



September 3, 2024 – Issue #09

In Memoriam: Nurse Elizabeth

By Bryden Landberg and Sophia Ramirez



Nurse Elizabeth, our school nurse for over 24 years, passed away last month. During her time here as a nurse, she was always kind to the

students that came in. “She cared so much about the kids and families,” said Mrs. Moore.

Nurse Elizabeth was born in the Philippines in 1956. She graduated from Nursing School in 1978 and then moved to Southern California.

Nurse Elizabeth met her husband on a blind date set by their best friend. They had two children, Albert and Melissa.

At Burbank, students and teachers remember her as a kind and caring nurse. “She was always willing to help,” said Trevino, an eighth grader. “She helped me when I needed it,” said Bernadette. Mr. Feinberg remembered how he once got a metal shard stuck in his thumb and Elizabeth helped him tweeze it out.

Burbank Middle School will be forever grateful to Nurse Elizabeth for her service to the students.

LBMS Gets Two New Advisories

By Celeste Marroquin and Miranda Lopez

Last year, Burbank students got to choose special advisories for the first time. Most of them are the same this year, but there are two new advisories this year: Disc Golf and Fitness.

Mr. Taylor started the Disc Golf advisory. He said, “Disc Golf was my hobby during the pandemic.”

This was part of the reason he started the Disc Golf advisory. Mr. Taylor also said, “Students wanted more active stuff to do.” For the advisory, students start out in the classroom and then go



down to either the blacktop or field to play. The school has provided him with Disc Golf supplies to make the advisory successful.

“The Pride of Highland Park” Burbank Gets a New Blacktop

By Dominick Reyes and Mia Saldana

Last year, you might have noticed that the blacktop at Burbank Middle School had many cracks. Mrs. Moore, our amazing principal, said “I didn't want students tripping and falling.” The blacktop had been redone multiple times, but there were still many cracks. This became a safety hazard.



This summer, the blacktop was completely redone. It was funded by the district, because it involved student safety.

However, many students notice that lines have not been painted on the blacktop yet. “I need the lines to know where I'm going,” said seventh-grade student Emily. Celeste



also said, “It Looks really clean, but it needs the lines.” Lines are expected

to be painted on the blacktop later this year.

Mr. Downs also started a Fitness Advisory this year. He said, “Fitness



is the best way to start the day!” Since this worked for him,

he decided it might work for students too. Students selected through a survey if they would like to join fitness. On Tuesdays, students do weights. On Fridays, they do kettle bell, biking and dumbbells for an all-around workout.

Mr. Downs said, “Pushups, pull ups, and sit ups, area basic workout to stay in shape.”

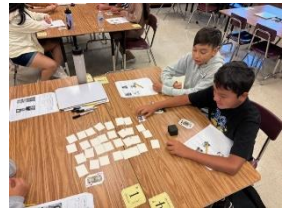


Mr. Feinberg's Advisory – Y22 Summer Bridge Helps 6th Graders Become Bears

By Madison Adams and Scarlett Rodriguez

Summer Bridge is a program that welcomes new students into Luther Burbank Middle School. Mr. Feinberg, Ms. Cabezas, Ms. Bilovsky, Ms. Disselkoen, Ms. Sotelo, Ms. Ramirez and Ms. Lopez helped to create this school program. At Summer Bridge, students can engage in activities such as scavenger hunts and fun games to learn more about our school.

Mrs. Cabezas said, “I enjoy participating in Summer Bridge so I can help the



new sixth graders calm their nerves.” Summer Bridge has been around for three years and is a three-day long program.



According to 6th graders Aubrey, Violet, and Amelia, Summer Bridge helped soothe their nerves. They said that

their favorite part about Summer Bridge was getting to explore the school through a scavenger hunt. Mrs. Cabezas says that her favorite part is the

what's-wrong fashion show. In the fashion show, teachers and staff members walk down a hall in the A building while wearing something

that breaks the uniform policy at LBMS. Then the students guess what is wrong with what they are wearing.



Summer Bridge is a fun program and helps students reduce anxiety about coming to a new school.

Summer Cleaning Makes Burbank Sparkle

By Kaylye Lopez and Natalie Robles

When you came back to school, you may have noticed how nice everything looks. Ms. Leti, one of our grounds staff, explained what they did over the summer. First, they deep cleaned the classes. They wore Personal Protective Equipment including safety goggles. To clean the classrooms, they use machines, brooms, dust mops, and they dust everything.



They replaced pipes and they pressure washed the white concrete, the R building and the covered lunch area. They also replaced air conditioning if it needed to be replaced. Workers replaced some doors and walls because of termites.



LBMS Experiences Staff Cuts

By Lexie Cobarrubias and Yamilet Lopez

A new school year has begun and that means there have been some changes to the staff at our school. Mrs. Moore, Burbank principal, said “Unfortunately, we did lose a few staff members for this school year. We have a few less students and the number of staff members we are funded is determined by the number of students enrolled at LBMS.”

Our school is funded by tax dollars. Mrs. Moore stated, “I believe that paying taxes to support education is a commitment by our citizens to support our democratic ideals”.

In future years, Burbank needs to attract more students to avoid reducing our staff. Ms. Moore hopes to avoid staff cuts next year, and said, “My belief is that a free education ensures that all our children in our country have access to an education. Education is a pathway to opportunity, and everyone deserves opportunities.”

Teachers Switch Roles and Grades

By Jayla Diaz and Jo Rodriguez

This year, Burbank had some teachers working in different roles. Mrs. Cordoba is teaching 6th grade, Mrs. Murillo is teaching 7th grade and Mrs. Macias is teaching 8th grade. It must feel weird to teach different grades with different classes, different buildings and different teams.

Mrs. Cordoba stated, “I am excited to have a fresh start, but sad to leave my old team.” She also said, “The differences between seventh and sixth graders are that sixth graders are really quiet at first.” By contrast, she said that seventh graders are loud,” Mrs. Cordoba said. “What shocked me the most is how mature my old seventh graders are now compared to last year.”

Mrs. Macias said, “My least favorite part of switching was probably moving to a different classroom, and my favorite part is new colleagues.”. Mrs. Macias also said, “8th graders are more mature, but the 7th graders are trying too.”

Ms. Murillo said that for her, “the biggest difference is probably that I have a learning center now and the similarities are that I still teach like math.” Mrs. Murillo also said, “If I would switch back, honestly I wouldn’t really mind.”



Should Phones be Allowed?

By Juliana Badua and Jocelyn Diaz

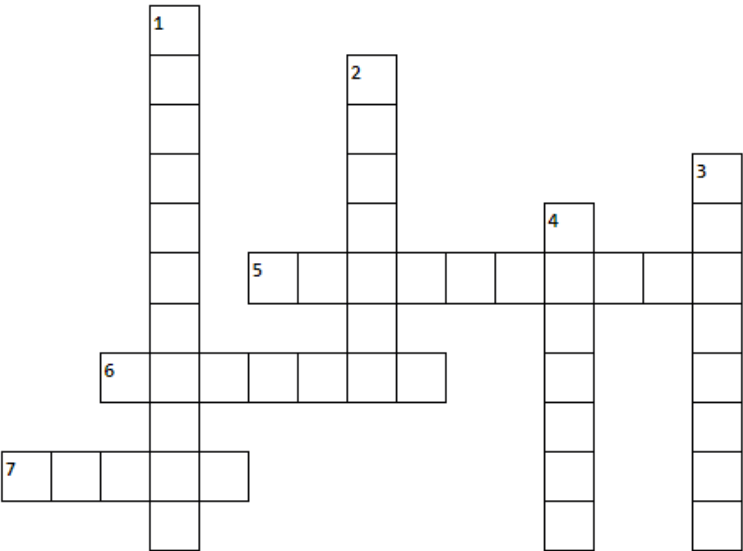
Should our phones be allowed? Recently, the Los Angeles Unified School Board passed a resolution to ban cell phones on all LAUSD campuses. The current rule here at Burbank is that our school does not allow phones, and Bluetooth wireless devices. Many students disagree on the subject and wish to have their phone out on campus during certain periods.

Mr. Powell, the infamous, intimidating dean, said, “Phones should be allowed, but should be held in a responsible manner. Phones should be held in case of emergency.”



Do other students agree? Eighth Grader, Aubrey, said, “They should be allowed for emergencies during lunch and nutrition as long as no one is taking photos.” Eighth Grader Waylind said, “The cell phone policy is fine, never a time to actively use it. But, it isn’t reasonable to not allow phones during emergencies.”

Students and teachers both agree that students should have their phones on campus for emergencies but shouldn’t be actively using them on campus in case of bullying and protecting other students' privacy.



Across

- 5. The LAUSD School board passed a resolution to ban these on campus.
- 6. This is the new advisory that Mr. Downs is offering.
- 7. This is the number of years that LBMS has had Summer Bridge

Down

- 1. This is the country Nurse Elizabeth was born in
- 2. This is an example of personal protective equipment
- 3. This is the new advisory that Mr. Taylor is offering.
- 4. This teacher switch from seventh to sixth grade this year.



October 16, 2024 – Issue #10

Police Academy – Ready for Inspection

By Juliana Badua and Jayla Diaz

Have you ever wondered, why do some students at our school have a different uniform? The Police Academy is a part of our school that learns about the career of being a police officer, and part of that is the uniform.

Police academy is known for having a strict policy for their uniforms. Police academy students wear navy-blue polo shirts with a badge. They wear dark navy-blue pants and a belt and white or black socks.



Every Tuesday during advisory, Police Academy have their uniform checks. They do this after the announcements. The uniform checks are a reminder to the students of what they should be wearing every day. The student leaders make sure that the cadets have the whole uniform. They have checklists and inspect every student's clothing.

How do the police academy students feel?



