow Down Snail, parents have been helping their children learn to talk about their feelings and develop pro-social behaviors. Teachers continually reinforce these lessons with follow-up enrichment and modeling work.

“Studies have shown that helping students meet their socio-emotional needs results in higher levels of achievement in the classroom,” said Principal Cristine Zawatson. “Second Step has provided us with tangible and effective tools to create an atmosphere that encourages both academic and personal growth.”
FLEX Program for Sixth Graders

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, Long Beach Middle School will introduce a Foreign Language Exploratory (FLEX) program for sixth graders. Rather than being asked at the end of fifth grade to select one language to study for the next three years, sixth graders will now undergo an exploratory year, during which they will receive a ten-week project-based introduction to each of three languages, before being asked to choose a concentration on Spanish, French or Italian in seventh and eighth grades.

Not only will the FLEX program broaden their exposure to different languages and cultures, it will also afford students and their parents the opportunity to make a more informed decision about which language to choose. FLEX instruction will be offered every other day, freeing up time in sixth-grade schedules for other special subjects such as art, health, or home and careers—an option not available to many sixth-graders under the current structure. Students enrolled in the elementary Dual Language program will be offered the opportunity to continue on the same path in middle school, or may elect to try the FLEX program.

Teachers and administrators are currently working to create curriculum for the FLEX program that will eventually align with the Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools (FLES) program as it expands through the elementary grades.

IB Diploma Requirements

• Students choose from courses in six academic areas, including: three Higher-Level (HL) courses taught over two years; plus three Standard Level (SL) courses over one year. Students take both internal assessment and external IB exams.

• The Theory of Knowledge course explores the foundation of knowledge in various disciplines, and encourages connections between the disciplines.

• Extended Essay: Students write a 4,000-word (12-15 page) research essay on an independently chosen topic.
TO ROLL OUT IN FALL 2010

Creativity, Action and Service (CAS): Students are required to complete 150 hours of community-related service work to encourage them to extend learning beyond the classroom and become contributing members of society.

Students not enrolled in the Diploma Program may still enroll in individual IB courses to receive certificates of credit.

IB students are free to take AP, college-level and high school courses in other areas of study.

**Tentative Course Offerings for 2010-2011**

**Group 1 - Language A1:** English HL

**Group 2 - Second Language:** Spanish SL, Italian SL, French SL

**Group 3 - Individuals and Societies:** History of the Americas HL, Social and Cultural Anthropology SL

**Group 4 - Experimental Sciences:** Biology HL, Environmental Systems SL

**Group 5 - Mathematics:** Math Studies, Math SL

**Group 6 - The Arts:** Visual Arts HL & SL, Music SL

**College Corner**

**Alumni Day**

Twenty alumni from the Class of 2009 returned to the high school to share their experiences in a panel discussion with this year’s juniors and seniors. They spoke frankly about the realities of college life, touching on academics, college sports, roommate issues, campus jobs, homesickness and many more topics of concern. The graduates agreed that the AP and SUPA classes they took in high school made them better prepared for the rigors of college instruction.

**Get Ready to H.O.L.L.E.R. on May 17**

Mark your calendars—Hewlett, Oceanside, Lynbrook, Lawrence, Long Beach, East Rockaway and Rockville Center School Districts (H.O.L.L.E.R.) will once again join forces at Molloy College on May 17 at 7 p.m. to give junior students and parents the opportunity to sit down with representatives from dozens of colleges, attend panel discussions and get a taste for campus life.

**College Visit Planning Guide**

Spring is a great time for juniors to start visiting colleges. To get the most out of every visit, plan ahead:

- Research each college prior to your visit.
- Plan to visit when classes are in session.
- Contact the admissions office to schedule tours, overnight stays and interviews.
- Visit classes, dorms, dining halls, libraries and campus centers.
- Talk with students and professors.
- Keep track of your visits with notes and pictures.

