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One Year Anniversary of Altadena Fire

By Sophia Tong & Siani Avila

It has been one year since our community was affected by terrible wildfires. It has been such a devastating time in Los Angeles, but communities are coming together to rebuild. There were several LBMS staff and students that were affected by the fires.

One teacher affected by the fires was Mr. Robertson, who had bought a home eight months before the fires and is rebuilding. Mr. Robertson stated, "It is really hard to rebuild. You have to make plans for a home with an architect, get permits from the county, and get a contractor to build it." Mr. Robertson also added, "Ash and smoke from the fire got everywhere. Scientists tested all over our house and found lead, asbestos, and other toxins. We had to take out all of our walls and floor so that a remediation company could clean it."

Another staff member at LBMS who was affected by the fires was Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller said, "At the time, our family was terrified that we would lose our house." His family was fortunate that their house survived with minimal damage. They replaced their attic insulation and deep-cleaned their house to mitigate the contamination from the fires. "We fixed our roof, mended our fences, and replanted damaged plants in our garden."

Mr. Miller said, "Many people would like to rebuild, however the claim money from insurance companies is insufficient to cover the cost of rebuilding, therefore many people have not rebuilt, yet." Mr. Miller also said neighbors from all over Altadena are afraid to move back due to pollution. Mr. Robertson said in his experience, "Almost all our neighbors are rebuilding. They have lived there a long time and love their neighborhood."

It is taking time, but the community is strong and they will rebuild together.



"The Pride of Highland Park" Teachers Vote to Strike

By Kimberly Puac Perez and Violet Leyva

Teachers may go on strike this Spring - but why? The teachers and the district have been negotiating and have still not come to an agreement on a contract.

According to Ms. Castro, the UTLA chapter chair for Burbank Middle School, teachers have been making their case for months. She says they are bargaining for support, resources and education for their students. On the other hand, the district say it is trying to meet the needs of students and teachers and wants to balance competitive, fair compensation

If teachers do end up going on strike, it would not be until a couple of months from now. While teachers are on strike, many students stay home, and some may join the picket line to show their support with their families. Some families may choose to send their children to school, but it wouldn't be a regular day because not many teachers would be there. The teachers would be outside the school picketing or participating in rallies all over the city. They would be chatting, holding signs, and cheering to let the whole community know.



The Bugle will continue to cover developments in this story as it happens.

Next Year's School Budget Approved

By Emily Clinton

Every year our school creates a budget for the upcoming school year. The budget helps us pay for supplies and services. The LBMS school budget was approved last month by the Local School Leadership Council (LSLC) and the School Site Council (SSC).

The budgets have unfortunately been decreasing every year. Ms. Rambukpotha is a TSP coordinator, (Targeted student population) which means she deals with Title One money. That money is provided by the state and federal governments. When speaking about Title One money she said, "The budget is going to get lower and lower the next few years, but one day it will hopefully increase again. It tends to go up and down."

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Mr. Feinberg's Advisory – Y22 Burbank Welcomes a New Administrative Assistant

By Alyce Amador and Jimmy Martinez

Last month, Ms. Nancy, our School Administrative Assistant (SAA), retired. We are lucky to have a new SAA already and her name is Ms. Garcia.

Ms. Garcia was born in Los Angeles and her parents are Mexican,



Ms. Garcia currently lives in Boyle Heights, where she says the community is rich in food and culture.

Ms. Garcia worked at Atwater Avenue Elementary for 14 years before working here at LBMS. Her two youngest kids attended Atwater Avenue Elementary for 6th and 5th grade.

Here are some fun facts about Ms. Garcia: Ms. Garcia grew up in Echo Park. When Ms. Garcia is not working, she enjoys spending time with her kids. Ms. Garcia's family loves going to Knott's Berry Farm and Six Flags so much that they have season passes. When they have the opportunity, they enjoy taking trips either up north to Santa Barbara or down south to San Diego.

If you see Ms. Garcia in the front office, make sure to say hi!

NAEP Testing Begins Soon

By Pavel Marull and Leonel Duong

Every two years, eighth graders all across the U.S. take the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). It is known as the "Nation's Report Card" and is the largest assessment to show what students in private and public schools can do.

Ms. Acosta, our seventh-grade counselor, said the NAEP Test is used to "measure student achievement across the country in mathematics, reading, science, and other subjects and provide national, state, and some district-level results as well as results for different demographic groups."



Regarding how students are chosen for the test, she said, "Students are chosen randomly. Then I am sent the list of students, and I get together with the 8th grade counselor to look over the list."

