



December 18, 2025 – Issue #21

Math Night Grows Exponentially

By Pavel Marrull and Jimmy Martinez

Math night is a night where students can learn and enjoy mathematics with their families. This year's math night was held on November 20th from 5 to 6 PM. Students at LBMS participated in all types of math activities. According to Ms. Ceballos, "Math Night includes grade-level challenges, a scavenger hunt, math games, and an activity at vertical whiteboards. There is something fun and engaging for everyone!"

Part of the fun of Math Night is the raffle. Ms. Ceballos stated, "Families will receive one raffle ticket for every activity they complete. At the end of the event, we drew winners—one family per grade level—and each winning family took home a Thanksgiving turkey." Students also received a special button and free dress pass.

Eighth grader Aika said, "If I had the chance to go to math night again with my friends, I would go." Another eighth-grade student, Erwin, said "It is best to



enjoy math night with friends, so it can be fun."

Ms. Ceballos said, "It has been

exciting to see how participation has grown. Each year, more students and families come out, and we have added new activities, games, and tasks to make the night even more engaging for all grade levels." Math night has shown that it is a worthwhile event to be a part of.

Winter Dance

By Eleanor Cortes & Sophia Tong

This year Congress will host the winter dance before we go on break. The winter dance is an event that happens every year in the multi-purpose room. Tickets are two dollars and have been on sale since the beginning of December. There will be food, such as pizza, soda, chips, and water.

This year the winter dance will feature two student DJs: Charlotte and Adeline. Our DJ that we had in the past is now teaching kids to spin music on their own. You will also be able to request any song you like if it is school-appropriate.

The winter dance will have all kinds of decorations that relate to a winter theme
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"The Pride of Highland Park" Winter Academy Provides Many Opportunities

By Zai'lee Matthews and Kimberly Puac



Winter Break is approaching soon, and so is the LAUSD 'Winter Academy.' Winter Academy is an enrichment program that provides students with both academic support and enrichment teaching. To describe it simply, the program is extra learning during the last week of Winter Break.

The program's educational opportunities consist of Visual & Performing Arts, STEAM, Movement/Exercise, Social Emotional Learning, ELA, Mathematics, Financial Literacy, and free, healthy and delicious meals. It will happen between January 5th and 9th, 2026.

Principal Gastelum said, "Winter academy is an extra week of enrichment and intervention at the end of Winter Break. It is designed to help students who might be struggling and provide more learning opportunities for students who want to learn some fun new things!"

There's not much of a difference in schedule, Ms. Gastelum says that, "The schedule is 8-3 so it is similar to regular school, however you would only be with 1 or 2 teachers during the day," and most importantly, you do not have to wear a uniform!

Winter Academy is also useful when you are failing a specific class, according to Principal Gastelum, "There is an opportunity for students who have failing grades to work with their current teacher for extra work to do during that time in order to improve their grades but that would be for students who make that agreement with their teacher."

Student Nohemi Garcia, shared her personal experience with reporters, "It was great, I didn't know anybody at first, but eventually I met a couple of new people." We then indulged in conversation about her educational experience, "It was a good experience. I got better at things like math and science."

Winter Academy is a fantastic opportunity to catch up and get ready for the Spring semester.

Mr. Feinberg's Advisory – Y22 LBMS Brings Back Thanksgiving Food Drive

By Siani Avila

Thanksgiving is full of fun events that include food, family, and love. It is also a day when families get together and celebrate! But, what about families who cannot afford food over holidays? This year, LBMS has brought back the Thanksgiving Food Drive to support families so everyone can have a Thanksgiving meal.

Ms. Wohl, our community school coordinator, said, "We are planning to make the Thanksgiving Food Drive an annual event. We would also like to collect food at other times of the year."



One idea that has come up from our Community School surveys is to have an LBMS Food Pantry, which would be a closet somewhere on our campus that always has dry goods and non-perishable food for families who need it."

The Thanksgiving Food Drive encouraged LBMS's advisories to donate canned food and boxed items. The types of food included beans, corn, rice, stuffing, and other thanksgiving staples.

LBMS advisories competed to donate food items for families in need. At first, Ms. Vargas and Ms. Ramirez advisory led with eighty-three items. But in the end, Ms. Vargas advisory had an amazing comeback and donated

seventeen more cans of corn. Ms.

Vargas's advisory won the most donated items, but since it was such a good rally, Ms. Vargas's & Ms.

Ramirez's advisories both got Mando's fries for their reward!

Ms. Wohl explained how the food will be delivered to families in need. "We put a google form on ClassDojo and Schoology so that families could request food or nominate a family to get food. We also had some families contact either Ms. Lee, our PSA, or Ms. Gaby in the parent center and request food that way."

The Thanksgiving Food Drive allowed many families to come together as a community.