Do they like the uniform check or do they dread doing it? First, we interviewed the 6th grader, Sebastian

Llaguno. We asked him, “How does it feel like to do the check?” And he said, “Not that bad, kind of boring.” We also asked him, “Have you ever worn something you weren’t supposed to wear?” and he stated that, “I always wear what I’m supposed to wear.” We also asked 8th grader Xavier Mentado, “Are the uniform checks difficult or easy?” and he said, “The uniform checks aren’t hard.” Then we interviewed the 7th grade leaders, Jesse Aguilar and Emiliano Zapata. We asked Emiliano Zapata how do you order the uniform checks, and he said, “We usually order them by tallest to shortest.” Then we asked Jesse Agular, “Have you ever worn something out of uniform” and he said, “I’ve never have been out of uniform.”

“The Pride of Highland Park” Why does the Garden Look Dead? (It’s Not)

By Miranda Lopez

The garden is a great place at LBMS but it needs to be taken care of. Ranger Marissa, who works for Enrich LA, the company that takes care of our garden, thinks the garden can improve; but it's not a water problem, it's a weed problem. If they water the garden more, more weeds will appear. We need to pluck out all the weeds. She said once we take out all the weeds, we



can bring new plants in. Ranger Marissa suggests that LBMS has a garden elective to take care of the plants more. What do you think?

Meet a Teacher: Mr. Downs

By Kaylye Lopez and Mia Saldana

Mostly everyone knows Mr. Downs, but do we really know him? Well to find this out we interviewed him He said, “[I] Love helping people and kids are people, so I love helping kids.” This is why he loves being a teacher. He said every year is different because every kid is unique, so it makes it different. He said that the 6th graders are super kids because they are smart and kind. He said that he likes sixth grade and would not like to teach another grade.

We asked him if he liked his new advisory. “Love my new advisory features. It focuses the brain. You use the brain for learning, learning is good for the brain.” He has been teaching for about 27 years, six of those years being at Yorkdale Elementary School. He has taught 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade so far.

He also has 4 kids of his own and now he has 5 grandchildren.

If he was not a teacher, Mr. Downs said that he would like to be a movie star, rock star, or professional golfer. If he wasn't a history and science teacher, he would want to teach a movie or film making class.



Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22 SRLA: In It for the Long Run

By Madison Adams and Bryden Landberg

There are very few people who can run 5 miles, but can you imagine running 26.2 miles? Students Run Los Angeles



(SRLA) is a running club that trains after school four days a week. They train very hard all throughout the season and run many races. Once they have worked up to

the correct level of skill, they run the LA marathon.

The races start out small, with a 3.12-mile race (also known as a 5k). But as time passes, and they gain enough stamina, they start to run longer and bigger races. SRLA’s first race of the year was the 5k, and that happened on September 29. Next, the runs will get longer, and longer.

When SRLA is not running races, they are training and practicing for the races. Before they go on a run, they stretch, warm up, and set a growth mindset. Then, after they go on a run, they stretch so that they don’t get cramps. If it is too hot to run, then they work out in the fitness center.

SRLA’s motto is “complete, don’t compete.” This means that you are not trying to be better than others, you are just trying to finish and do your best. On the runs, there are a few main groups. You can stick to the top pack (meaning running up front), the middle pack, or the back of the pack.

Ms. Wohl, a 7th grade science teacher here at LBMS, was interviewed about SRLA. Ms. Wohl is a SRLA coach (along with Mr. Castello and Mr. Valdez) and helps students to improve in their running. When asked why she likes to run with SRLA, Ms. Wohl said, “running clears my mind” and she also likes to run with a group. Ms. Wohl started running with SRLA in 2021.

In SRLA, your goal is to find your running pace. This means that you want to try to run at a very steady pace where you don’t have to stop and walk often. This is better than running fast and stopping frequently.



Principals’ Meetings Held on Campus

By Celeste Marroquin and Dominick Reyes

Last month, you might have noticed a whole bunch of strange adults on our campus. Those weren’t strangers - they were principals. On September 18th, there were three hundred principals who showed up to our school. This was for the monthly principals meeting. The principals’ meeting is a big meeting where the principals of Local District East meet. The principals come from schools in our area all the way down to Huntington Park.



The principal's meeting happens once a month. In these meetings, the principals talk about how to help their teachers be better. They also talk a lot about safety and things like how to keep the students safe and keeping the school in a safer space.

You might ask why these principals meet at our school specifically. Mrs. Gastelum said, “They were looking for a big space. Our school also has a good reputation.” We should be proud - hundreds of principals choose to meet at our school specifically.

Electives Spark Student’s Passions

By Scarlett Rodriguez & Natalie Robles

One of the things that makes Middle School special is that students get their first taste of electives. Electives are fun classes where you learn new things and try them out. At our school, we have Art, Band, Makerspace, Theater and Spanish. We also have some single semester electives like photography, anatomy and crime scene investigation. These electives connect to our magnet themes which are art, technology and police academy.

One of the electives we offer is band. There is a regular band and an accelerated band. When you first enter Mr. Rozsa’s elective, he will give you a skills test. Then, when half of the class has passed the test, he will begin to form bands. Bands work together on a song to perform.

Another elective in our school is Art. We have a relatively new art teacher, and her name is Ms. Pena. She started teaching at Burbank 3 years ago. Some of the activities you get to do in her class is to mess around with clay and make a sculpture. We also make some cool paintings. Every day when you walk into her class, she will have a warmup ready for you to do. The warmup helps you get ready to do more difficult art tasks. One student said, “My favorite thing to do in art class is combining colors.”

Hot Days Bring Changes to Routines

By Sophia Ramirez and Lexie Cobarrubias

Did you notice how it was last month? It was over 100 degrees! This month is much cooler.

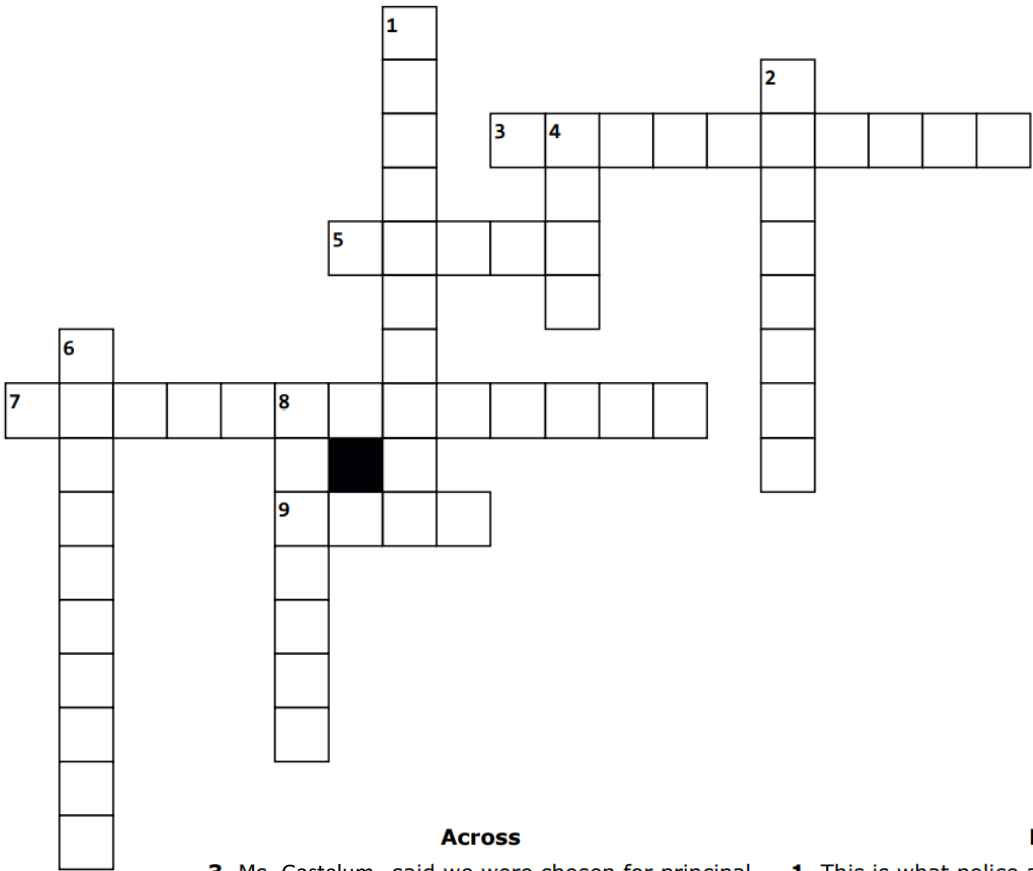
During the heat wave, some of air conditioning units broke down, but were repaired quickly. Much of this heat is because of climate change and greenhouse gases.

When it's hot, what do we do for P.E? P.E Teacher Ms. Kennedy said, “When it is 95 degrees or higher we cannot run and at 103 degrees we can't do any outdoor activities.”

How are 6th Graders Enjoying Burbank?

By Yamilet Lopez-Zavala and Jocelyn Diaz

Now that the new 6th graders are settled and are happy on campus, we interviewed several of them to see how things are going. 6th grader Alex said, “I do not really like P.E, but I like my Elective class.” The sixth graders have diverse opinions, and out of all of them so far love sixth grade in LBMS.



Across

- 3. Ms. Gastelum said we were chosen for principal meetings because of our big space and this:
- 5. This is the major problem in the garden
- 7. Mr. Downs has 5 of these.
- 9. Ms. Wohl says running helps clear her _____

Down

- 1. This is what police academy does every Tuesday.
- 2. This is the color of the uniforms for police academy
- 4. This is the local district that meets on our campus
- 6. These people meet on our campus once per month
- 8. The SRLA motto is "Complete don't _____"



November 18, 2024 – Issue #11

Nurse Chia joins LBMS Staff

By Madison Adams and Celeste Marroquin

Since the passing of our former nurse, Nurse Elizabeth, we have had several temporary nurses. But now, there is a new permanent nurse here at LBMS! Our new permanent nurse would like students to call her either Nurse Chia or Ms. Chia.



