



school bulletin

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

February 6, 2004

Boeing, Foundation Give Millikan \$50,000

The Long Beach Education Foundation recently received a Crystal Vision Award from the Boeing Company. The prize included \$50,000 to be used for Millikan High School's popular PEACE Academy. The award is issued for "new and innovative programs that will significantly improve services, provide greater diversity and enable agencies to be more effective."

The PEACE Academy helps college-bound students become competitive in a diverse world and global economy. The cash award will be used for additional teacher training, expansion of curriculum, and implementation of mentoring and community service components.

PEACE stands for Personal success through Empowerment, Academic achievement, Conflict resolution, and Ethics. The academy was started by teachers in 2001 as a smaller learning community emphasizing global economics, negotiation and government.

The PEACE Academy also gained recent recognition when Millikan teacher Nader Twal received a \$25,000 surprise award from the Milken Family Foundation during an all-school assembly. Twal helped to design and implement the academy. Dubbed the "Oscars of Teaching" by Teacher Magazine, the Milken National Educator Awards recognize America's best teachers.

The Long Beach Education Foundation has partnered with Boeing on several school district efforts. Boeing invited the Foundation to nominate one of its Boeing-sponsored programs for the Crystal Vision Award. The Foundation is a non-profit fundraising organization for the school district, providing teacher grants, school uniforms, musical instruments, student scholarships and other vital assistance.

Teacher of Year Visits

Ron Clark, Disney Teacher of the Year, will give a professional development seminar sponsored by the LBUSD Magnet Office on Wednesday, February 11.

Clark will speak about his work with disadvantaged students and share the secrets of his success. He has been honored for his dedication in improving the lives of his students with his enthusiasm, sense of humor and proven teaching techniques. The Wonderful World of Disney is currently making a movie based on his life.

This inspiring presentation is open to LBUSD teachers and administrators at the Poly High School Auditorium from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Parking is available at Poly.

Clark will be available after the seminar to sign his best-selling book, *The Essential 55*. To learn more about his life and accomplishments, visit his web site at www.ronclark.info.

Poly Geology Teacher Named Nation's Best

Poly High School geology teacher Mike Fillipow was recently honored as national Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Fillipow was encouraged to apply for the award by a City of Long Beach geologist who was familiar with the teacher's hands-on, dynamic style--including field trips to oil islands and classroom demonstrations with home-made equipment.

Fillipow will receive \$5,000 for the honor, including \$2,500 to use for his classes.

Geology is rarely taught at the high school level--Fillipow's two sections at Poly are the only geology classes in the Long Beach Unified School District.

The UCLA engineering geology graduate teaches the same material taught at the university level.

"I teach what they teach at Cal State," he said. "I use the same book."

Students learn key concepts, including rock and mineral identification, geologic history, structural geology, plate tectonics, weathering and erosion, and, perhaps most importantly in Long Beach, earth resources, specifically oil.

"Students don't realize that here in Long Beach, we're standing on top of the nation's third largest oil reserve," he said. "They don't



know that. Then when we go out to the oil islands and talk about slant drilling and how the wells are angled to tap oil, they gain a new appreciation for what's happening here."

While lessons, guest speakers, field trips and an oil exploration game that shows students the economics of the petroleum business all give his students a clear grasp of this important resource, Fillipow doesn't skimp on his other presentations.

Hands-on sessions include earthquake simulators, plexiglass "squeeze boxes" that demonstrate the deformation of rock under extreme pressure, wooden blocks to acquaint students with the significance of the slope of rock layers and plaster of Paris fossil digs that challenge students to apply sound geological judgement.

After only four years of teaching the class, he already counts a few of his former students pursuing geology degrees in college. A primary goal is to give his students a solid understanding that helps them analyze challenging energy policy issues and gives them a new appreciation of the earth's natural features.

"I want students to get excited about geology," he said. "If that happens, that's a success for me."

Early Retirement Plan

The Long Beach Unified School District will offer an early retirement incentive to administrators this month. The plan expands upon a cost-saving retirement incentive recently offered to teachers.

The school district will offer retiring administrators an additional 5 percent of their final pay each year for 10 years.

As with the teacher incentive, some administrators 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 the additional emeritus pay.

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

The teacher incentive offered an extra 5 percent of final salary for life.

The deadline for eligible teachers and administrators to apply is Friday, February 27.

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

For more information on this month's retirement incentives, call ext. 8189.

QUEST Excellence

"QUEST Senior Project: The Ultimate in Assessment for Gifted High School Students," an article written by Tom Lind, QUEST lead teacher, and Debbie Mrazik, program facilitator, appeared in the Fall/Winter 2003 issue of the journal for the California Association for the Gifted (CAG).

The article discusses development and implementation of the senior project as a real world assessment that demonstrates student academic independence and the ability to think critically and analytically by completing effective, logical inquiries and expositions.

In addition, QUEST was selected to be the high school demonstration program for the statewide CAG conference in February.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Cabrillo High School Library. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauer. All interested employees are invited to attend.

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services will be accepting requests for transfer forms from teachers who wish to change school sites.

Transfer request forms for 2004-05 will be available at all schools and the TALB Office starting Monday, February 16. Information about unique school options, such as scheduling and instructional programs, is posted on the district's website. Teachers are encouraged to read about choices and interview with site personnel before submitting their requests.

Transfer requests are valid through the first seven student days of the upcoming traditional school year. Special education teachers are eligible for transfer after four consecutive years in a special education program. The deadline to apply for transfers is Wednesday, March 31.

