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LBMS Named California Distinguished School

By Eleanor Cortes and Siani Avila



For the past 16 years, Burbank Middle School has been working hard to achieve the California Distinguished School Award. LBMS is very excited to announce that our hard work has paid off, and we have achieved this very important award!

Ms. Moore, our Regional Director said, “Students, teachers, staff, families, and the community at large all contribute to the success of LBMS. We are incredibly proud to be considered achievement gap closers, a place where all students demonstrate growth and high levels of academic achievement.”

Ms. Gastelum, the LBMS Principal said, “This is an incredible achievement. In my opinion, we have been deserving of this award for a while and to get this recognition feels very validating. It means we get to brag about the incredible work our faculty, staff, students and families are doing to help students grow academically.”

Many teachers and staff have worked very hard throughout the years to achieve this award. Mr. Feinberg said, “As a teacher, we are always trying to improve, and it feels good for that work to be recognized.” He added, “We have won several other awards like School to Watch and Magnet School of Excellence, and every time we win, it helps the community know about the great things that happen here.”

Ms. Gastelum explained, “To receive this award, the State Department of Education reviews academic data and determines who has made enough growth and achievement to earn being named a Distinguished California School. We do not apply for this type of award but rather are selected for it.” Less than 15% of schools get this award, so it is truly a prestigious honor.

“The Pride of Highland Park” Pink, Green and Pies during Lunchtime

By Zai’lee Matthews and Violet Leyva

Valentine’s Day, Pi Day, and Saint Patrick’s Day are always fun and interactive events at Burbank Middle School. This year was no exception.

For Valentine’s Day, Congress sold Valentine grams for one dollar and gave students the choice to wear pink, red, or white. There were many students walking around holding roses or candy boxes from their special someone.

Pi Day was celebrated on March 14, because the first three digits of pi are 3.14 like the date written 3/14. The math department held several fun activities. Mr. Taylor, says, “At LBMS, we have a handful of lunchtime activities to celebrate Pi Day including a contest to see who has the most digits of pi memorized.” The winner this year was Caitlyn Woods, who memorized 300 digits of pi.



Activities included bracelet making with the colors of the beads used to align with the digits of pi. Mr. Powell said, “I think I’ve been working for Pi Day for about eight years. We all get together and interact, the student that wins the memorization contest is the one who pies me. Yeah... that’s the day they get me.”

On St. Patrick’s Day, students dressed in green. Many people wore green, and lots of different shades of green too. Students also wore hats and ties that were green. Teachers got in on the fun too!



It is events like these that make students excited to come to school and learn!

Mr. Feinberg’s Advisory – Y22 Eighth Graders take Cap and Gown Photos

By Jimmy Martinez and Angelique Moreno

Every year, eighth graders take cap and gown and panorama photos.

Cap and gown photos are for eighth graders to celebrate their in culmination. The cap and gown pictures cost \$20 if you want the regular package. There are other packages: the popular \$33 package, the deluxe package which is \$50, and the ultimate package which is \$60. Eighth graders also take a panorama group photo, which costs \$20.



If students are absent, there are no makeups. This year, parent volunteers and teachers helped students adjust their caps and gowns. They also helped keep the line moving.

This is the beginning of the celebration of eighth graders. There are many more celebrations to come.

Student-Led Conferences

By Emily Clinton and Nicole Guzman

On February 19th, LBMS had student-led conferences. Student-led conferences have been happening for about 15 years. It is led by every student at LBMS.

LBMS holds student-led conferences because it is a good way to have students take accountability in front of their parents or guardians for their grade. It helps families see where their student’s progress in all their classes. Mr. Colindres said, “I think student-led conferences are a good way to show their guardians their progress and how they are doing in their classes. It’s also a good way for students to see if they need any extra help in any of their classes.”

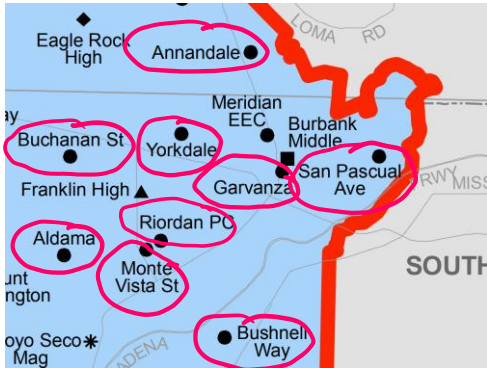
The student-led conferences show off a student’s work at school. 7th grader, Adam Garcia, said, “Student led conferences are cool because you get to lead your parents instead of being led like in elementary school.” At Burbank, students are leaders and they lead their educational experience.



