



school bulletin

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

March 5, 2004

TALB, District Reach Tentative Agreement On Health Benefits

The Long Beach Unified School District and the Teachers Association of Long Beach reached a tentative agreement on health benefits this week. The contract is subject to ratification by TALB members later this month and the Board of Education in early April.

The Teachers Association and school district issued a joint statement this week calling the tentative agreement a fair compromise:

"TALB and school district negotiators have worked together to protect high quality, affordable health care. At the same time, we have agreed on reasonable cost controls. Teachers will continue to receive health care benefits that are among the best in the state, with more choices than ever."

Details of the tentative agreement will be posted soon on the TALB website at www.talb.org and on the district website at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us.

CSEA and district representatives met Thursday to make certain that all classified and non-represented personnel will receive comparable benefits. Details will be available soon.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Monday, March 8, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Millikan High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

State of Education: Low Funds, High Honors

Superintendent Chris Steinhauser joined the leaders of Cal State Long Beach and Long Beach City College at a recent first-ever "State of Education Luncheon" spotlighting Seamless Education and efforts to make the most of lean school budgets.

Steinhauser said local K-12 schools have added to their list of major achievements since winning the 2003 national Broad Prize for Urban Education last fall. Despite more than \$42 million in cuts caused by California's budget crunch, schools in the Long Beach Unified School District continue to earn top state and national honors:

- A record 29 of the district's elementary schools, or roughly half, are in the running for the 2004 California Distinguished School Award -- the most candidates for this award in the district's history.

- Fourteen schools recently were named Title I Achieving Schools, double the number that earned this honor last year.

- Ninety-nine percent of the district's schools have met and often far exceed the state's most recent academic performance index growth targets. Many schools have tripled or quadrupled the state's goals. Some schools improved by more than 10 times their targeted growth.

- More Long Beach teachers recently earned their profession's highest honor -- National Board Certification -- bringing the total number of nationally certified teachers in the district to 59 over the past three years.

The school district is taking steps to begin to reduce class size in grades four and five, Steinhauser said. It is also reducing busing by building new schools closer to where students live.

About 300 education, business and commu-

nity leaders attended the luncheon, presented by the Long Beach Education Foundation and sponsored by Boeing.

"These achievements do not occur by accident," Steinhauser said. "They happen because of visionary leadership by our Board of Education."

The audience gave a standing ovation to retiring Board of Education President Bobbie Smith when Steinhauser thanked her for her 16 years of service.

Steinhauser was joined by Cal State Long Beach President Bob Maxson and Long Beach City College Superintendent-President Jan Kehoe. Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill, moderated the discussion. She praised Long Beach's nationally recognized Seamless Education effort.

Seamless Education is a smoothly linked system that coordinates curriculum and teacher training, helping students advance from kindergarten through graduate school.

"I hope you realize how fortunate we are. You just have to know how important these three people are," O'Neill said, referring to Steinhauser, Maxson and Kehoe as "leaders of the leaders" who have brought Long Beach to the forefront in every phase of education.

"They are important not just to their institutions but to their profession throughout the U.S." O'Neill said. "They are united. They are committed. They are good human beings. I want you to know how unique it is that they work together. It's awesome what they've accomplished. It's good for our cities, and it's best for our students."

With all three institutions facing deep cuts, and Cal State Long Beach being forced to turn away thousands of qualified students, Steinhauser said the crucial challenge will be to prepare students for college and then assure their access to higher education. Maxson agreed.

"You can't change your mission based on the frailties of the economy," the Cal State Long Beach president said. "We can't get short of breath. We can't get off task. The Governor's proposed budget is a best-case scenario. After his May revise, in our judgment, it will not get any better. We must maintain the quality of education."

Kehoe described current challenges as "the perfect storm" with more students and less funding. Community colleges have been asked to take 10 percent of the students from CSU and UC who need remedial courses.

Students from the three education institutions described what it means to attend school in Long Beach. Millikan High School's student body president, David Dirks, gave his school high marks for academics.

"I truly couldn't have picked a finer school," Dirks said. "We recently surpassed our Academic Performance Index target, like many of our other high schools. The teachers and administrators really care about the students in Long Beach."



LOOK IT UP-- These International School third graders participated in the second annual Dig My Dictionary Game at the Long Beach Main Library. They race through their dictionaries to answer the next question. The Public Library Foundation and the Earl B. and Loraine H. Miller Foundation donated 9,000 dictionaries, enough to provide one to every eager third grader in the district.

Guests in Schools Read Across America

Record numbers of adults, many wearing fanciful, eye-catching hats, scrunched into pint-sized chairs and desks in local elementary classrooms early this week to read Dr. Seuss and other stories to kids. The reason? Read Across America on the 100th birthday of the late Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, who wrote dozens of whimsical verse children's books.

"Delighting kids with these stories reminds us all of the joy of reading," said Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, who read to children at Edison Elementary School.

One Long Beach Unified School District alumna used the occasion to donate funds to encourage reading. Patricia Yvonne Leroux, who attended Grant Elementary School starting as a kindergartner, gave \$10,000 to the school to purchase library furniture.

Assistant Superintendent Karen DeVries said that reading is the top priority in all 60 elementary schools here. She also read at Addams and was invited to other well attended Read Across America events at Lafayette, Burcham, Burroughs, Gant, Gompers, Henry and other elementary schools where Cat in the Hat sightings were reported.

John Osqui, LBUSD director of maintenance, donated two shopping carts of books to Addams. They will be on sale in the school store for "Addams Dollars" which students earn for doing homework, good attendance and conduct.

