



# school bulletin

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

January 23, 2004

## 29 Schools Eligible for Distinguished Honors

The Long Beach Unified School District has a record 29 elementary schools that are eligible to apply for the 2004 California Distinguished School Award--the most in the district's history.

California's best elementary schools will be honored this year. To be eligible, schools with APIs of 699 to 799 must have at least 95 percent participation for all subgroups on state tests and must meet or exceed the school's

growth target by at least five points.

LBUSD schools eligible to apply are Alvarado, Birney, Bixby, Buffum, Burbank, Burroughs, Cubberley, Fremont, Gant, Harte, Henry, Holmes, International, Keller, Kettering, Lafayette, Longfellow, Lowell, MacArthur, Madison, Mann, Naples, Newcomb, Riley, Robinson, Roosevelt, Signal Hill, Stevenson and Tucker. Next year, eligible middle and high schools may apply.

## Teachers' Early Retirement Plan Announced

To reduce costs, the Long Beach Unified School District hopes to offer an early retirement incentive plan this spring to teachers and administrators.

The proposal now being considered by the Board of Education would provide eligible employees who choose the plan an extra 5 percent of final pay each year for life. A retiring teacher making \$60,000 annually would receive an extra \$250 per month.

Teachers choosing the plan would technically retire April 1, but actually would work until the end of the school year. During their final three months, they would receive an amount equal to their current salary through a combination of state retirement benefits, the district's 5 percent incentive and "emeritus pay" to make up the difference.

Teachers could choose to receive the incentive money in annual installments through a period of from five to 15 years.

The district hopes to save about \$1 million if enough teachers--at least 190--sign up, said Tomio Nishimura, chief business and financial officer. If fewer than 190 of the 800 eligible teachers choose the plan, the incentive will not be offered.

"We are getting the word out to teachers

and our goal is to get 190 teachers to sign up," said TALB president Tony Diaz, who supports the early retirement incentive.

A proposal for a similar early retirement plan for administrators is now being considered.

Last November, the district rejected a state-authorized option that would have given eligible employees credit for two additional years of service and age when calculating retirement benefits. The so-called "two-plus-two" plan would not have produced any savings, according to Nishimura.

To be eligible, employees must be either 50 years of age or older with 30 STRS service years of teaching (the last five consecutive in Long Beach Unified), or 55 years of age with a minimum of five years of STRS service years experience in Long Beach Unified.

Eligible teachers have a deadline of Friday, February 27 to apply for the plan. Informational sessions for certificated non-management employees will be held at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on January 26 at Marshall Middle School, and during the same hours on January 28 at Newcomb Academy. A meeting for certificated managers will be scheduled for early February.

## Diverse Schools Here Beat the Federal Odds

John Novak, Research, Planning and Evaluation administrative assistant, co-authored a recent scholarly article that attracted the attention of the New York Times by pointing out inequities in the No Child Left Behind federal school evaluation criteria.

Despite these inequities, most schools in the Long Beach Unified School District are attaining their growth targets under No Child Left Behind. Long Beach has the most diverse population in the nation.

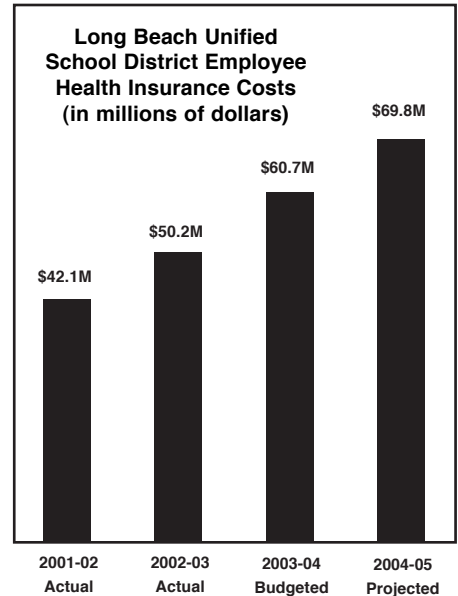
"Penalizing Diverse Schools: Similar Test Scores But Different Students Bring Federal Sanctions" appeared as a Policy Brief published by PACE, Policy Analysis for California Education. Novak's coauthor was Bruce Fuller, UC Berkeley professor of education and public policy. Their work was reported in the New York Times.