When asked why she likes being a nurse, she said, “[It’s] never a dull day.” and “I get to help people before they get really sick.” Nurse Chia also said, “I’m like a tough mom...but it is all for the students.”

Ms. Chia studied nursing in Los Angeles City College, as well as studying nursing online at Chamberlain University. Nurse Chia has also worked at many other Los Angeles schools before coming here to Burbank. Those schools include Franklin High School, Cortines High School, and Irving Middle School.

You may be wondering if Ms. Chia plans to do anything differently now that she is the new nurse at LBMS. She said that she does not plan to make any big changes nor plan to do anything different. We hope that she stays with us as our nurse for a long time.

Meet a Teacher: Ms. Kennedy

By Scarlett Rodriguez and Natalie Robles

Meet Ms. Kennedy. She is a Physical Education teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School. She has been a PE teacher for 2 years now. Before teaching she was assistant coach at Highland Park recreation center. She wanted to become a PE teacher to help students live a healthier life and to be introduced to new sports and activities.”

Ms. Kennedy has a life outside of teaching PE too. Something she enjoys is playing softball. She said, “I only got into softball because I would watch baseball with my family all the time. I



wanted to pass down the tradition of playing softball and baseball.”

Ms. Kennedy also has a sister named Cristina. Her younger sister was a volleyball coach. “I think she just wanted to try to copy me because I’m...
Continued in next column

“The Pride of Highland Park” New Session of LBMS Congress Begins

By Juliana Badua and Jayla Diaz

Congress is a place for everybody! Every year congress holds an election. Students nominate themselves or are nominated by their peers. Then, every advisory votes. The election winners are placed into a special congress advisory. This is a place where you can share your opinions and thoughts on how to make the school better.

This year, congress has several new representatives and senators. Ridley Haitkin, a sixth-grade representative said, “I joined congress because of my big personality.” Another sixth-grade representative, Sloane Tam, said, “I joined because I wanted to be on the committees for dances, and make decisions.”

There are also two students in congress who are serving their third term in congress. Aubrey Gomez, 8th grade senator, and Kyle Faeldonea, 8th grade representative. Senator



Aubrey said, “I joined congress my third year being here at Burbank because it’s a good way to impact everybody positively.” Representative Kyle said, “I joined again for the third time to pursue my goals and personal ideals.”

Congress is in charge of organizing school events and writing bills on how the school can improve. Students can learn leadership skills, make big decisions, and be creative. They organize student dances, val-o-grams and hall-o-grams, teacher gifts, and spirit days.



Continued from Ms. Kennedy

...her older sister and she wants to be like me because I’m awesome.” Her sister stopped coaching volleyball because she has a baby on the way!

Ms. Kennedy is so excited to have a baby nephew. “I plan to get him into baseball immediately just to continue the tradition.”

Some other hobbies Ms. Kennedy has are taking long naps, listening to music and hanging out with her friends.

Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22 Police Academy Hold Annual Iron Cadet

By Dominick Reyes and Sophia Ramirez

The Iron Cadet is a contest that the Police Academy does every year. The Iron Cadet is a challenging race that cadets do to prove to themselves and their leaders that they are ready for the future. If you’re in the Police Academy, you have the option to participate in the race. The Iron Cadet contest tests cadet’s mental and physical strength.



“This is a tradition that started at our school,” said Officer Jimenez. Laura, a 7th grade cadet, explained some of the activities. “One of the activities is a relay



race where we stack cones. We take the little cones and put them on the big cones. Then, we have to jump over

bars and lift weights to continue the race.”

You cannot pass or fail the race, it’s only timed. They also check your heart rate throughout the race. Some of the other activities include, sit ups, pushups, cariocas, pulling a giant foam dummy, and jumping over a foam cube. At the finish line, they call time to finish the race. There is also a part where they have to answer academic questions.

The students that got first, second, and third for the fastest run time from the boys and girls groups get a medal.



Teachers Team Up for Halloween

By Mia Saldana and Kaylye Lopez

Every year we have a Halloween costume contest, but how do the teachers come up with new costumes every year? They dress up in groups; every grade gets their theme. This year, the 6th grade teachers were Harry Potter characters, the 7th grade teachers were Beetlejuice characters, and the 8th grade teachers were Disney villains. The PSWs and PSA dressed up as the characters from Inside Out.

The counselors, Ms. Acosta, Ms. Harper, and Ms. Alfaro get together with their grade each year and decide what they want to be for Halloween. They are not in charge of the costumes, but Ms. Acosta said, “We like working with the team we’re with that year.” They start to decide their costumes before school even starts! This is so they don’t have to worry about deciding at the last second. There were a few suggestions for 8th grade teachers like Shrek and the Minions, but they chose the Disney villains instead.

But how did they decide on this idea? This year Ms. Acosta is with the 6th grade teachers, and she said that they used a google poll to decide which costume they would choose. There are also no repeat costumes. Ms. Acosta also told us that when a teacher doesn't know what to do for their costume, all the other teachers in their grade help them out in any way they can.



Students Enjoy Halloween Festivities

By Yamilet Lopez-Zavala and Lexie Cobarrubias

Every year on Halloween we have a costume contest during lunch. The categories are Scariest Costume, Cutest Costume, Most Creative Costume, Group Costume, Literary Character, Best Make-Up, Funniest Costume, and Punniest Costume. The winners of the contest won a Free Dress Pass for Friday, November 1st. The costume rules were that costumes should not demean any person or group based on age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. There are no weapons or replicas of weapons allowed.

A sixth grader named Charlotte was dressed as Shohei Ohtani. She said, “I dressed up as Ohtani because I love the Dodgers. He's also my favorite player. I'm glad they won the World Series.” Another sixth grader, Rebecca Nieto, dressed as My Melody, a Sanrio character. She said, “I am My Melody this year because I love Sanrio. Me and my trio decided to be My Melody, Hello Kitty, and Kuromi.”



Looking for More Lunch Time Fun

By Bryden Landberg

During lunch right now, there are some fun activities such as basketball, soccer, flag football and GSA. But what if there were even more activities!? Mrs. Feinberg is thinking of adding some lunchtime activities to the agenda. So far, the school is thinking of adding “Giant Jenga, bean bag toss, and maybe even a Turkey Trot versus a robot!” According to Mrs. Feinberg, “We hope to have these activities in play by Thanksgiving, but it's up to Congress.”

Seventh grader Janelle suggested, “We could do a Lego club during lunch.” She also said that a Theater Club would be a good activity during lunch. Seventh grader Melissa said that she had no ideas for lunchtime activities, and that she didn't know what activities that she would want to see more often during lunch.

What activities do you think we should have at lunch? If you have ideas, tell Mrs. Feinberg at Lunch. You can find her by the Music Classroom.

New After School Activities

By Miranda Lopez Moya and Jocelyn Diaz

Are you bored after school? You should join our new after-school activities! Burbank Middle School is offering new and different activities for students like Mock Trial and Hip-Hop dance. There are also other new activities coming.

Mrs. Feinberg, our magnet coordinator, is asking for opinions on the after-school program. Thanks to recommendations, there is a new activity to learn sewing.

Eighth grader Yuliana Segura said, “In Mock Trial we pick a topic, and have two sides of topics, then we pick lawyers for both sides to argue for their clients.” She enjoys Mock Trial because, “I like arguing and it’s funny.”

Mrs. Feinberg said, “We offer a great variety in Beyond the Bell and I think we can always do more.” Mrs. Feinberg also said, “According to a survey, students wanted more dance and art.” She said, “we used the Cultural Arts Passport funding to bring more and new after school programming to our school.”



February 7, 2025 – Issue #13

Fires Devastate Local Communities

By Kaylye Lopez and Juliana Badua

On Tuesday, January 7th, Los Angeles experienced a massive windstorm. That windstorm started and spread fires in multiple parts of the county. The fires were named the “Palisades Fire,” the “Eaton Fire,” and the “Hurst Fire.” According to the WatchDuty app, the Eaton Fire burned about 14,000 Acres and the Palisades Fire burned about 23,000 Acres. There were other nearby fires as well, but those were smaller.

Thousands of homes were lost, and many residents were evacuated. The fires destroyed many buildings, and at least 27 lives were lost.

The fires spread quickly because of the wind. Ms. Wohl, Burbank seventh grade science teacher,



explained, “Officials are still investigating the causes of the fires, but for the Eaton

Fire, there are already lawsuits against the SoCal Edison Power Company because there is evidence showing that a power line or Transformer may have started the fire.” Ms. Wohl said that her family was not directly affected by the fires, but did have to evacuate. She also said, “Just like many in our community, I have lots of friends who sadly lost their homes.”



A before and after satellite image of Altadena, the site of the Eaton Fire

This affected our air quality as well. The wildfires produced the heaviest smoke and soot the region has seen in recent memory. The air turned orange, and ash fell from the skies.

The community has come together to support those affected by the fire. See our article on the back for information about what our school has done to help support fire victims.

“The Pride of Highland Park” Burbank Staff Affected by the Fires

By Madison Adams and Yamilet Lopez

Unfortunately, during the recent fires, several staff members at LBMS were affected by having to evacuate or even losing their homes.

Mr. Robertson, a 6th grade math teacher, was one of the teachers affected by the fire. He and his wife have a house in Altadena. Mr. Robertson said, “I was at school, and I could see the Palisades Fire from the window, and I knew that we live in an area where there’s lots of fires and that the winds would be very strong.”

After seeing the fire, he went home and made a go bag. “I went up to the backyard and all of the hills [behind my house] were on fire.” Many houses around his house were gone. Mr. Robertson and his wife evacuated to Highland Park. The next morning, Mr. Robertson got a text from a neighbor saying that his house was on fire. After hearing this, he and his wife tried driving back to their house to see what had happened.