**Scholarship Searches**

High School seniors were asked to fill out applications to be considered for dozens of local scholarships that will be awarded at the end of the school year. Students are also encouraged to visit the High School Guidance page at www.lbeach.org for links to useful sites for information about hundreds of other national and regional scholarships.
Technology in the Arts

Through the guidance of Technology Director Michel Richez, 21st Century learning has had an impact on arts education in the district, as students use leading-edge computer technology to create digital graphics, compose music, and design architectural plans.

Music Lab - General music classes at the middle school and high school have entered the digital age, as students use Garage Band to learn techniques employed in commercial sound studios to compose music, alter pitch and rhythm, and add sound effects. Meanwhile, weekly instrumental lessons have been revolutionized using a program called SmartMusic, which allows students to practice their parts with full accompaniment, and record and play back their practice sessions.

Intro to Technology - Middle school students learn the foundations of digital multimedia, desktop publishing and digital photo editing with the use of programs such as Publisher, Photoshop and Illustrator.

CAD - In high school architecture classes, students are exchanging drawing boards for a computer screen and mouse as they learn the fundamentals of computer-aided design and drawing, working with programs such as Google SketchUp and 3-D Home Architect.

Photo and Video Editing - Making use of professional software including Final Cut Pro, Adobe Illustrator and Flash, students have been utilizing cutting-edge techniques to produce award-winning videos and animations.

Computer Art - Using the computer as their art tool, students master the latest graphic design, advertising design, digital imaging and digital animation techniques with programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Flash.

Bye-Bye Birdie Rocks

The Long Beach High School Theater Department took audiences on a trip down memory lane to the days of poodle skirts and pompadours, when they presented a production of the Tony Award-winning Bye-Bye Birdie – the story of a fictional rock-and-roll star named Conrad Birdie whose fans go wild when they hear he is about to be drafted into the army. The orchestra blended seamlessly with vocals and choreography, as the cast breathed new life into numbers like “Put on a Happy Face” and “Spanish Rose.”

Local senior citizens were invited to a free dress rehearsal performance, followed by the annual Senior-to-Senior Dinner hosted by Long Beach High School seniors.

The show was directed by Vanessa Krywe. Marino Bragino III conducted the pit orchestra, while Bruce Kaplan was the vocal director. Marcus Quiroga worked on the choreography and Eric Krywe was the technical director.

For more photos visit www.lbeach.org/arts.

LBMS Presents

“The Music Man”

Long Beach Middle School students performed a lively rendition of Meredith Wilson’s The Music Man, a nostalgic classic that tells the tale of confidence man Harold Hill, who arrives at staid River City intending to scam the community, but inadvertently enriches the town with a love of music. The show was directed by Kate Wood, with Jean Marie Lilley as the assistant director.
2010-11 PRE-KINDERGARTEN & KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Thursday, April 29, 2010: 8-11 A.M., 1-3 P.M., 6-8 P.M.
Friday, April 30, 2010: 8-11 A.M., 1-3 P.M.

LINDELL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

BOTH PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND PROVIDE FREE TRANSPORTATION

Parents must bring to Registration:
• Original certificate of birth
• Proof and dates (from a physician) of required immunizations
• 2 Proofs of residency in the Long Beach School District
  1. Mortgage statement, tax bill, lease, or rent receipt
  2. Recent utility bill in your name

PRE-KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION
Children born on or before December 1, 2006 may register for Pre-Kinder.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS
• 3 doses of DPT
• 3 doses of Polio
• 3 doses of Hepatitis B
• 3 doses of Hib or 1 dose if administered after 15 months of age
• 1 dose of Mumps given after 1st birthday
• 1 dose of Rubella given after 1st birthday
• 1 dose of live Measles given after 1st birthday
• 1 dose of Varicella given after 1st birthday
• Proof of Lead Screening

Parent Pre-Kindergarten visitation will be held on Friday, April 16, 2010, from 12:00 noon-12:45 P.M. at Blackheath School.

