



school bulletin

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

November 26, 2003

CAMS Leads California in UC Admissions

A study by UC Berkeley sociologists found that the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) is the most successful public school in the state at preparing under-represented minorities and low income students for the University of California.

The study, reported in the Nov. 19 *Los Angeles Times*, found that while California high schools in affluent areas send the most graduates to UC, CAMS is beating the odds. It is competitive not only with top public schools but also with elite private schools.

"A notable exception in the study is CAMS," the *Times* wrote. "The school's percentage of graduates admitted to UC is 68.6 percent... But the school does not have an affluent student population--43 percent of its students qualify for subsidized meals, 13 percent of students are African American and 32 percent are Latino."

Only one public school--Whitney High, a

selective school in Cerritos--had a higher acceptance rate, but it has only 4 percent of its students on subsidized meals, 1.7 percent African American and 6.3 percent Latino students. Only nine elite private schools had UC acceptance rates above 70 percent.

CAMS serves 600 high school students at the Cal State Dominguez Hills campus in Carson. The school's head counselor, Barry Baker, told the *Times* that high expectations and personalized attention are responsible for the large number of graduates admitted to UC.

CAMS' requirements exceed UC admission criteria. CAMS students take the equivalent of six years of science and four years of math, including calculus. Most students also take a college planning course.

A Banner Year for National Awards

I could not be more thankful that the Long Beach Unified School District--America's Best Urban Schools--have earned an unprecedented number of national honors in 2003. Any school district would be fortunate to receive just one of these honors. But to earn so many

top awards in just a few months is an incredible testament to the outstanding work being done in our schools every day. Despite these national awards, we know our work is not done. We believe these accolades recognize a good school system that's getting even better. Consider a few recent signs of tremendous progress:



The Broad Foundation named our district as the top national winner of the 2003 Broad Prize for Urban Education. The prize and \$500,000 in scholarships recognize the best urban school system in the nation, based on an exhaustive review by national education experts. Eli Broad, Founder of the Broad Foundation, said our district is "leading the nation in overall student achievement while closing achievement gaps."

Millikan High School teacher Nader Twal received a \$25,000 surprise award from the Milken Family Foundation. The Milken National Educator Award, dubbed by Teacher Magazine as the "Oscar of Teaching," recognizes America's best educators. This superb English and philosophy teacher earned national recognition as a highly talented, inspirational educator whose classroom practices are among the best in the U.S.

Long Beach Unified School District Head Start earned the highest of U.S. honors by

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HI, MOM--One of the first customers for the district's newest Head Start center waves to parents who will be learning nearby at the Long Beach Job Corps Center located at the same site.

Head Start Center Opens at Job Corps

Long Beach Job Corps Center hosted an open house recently to celebrate the opening of its new Long Beach Unified School District Head Start facility. The new Head Start Center will serve the Long Beach community and the Long Beach Job Corps students and graduates.

The newest Head Start program, which is now open for enrollment, helps Long Beach Job Corps to provide the tools for a better future for parents and their children.

"The need is great in the community we serve," said Head Start director Gwen Mathews. "Thanks to this innovative partnership, Head Start can expand its services to children and help more families."

"This is a great partnership," said center director Michelle Allen. "It is a wonderful resource for many Job Corps students who have young children."

"We are thrilled with this new facility which affords more people with children an opportunity to enter the workforce."

Head Start provides preschool children of low-income families with services to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs.

At the same location on Santa Fe Avenue, Job Corps' comprehensive residential career training and education provide low-income youth, ages 16-24, with integrated academic, vocational and social skills training needed to gain independence and pursue long-term

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Renaissance Arts To Boost Performance

Renaissance Career Academy plans to offer many additional courses in performing and visual arts next fall, subject to approval of a grant that would provide up to \$1.5 million over three years.

The magnet arts focus is part of a plan to boost achievement and college readiness at the downtown Long Beach school, Principal Mark Zahn said.

"Renaissance is looking at three ways to close the achievement gap," said Zahn. "First, we've upgraded course offerings to encourage more students to meet the A-G University of California requirements. Second, we're improving instruction. Third, we're motivating students to attend. The arts classes will help encourage excellent attendance."

The school already has been renamed Long Beach Renaissance High School for the Arts. This fall it added courses in dance and digital art to complement its drawing and painting, beginning dance and introduction to theater classes. The federal grant of \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually for three years would help pay for renovations, equipment and teacher training. The grant also would fund choral performance, web design and play production classes.

Students throughout the school district would audition to enter the school, beginning with next fall's freshmen. By eleventh grade, students would have to pick an elective focus. Students currently enrolled will not be required to audition.

Renaissance administrators will find out in March or April whether or not their grant is approved, Zahn said.

"We're optimistic," he said. "This school has a strong track record of attracting major grants."

• A Banner Year

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meeting or exceeding all 700 federal requirements during an independent evaluation and exhaustive week-long review. A national expert called Long Beach Head Start the best she'd ever seen. This early childhood education is crucial to our success as a school system.

Brilliant Harvard and UCLA professor, social commentator, prolific writer and Long Beach Jordan High School graduate James Q. Wilson received the nation's highest civilian honor from President George Bush, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. President Bush said Professor Wilson "may be the most influential political scientist in America since the White House was home to Professor Woodrow Wilson."