When Mr. Robertson saw his house, he saw smoke coming out of his garage. Mr. Robertson said, “We were afraid that embers would come down and hit the house, so we watered down the house. We did everything we could for 3 days.” His house is okay now, but his garage (pictured above) burned down. He and his wife cannot go back home because of all the toxic particles.



Mr. Miller, a sixth-grade science and history teacher, was also affected by the fires. He saw the fire at 6:30pm and had to evacuate very early the next morning. After being evacuated, Mr. Miller couldn’t go back to his home for 10 days.

Mr. Miller said, “Evacuating was weird and scary. It was dark... Trees were falling on the road. Wind was all over the place, and it was scary to try to navigate that, and there were a lot of cars.” When he got back home, there was ash everywhere. “[There was] ash and dust all over the house, inside [and] outside,” Mr. Miller said.



When asked what the future looks like for him, Mr. Miller said, “Rebuilding the community in a way that’s respectful to people.”

Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22 LBMS Responds to Fire Ash and Wind Debris

By Lexie Cobarrubias and Bryden Landberg

When the fires happened, Burbank Middle School had to make some quick decisions. Mrs. Moore, Burbank



Principal, explained, “On January 7, it was very smoky and even inside some classes it smelled smoky, so we immediately tried to get students to central locations that were safe and

less smoky.”

After students moved to a central location, another problem happened. “The power went out around 10:00 and came back around 11:00. During that time, we had to open the window shades so we could have light and play games that did not involve smart boards.”

After the power outage, officials decided to close the school. “Around 11:00 we got the notification that we were closing so we had all students contact their parents and pick them up. We moved all the students to A106 and they were picked up from there.” By one o’clock, all the students had gone home.

Students who did not come to school on that day were marked absent with an excuse code of 5, which means the principal has excused their absence.

The Buildings and Grounds staff here at Burbank Middle School worked hard to clean up before students returned. They were on campus the following Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They repeatedly cleaned the outdoors, including sweeping and trying to get up as much of the debris as possible.

Then they also cleaned indoors, wiping down every surface and making sure everything was clean. Finally, all the filters were replaced in the HVAC system so that we would breathe clean air once we returned. Many Classrooms received high quality HEPA air purifiers.



Mrs. Moore said, “The people that work here to keep our campus clean worked incredibly hard to get our school ready to come back.”

Get To Know a Teacher:
Mrs. Cordoba

By Mia Saldana and Jocelyn Diaz

Today let's get to know Mrs. Cordoba! Mrs. Cordoba is a 6th grade Math teacher and has a 6th grade advisory. She started her career at Angeles Mesa Elementary School in South Los Angeles. Then she got married and moved to Texas and taught at Quail Valley Elementary. She was also an assistant teacher at different schools.

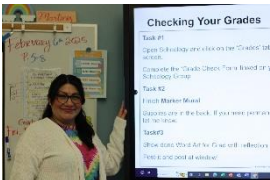


Mrs. Cordoba decided to become a teacher because she loves helping people and being around them. She has been teaching for ten years. When asked about her favorite thing about teaching Math, she said, “I love to see the Aha! moments when it clicks in their head.” Mrs. Cordoba started teaching Math by accident. She wanted to teach English, but ended up falling in love with Math and said she would never want to teach another subject. We asked 6th grader Emma Varelas, a student from Ms. Cordoba’s math class and homeroom, what her favorite part of class is. She said, “Probably finishing up my work, because I understand it.” It is always great to have a teacher who can help you understand.

Get to Know a Teacher:
Ms. Martinez

By Sophia Bernal and Jayla Diaz

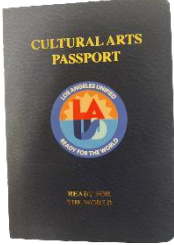
You may think you know Ms. Martinez, but do you really know her? Ms. Martinez is a seventh grade Math teacher and an eighth grade Art advisory teacher. Ms. Martinez is a very creative outdoorsy person. Speaking of her being a creative person, she loves doing arts and crafts. Painting is also one of her favorites and she shares her hobbies with her eighth-grade advisory class. Ms. Martinez also used to do sports. She was a soccer player and did Jiu Jitsu. Not everyone knows this, but she was training to be an Olympic figure skater. Ms. Martinez loves traveling and going to new places. She is also a mother and has two talented kids, Aiden and Adrien.



CAP Funds Enable Field Trips around LA

By Celeste Marroquin and Maiya Waller

Are you interested in any of the field trips coming up? Or are you going on one of them? These field trips are exciting, but there’s a lot that goes on for them to happen. There is special funding for field trips. It’s called the Cultural Arts Passport (CAP). The Cultural Arts Passport provides a list of interesting places that the students can be sent. These trips are open and available to anyone at our school regardless of grade. The funding is being used for any art focused trip. For example, this funding was used for the Wicked field trip as well as a field trip to the Armory Center of the Arts.



We also have field trips that are not funded by CAP. The entire seventh grade is going to be going to the LA River over the course of four days. Other students could possibly be going to the La Brea Tar Pits, but they still need to find dates. For parents to volunteer, they must fill out an online application form. They also must submit a tuberculosis test. Any parents that are official volunteers go on field trips to help. They also help with dances, events, and in the parent center.

Students React to Fire’s Effects with Kindness

By Miranda Lopez and Benjamin Feinberg

While the Highland Park neighborhood was not in danger from fires, many students were affected by what happened. Seventh Grader Jayla Quinones said, “My power went out, so me and my mom went to go buy flashlights. We were worried.” Seventh grader Bryden Landberg said, “My power went out when I was showering. When I got out, I was shocked, everything was pitch black. My family gathered our things and went to my grandma’s house.” Many students experienced power outages and high winds. After hearing of the effects of the fire in Altadena, LBMS Congress launched a campaign to support the community. Congress collected gift cards and thank-you cards for first responders, and asked the school community to donate supplies for students and schools that were directly affected.



Students Get Broadway Experience at Wicked

By Dominick Reyes and Natalie Robles

On Friday, January 24th, Burbank students went to see Wicked at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood. The field trip was planned by Mrs. Feinberg. Sixth, seventh, and eighth graders all attended after school. Over 100 students went, and many attended with their parents. Mrs. Feinberg said, “We had really good seats.”



Students had a lot to say about the performance. Seventh grader Hazel said, “I liked the musical because I was able to enjoy it with my friends. I also haven't seen the movie before, so it was nice to see it for the first time. Everyone said it was supposed to be really good, and it was really good. It was nice to see the architecture [of the theater].”



New Years Resolutions

By Scarlett Rodriguez and Sophia Ramirez

It's 2025! That means new year, new you. So, what is your new year's resolution? Ms. Kennedy, one of our school's physical education teachers, said, “My new year's resolution is to work out more.” She also came up with her resolution because the other teachers started working out and wanted to join too. She added, “I'm going to accomplish this by going to the gym and eating less junk food.” Michael Proa, a seventh grader, said, “I want to get closer with some of my friends.” He added, “I can do that by talking to the friends I'm not as close with.” Emilee Lunar, another 7th grader, said, “My resolution is to get more sleep.” She says she started to get sleepier during the day. She added said, “I'm going to accomplish that by setting an alarm, so I know when to go to sleep and wake up in the morning.” What is your resolution and how has it been going?



“I want to get closer with some of my friends.” He added, “I can do that by talking to the friends I'm not as close with.”





Seventh Graders Show their Strength

By Lexie Cobarrubias and Bryden Landberg

Every year, in the second semester, seventh graders must do a required fitness test. The seventh-grade fitness test started on February 2. There are several things that students should do to prepare for the fitness test. P.E teacher Mr. Baraza said, “They should be eating plant-based foods particularly the day before the mile



run and eating pasta. New research favors plant based whole food meaning

anything not processed natural veggies.”

How do the P.E teachers prepare for the fitness test? Mr. Tecson said, “The P.E teachers have to take a certification test for a fitness assessment.” When asked what the hardest

part of the fitness testing was, Mr. Tecson



said “It depends on the individual. For the most part it's either upper body strength (push-ups) or the mile run”

Student Congress Update

By Sophia Bernal and Scarlett Rodriguez

What has student government been up to? We asked some of the members of our school’s house of representatives and senate. Aubrey Gomez said, “We have multiple spirit days planned throughout the rest of the year,” and then continued to say, “we will let everyone know as soon as we figure it out.” Kyle also said, “Mrs. Haitkin had a problem with some bike

vests and she needed to get more for the bike club, so she brought



her situation to congress to use the student funds to buy a new bike vest for the bike club.” Congress has also been hard at work planning the upcoming spring dance. You can buy your ticket now at the student store!

Opinions on LBMS Walkout

By Sophia Ramirez and Jocelyn Diaz

On February 7, 2025, Luther Burbank Middle School students were part of a protest for Immigrant Rights regarding the immigrants at risk for deportation. At 9:00 am, during first period, students walked out of their classrooms. Ms. Wohl said, “The students didn’t walkout, they ran out of class.”

Students walked out to protests and show their political opinions. Seventh grader named Jozie Rodriguez said, “My opinion about the protests is that I don’t agree with Trump and his decisions for deporting immigrants.”



8th grader Mario Sosa said, “My opinion was that the walkouts were good because it shows that we care about the immigrants.”



School Site Council Approves Budget

By Yamilet Lopez-Zavala

The School Site Council (SSC) is a group that decides how to spend the title one budget. Different people are elected members to represent our school, including teachers, students and parents. They meet once a month to talk about the budget and the school plan.

Ms. R said, “Every school year we get a new budget. Our Title One budget is \$965 per student which is about \$700,000. We use that money to pay for teachers, buses and supplies to provide materials for the students and teachers.” She added, “We used to get millions of dollars and now it's much less.”