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Sixth Graders Travel to Ballona Wetlands

By Natalie Rios and Elleanor Cortes

In January, the sixth graders in Ms. Gonzales, Ms. Cordoba, and Mr. Miller's classes went on a field trip to the Ballona Wetlands.

Students toured the wetlands and heard the history of how the Tongva people used the land. Mr. Miller said



students also learned, "how it fell into disrepair after the city of Los Angeles grew around it, and how the Friends of Ballona

Wetlands, a non-profit dedicated to restoring the wetlands, is working to make it a viable green space in the middle of a large metropolis." Restoration of critical food webs to preserve endangered species was one of the most important lessons of the day.

Students were able to experience the wetlands through many hands-on activities. The wetlands suffer from a glut of invasive plants such as crown daisy and yellow mustard. Each group of students was able to put on gloves and remove plants harmful to native species, which helps promote the growth of dune buckwheat, the only habitat of the critically endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly.



Using binoculars students witnessed many native bird species, including a barn owl, blue herons,



great egrets, and many other shore birds. Students also were able to sample edible plants such as pickleweed, which has a salty-sour-vegetal taste. According to teacher, not everyone was a fan of eating pickleweed.

Student Spotlight: Isaac Rios

By Nicole Guzman and Zai'lee Matthews



Isaac Rios is a sixth-grade student here at LBMS. Isaac describes himself as funny, sporty, and nonchalant.

He attended Bushnell Way Elementary from third through fifth grade, where he also participated in the Boys & Girls Club. He also did sports after school including football, kickball and track.

This is Isaac's first year here at LBMS. Isaac says his first year was, "nerve-racking at first, but then I started talking to more people and made more friends."

Isaac's core teachers here are Ms. Cordoba, Mr. Miller and Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Gonzalez described Isaac as, "a great, cheerful student with a bright disposition." Ms. Cordoba says, "I think he's great, very social...he's a smart and funny student." Mr. Miller says, "Oh my gosh, he's a very... spirited individual with lots of humanity in him. That's the greatest thing I've said about a student."

He has an older brother named Adam and an older sister named Melissa. After school he plays on a soccer team. He loves Video Games and listens to Frank Ocean and Tyler the Creator.

NAEP testing (Continued from Front)

Emily Hernandez is taking the NAEP test soon and said, "It feels weird and I'm nervous because I don't know what is going to be in the test." This test is not like the CAASPP – students are not supposed to receive preparation for it.

Ms. Gastelum, our principal, said that the NAEP test is, "giving us another opportunity to show the brilliance of our students."

Budget (Continued from the front)

In the past four years, our school's budget has decreased by 20%. Our budget is little over a million dollars. That money funds activities and materials that impact student needs and our community.

What Burbank Bears did Over Winter Break

By August Nunez

LBMS bears and staff had a great time over winter break. Here are some of their tales.

Our eighth-grade science teacher, Ms. Alton, traveled internationally.

Ms. Alton said "I went to Thailand and Laos with my husband and two kids. We visited family, went on lots of adventures, and ate so much good food!" Her favorite



part of the trip was a two-day river cruise on the Mekong River. It went from the border of Thailand to Luang Prabang in Laos. "It was so beautiful and remote."

Jayson Gomez, a seventh grader, has some things to say about his great time off school. "My break was pretty good and chill. I got to visit my family after a long time so that was really fun."

Two sixth graders, Hannah Frausto and David Flores Torres loved their time off school. David said, "I had a good winter break, I went to Big Bear and sled on a lot of mountains, it was a really great experience." Hannah Frausto had a wholesome break, she also spent time with family. "My break was good, I spent time with my family and had a lot of fun during the holidays" Both of their New Year's resolutions were to get good grades.

Get to Know a Teacher: Ms. Peña

By Angelique Moreno

Many students at Burbank have had Ms. Peña as their art teacher.



But sitting in her class, drawing or painting, have you ever wanted to know more about her?

Ms. Peña wanted to become a teacher because of her fellow classmates in her university. "I always knew I wanted to have a job that was focused on helping people and building community. Being an art teacher became a way for me to do that." She was also inspired by her Professor, Dr. Kristin Taylor.

Ms. Peña loves her job. She also enjoys helping kids and seeing their art. "I enjoy working with the students the most because I get to see all the amazing work they create during our time together."

When she is not teaching, Ms. Peña enjoys reading and loves being with her friends and family. She was born here but her parents are Mexican. Ms. Peña says a plan for the future is to get a Masters in Art.