The article examines how schools serving diverse students are far less likely to achieve

their growth targets and far more likely to be subjected to stiff federal sanctions. Schools enrolling more demographic subgroups serve students who tend to score lower on standardized tests. Yet even when students display almost identical tests scores, schools with more subgroups are statistically far more likely to miss their growth targets under federal rules set by the No Child Left Behind Act.

Schools serving middle class children, for example, are 28 percent more likely to be labeled "needs improvement" by the federal standards when serving five student subgroups than schools serving only one group. This disparity exists even though average test scores are just five percentile points apart between schools.

The article asks if it is fair or motivating to label a school as failing simply because it serves more diverse students, even when its overall achievement level is not lower.



**OFF THE CHARTS**--If no steps were taken to find high quality health care with lower administrative overhead, the staggering health insurance costs for the Long Beach Unified School District would soon consume \$70 million per year. Fortunately the district has been able to obtain the same high quality health care from the same physicians and the same hospitals that have been providing health care to district employees for years. In fact, one of the new choices--CCN, administered by Superior Benefits--is the same health care program requested and used by thousands of satisfied teachers in Torrance for the past five years. As a result of a recent CSEA agreement, the district is reducing outside administrative costs without reducing excellent quality of health care for employees.

## Mayor Lauds District

Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill in her recent State of the City Address had high praise for the outstanding success of the Long Beach Unified School District.

"A year ago I was proud to announce that the Broad Foundation for Educational Excellence had named Long Beach as one of the five best large urban school districts in the nation" she said.

"This year I was even more proud when the Broad Foundation named Long Beach as the best large urban school district in the nation. I have had many wonderful moments as mayor, but in all honesty this was one of the best.

"This award is the result of many years of  
(Continued on back page)

## Classified Classes

The Winter/Spring 2004 Training Opportunities catalog was recently distributed to classified employees by the Personnel Commission. It lists free professional development opportunities in such areas as:

- Supervision
- Stress Management
- Writing Skills
- Cultural Diversity
- Microsoft Office
- Time Management
- Career Development
- Customer Service
- Conflict Management
- Team Leadership

The catalog of free courses is available on line at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) (click Employment, Personnel Commission, Staff Development) or by calling 435-5708. Classes start Thursday, January 29.

## Northrop Helps CAMS

California Academy of Mathematics and Science recently received a contribution of \$400,000 from Northrop Grumman. The donation will be used to help fund the construction of a new instructional facility on the CAMS campus that will house science laboratories and classrooms for students enrolled in engineering courses.

## Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

**Armida Fitchett**, senior office assistant, School for Adults;

**Tenesha Timmons**, instructional aide-intensive behavioral treatment, The Willows.

## Dates to Remember

### February

	Black History Month
	National Children's Dental Health Month
	School to Career Groundhog Job Shadow Day
2-6	National School Counseling Week
3	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Valentine's Day," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
4	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
5	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Presidents Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
9	Lincoln Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "George Washington," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "George Washington," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
12	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Abraham Lincoln," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Klan--A Legacy of Hate in America" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
15	Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
16	Washington Day
17	National PTA Founders Day
17	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "You Can Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "School Bus and the Exceptional Child," Grades K-12, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Riding Your School Bus Safely," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
22	George Washington's Birthday
22	Muslim New Year's Day
24	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Why We Need Each Other: The Animals' Picnic Day" (Brotherhood Week), Grades 1-4, ed.tv 8
25-April 10	Lent
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Thomas Edison," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
26	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "New Zebra in Town," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
27	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Jackie Robinson Story" (Black American Day), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8

## Summer School Administrators Apply

Applications are now being accepted for elementary and K-8/middle school summer school administrators. The 2004 summer session for elementary school is June 16-July 16 and June 21-July 22 for the middle school program.