Newsweek's ranking of "America's Best High Schools" lists Wilson Classical High School and Polytechnic High School among the top 4 percent of U.S. high schools. Schools ranked by Newsweek have the greatest number of students taking Advanced Placement tests, compared to the number of graduating seniors. Graduates of these high schools save millions of dollars in college tuition each year by earning college credit on the difficult AP exams.

Seven district schools were recently named outstanding 2003 No Child Left Behind Title I Achieving Schools. Addams, Emerson, Gompers, MacArthur, Mann, Signal Hill and Robinson elementary schools earned the honor as high-achieving schools. Of 4,936 California schools receiving Title I funds, only 115 were selected as winners.

King-Edison Elementary School was honored as one of the 14 highest performing Edison Schools in the U.S. The school won the double Four-Star Achievement Award from the New York-based company. Vice principal Shivaun Stanton credited the success to "highly dedicated and focused teachers . . . strong support from our district and the support of our parents."

The Education Trust honored high-performing, high-improving and gap-closing schools and districts--the best in the nation--with its first annual Dispelling the Myth Awards. The district was honored for "helping to dispell the devastating myth that poor and minority children cannot learn to high academic levels," and for "fulfilling the true promise of American education for all of this nation's public school children."

These are all wonderful honors, and our students are the real winners. Congratulations to all have who made 2003 the most nationally recognized year in our school district's history.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Joanne Begley, staff secretary, Nursing Services;

Sheri Crew, senior food service worker, Sutter;

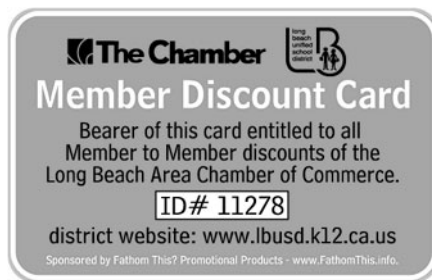
Christiane Jones, family service worker, Head Start;

Sonia Ocampo, family service worker, Head Start;

Roland Ticzon, purchasing office assistant, Food Service;

Nicole Tootill, intermediate office assistant, Head Start;

Lillian Velasquez, intermediate food service worker, Lakewood.



LB Chamber Offers Employee Discounts

Long Beach Unified School District's membership in the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce now entitles employees to member-to-member discounts at 150 local restaurants, shops, entertainment venues, and other retail establishments. The school district has arranged for each employee to receive a Member Discount Card. To obtain discounts of up to 60 percent, employees may show the card at participating merchants listed in the discount flier, which is being distributed with the cards to all employees this week.

This new discount card is a way for local businesses to express appreciation for all that Long Beach Unified employees do to make this district the best urban school system in the nation. More participating businesses offering discounts will be added in the months ahead.

Hi Hill Evacuees Back

Hi Hill Outdoor Science School has reopened after shutting down last month during major Southern California forest fires and high fire risk. Students from Henry Elementary School, who had been evacuated, returned to the camp for three days this week. The fire danger had cut short their five-day stay.

Some schools had to reschedule their visits for later in the school year, Hi Hill Principal Ken Mendonca said.

"If the weather holds out and we don't have any more problems, we should be able to accommodate each school for their five days this year," Mendonca said.

Although the closest fire was in Rancho Cucamonga more than 20 miles away, the U.S. Forest Service district ranger notified Hi Hill that the camp should be closed in late October as a precaution. Hi Hill is located near Mt. Wilson on 13 acres of the Angeles National Forest at an elevation of 4,250 feet.

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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First Lady Lauds LB

First Lady Laura Bush had high praise this week for the Long Beach Unified School District. In a written statement, she spelled out the significance of the 2003 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

"I send my deep admiration for your outstanding success in making the greatest overall improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps across ethnic and income groups," she wrote. "Your progress is a testament to wise leadership, sensitive and effective teaching, and inspired students."

Names in the News

Kristen Kendall and **Heidi Yansen**, Lakewood; and **Naomi Yonis**, Poly; won the Girl Scouts' Silver Award, the highest honor a Cadette can earn. They worked 120 hours on a campout for 120 scouts. Their Troop 154 leader is **RoxAnn Batovsky**, office assistant in Purchasing.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for Human Resource Services operations manager, lead custodian and school data technician.

• Head Start Center

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careers or higher education.

Long Beach Job Corps Center, one of 118 centers in the nation, serves Los Angeles and Orange counties with a campus that is home to more than 300 students plus 40 who commute daily. In addition to high school diploma and drivers education programs, students train for careers in a number of fields, including the culinary arts, hotel management, landscaping and automotive trades, business technologies and health care.

Since their inception in 1964, Job Corps has served more than 2 million youth, and Head Start has enrolled more than 21 million children, to break the poverty cycle by enabling economically disadvantaged people to gain independence.

Dates to Remember

December	
1	World AIDS Day
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
4	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Hanukkah/Passover," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "December Holidays," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
10	Human Rights Day
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Christmas," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
20-27	Hanukkah
22-Jan. 2	Winter Recess
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day
26	Non-Duty Equalization Day for 12-month employees
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa