

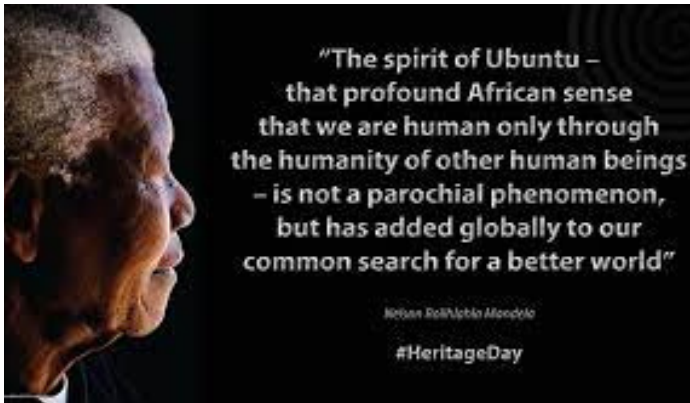
EYE OF THE TIGER

Issue No. 1 | September 8, 2023

Sawubona. Sikhona. Ubuntu: What Does it ALL Mean?



We are here to be seen. We see you!



Ubuntu—I am because of you

Welcome back to Long International Middle School; Sawubona! You may have seen the greeting **Sawubona** on my emails and my signature line, or heard it on my robo calls. What is this phrase and why do I say it? At Long International Middle School, we know that our students arrive to school daily authentically; they want and need to be seen as a person. So we say **Sawubona**, the Swahili greeting for “We see you.” We follow the greeting with **Sikhona**: *we are here to be seen*. This year, we are embracing another African notion **ubuntu**, meaning the spirit and essence of humanity. As an international school, we encourage, support, embrace, and practice the definition of community. So as you enter the school, or greet staff members and students, greet them with one of these phrases. **Sawubona!**

What's New at Long?

The VILS Lab is Open!

In April 2022, we were selected by Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, Arizona State University, and Heart of America to open the 1st Verizon Innovative Learning Lab in the state of Missouri. Our lab officially opened May 11, 2023, Our students are learning computer science, digital citizenship, virtual and augmented reality, using 3D printing, and coding several projects in the new lab! Check it out [HERE](#)





LIMS Spotlight



Open House, Sept 14th

We are hosting **Open House, Thursday, September 14th from 5-7 pm.** Meet your student's teachers, visit the new VILS Lab, get information on course curriculum, as well as our sponsors. We are excited to see you!

Cross Country Shout-out

Wednesday, September 6th, four students, Ronald Mottley, Peyton Anderson, Enock Mfitumukiza, and Craig Banks, participated in the Dick Gregory PHL Invitational for Cross Country. Peyton Anderson finished 8th overall! **Our next Cross Country meet is September 20th at Wilmore Park!**



Student Council at LIMS!

Student Council applications are open! Students interested in campaigning for Student Council Office/Committee should complete an application by September 13, 2023! Campaign begins September 15th!

Take 5: New Faces at Long

Mr. Jan Fanning--Assistant Principal



Our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Jan Fanning, brings experience, diversity, and a commitment to community to Long this year! Ubuntu, Mr. Fanning!

Cultural Background:

I was born in Kiev, Ukraine

Experience/Educational Background:

Physical Education Teacher (6 years)
Bachelors of Arts, Physical Education & Health; Masters of Arts in School Leadership

Why do you "BeLong at Long"?

My education, background, and unique experiences allow me to guide students to be the best version of themselves as well as introduce myself to other cultures and experiences to expand my understanding of values, beliefs, and traditions

Fun Fact:

I bowled a 300 twice in my life; both on the Wii

When I was in middle school,

I enjoyed sports, traveling, a RAZR cell phone, paying per text message, pizza parties, beaches, legos, movies, and zombies on CoD with the guys

Ms. Ana Rodriguez--School Secretary



Si! Mi hablo Español! Our new school secretary, Ms. Ana Rodriguez is welcoming, helpful, knowledgeable, and accommodating. Ubuntu, Ms. Rodriguez!

Cultural Background:

I am El Salvadorian and from Los Angeles, California

Experience/Educational Background:

Administrative Experience (10 years)
Bachelors of Arts, Psychology; currently working on my Masters degree

Why do you "BeLong at Long"?

I belong at Long because I am international!

Fun Fact:

My first job was dancing in the parade at Disneyland.

When I was in middle school,

I got sent home on Halloween for dressing up as the girl from the movie The Exorcist and doing my makeup exactly like the movie.