



school bulletin

ISSUED BI-WEEKLY SEPTEMBER THROUGH JUNE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 19, 2003

A Time to Celebrate

A recent weekend morning I stopped for coffee at the local donut shop. It was one of those days when I didn't comb my hair and hadn't shaved yet. I seldom do that. A parent came up to me and asked, "Aren't you Chris Steinhauer, the superintendent of schools?" A little sheepishly I said, "Yes, I am."

"I just want to tell you and your staff thank you," she said. "You're all doing an outstanding job. I'm the parent of three children in your school system and I couldn't be prouder."



That meant a lot to me, after the initial embarrassment of not looking the way I should have. But it reminded me of something so important--something we need to say to one another more often than we do.

So I'd like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you for the hard work that you put forth each day. You are making this truly the best urban school district in the nation.

One Great Game

Don Wallace, Poly Class of '70, has just published a new national bestseller about Poly and Long Beach. *One Great Game: Two Teams, Two Dreams, in the First-Ever National Championship High School Football Game*, published by Simon and Schuster, has just sold out of its first printing. Wallace spent a full year researching the powerful portrait of prep sports and a school now regarded as a beacon of public school excellence. Four generations of Wallaces played for the Jackrabbits.

Prize Will Honor LBUSD As a Top U.S. District

The Long Beach Unified School District will be honored as one of the top five urban school districts in the nation Monday, Sept. 22 at New York's Rockefeller Center. At that event, attended by members of Congress and the U.S. Secretary of Education, one of the five finalists will be named America's best urban school system by the Broad Foundation.

An exhaustive, independent study of the finalists showed they have done the best job raising achievement for students from all walks of life, breaking through language and income barriers to give all children their best chance at success. These five school systems will receive national recognition for narrowing the achievement gap between traditionally high achievers and students who have not fared as well.

"The Long Beach Unified School District is a great model of educational innovation, resourcefulness and dedication," said Eli Broad, Founder of The Broad Foundation and The Broad Prize. "It is critical that we recognize their success and share their strategies with educators and the public across the country."

The other 2003 finalists are Boston Public Schools, Garden Grove Unified School District, Jefferson County Public Schools in Kentucky, and Norfolk Public Schools in Virginia.

Each of the five finalists will receive at least \$125,000 in Broad scholarships. As a two-time finalist, Long Beach has earned at least \$250,000. The top winner receives \$500,000 for student scholarships.

A review board of 20 prominent education leaders from throughout the nation analyzed extensive data to determine the finalists. The Long Beach Unified School District provided more than 20,000 pieces of information on stu-

dent achievement alone. A team of researchers visited each district being honored. In Long Beach, the team visited Tucker Elementary School, Hill Classical Middle School and Wilson Classical High School, which along with nearby Poly High School was recently ranked by Newsweek as one of the top high schools in the nation.

"You are pillars of hope for other school districts," independent evaluator Jean Rutherford said during her recent visit to Long Beach schools. "You prove it can be done."

Last year's finalists were Long Beach, Garden Grove, Atlanta, Boston and Houston.

Record Enrollment Growth Slows a Bit

The steady enrollment growth of the past decade has slowed a bit this fall in the Long Beach Unified School District. On the tenth day of school, September 16, total enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District reached 97,713 students, a new record.

The student population here in California's third largest school district surpassed the same day last year by 320 students, less than expected.