This year, the budget was approved in February and included paying for several important positions. It also included some budget cuts

The title one budget money is used for things like after school tutoring and field trips and new Chromebooks. Sometimes we'll pay for positions like a counselor. All these extra funds come from the federal government.

Math Field Day

By Madison Adams

Math Field Day is a math competition that will take place on March 8th, 2025, at Santee High School. Math Field Day is an event for students grades 4 through 12. At Burbank, we will be fielding one seventh grade team. This year, 6 students got selected. Four students are selected to be main participants, and the other two students are selected to be alternates.

Ms. Martinez, a 7th grade math teacher, is helping the 7th grade team for Math Field Day (along with Ms. Ceballos). The teachers helping with Math Field Day have a responsibility to get the students prepared.

“Preparation is a little bit different, but for the 7th grade team what we do is that we meet Wednesdays during lunch,” Ms. Martinez said. At these meetings, the 6 participants selected for the 7th grade team get packets filled with multiple choice math questions. Every Wednesday, they meet and go over the answer key, then they get more practice with math questions during the rest of the meeting.



For the 7th grade team, there was a meeting on January 29th during lunch. At this meeting, all the students that wished to participate in Math Field Day went to R204 and took a test. Ms. Martinez and Ms. Ceballos graded the tests and selected the top 6 students with the best scores for Math Field Day. “When we looked at scores, they were very close, we talked to the English, Math, History, and Science teachers to make sure [that] in their own classes, they are persevering, they're working as a team together really well, that they are contributing to discussions in class, and [that] they're coaching people in class as well,” Ms. Martinez said.

Meet a Teacher: Mr. Feinberg

By Juliana Badua and Jayla Padilla

Mr. Feinberg is a seventh-grade advisory teacher and an eighth-grade math teacher. He has his own elective and teaches photography. He is married to Mrs. Feinberg, who also works here as the magnet coordinator.

Mr. Feinberg went to UC Berkeley which is up in the Bay Area. Then, for graduate school, he went to Loyola Marymount University. Mr. Feinberg is from West Los Angeles. The story of when he wanted to begin teaching, started in college. Mr. Feinberg says, “When I was in college, I thought I wanted to work abroad in other countries, but I missed home and so I wanted to find a way I could make a change and make a positive impact but close to home.”

If he were to teach any other grade aside from 8th grade, he says he would teach high school, but he dislikes high schoolers. He began teaching at Johnny Cochran Middle School in the Crenshaw area.

Then taught at a charter school in Huntington Park called Aspire. He then moved to LBMS, where he has taught for 11 years.

What he likes most about teaching is the little wins and little losses he gets every day. “Maybe a kid misbehaved, but maybe another kid got the lesson, and so you can balance out your feelings.”



Students Celebrate Valentine’s Day

By Mia Saldana & Miranda Lopez

Valentine's day is a holiday that gets celebrated on our campus every year, so we wanted to know more about what is done to make it happen. To get more information we asked

congress member Aubrey Gomez some questions.

She said, “We like to give all students a chance to show their appreciation towards either themselves or their friends.”

This year congress organized the Valo-grams by having their members work during lunch. They also had a few members go to classes in certain areas to pick up the grams. Each student got two free Val-o-grams to send to a friend or themselves.

Aubrey also explained how they choose spirit days. “Usually, we'll do research online to find ideas from other schools or will search for past spirit days and then will find what to do from there. But we can also get recommendations from anyone who is in this school or anyone who's in Congress.” Congress tries to plan a spirit day each month if they aren't too busy.



Students go to the Beach

By Celeste Marroquin and Maiya Waller

When students think of PE, they often think of running, basketball or dodgeball - but what about water sports?! Well, that’s what the beach field trips are all about! In eighth grade, students have the chance to go



on a field trip to the beach. The beach students went to is Marina Del Rey.

Planning the field trip is a lot of work. Ms. Haitkin said, “Just the dates you have to do in a year and two months in advance.” Students also have two permission slips they need to turn in. There is one for the county and one for LAUSD. Ms. Haitkin also noted, “I’ve been trying to get permission slips in for over a month now.”

On the trips, students do things like kayaking, sailing, paddleboarding, etc. But because of the recent fires, students have done more above the water activities because of the unhealthy water. An 8th grader, Steven, said, “The water was a bit contaminated after the fires. We couldn't really get in the water as much, but we were able to still go if



we didn't get in it.” So, students couldn’t go inside the water as much.



Special Thanks to Ms. Hatikin and Ms. Martinez for the photographs from their trips!



April 11, 2025 – Issue #15

“The Pride of Highland Park”

Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22

Burbank Bears Complete LA Marathon

By Madison Adams and Bryden Landberg

Imagine running 105 laps around the school in P.E.! That is exactly what Students Run Los Angeles (SRLA) did! This year was the LA Marathon’s 40th anniversary. A marathon is 26.2 miles.

SRLA has trained for the LA Marathon since September 4th, and they finally ran it on March 16, 2025. Over the season, SRLA practiced four times a week. Now that they have completed the marathon, they will only practice on Wednesdays after school.

Mr. Costello, a 7th and 8th grade English teacher, ran the LA Marathon with SRLA. This was Mr. Costello’s



fourth marathon with SRLA. His favorite part of the marathon

was at the starting line, where most runners feel energetic and happy to start the race. When Mr. Costello got tired while running, he thought of different Burbank SRLA members to stay motivated. “I see them not give up...It’s inspiring,” Mr. Costello said.

Eighth grader, Micheal Gutierrez, ran his second marathon with SRLA this year. He said that the best part of the marathon for him was the first 4 miles because everyone was excited and cheering the runners on. When he needed motivation, he thought about getting the medal at the end of the marathon.

A marathon is never an easy thing to do, and at ages twelve through fourteen, students at our school have completed it. If you want to run with SRLA next year, you are welcome to join the team.

There will be a fun run at the end of this year and at the beginning of next year. SRLA looks forward to seeing you there!



Congress Ups the Game with Spring Dance

By Kaylye Lopez and Natalie Robles

The spring dance was held after school on April 4th. It was hosted by congress by the dance committee and was chaperoned by some of the teachers.

The dance tickets went on sale on March 17th and the tickets stopped selling the day before the dance.

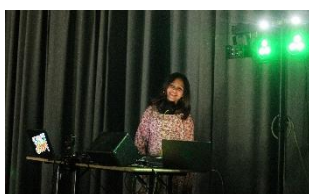
The dance committee thinks the spring dance will be the best dance of them all. They said that is because “there is going to be food and outdoor

games, also there is a surprise in the middle of the dance. We have some amazing DJs.”

Some of the food they served there was pizza, nachos and all kinds of soda and with jalapeno to put on your nachos. They also served ice cream!

The surprise of the dance was the Beyond the Bell Drill Team. They performed a Hawaiian themed dance. Then, before the end of the dance, they also did a ballet performance.

The DJ of the dance was DJ Universal Healthcare, also as known as Mr. Costello. The other DJ was our very own student, Charlotte. The dance was very fun, and students made it happen!



Seventh Graders Travel to LA River

By Juliana Badua, Jayla Diaz and Celeste Marroquin

Have you ever heard of the LA river? The LA river is a river that begins in Canoga Park and ends in the San Pedro Bay, which lands in the Pacific Ocean. Seventh graders this year got the chance to go to the LA river as a field trip. Students got into groups and completed three different stations.

One station was water sampling.

Students went down to the river and collected water samples. They learned about

different microbes in the water and counted how many microbes were in each cup. The microbes can be sorted into different categories. The categories were sensitive, somewhat sensitive, tolerant, and total.

Another station was a nature walk. The guides gave students binoculars

and a laminated sheet with the names of birds and other

animals that can be seen at the LA River. Students got to walk outside the rails to see animals and the river. The guides talked about the different animals during the walk.

The last station was designing your own water filter. Students got into groups and got only a few supplies to make a filter. They got half a bottle, a sponge, a rubber band, a coffee filter, tin foil, and cotton balls. The students got five minutes

to create their own filter. Once the time was up, the guide would have each group name and present their filter. The goal was to change the dirty water to fresh, new, clean water.

These trips are part of the extended learning opportunities program and arrive back on campus after the school day ends. This extends learning beyond the school day!



Bears Wear Green for St. Patrick's Day

By Mia Saldana and Miranda Lopez

Today let's get to know more about St. Patrick's Day and how we celebrate here at LBMS. This year St. Patrick's Day landed on March 17th. We celebrate every year to commemorate the death of Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity to Ireland.

This year, much like other years, we were able to wear green on St. Patrick's Day as a spirit day. To choose this spirit day, congress voted on their ideas. They decided on green because it is a tradition to wear this color on St. Patrick's Day.

What congress members Adeline and Sloane enjoyed about this particular spirit day was how everyone was wearing something similar. Seventh Grader, Keziah, said, "I think it was very fun and students can express themselves... there should be more spirit days." Eighth Grader, Ayleen, said, "It was better than wearing uniform, so it was good."

Spring Break Plans

By Sophia Bernal and Scarlett Rodriguez

Are you excited about Spring Break? Well, you should be!

This Spring break we have a lot of people traveling like Mr. Miller and Mr. Downs. We asked Mr. Miller what he would be up to during break. "I plan to spend time with my family. That's important to me. It's important to spend as much time as I possibly can with my kids because they're all over the place. They're growing up. My daughter is in Madrid, Spain and we're going to go visit her there and spend some time and eat some tapas."

As for Mr. Downs, he said. "For spring break, I'm going to Colorado. I'm going biking while I'm there. And I am going to Chuck-E-Cheese with my five grandkids."

Easter is a part of Spring Break, so we followed up by asking "What are they doing for Easter?" Mr. Downs said, "I'll be back I think, and so I'll probably play golf on Saturday, maybe go to church on Sunday."