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION
Children born on or before December 1, 2005 may register for Kindergarten.

REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS
• 3 doses of DPT
• 3 doses of Polio
• 3 doses of Hepatitis B
• 1 dose of Mumps given after 1st birthday
• 1 dose of Rubella given after 1st birthday
• 2 doses of live Measles given after 1st birthday
• 1 dose of Varicella given after 1st birthday

Parent Kindergarten Orientation will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7 P.M. in the Middle School Auditorium.

Parent Kindergarten visitation will be held as follows:
April 22, 2010 – Lido and East School
April 23, 2010 – Lindell and West School
Call buildings for appointment.

East School 897-2184  Lindell School 897-2198
West School 897-2215  Lido School 897-2140

REGISTRATION PACKETS CAN BE OBTAINED AT EITHER BLACKBEATH SCHOOL OR THE LINDELL SCHOOL REGISTRATION OFFICE AFTER APRIL 12, 2010.

QUESTIONS? Please call 897-2212.

WWW.LBEOACH.ORG SPRING 2010
**Sports Roundup**

**Wrestlers Named County Champs**

Varsity wrestlers defeated Wantagh, the defending State champions, to clinch their first County title since 1996. The Marines amassed 207.5 points to Wantagh’s 187 points. There were seven semifinalists and nine All-County wrestlers on the team.

**All-State Honors:** County Champion Mark Raghunandan, a sophomore, went on to place third in the State Championship games. Sophomore Dylan Palacio joined him as the wild card, finishing fourth in his weight class. Both earned All-State honors. (Missing from photo is team member Nick Khoury).

**Gymnast Finishes 3rd in State**

All-County gymnast Jenny Kaufman earned All-State honors when she placed third in the All-Around during the State Gymnastics Championships, with a 37.850. She also medaled in several individual events.

**In Swimming**, freshman Nicholas Stoski was a State Qualifier in the 100 yd. breaststroke. Senior Chris Corrigan qualified for States in both the 50 and 100 yd. freestyle. The Varsity Swim team, which was seeded fourth this year, finished second in the County.

**Alumni Named to NCAA Anniversary Teams**

Casey Fee (Class of 2006), a three-time NFCA All-Region honors winner and three-time All-NCAA honoree, made the Colonial Athletic Association Silver Anniversary Softball Team. Jon Masa (Class of 2000), a four-time NCAA qualifier and three-time NCAA All-American, was named to the Silver Anniversary Wrestling Team.

**Mark Your Calendars**

**MAY 18: BUDGET VOTE**

The 2010-2011 Budget Vote and School Board elections will take place on Tuesday, May 18, 2010, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., at designated polling places throughout the district. Look for more information in the Special Budget Issue of Connections.

**APRIL 1: WALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for induction into the 2010-2011 Long Beach High School Wall of Fame will be accepted through April 1, 2010. To nominate a candidate, please pick up a nomination form, at any Long Beach Public School, the Administration Office, the Athletic Office in Long Beach High School, or download a form from the district’s website (www.lbeach.org).

**MAY 1: TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS DUE**

To Parents of Students Attending Out-of-District Programs in the 2010-2011 School Year: Applications for transportation to out-of-district programs must be submitted to the district’s Transportation Department at 659 Lido Boulevard, prior to May 1, 2010. K-12 students are eligible for out-of-district transportation if the out-of-district program is within a 15-mile radius of the student’s residence. Pre-kindergarten students attending an out-of-district program are not eligible for transportation. Applications for the 2010-2011 school year were mailed to parents of students currently attending out-of-district programs by February 1, 2010. The Transportation Dept. is open weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tel: 897-2132.

**JUNE 24: MORNING MADNESS**

The LBHS PTSA has been busy raising funds for the Morning Madness after-prom party on June 24. To purchase a sponsor ticket or join the committee, please contact Maria Martin at 431-6053.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Lynn Gergen, President  Darlene Tangney, Vice President
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