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Strike Averted as Unions Make Big Deals

By Nicole Guzman and Pavel Marrull

The three unions representing teachers, principals and classified staff came to an agreement with the district this last week to stop a potential strike.

Teachers are represented by United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), classified staff are represented by Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and Principals are represented by Teamsters.

The unions and the district have been in negotiations for over a year and had not come to an agreement until the very last minute. The main issues in the negotiations were salaries, class sizes and funding for school services.

In the end, teachers and principals got an 11.6% raise, while classified staff got a 24% raise.



Interim Superintendent Andres Chait with Mayor Karen Bass and SEIU Local 99 Executive Director Max Arias

Ms. Cummings, a UTLA leader, said, “I am very happy that none of our labor unions had to strike and we were able to find an agreement.” She also said, “I hope that the district respects our time next negotiation.”

Student Spotlight: Victoria Serobyan

By Angelique Moreno

Victoria Serobyan seventh grade student here at Burbank.



She is a member of the LBMS congress. She wanted to join Congress to help our community and for others’ voices to be heard. She likes how she's taken seriously and all the opportunities she's able to have.

Her favorite activity she likes to do in congress is spread messages and information to all the advisories about their activities.

For fun, Victoria enjoys hanging out with her friends. She also enjoys crocheting and drawing.

“The Pride of Highland Park” LBMS Preps for SBA Testing

By Siani Avila and Jimmy Martinez

We are approaching the time of the year when we start doing state testing!

California state testing, also known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), is meant to analyze students' performance and progress during the past school year. This helps teachers understand where students are and can determine their classes for the next school year.

The testing Schedule will change the order of the school day. Mrs. Gastelum, our principal, said, “The schedule is changed to ensure that everyone tests in the middle of the day when students are more focused and less tired. It also allows everyone to test at the same time so the whole campus will be focused on the testing.”

The testing days are as follows:
5/5: ELA Computer Adaptive Test
5/7-5/8: ELA Performance Task
5/12: Math Computer Adaptive Test
5/14: Math Performance Task
5/18 8th grade science test.

On testing days, the schedule will be very different than a normal day. Students will still go to advisory first, but then they will go to a class that may be different than their first of fifth period. Testing will occur between nutrition and lunch. Then they will have another class after lunch, but it will not necessarily be their fourth or eighth period class.

Ms. Gastelum added, “On May 10, there will be an SBA Pep Rally Assembly to get students in the mindset for testing.”

After this new SBA schedule, what do you think about the new changes?

LBMS Hosts First Literacy Night

By Leonel Duong

Literacy Night was a fun, English-themed event that was held on Wednesday, March 25th from 5-6 PM. They had activities such as zine making, poetry writing, and bookmark designing.

The math department has been holding a math night for many years, so they English Department decided to join in on the tradition.

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Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22 Congress Springs for a Spring Dance

By Alyce Amador and Kimberly Puac

Spring is finally here, which means that Congress has hosted a wonderful and exciting Spring dance. The



spring dance offered a great opportunity to hang out with friends and

have enjoyable moments.

Every year, the yearly Spring dance offers a variety of food, which is only one to three dollars for each thing you purchase there. It’s a great price to start off the dance.

The dance also offers the full MPR dance floor,



allowing you to move around freely while your favorite music plays in the background, so loud you can't even hear your own voice!

At the spring dance people had lots of opportunities to play fun games and win small prizes with their friends. People at the dance got to take fun and memorable pictures for free and totally had a blast! The spring dance also had a surprise mascot, which totally surprised everybody.



Superintendent Carvalho Put on Paid Leave

By Emily Clinton and Violet Leyva

Last month, Alberto Carvalho, the Superintendent of LAUSD, had his home and office raided by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). As a result, the School Board placed him on paid leave.



Carvalho was previously the Superintendent of the Miami School District in Florida for 14 years. He then became superintendent of LAUSD in 2022.

He was chosen to be LAUSD superintendent because of his previous experience, and has overseen major changes in the district.

While the investigation is still private, newspapers are reporting that the FBI is investigating because of a possible misuse of funds towards an AI chatbot company called "All Here." The company went bankrupt a few months after it was selected by LAUSD to create an AI chat platform.