Mr. Miller said, "I'm not sure right now, most probably just a quiet time at home after the week and Easter is going to be simple just hang out with family."

Incoming Students Attend Articulation Day

By Dominick Reyes and Sophia Ramirez

Articulation day was a day when fifth graders came to Luther Burbank Middle School to tour and visit the campus. The fifth graders also learned how to be prepared to be middle schoolers.

First, the fifth graders got to watch the band class perform a concert. After that, they were put in groups with



WEB leaders. The WEB leaders showed the students around the school including the blacktop, the classrooms, the offices, and the cafeteria. Later on, they played some fun activities, like hula-hoop, passing the basketball, and more fun stuff.

Finally, they were probably hungry after having such a fun day, so they had lunch at our cafeteria. The fifth graders will never forget about this day.

Some schools that came were Annandale, Buchanan, Bushnell Way, Garvanza and Yorkdale. Ms. Harper, our seventh-grade counselor said Articulation is important because, "in my opinion, it helps them get a good idea of what Burbank looks like."



Meet a Teacher: Ms. Harper

By Maiya Waller and Yamilet Lopez-Zavala

Ms. Harper is the seventh-grade academic counselor at Luther Burbank Middle School. She has been helping students and parents here since 2010. Before that, she worked at Virgil Middle School for five years, starting in 2005.

She earned her counseling degree from Cal State Northridge which has given her a lot of skills to support students in many ways.

Every day, Ms. Harper meets with students who come for her advice and assistance. She loves being able to talk to them and help them through any problems they might be facing, whether they are related to school or personal issues.

Police Academy Extends Winning Streak

By Lexie Cobarrubias and Jocelyn Diaz

Luther Burbank Middle School Police Academy team won the LAUSD drill competition for the fifth year in a row! The competition was held on March 7th, 2025 at Monroe High School. Monroe High School also has a Police Academy. Officer Jimenez, our Police Academy Advisor, said that Police Academy drill training started in December. It took them two months to learn their drill routines.



Officer Aleman, another Police Academy Advisory, said, "We felt excited. We were happy that we took first place. I believe it is my partner's 5th in a row at my third in a row. We were very excited and happy. We felt we were a lot stronger in the sense that our routine was stronger and our performance was tighter." Officer Jimenez said, "Officer Aleman was



really focused on the drills and working hard. Mr. Tecson was our lucky charm every year that

he went to the competition."

Police Academy students, Maysen Vasquez and Emiliano Zapata, said, "The hardest part about learning the drill competition was the 6th graders." They had to learn. They both agreed their favorite drill was "Wall Factor".

Congratulations to Police Academy on their win. We are so proud of you!



SPECIAL EDITION: BURBANK BONANZA PREVIEW

In this special edition of the Burbank Bugle, we preview some of the amazing work that Burbank Students will be presenting at the second annual Burbank Bonanza on May 16 from 5:30 to 7:30.

The Bonanza Gets Bigger!

By Scarlett Rodriguez and Sophia Bernal

This year, the Burbank Bonanza is bigger than ever. The Burbank Bonanza is our open house – all students will be showing off their work from throughout the year. The Bonanza is organized by our magnet coordinator, Mrs. Feinberg.

Last year was the first Bonanza. “It was like throwing spaghetti at a wall to see what would work,” said Mrs. Feinberg. It was great, but it only involved some of the students. “This year’s bonanza is bigger than last year because we have every single class participating in it to show off everyone’s work.”

Mrs. Feinberg says the Bonanza is an important part of our magnet program. “You guys put so much effort in the school year, you deserve to show it off!”

All families are invited to attend the Bonanza, and we have also invited the incoming sixth and seventh graders. “We are showcasing all the amazing things we do at Burbank so students can get a sense of what we are all about.”

Mr. Garcia’s Classes Work Together

By Maiya Waller and Yamilet Lopez

Mr. Garcia is a 7th grade History teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School. His academic classes and advisory will be participating in the Bonanza.



His academic class has made a book called

“Islam for Dummies.” They worked with a partner to publish their books.

His advisory has some political cartoons about climate change to raise awareness. They are also doing a 6-word memoir. They all started their project for the Bonanza in January and February early semester.

Mr. Garcia said, “I am excited because I get to see all the students’ work displayed and to celebrate all their accomplishments and their hard work.”

Ms. Wohl’s Class Presents on Habitat and Brains!

By Celeste Marroquin and Madison Adams

Ms. Wohl is a 7th grade science teacher. She is having both her science and anatomy classes present something for the Burbank Bonanza.

Her science classes are working on creating a museum exhibition about Biosphere 2. They started this project



in April, and most students now have their projects complete

and ready for the Bonanza. For this project, students will be introducing the purpose of Biosphere 2, what it is, and the events that occurred. They can do this by either making a poster, a skit, a graphic novel, and even more options.

Ms. Wohl has attempted this project with her students before, however, it had to be shut down. Ms. Wohl said, “...I had done a similar project about 5 years ago, but it was right before the pandemic, so the students never got to show off their work.” Ms. Wohl figured that the Bonanza would be the perfect opportunity for students to showcase their work and what they have learned.

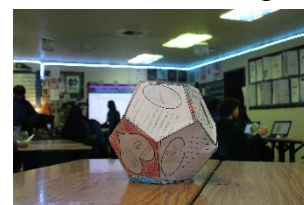
This project also connects to the other areas of science that the students have been learning about since the beginning of the school year. “The project connects to a lot of different topics... Students [can] work on something related to ecology or chemical reactions as long as it connects back together.”

Ms. Wohl’s elective, Anatomy, is doing a brainy hat for their Bonanza project. This brainy hat shows the anatomy of the brain. The anatomy includes the four different lobes of the brain and their functions. The students’ brainy hats show the importance of the brain, the different lobes, how it helps us daily, as well as additional facts chosen by the students. Students worked on this project for about 3 weeks.

Mr. Gonzalez’s Dodecahedrons of Science

By Dominick Reyes and Miranda Lopez

Mr. Gonzalez is a 7th and 8th grade science teacher. Mr. Gonzalez’s 8th graders are creating dodecahedrons, with 6th, 7th and 8th grade science facts. “A Dodecahedron is a 12-sided figure. On each of the faces, there will be facts about science from throughout middle school.



He decided on this project because he said he wanted something that students can collaborate with. Students started about a month ago just to be prepared.

Mr. Gonzalez said, “My advisory is sharing Name Plates about themselves.” Mr. Gonzalez is really



excited for the Burbank Bonanza because he said it is a really good way for

students to interact with each other in our local community.

Mr. Sheppard’s Actors Take the Stage

By Sophia Ramirez and Lexie Cobarrubias

Mr. Sheppard is the theater teacher that teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Mr. Sheppard’s 7th and 8th classes will perform for the Bonanza. This is Mr. Sheppard’s first time having his theatre class included in the Bonanza.



Mr. Sheppard’s 7th and 8th started their project on April 7, 2025, right before spring break. “I picked these students because they use the best aspects of the course.” Mr. Sheppard added, “I am excited for the Bonanza because parents and other students can see their hard work.”

Ms. Bilovsky’s classes make Embroidery and Zines

By Kaylye Lopez and Natalie Robles

Ms. Bilovsky is an 8th grade advisor and a 6th grade English teacher. For Ms. Bilovsky’s advisory, students are making embroidery.



Embroidery is a type of sewing using a colored thread and a needle to

make art. Embroidery is a fun art to do when you are bored. They have been working on their projects since the beginning of the school year.

For her academic class, students are making *zines* about famous people. Zines are little books filled with information about a topic you like or were given. They started making zines in January.

Ms. Bilovsky said that she doesn't have a favorite project, but she also said that “Embroidery is a lost art.” So we think we know which one is her favorite.



Ms. Peña’s Art and Advisory Show Creativity

By Juliana Badua and Jayla Diaz

Ms. Peña is the art elective teacher, and the Rube Goldberg advisor along with Ms. Ceballos. For the Burbank Bonanza, the students in Ms. Peña’s electives for 7th grade are choosing artwork that they’ve made throughout the semester. The students in the 8th grade advanced class are working inside the locker rooms, doing group paintings that have to do with P.E. The murals include “positive words of encouragement, or something that has to do with the space we’re in.”



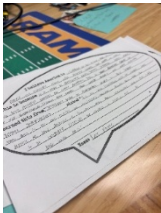
Ms. Peña says her advisory class is working on a Rube Goldberg machine, which has a goal to feed a pet. The machine, which is intentionally complex, will be pouring dog food into a dog bowl. Both her elective classes and her advisory classes have been working on their projects ever since the beginning of the semester.

Mr. Valdez’s Class asks, “What is America?”

By Bryden Landberg

Mr. Valdez is a social studies teacher who teaches a seventh and eighth grade classes. Mr. Valdez has been teaching here at LBMS for ten years, and he started teaching here in 2015.

Mr. Valdez’s academic class is going to share what they think America is supposed to be as a country. Mr. Valdez started the project about a week ago, but his class has been working on the questions for the project since the start of the year. He is excited “because the project will have their parents comment on their students work.”



He thinks that it is “a good conversation that Americans need to have, to understand America's past, make sense of Americas present, and to plan for America's future.”

Mr. Robertson’s Class Does Math with Baseball and Groceries

By Mia Saldana and Jocelyn Diaz

Are you curious to see what your favorite 6th grade math teacher Mr. Robertson is doing for the Bonanza? A few weeks ago, his advisory class started their project. This year they



are researching advanced baseball statistics and creating posters. The thing Mr. Robertson is most excited for this

Bonanza is, “to see all the great things my former and current students are working on.” Mr. Robertson chose his advisory project because, “We have been watching a lot of baseball and keeping score, we wanted to know what the stats are when we watch baseball, and it will prepare them for when we do fantasy baseball.”