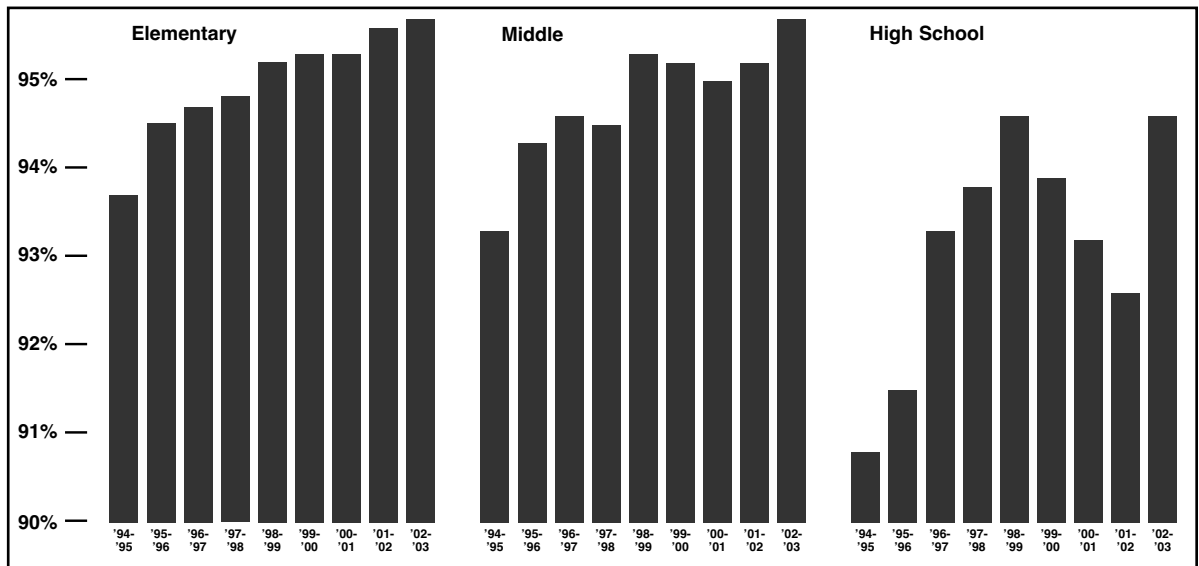
Middle schools had the largest increase, with enrollment totalling 23,025--726 more students on local campuses than a year ago.

High schools reported 26,439 students enrolled, up 521 students from 2002.

Elementary enrollment actually declined by exactly 900 students, with most of the decrease occurring in kindergarten. Even so, the current total of 45,431 elementary students is expected to increase all year. That has been the pattern in local elementary schools for many years.

ATTENDANCE UP--

At all grade levels--elementary, middle and high school--students in the Long Beach Unified School District last year broke all previous records for having the lowest absence rate and highest actual attendance rate since 1980. Since the inception of school uniforms in 1994, the growth in good attendance by students has accelerated to the highest levels in more than 20 years.



Schools' Website Attracts 25,000 Hits Monthly

The Long Beach Unified School District this week computed the number of times its new, redesigned website is being visited. An electronic tally recently revealed that www.lbusd.k12.ca.us is now attracting about 25,000 hits each month.

The school district recently added many improved, user-friendly features to the site, including a new alphabetical index--one of the quickest ways to find any school, office or service in the fewest number of mouse clicks.

The "Schools" and "Employment" sections have proved most popular so far, each attracting hundreds of web visits per day. The "Schools" section offers several ways to locate a school, including by clicking on a map of the

school district. Prospective homebuyers and renters can easily find their closest elementary, middle and high schools. The employment section offers links to information on teaching and non-teaching jobs in California's third largest school district. Prospective teachers and many other job candidates may apply for jobs online.

Parents also will find newly posted information under school subjects such as language arts, mathematics, history and science. A search engine powered by Google provides exhaustive word searches and rapid access to information.

Students, parents and others in the community will find sections designed just for them. Students can get help with homework, learn about college entrance requirements and print forms to request school transcripts. Parents can find timely, daily tips on helping their children to be successful, healthy and safe. Important information on enrollment policies and child immunizations is just a click away. A section for the community offers several ways to get involved in local schools.

News about schools is updated frequently. Articles are archived by year, date and headline. Community newsletters are now available online.

The district first launched its revamped home page and many other redesigned pages on January 31. This is the first major upgrade of the website in five years. The launch was the first phase of the website's redesign, and the district has continued to refine the site ever since.

