



# school bulletin

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

February 20, 2004

## Foundation Presents 'State of Education'

The Long Beach Education Foundation will present its first-ever "State of Education Luncheon" on Thursday, February 26 at the Long Beach Hilton beginning with a reception at 11:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by The Boeing Co.

Long Beach Unified School District Superintendent Christopher J. Steinhauer will discuss education's major challenges and successes. He will be joined by Cal State Long Beach President Bob Maxson and Long Beach City College Superintendent-President Jan Kehoe. Former Long Beach City College Superintendent-President and current Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill will be the moderator. Students from the three education institutions will describe what it means to be a student at their schools.

"Economically, these are challenging times for all institutions," said Mike Murray, president of the Long Beach Education Foundation. "All levels of education are being asked to make do with less. Despite this, the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College, and Cal State are meeting the economic, social, and student population changes and challenges they're facing in a variety of ways. This is an important opportunity to get updated on their efforts."

The three education leaders will participate in a panel discussion moderated by the mayor. Their topics will include the Seamless Education effort that provides a complete education path for Long Beach students from kindergarten through the master's degree.

Tickets are \$50. For details call Judy Seal at 997-8054 or e-mail [jseal@lbsud.k12.ca.us](mailto:jseal@lbsud.k12.ca.us).

## Board Supports Bonds

The Board of Education this week approved a resolution supporting Proposition 55, a state bond measure that would provide about \$31.5 million in matching funds for school construction in the Long Beach Unified School District.

The March 2 ballot measure, also supported by the Teachers Association of Long Beach, would provide roughly \$20 million for a new elementary school at the site of the former Dooley's hardware store near Del Amo and Long Beach boulevards. About \$2.5 million would go to a project expanding Roosevelt Elementary School. Another \$6 million would be used to build a library and additional classrooms and offices at Colin Powell Academy, while \$3 million would go toward converting Sutter Elementary School to a middle school.

Prop. 55, the \$12.3 billion Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act, also would fund projects at state universities and community colleges, although most of the funding – about \$10 billion – would go to K-12 projects.



**FIFTIES FLASHBACK**--Cubberley's fashionable faculty opened the popular school in 1953-54 during a time of record baby-boom enrollment growth. Cubberley is celebrating its 50th anniversary today with a large reunion of former staff and students.

## Cubberley Celebrates Its First 50 Years

It opened in 1953-54 to the onslaught of post World War II Baby Boomers. Tracts of hundreds of new homes were sprouting in east Long Beach, and new families, including lots of ex-GI's, moved in and enrolled their kids. Now, a half century later, Cubberley is still going strong.

The district's first K-8 school and its first National Blue Ribbon School today celebrates its 50th anniversary. It was named for an Indiana educator who went on to teach at Harvard and Stanford. Elwood P. Cubberley developed management practices used by successful schools today.

Dr. Donald P. Ashley was the school's first principal.

"We started small because the surrounding area wasn't all built yet," said Ashley.

"We started with 400 children and grew to 800 by the end of the first year," he said.

"Every Monday it seemed we were enrolling new students and setting up new classrooms. It was an exciting time."

Those were the days of kids coming to school with marbles in their pockets, having nuclear disaster drills and watching the World Series in the cafeteria, according to Bill Welte, a kindergarten that first year. He and former Cubberley students, some flying in for the event from other states, will celebrate their fond memories with the school's former principals and teachers, current staff and students.

"I loved that school," said Welte. "It was such an optimistic time."

Attending the event will be alumni, former faculty and staff, guest speakers from the state,

city, CSULB, LBCC, reporters and TV crews. The U.S. Navy will present the colors, and the school will dedicate its 50th anniversary flag.

An international lunch will be hosted by local restaurants including Legends. Its owner, Gene Rotondo, was a Cubberley kindergarten in 1953. His father was the school's first custodian.

Students will assemble a time capsule of memorabilia from the school's first 50 years to be opened after its second 50 years. The time capsule will not be buried until the school gets the results of its 2004 California Distinguished School nomination.

"This has always been an extraordinary school," said Ashley. Current Cubberley Principal Michael Navia agreed. "All of our students feel in one way or another that it's a privilege to come to this school."

## Broad Scholarships

Nearly 500 students from high schools in the Long Beach Unified School District recently applied for \$500,000 in Broad Foundation scholarships. The school district earned the scholarships for students when it won the national 2003 Broad Prize for Urban Education. The prize honors the top urban school district in the nation for closing achievement gaps.

Finalists will be notified this month and must submit additional paperwork by March 8. Winners will be announced April 15. Individual scholarship amounts will vary.

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## Long Beach Reads 'Freedom Writers'

The "Freedom Writers Diary," a book written five years ago by local high school students and their teacher, Erin Gruwell, has been chosen for the third "Long Beach Reads One Book" event, with book week scheduled for Sunday, February 29 to Friday, March 5.

The week of activities promotes the appreciation of literature while creating a common ground for community discussion.

Gruwell, a former teacher at Wilson High School, discovered that most of her students had not heard of the Holocaust. She introduced them to books about tolerance in first-person accounts by Anne Frank and Zlata Filipovic, who chronicled her life in war-torn Sarajevo.

The students were inspired to write diaries showing their own struggles with poverty, violence, racism and other challenges they encountered. The diaries form the basis of the book. Citywide public discussions during book week will feature Gruwell and her students. For information, contact the Long Beach Public Library Foundation at 628-2441.

## Read Across America

Local schools will join in the National Education Association's annual Read Across America celebration in early March. Several events on or near Dr. Seuss's March 2 birthday will celebrate reading and Seuss's 100th birthday anniversary.

Schools participate by inviting guests to read to children and share why reading is so important. Nationwide, elected officials will recognize the importance of reading while athletes and actors will issue reading challenges to young readers. Many guest readers will wear *The Cat in the Hat* headgear.

Read Across America began seven years ago and has since become the nation's largest celebration of reading.

For information, visit [www.nea/readacross](http://www.nea/readacross) and [seussentennial.com](http://seussentennial.com).

## • Broad Scholars

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Winning students who enroll in a four-year college or university will receive \$2,500 renewable for four years, or a total of \$10,000 each. Students who enroll in a community college or trade school will receive \$1,250 renewable for two years, or a total of \$2,500 each.

The scholarships are awarded to seniors with a minimum 2.75 grade point average who show financial need and significant academic improvement in high school.

The Broad Foundation last year awarded \$125,000 in scholarships to 14 local high school seniors. The school district earned those scholarships by qualifying as one of five finalists for the inaugural 2002 Broad Prize.

## The Job Board

A sixth grade Spanish dual immersion math position will be open next year at DeMille Middle School. The teacher must be able to teach math in Spanish. Contact Principal Tim Spivey at ext. 4500 to schedule an interview.

## Smithsonian Week Brings Fossils To Life

Students and teachers can participate in several dinosaur-related events, free of charge, to celebrate Smithsonian Week in Long Beach from Monday, March 8 to Friday, March 12. The annual celebration is sponsored by the Public Corporation for the Arts.

**Dino Soiree:** School staff can meet and mingle with the creators of four intriguing dinosaur-related temporary public art projects. The free event is scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 8 at Utopia Good Food & Fine Art Restaurant, 445 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Reservations are required. Call 570-1930.

**Dinosaurs for Teachers, Parents and Other Living Fossils: How to be Smarter Than Your Kids!** Dr. Michael Brett-Surman, Smithsonian dinosaur scholar, has formatted this slide lecture just for teachers, parents and adults. It covers popular misconceptions about dinosaurs and how dinosaur paleontology can be used to teach other topics more effectively, including math, history and science. This free event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at the Long Beach Playhouse, 5201 E. Anaheim. Reservations are requested. Call 570-1930.

**Dinosaurs are Popping Up:** International School's fifth grade students from the CORAL (Communities Organizing Resources to Accelerate Learning) after-school project invite employees to attend a colorful reception sponsored by the Public Corporation for the Arts, CORAL and the downtown Main Library to showcase the students' pop-up dinosaur books. This is a special feature of Smithsonian Week activities with dinosaur scholar Brett-Surman. The pop-up books will be on display during the month of March. The free reception is scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, March 11 at the Long Beach Public Library, 101 Pacific Ave.

**Dinomania!** This free family event is sponsored in part by Charter Communications and Discovery Networks. Outside the Cinemark Theatres at The Pike will be dinosaur games, prizes, characters, photos and live reptiles with an animal handler. At 7:30 p.m. inside Cinemark Theatres on a first-come, first-seated basis, Smithsonian dinosaur scholar Brett-Surman will lead a tour of the Mesozoic World (elementary school level presentation). The

events run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 12 at Cinemark Theatres, second level at The Pike at Rainbow Harbor, Pine Avenue and Shoreline Drive. Parking is free.

**Dinosaur Public Art:** Here's a unique opportunity to see, touch and experience four dinosaur-related public art projects: flying pterodactyls in Bluff Park; massive dinosaur bones and displays in Cesar Chavez Park on Golden Avenue; a fierce, glowing Tyrannosaurus rex in East Village Art Park, and a giant dinosaur puzzle in Houghton Park.

**Dino Quiz:** Children under 12 can compete for a prize trip to Washington, D.C. Log onto [smithsonianweek.com](http://smithsonianweek.com) to download quiz. Return the quiz to PCA by March 5. Mail to 434 East Broadway, Long Beach, CA 90802.

The Smithsonian Institution each year brings guest speakers and programs to Long Beach during Smithsonian Week. The center for research is dedicated to public education, national service and scholarship in the arts, sciences and history. The Smithsonian is comprised of 16 museums and galleries, nine of which are located between the Washington Monument and the Capitol.

## Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

**Susan Anderson**, facilities use technician, Purchasing;

**Israel Esparza**, groundskeeper, Operations; **Anna Maria Santos**, intermediate office assistant, Head Start;

**Cara Schelling**, kids club supervisor I, Keller Kids Club;

**Jerome Thomas**, grounds equipment operator I, Operations.

## Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for library/media assistant, library/media center assistant and computer equipment support manager.

## Millikan Musical

The Millikan High School Fine Arts Department will present the award-winning Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific." Performances are in the Millikan High School Auditorium on March 4, 5 & 6 at 6:30 p.m., with a matinee on Saturday, March 6 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. For more information call Bonnie Annes at x4142.

## Nurse Nominees

Do you work with or know of an exceptional school nurse? Does she go above and beyond? If so, the Long Beach School Nurses Association wants to hear from you.

Each year, one outstanding nurse is recognized for her contribution to the children of LBUSD and is named "School Nurse of the Year." For more information and a nomination form, contact Terrie Haynes, RN in Nursing Services, ext. 7172. The deadline for nominations is March 31.

## Names in the News

**Lani Drake**, a Millikan math coach who works with Algebra AB teachers and students, was recently awarded \$2,000 from Citigroup Foundation.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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