Articulation Welcomes New Bears

By Siani Avila and Eleanor Cortes

On the 20th of March, Burbank Middle School will host articulation! Articulation is a day where fifth graders from all around Highland Park come to our school and get to experience fun activities that our WEB leaders help guide them through.



Circled Schools will be joining us for Articulation

During articulation, the fifth graders will be welcomed with an assembly about our school and learn how it feels to become a Burbank Bear. Then, they will participate in fun activities with Mr. Powell, our dean and along with Mr. Rozsa, our band/music teacher, and even Student Congress!

Mrs. Feinberg, our Magnet Coordinator, said, "Typically, we have the Drumline meet the fifth graders at the Figueroa gate, then they head into the MPR. Our Student Congress members welcome them with a speech, and then some of the students who take part in a rock band perform. After that, WEB leaders lead field day games and take the kids on a tour."

Articulation day not only helps encourage students to come to Burbank, but also shows off the Burbank magic that we have to offer at our school! Ms. Acosta, our seventh-grade counselor said, "We have the WOW factor!!! We show them EVERYTHING we have to offer - even lunch time (which turns out to be their favorite part of articulation day)."

Mrs. Lopez, a WEB advisor, said, "If I had to narrow it down, I would say our school stands out because of the wide variety of clubs we offer, our dedicated and amazing teachers and staff, and our beautiful campus." Mrs. Lopez also included that we are an award-winning school and recognized as a 2026 Magnet School of Excellence and a California Distinguished School.

Student Spotlight: Jayson Gomez

By Leonel Duong and August Nunez

Jayson Gomez is a kind-hearted soul in our community. He is in 7th grade and likes to play basketball during nutrition and lunch.



His friends say he is outgoing, adventurous, and playful. He is a polite and positive person. Jayson loves to see his friends everyday at school and usually plays with them during nutrition and lunch.

Besides playing basketball, soccer and volleyball, he also enjoys playing ukulele and bass. Jayson is not the only athlete in his family; his dad also likes to play sports. His favorite subject is band. His family consists of his mom, dad, and his cat. Jayson also likes to play video games like Roblox. On Roblox, Jayson plays Slap Battles, Grow a Garden, and Piggy.

Ms. Castro, his English teacher, had some great things to say about him. She said, "Jayson is very focused, hardworking, and a good partner. He comes in everyday being himself, he's just Jayson!" She added, "He is very helpful to his classmates. He's willing to help others."

Franklin Schedules 8th Graders for Classes.

By Pavel Marrull

Franklin High School counselors visited our school last month and helped eighth graders choose their classes.

Ms. Harper, the eighth-grade counselor said, "Students will be given the opportunity to make a choice in what type of classes they want." Students will be able to



choose their classes even if they are not going to Franklin.

Mr. Caizapanta, one of the Franklin counselors, said, "Franklin is programming the eighth graders so that we know what classes students want." Mr. Caizapanta also said, "They will be able to sign up for classes like Spanish, Elective, English, Math, Science, Health, P.E., and Ethnic Studies."



Bears Celebrate Lunar New Year

By Sophia Tong and Alyce Amador

This past month, beginning February 17 for two weeks, most of Asia and other parts of the world, including the United States, celebrated Lunar New Year.

One nation that celebrates Lunar New Year is China. Their Lunar New Year is based off a legend that takes place in a village. The story goes that when a dragon or beast named Nian came in the village to destroy it, the people that lived in the village wore red to protect themselves and had red decorations to scare off the beast. They also used firecrackers. When the bad spirit hears the loud noises, it would go away. This legend is the foundation of many Chinese traditions.

China is not the only nation that celebrates Lunar New Year. It is also celebrated in Vietnam, Korea, and many other countries.

This year, LBMS is celebrating Lunar New Year as a school by creating an intention coin for the Burbank Bonanza!

Ms. Wong said, "We were excited to plan a Monday advisory lesson around Lunar New Year this year,



and invited students to share about Lunar New Year on the morning announcements this month."

Here at LBMS we have students and staff from many different cultures that recognize and celebrate Lunar New Year. It is a time for us to learn about a tradition that is important to people in our school and community. It's also a chance to build respect and appreciation for the diversity of our campus.

Upcoming Student Event Calendar

By Kimberly Puac and Natalie Rios

Date	Spirit Day
March 17	St. Patrick's Day (wear green)
April 10	Spring Dance
April 17	TBD (To Be Determined)
April 23	Denim Day
May 1	Dress like a superhero
May 4	Dress like a Star Wars character
June 5	Sports Jersey Day