Bears March in Holiday Parade

By Nicole Guzman and Natalie Rios



The Highland Park Holiday Parade is an annual parade that is usually held during the first weekend of December. This year marks the parade's 96th anniversary.

Several LBMS groups participated this year including Police Academy, Cheer Team, the Basketball Team, Drumline. Thirty Police Academy cadets marched in the parade.

The parade lasted an hour and a half. Students who participated had to show up at 12 PM and started marching at 1 PM.

Aryana Gomez said she, "felt excited but nervous while marching in the parade." She added, "I enjoyed it because of everyone who was cheering for me and the drumline group."

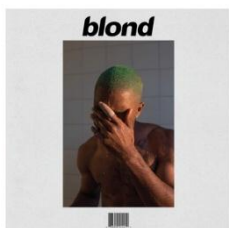
Album review:

Blond by Frank Ocean

By Violet Leyva and Emily Clinton

Frank Ocean is a Grammy award winning artist. He was born on October 28, 1987. He started making music in 2005 when he was just 17 years old!

His first singles were "Novocain" and "Swim Good." He has released four albums in his career. Two of those albums are available on streaming platforms like Spotify, Apple music, and others. He also has two albums that are not available on streaming. One of the released albums is titled Blond.



Blond features a genre of alternative R&B, hip hop, and pop. Blond was released in 2016. The album Blond has a unique style in music. The songs have much depth and a great meaning behind the lyrics, especially in the songs "Solo" and "Nights."

"Nights" is a very meaningful two-parted song. The first half represents youth and an outgoing relationship. When the beat changes, it represents how life can have major changes sometimes.

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Meet a Teacher: Mr. Taylor

By Leonel Duong and August Nunez

Mr. Taylor is an eighth-grade math teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School. Let us learn more about him!

Mr. Taylor has been teaching students for over ten years. He grew up in Ohio and went to the University of Michigan. He studied math and joined Math for America, a program that trains math teachers.



One of Mr. Taylor's most popular nicknames is "Tay Tay". Mr. Taylor explained the story: "The nickname 'Tay-Tay' goes back to my first year of teaching in 2015. When we were doing a field trip, I led students the wrong way to get to Meridian Gate and one student called out, 'Wrong way, Tay-Tay' which was heard by Ms. Roederer (the Assistant Principal at the time). Ms. Roederer started using that as a nickname for me, and it has stuck ever since."

Outside of school, Mr. Taylor has coached swimming athletes for almost 10 years. He was a swimmer himself. He once raced Michael Phelps in 2008. "I raced against Phelps in the 200-meter Breaststroke, which was one of his worst races. Unsurprisingly, he still beat me by several seconds...."

Izzy Go, one of Mr. Taylor's students, said, "A memorable experience I have of Mr. Taylor is on picture day he dressed up as Where's Waldo. It was super funny." She also said, "Mr. Taylor is a great person and a great teacher, and even though I don't like math that much, he still manages to make me enjoy his class."

Another student in Mr. Taylor's class, Hazel, said "Mr. Taylor is fun, enjoyable, and entertaining. It is always a fun time in his class. He is a great teacher and includes everyone in numerous fun activities... he is very funny and silly."

"Solo" is also a meaningful song, but it represents being alone. It focuses on self-love or respect during breakup.

Many Burbank students enjoy listening to Frank Ocean's music. Seventh grade student Amelia Yegoryan said, "Blond is a very meaningful album, and my favorite song is "Self Control."

Frank Ocean has not released new work in a while. Many believe he is never going to release a new album, even never appear to the public again. But some also believe he is working on a final project. What do you think?

LBMS Hosts Annual Posada

By Alyce Amador and Angelique Moreno

Do you know what a Posada is? A posada is a Mexican Christmas party tradition. At our school, it is a way to serve the community and help each other.

Traditionally, a posada celebrates the saints Mary and Joseph and their journey, symbolizing making room for Jesus. Typically, the children at the Christmas party hit a pinata with lots of candy and sometimes the pinata has money inside. Neighbors usually take turns hosting posadas.



At the LBMS Posada, there were lots of fun activities. There was food, candy bags, face painting, lots of fun games, and a photo booth for all the families to enjoy. Santa Claus even came all the way from the North Pole to visit our school and all the families that came to the Posada.

For the younger children, they received toys and the older children received gift cards. Families also received food to take home.

All of this was possible because of parent volunteers who helped with making and passing out food and



donating toys and gift cards. Some students also volunteered at the posada to help with planning it and making the Posada go smoothly. The Posada showed how we truly are a community school.

Winter Dance

(Continued from Front)

such as winter colors like red, green, and white. There will also be snowflakes projected on the roof and inflatables like snowmen. There will also be a photo booth for students and staff to take pictures.

The winter dance will be taking place on December 18; make sure to have fun and get your groove on!