Names in the News

Winners of the Districtwide Fourth Grade Spelling Bee held this week at the Main Library in downtown Long Beach are 1st-**Saul Botello**, Kettering; 2nd- **Mary Phaly**, Whittier; 3rd-**James Manlulu**, International; 4th-**Eunice Torrecampo**, Twain; and 5th-**Dierdra Hernandez**, Bixby. The best spellers from 36 schools took part.

Winners of the annual Norman Gottlieb Youth Art Show are High School 1st-**Juan Amozoc**, Wilson; 2nd-**Sarah Khon**, Poly; 3rd-**John Burtle**, Wilson; Honorable Mention-**Kelsey Parhouse**, Wilson; **Billy Anaya**, Cabrillo; and **Naomi Lan**, Lakewood; Middle School 1st-**Kyle Zirkle**, Bancroft; 2nd-**Yessica Escamilla**, Stephens; 3rd-**Holly Ton**, Butler; Honorable Mention-**Gabriella Gonzalez**, Stanford; **Stephanie O'Ryan**, Marshall; and **Jordan Gahol**, Stephens. The Gottlieb show is one of the few juried art shows available to students in Long Beach.

Grace Davies and representatives of the California Retired Teachers Association/Long Beach Division recently donated \$1,000 for scholarships for Renaissance Career Academy students.

In Memoriam

Maria Javier
teacher, Twain
February 5, 2004

Mory Ouk
teacher, Whittier
February 24, 2004

Teach in Yokkaichi

An information meeting for LBUSD teachers interested in teaching in Long Beach's sister city, Yokkaichi, Japan for one year beginning in August will be held Tuesday, March 23, 4 p.m. at the Teacher Resource Center Room A. For information, call ext. 8100.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for instructional aide-speech and language communication, intermediate office assistant, intermediate office assistant-schools, instructional assistant-intensive behavioral treatment and risk management director.

Dates to Remember

March	American Red Cross Month Music in Our Schools Month National Middle Level Education Month National Nutrition Month Women's History Month Youth Art Month
5	Black American Day
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Charles Russell: His Personal West" (Art), Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
7	Conservation, Bird & Arbor Day
8	International Women's Day
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Struggle for Women's Rights" (Susan B. Anthony's Birthday), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
10	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Alexander Graham Bell," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
11	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Taking Care of Your School Building" (Public Schools Week Preparation), Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "One Fine Day" and "Take the Power" (Women's History Month), Grades 3-12, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Ask For It" (Drug Education), Grades 1-2, ed.tv 8
17	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
18	Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
18	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Indian Artists of the Southwest," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Cesar Chavez," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
24	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 25 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Adventures in Poetry 1," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
29-April 2	Public Schools Week
30	Open House--Middle Schools
30	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Velveteen Rabbit" (Literature), Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
30	5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 31 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30-- "KZH Highlights," ed.tv 6
30	5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00; 31 - 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00-- "VIPS Is," Channel 6
30	5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30; 31 - 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30-- "ed.news," ed.tv 12
30	5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00-- "Adventures in Poetry," ed.tv 8
30	6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30; 31 - 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30-- "Indochinese Culture, Part I: Their Countries and Educational Background," ed.tv 10
31	Cesar Chavez Day
31	Open House--High Schools
April 1	Open House--Elementary Schools

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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Legislators Laud District's Excellence

Lawmakers in session in Sacramento congratulated the Long Beach Unified School District this week for winning the \$500,000 national Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Superintendent of Schools Chris Steinhauser accepted a proclamation from the Legislature honoring the district for being named America's best urban school system. The school district was applauded by members in both the state Assembly and Senate.

"On behalf of our Board of Education, our teachers, principals, parents and students, I'd like to thank the Senate and Assembly for giving us this honor," Steinhauser said at the Capitol. "We know that the challenge ahead of us is to make sure every student succeeds. We're very proud of our accomplishments, and very proud of your support."

During her presentation, State Senator Betty Karnette quoted philanthropist Eli Broad:

"Your district is leading the nation in overall student achievement while closing achievement gaps. No other Broad Prize finalist reduced ethnic and income-based achievement gaps in as many categories as Long Beach."

National Publication Features Cabrillo

Education Week's new report, "Quality Counts 2004," includes a feature story on Cabrillo High School's efforts to give special education students the extra support they need to meet higher graduation standards.

Long Beach Unified School District last year launched intensive intervention to assist students who have learning disabilities.

"Already, it is seeing promising test scores," wrote Education Week's Joetta Sack. Cabrillo has begun attracting special education students from outside the neighborhood. Parents speak highly of special education at the school.

"The teachers are willing to modify assignments and assist kids," Cabrillo parent Ginny Gilman told Education Week. "I'm very impressed with the attitude of the school and its willingness to adapt."

Sack reported excellent cooperation among general and special education teachers, who attend the same professional development sessions. General education teachers fill out an evaluation on each student every two weeks to alert special education teachers to any problems. Cabrillo also offers special education students Strategies for Success classes that teach note taking, how to use a daily planner, and other key study skills.

The Education Week report examined a nationwide challenge posed by federal law. Within a decade, all students - including those with disabilities - must perform at proficient levels on state tests. For the nation's nearly 6.6 million children receiving special education services, the federal mandate is a challenge of "unprecedented proportions," according to Education Week. Cabrillo's efforts serve as a national example of how to boost test scores and help all students earn a diploma.

The report is available at www.edweek.org.

"We have the opportunity to get an education and make something of ourselves."

--Anne Frank
July 6, 1944