The Bennett Breeze

LA’s Best Press Event with Mayor Garcetti

Friday, December 5th, Board Member Kayser and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti bid farewell to retiring LA’s Best President and CEO Carla Sanger but also welcomed in the President and CEO Eric Gurna. The students of Ann Street Elementary School kicked off the press event with a performance. Mayor Garcetti shared some words and presented a gift to retiring President and CEO Carla Sanger. The new LA’s Best President and CEO Eric Gurna had the opportunity to share some words and the event concluded with a performance from Utah Street Elementary School students.

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Congratulations to Joshua Gomez on becoming an Eagle Scout!

Joshua Gomez, a senior at Marshall High School, recently became an Eagle Scout. An active member in the community, Joshua has been a boy scout for eight years and going. Through his involvement as a scout, Joshua was able to visit Washington, D. C., Mount Rushmore, and Yosemite but more importantly, he attained leadership and communication skills.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joshua helped restore a locomotive at Travel Town Museum which took six days to complete with some help from his troop, family and friends. Another one of the Joshua's greatest achievements is being the youngest elected board member for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to continue his passion for helping the community and the youth.

Joshua is an Honors student at Marshall High School taking Honors Government, Advance Composition and Physiology. Along with his community involvements, he is involved with Theatre, Stage Crew, and Rotary Club's Youth Leadership.

Board District 5 Spotlight

Bell High School STEM Engineering Challenge

Congratulations to Mr. Daniel Horvath and his team of students: Hassan Jomaa, Ibrahim Matar, Brandon Mayorga, and Manual Robles (Team Snickers) for winning 1st place at the Los Angeles Regional Competition in the 2014 Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Invention Challenge. The theme of this year's challenge was “Keep It Moving” where teams had to create a device that can move a billiard ball at least five meters from the starting point using three or more different modes of transportation and then have the ball initiate a portion of the device that makes an audible sound exactly 20 seconds after starting. The winner is the team whose device complies with all of the rules and completes the task closest to 20 seconds. The Bell High School team took first place with a challenge time of 19.96 seconds. Their successful win at the regional level allows the team to compete at the national level at JPL in December.
Huntington Park Tree Lighting Ceremony

The City of Huntington Park hosted a tree lighting ceremony on Monday, December 8, 2014. The night included a series of performances from the Tiny Tots. Mayor Rosa Perez, along with Vice Mayor Karina Macias, Councilmember Ofelia Hernandez and Board Member Bennett Kayser were in attendance. The event concluded with Board Member Kayser and the Huntington Park elected officials gathering in front of the tree for a few pictures. (Pictures: Left to right: Board Member Kayser with Santa Claus, with elected officials singing Here Comes Santa Claus, lastly with Mayor Rosa Perez).

Latino Health Symposium

Assembly Member Anthony Rendon and State Senator Ricardo Lara hosted a Latino Health Symposium at Lynwood Bateman Hall. The purpose of the event was to set a goal for cleaner air and healthier communities for Latino families. Some of the topics covered at the Symposium were environmental issues affecting health, air pollution, clean transportation, and green jobs in the communities. The guest of Honor for the event was Los Angeles County Supervisor First District, Hilda Solis.

Panel: Getting from Point A to Point B - Understanding The Benefits and Burdens of our Transportation Choices.

Left to Right: Andrea Hricko, Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, USC Environmental Health Sciences Center, Guillermo Mayer, Public Advocates, Moderator–Martha Dina Arguello, and Mark Lopez, East Yards Communities for Environmental Justice.
On December 10, 2014 Ellen Ochoa hosted the ESC-South Parent and Community Representatives meeting. The meeting was led by Claudia Pelayo and Dr. Veronica Obregon. The workshops included: Benefits of Attending Workshops & Activities, Brainstorm and Renew Different Types of Workshops for Parents, Reviewing the Parent Resource Manual and High Frequency Words. The meeting allowed parents to gain an understanding on Common Core state standards, how to read school report cards and ways in which they can work with the Principal and school coordinator in order to improve student performance. During the meeting the presenters also explained to the parents that schools are required to provide four academic trainings for both students and parents.

Overall the workshops provided clarification guidance, support on school policies and standards for the parents that are actively involved in our ESC South schools.

Left: Parents at the ESC-South Parent & Community Representative Meeting
NASA Workshop at Kingsley Elementary

On Saturday, December 13, Kingsley Elementary hosted a NASA Engineering Workshop that was open to K-5 teachers in the district. Representatives from NASA provided educational materials and activities for the teachers where participants built a lunar buggy and a satellite. Participants included teachers from Kingsley Elementary, Community Magnet Charter, Marquez Charter Elementary, 52nd Street Elementary, and Ritter Elementary. The activities gave teachers ready-to-use concepts that can help student engagement with the Common Core standards and NGSS aligned practices. This workshop was a great professional development collaboration with Trash for Teaching who helped provide the engineering materials to each teacher participant. Teachers were able to walk away with engineering concepts, design processes and project-based activities to use in the classroom.