Job Sharing

Regular and temporary contract teachers are invited to apply for job sharing partnerships for the 2004-05 school year.

Job sharing deadlines are:

- February 11--Submission of written request to have name and telephone number included on a list of interested job sharing partners.

- March 1--Submission of applications for new job sharing partnerships or for renewal of existing partnerships.

Submit the above items to Human Resource Services. For additional information, contact Monica Thornton at ext. 8078.

Summer Jobs

Applications for summer positions are now available at all sites. Certificated applications must be submitted to Human Resource Services, Attn: Summer School, by Friday, March 12. Classified applications are due by Friday, March 19.

Sessions are June 16-July 16 for elementary schools, June 21-July 22 (M-Th only) for middle schools and June 21-July 23 for high schools.

Elementary applicants should consider teaching at the same grade level, as schools will be using the Open Court unit reserved for summer school.

Applications for School for Adults should be submitted to School for Adults. ROP applications go to the ROP Office.

In Memoriam

Helen Quackenbush
former secretary, Hamilton
December 12, 2003

Stuart Martin
custodian, Garfield
January 4, 2004

William "Bill" Hutton
former principal
January 25, 2004

Perry W. Lindsey
former principal
February 2, 2004

Voice-Activated Directory Debuts

The Administration Building now offers a new speech-activated telephone directory.

This state-of-the-art system quickly processes calls to 997-8000 by asking callers to say the name of the person, department or school they wish to reach.

The system then automatically makes the transfer. Operator assistance will remain an option, and callers can still dial extensions.

The directory includes all employees and departments in the Administration Building, schools and their principals, support facilities, special schools and services.

Administration Building staff can conveniently access the system for call-placing assistance by calling ext. 6000.

Best in Show

Long Beach Unified School District students took part in art and essay contests sponsored by the American Kennel Club Dog Show that took place recently in Long Beach.

District winners in the art contest are:

Kindergarten through Grade 2--1st, Teresa Camacho, Tucker; 2nd, Leslie Echiveste, Tucker; 3rd, Katherine Meja, Tucker.

Grade 3 through Grade 5--1st, Maggie Haproff, Naples; 2nd, Emily Ann Henderson, Los Cerritos; 3rd, Gabriela Ruiz, Tucker; Honorable Mention, Kylie Sholty, Naples.

Middle School--1st, Abigail Sanchez, Stephens; 2nd, Vanessa Salazar, Stephens; 3rd, David Hernandez, Stephens; Honorable Mention, Luis Marin, Stephens.

High School--(no 1st); 2nd, Mallory Gardiner, Wilson; 3rd, Juan Mejia, EPHS.

District winners in the essay contest for Grade 4 and 5 students are 1st, Aisha Croce, Madison; 2nd, Robert McCollister, Madison; 3rd, Cheyenne Vasquez, Birney; 4th, Jacqueline Tran, Harte; Honorable Mention, DeeDee Do, Madison; Raymond Jackson, Bixby; Najah Phillips, Barton; Nnedinma Obiwuru, Madison.

Leaving the District?

Certificated employees planning to retire, resign or request leave of absence for the 2004-05 school year should submit the appropriate form to their site administrator by Monday, March 1. For more information, employees should contact their site administrators.

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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JON MEYER, Member
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Avalon Renewal

Maria "Maui" Hernandez, food service supervisor at Avalon School, renewed her wedding vows with her husband, Lipe, in Avalon on their 50th anniversary. Both were born on Catalina Island and are Avalon graduates. Their six sons and three daughters, 24 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren--all past, present or future Avalon students--attended the event as ushers, flower girls and junior bridesmaids.

The Job Board

- BCLAD or CLAD certified special education teachers are needed for staffing Special Day classes beginning September 2004. For information, contact Jane Barboza at ext. 8643.

- Two elementary principal positions are open for interested applicants holding an administrative credential for the 2004-05 school year. A newly constructed K-5, elementary school at Broadway and Golden in downtown Long Beach will open September 2004. The school will open with a projected enrollment of approximately 380 students, a gymnasium and P.E. program in partnership with the City of Long Beach. In addition, the Hi Hill Outdoor School will also be seeking a principal. Interested applicants can email principal, Ken Mendonca, kmendonca@lbusd.k12.ca.us, for further information.

Those interested in applying for either of these positions may send a letter of interest to Karen DeVries, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools by Friday, February 20.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for intermediate office assistant, intermediate office assistant-schools and truck driver.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Gloria Aguirre, staff secretary, Elementary Office;

Teresa Anderson, intermediate office assistant, ISR;

Patrick O'Toole, painter supervisor, Maintenance;

Barbara Palafox, elementary school office supervisor, Burroughs;

Yesenia Roberts, instructional aide computer resources-bilingual Spanish, Henry;

Maria Ruiz, staff secretary, PALMS.

Names in the News

Outstanding Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS) for February are **Sherry Brown**, Harte; **Debra Cerda**, Alvarado; **Daniel Cunningham**, Muir; **Susan Davis**, Rogers; **Brigida Garcia**, International; **Gloria Gonzalez**, Lee; **Diana Hibden**, Powell; **Dianne Jessie**, Robinson; **Linda Long**, Los Cerritos; and **Michael'e Tibbe**, Gompers.

"Books are keys to wisdom's treasure.
Books are gates to lands of pleasure."

-- Hazel Tomlinson, Librarian
Lowell Elementary School
1926