Student Hazel Navarro said, “I feel like it’s helped me understand more about baseball and it is eye opening.” while Elias Tamayo said, “I like that it brings me closer to baseball, and I've been around baseball my whole life.”

This week Mr. Robertson’s academic classes started their project. His students will be creating their own board games displaying a grocery store. Bonanza goers will play these games by using ratios with the goal of finding the best deal. Manuel Castillo is excited and says, “Show the people my work.”

The Burbank Bugle Shows Its Stuff!

By Benjamin Feinberg

I am so proud of the Burbank Bugle writers and all they have accomplished this year. This is our 7th issue of the year, and every time we have published, they have become better and better at writing news stories.

In the Multipurpose Room, you can see *giant* editions of the Bugle from throughout the year. See all the stories we have covered, from the addition of a new Nurse to our staff, to the wildfire recovery, to the many wonderful field trips that students have embarked on.

I would like to take this space to say a few nice words about each of our Bugle Writers:

- Mia and Madison, your articles are always well researched and well written. You are natural writers.
- Jocelyn and Juliana, you have strong interview skills. I love how you always are brave enough to interview students.
- Bryden and Celeste, you do such a great job writing about your own experiences and describing events vividly.
- Maiya and Sophia B, even though you came to our class late, you fit right in and immediately produced great articles.
- Dominick and Lexie, I can always count on your two to push through even when it is hard to write an article.
- Miranda and Kaylye, you took some of the best photos for our newspaper this year.
- Natalie and Sophia R, you have grown a lot as writers, and I can see a huge improvement in your writing since the beginning of the year.
- Yamilet and Scarlett, you always go above and beyond the time in advisory to make sure an article gets in by the deadline.
- Jayla, you are an excellent teammate, and whenever I put you with a partner, you make their writing even better.

Thank you for being part of my advisory this year, you made the Burbank Bugle fun and enjoyable!

If you are in sixth grade and are interested in being part of the Burbank Bugle next year, make sure to put Journalism as your top choice for advisory choices when you select them later this month.



Special Edition: THE CHALLENGERS

The Eighth Grade Class of 2025

In this special edition, our journalists interviewed culminating eighth graders about their experience at Luther Burbank Middle School and their plans for their future. Students were selected based on recommendations from the eighth-grade teachers.

Valedictorian: Yuliana Segura

By Jocelyn Diaz

One of our valedictorians this year is Yuliana Segura. That means she had straight A’s throughout all her time at Luther Burbank Middle School. Great job on your amazing academic and work habits!



Yuliana said she plans to attend Franklin STEM Magnet next year. In high school, Yuliana plans on doing Judo and wrestling because the sports require critical thinking.

Her favorite memory at LBMS was “walking around school with my friends and talking.” Yuliana said she will miss her teachers because they always push her to do better. Many of her teachers had nice things to say about Yuliana as well.

Mr. Gonzalez said, “A sharp mind and good judgment describe her accurately.” Mr. Feinberg said, “She was a leader on our School Site Council and a leader in our classroom. She is going places.” Ms. Lopez added, “Yuliana is very reliable and always gets things done. You can count on her without even thinking twice.” Ms. Wohl said, “I can’t wait to see whether Yuliana decides to be a florist, a surgeon, or a butcher.” Ms. Cabezas said, “Yuli is such a great leader and hard worker. These traits will allow her to accomplish so many amazing things in high school.”

Valedictorian: Alex Vielman

By Mia Saldana

Alex Vielman is one of our valedictorians. Alex has decided to go to Franklin STEM Magnet for high school because he has heard of their amazing robotics team. When he gets to high school, he hopes to take an animation class, since he wants a future career in animation.



During his time here, he participated in Bike cCub. He will miss choosing electives because of the wide variety. His favorite memories are being able to be creative and being proud of creating something of his own. Alex is excited

Valedictorian: Sophia Corona

By Sophia Ramirez

Sophia has received straight A’s throughout 6th, 7th, 8th grade and now she is a valedictorian. To keep her grades high, she said, “I just pay attention and focus on the tests. And if there extra credit, I always do it.” She also recommends that students “stay on top of work and try your best to turn your work on time.”



Sophia wants to give a shout out to Ms. Martinez because she helped her make her the student she is today.

Ms. Cabezas said, “Sophia is a dedicated and intelligent student with a great disposition. Because of her intelligence and strong work ethic, she will accomplish many wonderful things.” Ms. Lopez said, “Sophia is kind, thoughtful, and always ready to help out. She never hesitates to volunteer and brings such a positive vibe to everything she does.” Mr. Taylor added, “Sophia is not only a stand-out student, but she really knows how to advocate for herself and others. It has impressed me how comfortable she is in asking questions and requesting things like study guides to help her thrive in class this year.” Mr. Feinberg also says “Not only is she an excellent student, but she’s also talented photographer.”

and nervous since it’s a huge change and required schooling is almost done.

Alex would like to thank Ms. Alfaro for always helping him and giving assistance when needed. He keeps his grades high by checking if they are getting low, then redoing an assignment or asking the teacher what he can do to bring up his grade.

Ms. Disselkoen said, “Alex is confident, sharp, and sets a great example for others. I wish him the best in High School and beyond!” Ms. Ceballos said, “Alex is a dedicated student whose perseverance truly impresses me. I’m so proud of all he’s accomplished and know he’ll continue to shine in high school.” Mr. Garcia added, “No mountain is too tall for Alex to climb. His diligence and persistence will take him places”

Valedictorian: Lucia Marquez

By Lexie Cobarrubias

Lucia Marquez is another one of our valedictorians and has been attending Burbank since 6th grade. Lucia says she plans on going to Orthopedic Medical Magnet High School in the fall. When she gets there, she plans to play volleyball. “I love volleyball, it’s my passion.”



Thinking back on her time at Burbank, she said, “I’m nervous to leave. I’ve been here for 3 years. But I’m excited to meet new people. I’m going to miss my friends and my teachers.”

Her advice for upcoming 8th graders is: “Do not be scared to ask for help and do not let things get to you.” Lucia said she keeps her grades high by focusing on doing homework then do any missing work. Her tips to keep grades high are to ask for help, stay after school if you need to, and do missing assignments.

Mr. Gonzalez says, “She has a unique sense of style, confidence, and a cool personality.” Mr. Lee said, “Lucia is her. No CAP. She works hard and when it’s time to lock in she’s two steps ahead. TBH. She’s always grinding to get better and better. Aura.” Ms. Ceballos said, “Lucia is an outstanding student who spreads positivity and kindness wherever she goes. We’ll miss her, but I have no doubt she’ll continue to bring joy and success to her future classes.” Ms. Wohl said, “How does Lucia have time to play every sport, be in every club, and excel in all of her classes? We may never know. What we do know is that we will miss her laugh next year.” Mr. Feinberg also added, “Lucia is one of three amazing sisters that have passed through Burbank that I have had the privilege to teach. I will miss the Marquez family and all they contribute to our school.”

Watch the Culmination Video here!



Abigail Reyes

By Maiya Waller

Abigail Reyes is getting ready for a big change. She is already enrolled at Grand Arts High School and is excited about what's ahead. Grand Arts is known for its creative programs, and she plans to join the Visual Arts Academy. "I've always been creative," she says. She thinks it will be the perfect place for her.



Even though she is excited and happy for high school, she will miss many things about LBMS. "I will miss the teachers here," she says. She says they helped her through middle school. One teacher that she will miss the most will be her math teacher, Ms. Bell. "She helped me understand math better and helped me get through it." Ms. Bell and Ms. Cummings say, "Abby is an extraordinarily kind and talented person. We can't wait to see all she achieves in her future!" Ms. Wohl said, "Abigail is willing to try new things, whether it's SRLA, Bike Club, or a field trip. I admire how she grows and glows through the process and faces challenges with a smile on her face."

One of her favorite memories at LBMS was the 8th grade picnic. It was her favorite because she got to play fun games, eat food, and it was just a nice time to relax with friends. Overall, she is happy with her LBMS experience. "I'm happy because I get to make new friends and to do what I love." With her creativity and with everything she's learned at LBMS, she's sure she will do some great things in Grand Arts.

Daniel Casillas

By Sophia Bernal

Daniel Casillas has many different opinions on culminating this year. "I plan to go to Franklin STEM Magnet next year because my friends are going, so it just makes sense." He plans to meet new people because "everyone is going to be new so why not."



Daniel said, "My favorite thing about being in middle school was probably messing around in class." He also played sports like basketball and flag football. Daniel says he will miss being in middle school, but at the same time, he is happy to make new memories at high school.

Ms. Cabezas said, "Daniel is a smart cookie who priorities smiling and being silly. He definitely made us laugh in class a lot." Mr. Taylor said, "Daniel has a great mind for mathematics. His number sense and ability to think mathematically has stood out to me all year."

Miley Sanchez

By Madison Adams

Miley Sanchez will be going to Grand Arts High School in the fall. Miley chose to go to Grand Arts because it focuses on art, and she hopes to become a famous artist one day. She also loves how the school looks, and how big it is.



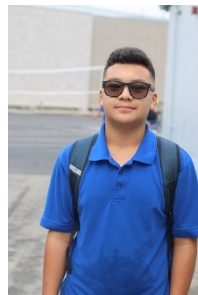
When leaving eighth grade, her favorite memory that she will be taking from LBMS is from an art gallery that she went to last year with other students called the Thomas J. Price Art Gallery. Miley also mentioned, "I am going to miss my class and my classmates."

Although she will have many things to miss from LBMS, Miley is also excited for the numerous new opportunities she will have at Grand Arts. "I feel excited because it's a big high school in downtown LA...and a lot of famous people went there," Miley explained. A few days ago, she went to Grand Arts and got to see what it is like at that school. Miley enjoys the fact that there is lots of art displayed all around the school, as well as how much artwork students make throughout the year. Once Miley starts high school, she plans to join some of the many clubs offered at Grand Arts.