Get to Know a Teacher: Ms. Fernandez

By Eleanor Cortes and Natalie Rios

Sra. Fernandez is our school's new Spanish teacher. She teaches a Spanish elective for each grade and is located upstairs in the A building.

Sra. Fernandez grew up in Highland Park and still lives here. Sra. Fernandez chose to work here at Burbank Middle School because it was closer to her house and because her brother was a former student here. "I like it here, but I'm still learning how to be a middle school teacher. Before this, I worked at Lincoln High School for eleven years."

When Sra. Fernandez was a high school student, she took inspiration from her teachers and decided to become a teacher as well. Sra. Fernandez chose to be a teacher so that she could make a change in the world. She wants to be a teacher that understands and acts like a parent for students, an adult who they can count on.

Sra. Fernandez has two children of her own. Her oldest child is Alejandro, also known as AJ, who is 24 years old and in the Army. Her second child, Cristal, is 14 and in the ninth grade.

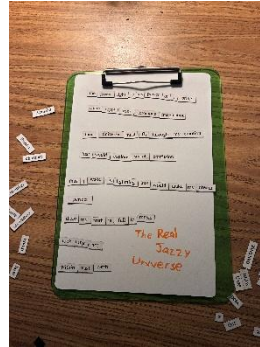
Literacy Night

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Some of the activities also included a book giveaway, a photo booth and blackout poetry. The whole English Department came together to put together a special evening.

Sebastian Llaguno, a seventh grader who went to literacy night, said, "Literacy night was fun. My favorite part was poetry writing. If they do another one next year, I'll definitely go."



Seventh Graders Travel to LA River

By August Nunez

It's that time of the year again, where bears in the 7th grade go on their annual LA River field trip. The field trip takes place every March. In the field trip, students learn more about the history of the LA River, and also learn more about nature.

A lot of fun activities took place during the trip. One activity was to scoop up the water from the river and to inspect micro invertebrates and figure out what type of invertebrate they are. Students also walk beside the LA River. Students were given a sheet of all the animals that live in the LA River, and had to identify birds, fish, and mammals from the sheet they saw on the river with binoculars.

Leonel Duong said, "it was very interactive and cool." Jayson Gomez remarked, "The trip was very interesting, I really enjoyed walking beside the LA River activity with the binoculars, it was pretty peaceful."



Spring Break: A Week of Fun

By Zai'lee Matthews and Sophia Tong

Students of LBMS did lots of exciting and eventful activities over Spring Break. Students went to different places, saw amazing things and had some new experiences.

Seventh-grade student, Stephanie Gomez, said, "I went to San Diego for five days and stayed at my Tia's house." She visited the beach and the San Diego Zoo. Her favorite animals were the capybaras. She said, "I liked how chill they were, apparently, they're the world's largest rodent."

Another seventh-grade student, Rebecca Nieto, went to Las Vegas for the Spring Break. She has been to Las Vegas five times. "I went to this arcade in Vegas, I won tickets and I received a huge duck plushie." Her favorite part was when we went to the see the pretty fountains in front of the Bellagio.

One of our LBMS teachers, Ms. Copley went to Ashland, Oregon, to visit her family. While she was there, she went to a theater and saw "A Raisin in the Sun." It was her first time going to Ashland. "My family unusually comes over to California and visits me but this time

I came to them."

Ms. Copley's favorite parts of her trip were seeing her family and seeing the mountains. Ms. Copley mentioned, "When I was there, there were thousands of deer around the area where I stayed."



Mr. Downs had an eventful break as well. "I went to Colorado Springs to hang out with 3 of my grandkids. We went to the arcade and the park and watched their dogs. I then went to Greeley, Colorado, and watched 2 more of my grandkids." They tried out skateboarding at a skate park, and got on the Ferris wheel at a giant retail store called Scheels. Mr. Downs then went to Carlsbad to play golf. He went to the beach with his old high school friends and had a great Spring Break.



From giant rodents in San Diego, to plays in Oregon, to skateboarding in Colorado, the students and staff at LBMS made the most of their week off.