Dates to Remember

October	Character Education Month Computer Learning Month Disabilities Employment Awareness Month Filipino American History Month National Crime Prevention Month Back to School Night--High School 8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Native American Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Study Skills: Take That Test," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
5-11	Fire Prevention Week National Metric Week
6	Yom Kippur
7	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Columbus Controversy" (Columbus Day), Grades 7-12, ed.tv 8
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Christopher Columbus," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
9	National Community Education Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "First Tuesday," Grade 12, ed.tv 8
11-12	Sukkot
13	Columbus Day/Discoverers' Day
14	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Beginning Responsibility: Learning to be a Good Sport," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Shape Hunting: Circles, Triangles, Rectangles, Squares," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
19-25	National School Bus Safety Week
21	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Library World," Grades 7-8, ed.tv 8
22	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Halloween," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
23-31	Red Ribbon Celebration
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Going to School is Your Job," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
24	United Nations Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Operation School Bus Safety: Be Cool, Follow the Rules," Grades K-2, ed.tv 8
25	Make a Difference Day
26	Standard Time Change Day
27	Ramadan--First Day
28	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
31	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Food for Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8

In Memoriam

Brandon Shamburg
instructional aide, Millikan
July 8, 2003

Arthea Newsom
former teacher
August 29, 2003

Selena Sutherland
former principal
August 25, 2003

The Job Board

Henry Elementary School is seeking a BCLAD teacher for a third grade two-way immersion class. Candidates must be fully bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish. For information, contact Olga Moraga at ext. 4625 or omoraga@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for chemical applications technician, choral accompanist, instructional assistant-computer resources, staff secretary-bilingual English/Spanish and supervisor-autism services.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

Official publication of the Long Beach Unified School District issued bi-weekly during the school year from the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 1515 Hughes Way, Long Beach, California 90810. (562) 997-8000. www.lbusd.k12.ca.us

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Parents, Kids Walk To School October 8

Walk to School Day is Wednesday, October 8, reminding parents and children of the simple joy of walking to school.

Walk to School Day brings parents, teachers, children and community leaders together to emphasize the importance of physical activity, safety and building walkable communities. This event also includes bicycle riding.

Many short trips once made by walking and bicycling have been replaced by automobile travel. Children are playing more indoors, watching television or playing on the computer. Meanwhile, the number of overweight, sedentary children is growing at an alarming rate, putting them at risk of life-long health problems. Walk to School Day promotes physical activity and encourages both children and adults to go outside and walk.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Angela Arellano, middle school office supervisor, Franklin;

Enio Barrientos, plant supervisor II, Franklin;

Patricia Bowers, instructional aide special education, Prisk;

Cecilia Brooks, food service supervisor III, Poly;

Lori Caputi, library/media assistant, Holmes/Riley/Mann;

Lisa Charter, intermediate food service worker, Millikan;

Lawrence Clayton III, plant supervisor II, Tincher;

Norma Escorcica, instructional aide-special education, Signal Hill;

Vilma Hidalgo, Health Start site specialist bilingual, Healthy Start;

George Hinz, instructional aide-special education, Franklin;

Frances Lerlo, elementary school office supervisor, Bryant;

Juan Madan, instructional aide-special education, Muir;

Laura Martinez, middle school office supervisor, Monroe;

Lorraine Ortiz, instructional aide-special education, MacArthur;

Yolanda Pineda, intermediate food service worker, Barton;

Joyce Pinto, assistant director, Food and Nutrition Services, Food Services;

Terry Reichardt, middle school office supervisor, Stephens;

Beth Roman, senior food service worker, Sutter;

Maria Umana, intermediate food service worker, MacArthur.

Find a Few Spares

The organizational meeting of the TALB Bowling League will be held at Cal Bowl on Wednesday, September 24 at 4 p.m. in the conference room. Teams consist of three members, one of whom must be a district employee. The bowling league meets every Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m. All school employees are welcome to participate. For information, contact June Murty, 925-6124.