Aaron Lopez

By Natalie Robles

Aaron Lopez will attend North Hollywood Biological Science Zoo Magnet in the fall. He chose that school because of its biology and zoology program and he would like to work with animals in the future.



Aaron said, "I will definitely miss my friends and how much people supported me." When asked about his favorite memory, he said it was when he were accepted into the WEB program to become a leader. In his time at Burbank, he participated in Spanish and Art.

Ms. Cummings and Ms. Bell say, "Aaron is always ready to learn and laugh. His enthusiastic and inquisitive nature will be missed!" Mr. Gonzalez said Aaron is "a true helper who can be counted on to help others."

When he gets to high school, he plans to play soccer because he thinks he can improve his skills. He said he feels "anxious but happy" about going to high school.

Aaron would like to thank his friends and parents because they kept on supporting him.

Nathalie Guerrero

By Celeste Marroquin

Nathalie Guerrero plans to go to Franklin High School in the fall. She said, "I mostly want to go because most of my friends are going there and then there's really good academics for my future." She says she wants to participate in flag football and basketball in Franklin. Nathalie also has mixed feelings about going to high school. "I feel excited but nervous at the same time because it's a new environment, but I get to make new friends," she said.



Mr. Robertson, Nathalie's sixth grade teacher, still remembers her and says, "Nathalie is determined. She meets any challenge with her great intellect and grit, which will help in high school and beyond!" Mr. Taylor added, "Nathalie has been a stand-out student and student-athlete all year. She really knows what it means to work hard in class and be a great teammate in the sports she plays." Ms. Wohl said, "Don't blink during a game of flag football or you might miss her zipping by. Nathalie is fast, strategic, and multi-talented. In the classroom, she shines bright!" Ms. Cabezas said, "Nathalie is such a gracious and kind student. I will miss her smile and dedication!"

She has also made a lot of memories here at Burbank. Nathalie says she will miss her friends here. But her favorite memories come from Beyond the Bell's afterschool program. She says, "I participated in robotics and Beyond the Bell after school sports."

Nathalie wants to thank Coach Thomas from Beyond the Bell for her success. "He's genuinely helped me become the person I am and the player I am," she says.

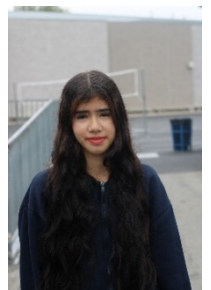
Leydi Joya

By Kaylye Lopez

Leydi Joya plans to go to Franklin High School in the fall. She said she is nervous to go to high school because she will not know the school and she does not know where her classes will be. Leydi said her goal in high school is to learn more English.

Leydi said her favorite memory from Luther Burbank is the eighth-grade picnic. She said it was her favorite memory because she hung out with her friends and socialized with other people.

She said she wanted to thank Mr. Rizo because they spent most of their time together and he taught her a lot. She said she also wanted to thank Ms. Salinas for teaching her to speak English better.



Jorge Mascorro

By Scarlett Rodriguez

Next year, Jorge says, “I will be going to Franklin STEM magnet, and I won't be really nervous because I know most of the people there.” He said he is excited because he “wants to get into clubs and just play sports.”



Reflecting on his time at LBMS, Jorge said, “What I'm going to miss the most is hanging out with friends.” He said that his favorite memory of middle school will be lunch when he would hang out with his friends.

Jorge said, “I would like to thank my parents because they always encouraged me throughout middle school.”

Mr. Taylor said, “Jorge is a great student and great citizen for the LBMS community. He holds himself to very high standards and is always helping others around him.” Ms. Wohl said, “Jorge's energy is contagious, as is his tagline, 'So, BASICALLY...’” Ms. Cabezas added, “Jorge has been a delight from day one. He’s kind, hardworking, and a goofball. I know he’s going to do great things in high school.”

Mia Alvarado

By Miranda Lopez

Eighth grader Mia Alvarado will be attending Bravo Medical Magnet High School in the fall. Her family chose this school because it's a 10 out of 10 for medical students. She says she is a little excited but nervous for high school.



She says she will miss LBMS. She will miss all her friends and teachers. One of Mia's favorite memories is the 8th grade dance, because it was fun and she got to be with all her friends. Mia did three years of band at LBMS.

She would like to thank Mr. Valdez who nominated her, even though he won't admit it. Mr. Gonzalez says Mia is “wise beyond her years and always willing to share her extensive musical taste.” Mr. Robertson said, “Mia is super smart, asks good questions, and has great jokes. Most importantly she can wallop a softball with the best of them.” Mr. Feinberg said, “Mia is one of our top math students, and often figures out math concepts before they are taught.” Ms. Lopez said, “Mia’s energy and sense of humor make things so much more fun. She’s always up for a good laugh and has awesome taste in movies.

Natalie Phong

By Yamilet Lopez-Zavala

Natalie is planning on going to Franklin High School because it is close to where she lives. Natalie is planning on doing cheer, volleyball, and more activities during high school. She said that she's pretty happy to go to high school because she feels like she knows a lot of people there.



She said that she will miss talking to everyone at LBMS. Her favorite memory at

Elani Lopez

By Dominick Reyes

Eighth Grader Elani Lopez is planning to go to Wilson Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services Magnet in the fall. Elani wants to go there because, “It specializes in firefighters and prepares you for that career.” Elani would like to do poetry, and AVID in high school



Ms. Macias says, “I am extremely proud of her growth in Math this school year. She is a great student, and I am sure she will do amazing things in her future. Remember that you can do anything and everything you set your mind to!” Mr. Gonzalez said Elani is a “responsible, kind, and caring classmate who goes above and beyond to be a good friend.”

Elani says she is going to miss her friends, teachers, and fun times. Elani’s favorite memory at LBMS was “making friends that are good and didn’t bring me down academically.” Elani would also like to thank Officer Jimenez for all the help.

Jocelihn Vega

By Jayla Diaz

Jocelihn is a WEB leader and was a former Congress member.



For high school, she chose to go to Franklin STEM Magnet. She chose Franklin because of how close it is and her friends are going there. In high school, some activities she plans to do are volleyball and cheer. “I feel mixed feelings about going to a new school and leaving Burbank.”

Her favorite memory here must be the Burbank Bonanza. She said one of the things that she will miss will be the teachers that showed her support. One teacher she could thank the most is Mr. Feinberg. “I chose Mr. Feinberg for my middle school success because he made me find my passion for photography and made math fun.”

Ms. Lopez said, “Jocelihn isn’t afraid to try new things and push herself. I admire how she takes on challenges and keeps growing.” Mr. Feinberg said, “I knew that she was a star when she wrote for the Burbank Bugle, and it was a pleasure seeing her grow and thrive this year.” Mr. Gonzalez said she is “Always ready with a silly laugh and a glad heart.” Ms. Cordoba said, “Jocelihn is a hardworking, responsible, driven student who is kind and respectful. It was a pleasure being your math teacher!”

Burbank Middle School was being a captain for the school team for 7th grade and she took a trophy home. She also participated in band, drama and advanced Makerspace.

Many of Natalie’s teachers shared nice words and memories. Ms. Cordoba says “Natalie is smart, kind, and very outgoing. She is fun and has a bright future! Thanks for the thoughtful cup, Natalie, that will always be a special reminder of you for me.” Mr. Robertson says, “I remember Natalie as the human embodiment of a smile. If she is not smiling, she will quickly make a joke that make her and others smile.” Finally, Mr. Garcia says, “Natalie is a true go-getter! She doesn't wait for the opportunity to come to

Laniya DeBaun

By Juliana Badua

Laniya is an 8th-grade student in the Police Academy program and has attended Burbank Middle School for three years. She plans to attend Wilson Policy Academy Magnet to continue pursuing her interest in law enforcement through their Police Academy program.



As she looks back on her time at Burbank, Laniya says that what she will miss most are her friends and some of her favorite classes. Her favorite memory was the 8th grade dance, where she got to enjoy a fun night surrounded by friends and laughter.

Throughout middle school, Laniya explored a wide range of electives. In 6th grade, she took art, Spanish, and computer science. In 7th grade, she participated in Makerspace and band. This year, she is currently taking Makerspace again, and last semester, she took theater.

Looking ahead to high school, Laniya is excited to be part of both the Police Academy and a college-readiness program called AVID. She also plans to join the cross-country and track teams, wanting to stay active and involved in school life.

Laniya understands that high school will bring changes, but she feels ready and excited for what’s ahead. She shares her gratitude to those who have supported her along the way. “I would like to thank Ms. Moore, Ms. Alfaro, all of my 8th-grade teachers, and especially my mom for my middle school success.”

Ms. Wohl said, “Laniya is a force of her own. Don't mistake her humility for shyness; Laniya knows her stuff and gets things done.”

Prince Chico

By Bryden Landberg

Prince Chico is an eighth grader here at LBMS who is involved in our school to the maximum amount. Prince is a former SRLA runner, did Congress, Makerspace, Bike Club, and also School Site Council. When asked how he was feeling about going into high school, he said “mixed feelings. I’m not ready for it, but I feel like I could take it on”.



Prince plans to go to high school at Franklin because his friends are going there, and he likes their basketball team. Prince also said that his favorite part of Burbank Middle School was getting to meet his friends and his teachers.

Prince would like to thank Mr. Valdez because without him SRLA would be cooked, and Mr. Lee. Ms. Cordoba says, Prince is “bright, funny, and friendly. Prince is awesome to be around. Keep reaching your goals Prince, you're going to do great things! It was awesome being your math teacher.”

her; she seeks it out." Ms. Wohl said, “Only Natalie Phong could disappear into a crowd at the Girls Empowerment Field trip and return with not one, but TWO pairs of free Vans.”

Natalie wants to thank her seventh-grade teacher, Ms. Martinez, because she was the strictest teacher, and she would put everyone in their place.