(The Orchard Arts & Media Academy

Fall Showcase 2014

The Orchard Arts & Media Academy celebrated the legacy of Michael Jackson through live music and dance. A few of the songs performed were: "Don’t Stop Til You Get Enough (in which they featured guest singer Melinda Echevarria), "Billie Jean", “Thriller”, and "Smooth Criminal" among other songs. The special guest singer Melinda Echevarria and the students concluded the night with a performance to "Beat It".

Mr. Rivera and Ms. Kyle would like to thank everyone who attended the event, and they encourage everyone to come see their spring performance.

For more details please visit the school website at:

http://ama-lausd-ca.schoolloop.com/
Huntington Park Institute of Applied Medicine
Fall 2014 Showcase Night

Linda Marquez High School welcomed a panel of teachers, parents, staff members, health industry professionals and community members to the fall 2014 Showcase Night. Approximately 640 students at the HPIAM Academy presented on topics such as Fitness & Nutrition, Diseases, Innovation and Health Policy Advocacy.

Towards the end of the presentation the panelists submitted a grading rubric for each of the presentations they viewed.

(Pictures: 9th and 10th grade students presenting on Fitness and Nutrition, Hepatitis and Lung Cancer).

LA School Police Holiday Christmas Extravaganza

The Los Angeles School Police Department and Los Angeles School Police Association along with Friends of Safe Schools U.S.A. hosted one of the many the Holiday Extravaganzas at Ford Blvd. Elementary School. Approximately $20,000 were raised to make this event happen and in partnership with the School Mental Health Division and the Homeless Education Program, officers delivered 1,000 backpacks filled with supplies and gifts. Principal Andres Favela and Board Member Kayser’s Community Affairs Deputy Silvia Martinez took pictures with the Transitional Kindergarten students, Santa Claus, and LA School Police.
The 7th annual end of year celebration for the LAUSD Program for Older Adults took place on Thursday December 18th, 2014 at the Glassell Park Community & Senior Citizen Center. Board Member Kayser joined various elected officials, among them Congresswoman Lucile Roybal-Allard and State Senator Kevin De Leon, to celebrate the program with a luncheon, student showcase, and awards ceremony. Board Member Kayser was honored along with many other supporters of adult education, ranging from community members to state officials.

Board Member Kayser’s Holiday Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues,
Wishing you peace, love and happiness this holiday season. May you and your families be blessed today and always.
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015!
Ivanhoe Elementary

The Gift of Music Holiday Performance

Ivanhoe Elementary School presented The Gift of Music - Holiday Performance to a packed audience of parents and community members on December 18, 2014. The students from kindergarten to 5th grade did a variety of songs ranging from the Sound of Music to Elton John on to Sesame Street. The Ivanhoe 5th graders opened the show with the Ivanhoe School Song, while the 4th graders sang the Sound of Music. The 3rd graders sang Elton John’s Your Song, the 2nd graders and 1st graders showed us their Spanish with Dona Nobis Pacem and Ocho Kandelikas. The Kindergarteners concluded the performance with Welcome, Christmas. The beautiful themed outfits were made by the parents and lastly The Ivanhoe Pops consisting of Randy Dreyfuss (piano), Lee Stein (Guitar and Accordion), John Andrews (Bass), Morgan Rusler (Trombone), Ami Canaan Mann (Viola), Mike Finn (Mandolin), Chris Phillips (Drums), and Boyd Nielsen (Saxophone) did a terrific job.

(Left to Right: Ivanhoe 2nd graders, Ivanhoe 3rd Graders, and Ivanhoe 1st graders)

Financial Aid and Cash for College Workshops

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Cal Grant

Starting the month of January and throughout February, families can attend Cash for College workshops to get assistance with filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form required for Cal Grants.

For high school seniors who attend a Cash for College Workshop, complete an exit survey and apply for a Cal Grant by the March 2nd deadline, there are opportunities for extra incentive scholarships.

To find a workshop near you, go on http://www.calgrants.org/

Application for FAFSA and Cal Grant begins: January
Deadline for Cal Grant: March 2
Dear Principals and Teachers,

If you would like to inform us of an upcoming event or would like to be featured in our BD5 Spotlight for a school accomplishment, or feature an outstanding staff or student in our upcoming Bennett Breeze, please email a statement with pictures to Community Affairs Deputy, Silvia Martinez at Silvia.K.Martinez@lausd.net.

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