Letters of application and resumes should be received no later than Friday, February 13 by:

- Karen DeVries, assistant superintendent, for summer school administrator openings.
- Dorothy Harper, deputy superintendent, for summer middle school administrator openings.

## A Call for Teachers

If you have a credential to teach English, social studies or math and have the time and energy to teach a class after the regular school day, Evening High School may have an opportunity for you to participate in a one-semester assignment. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.5 hours per session, starting at 3:15 p.m.

Openings are now available at Cabrillo, Jordan, Poly and Wilson high schools for Spring 2004. These designated schools will start classes Tuesday, February 10, and will end them on Thursday, June 3.

For information or to apply, call Victoria Angle, 989-7872, ext. 296 as soon as possible.

## Names in the News

Poly teacher **Mike Fillipow** was chosen as the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' National Teacher of the Year. He and Poly were each awarded \$2,500.

Presiding as grand marshalls at the recent 16th annual Long Beach Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade were **Shawn Ashley** and **Gwen Mack**, Poly co-principals; **LaShell Denegal**, Butler principal; **Lois Irving**, coordinating teacher for Central and Hudson Child Development Centers; **Georgetta McNeal**, Lafayette principal; and **Robert Williams**, Lincoln principal. Several schools and school bands and JROTC units also marched in the parade that attracted a record crowd.

Millikan High School graduate **Theresa Deister** received the Congressional Silver Medal for Volunteer Public Service. The University of Utah freshman was recognized for logging more than 700 hours volunteering with organizations such as Campfire USA.

### 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](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us)

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOBBIE SMITH, President  
 MARY STANTON, Vice President  
 JAMES CHOURA, Member  
 SUJA LOWENTHAL, Member  
 JON MEYER, Member  
 ANTONIO ARELLANO, Student Member

## • Mayor's Praise

(Continued from front page)

planning, commitment and dedication by teachers and staff members and is a testament to the leadership of the school district over the past several years.

"At this time I would like to introduce the two gentlemen who joined me in losing our cool by screaming when we won the award in New York: Dr. Carl Cohn, former LBUSD superintendent, and Chris Steinhauer, superintendent of the LBUSD."

## The Job Board

• Hi Hill Outdoor School is seeking credentialed elementary teachers or single subject science teachers to teach at Hi Hill for the 2004-05 school year. Teachers interested in transferring should submit a letter of interest and resume to Ken Mendonca, Hi Hill principal, by Friday, February 27. Interviews will be scheduled for March 5 or 6.

• Washington Intensive Learning Center is looking for innovative teachers. If you have a strong algebra background or are interested in being a math staff developer, contact principal Antonia Issa Lahera, ext. 5520.

• Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for groundskeeper.

## 10 Years of Uniforms

A controversial, far-reaching decision to set higher standards here was made by a courageous school board 10 years ago. On January 18, 1994, the Board of Education made international news when it voted to require school uniforms in all elementary and middle schools.

That decision continues to have impact upon thousands of students in America's best urban school district and throughout the U.S.

Today, school uniforms have expanded beyond K-8, with two high schools now choosing them. Wilson Classical High School phased in uniforms over four years. Millikan High School is now in a similar phase-in.

Last Saturday, Millikan attracted record attendance at a meeting of parents interested in enrolling their students. Since the decision to switch to uniforms, Millikan has received more than twice the number of applicants as it can accommodate as incoming freshmen, and Wilson has more applicants every year.

## Did You Know?

Teachers and school office personnel may call the automated substitute system 30 days in advance to report an absence. This is helpful in providing substitute coverage to sites during district workshops and scheduled staff development meetings. The automated substitute system can be accessed 24 hours a day at (562) 989-0536. For additional information, contact Carolyn Whitt at the sub desk, 997-8495.

## In Memoriam

**Peter Velasco**  
 teacher, Avalon  
 January 8, 2004