



school bulletin

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

August 6, 2004

New Financial Officer Guardedly Optimistic

Kim Stallings, new chief business and financial officer who replaced Tomio Nishimura this month, is no stranger to public education. For the past five years he served as Norwalk-La Mirada's assistant superintendent, Business Services, where he was voted Administrator of the Year in 2003.

"Long Beach has a great reputation not only for its educational programs but for the quality of the employees here," he said. "It's a large district but it really doesn't feel that way. It's like a large family. I feel so honored to follow in Tomio's footsteps."

He began his career as a mathematics and computer science teacher in Los Angeles and Simi Valley unified school districts. He became budget analyst for El Monte City School District, assistant business manager at Lake Elsinore Unified, assistant superintendent, business operations for ABC Unified and assistant superintendent, administrative services, for Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified.

Besides balancing demanding budgets in lean years, Stallings literally wrote the book on school finances--three college textbooks, in fact: *Introduction to School Business Management, California School Finance* and,



Stallings

most appropriate today, *Stretching the School Dollar*. The textbook on state school finance he co-authored with his father, Dr. John Stallings, head of USC's doctoral programs in educational administration for many years. Kim Stallings worked from 1979 to 1996 as a consultant, collecting data and analyzing school district facility master plans, reorganization, redevelopment, enrollment projections and asset management.

Born and raised in Southern California in a family of teachers, he, both of his parents and his two sisters all taught in public schools. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at USC, specializing in school business. He now teaches school business administration as an adjunct professor at USC's School of Education.

Stallings has received many awards, including the PTA Distinguished Service Award, ACSA Member Advocate Award and the AASA Finis E. Engleman Award.

Despite recent state cuts and continuing progress in recovering from California's budget meltdown, Stallings doesn't see immediate relief in sight.

"When the dollars do come in, the state will be paying off the debt for many years," he said.

Even with economic growth, debt service cost reduces what California schools will receive. Other rising costs, such as health care and workers comp, also reduce what's available for the education of children.

Despite these challenges, schools here are doing an amazing job of meeting the challenges in accountability and setting and

(Continued on back page)

Bridge Helps 1,400 Excel on AP Courses

Hundreds of students new to Advanced Placement courses this fall will get valuable preparation this month to help them make the most of their classes.

The three-day AP Summer Bridge will be offered at all LBUSD high schools. It will provide up to 1,400 students a combination of academic preparation for success in Advanced Placement courses, motivation and support to maintain enrollment in these courses.

Workshops to help students prepare for their first AP classes will address time and stress management, learning to write in an AP course and reading for an AP course.

To orient students to the strategies and skills they will need to develop and apply while taking their first AP courses, each workshop will be broken down into essential subtopics.

Activities will include several motivating components including motivational guest speakers, student panels, lunch meetings with AP instructors for informal question and answer sessions, and a visit to UCLA for an all-day outreach presentation and experiential learning seminar.

GRAD DAY-- Ofelia and Juvel Valle and their children celebrate completion of the Parent Institute Program for Quality Education. The intensive six-week program, sponsored by GEAR-UP, helped 180 parents at Lindbergh acquire the skills and consistent behavior to support school success at home. Ramon Coronel, a nationally recognized engineer, urged parents to continue involvement in their children's education.



More Birds Down, Mosquito Spraying Up

West Nile virus warning signs have been posted at the Lakewood Golf Course, Bolivar Park in Lakewood and at El Dorado Park and Heartwell Park in Long Beach after nearby mosquito pools tested positive.

Spraying along the San Gabriel River began this week in an effort to reduce West Nile virus-carrying mosquitos in the river by 70 percent. Mosquitos that bite infected birds can transmit the virus to humans and animals.

Long Beach area birds have tested positive for West Nile virus, most in four zip code areas: 90805, 90807, 90808 and 90815.

Most people with West Nile virus experience no symptoms. Some may become ill, experiencing flu-like symptoms, fever, headache, nausea, skin rash or swollen lymph nodes. Symptoms can last up to three weeks.

Less than 1 percent of those infected may have neurological symptoms. It is estimated that 1 in 150 people infected will require hospitalization. There is no approved vaccine.

To report a dead bird, especially a crow, call the California Department of Health West Nile Hotline at (877) WNV-BIRD to have it removed and tested. Don't pick it up by hand. Use a shovel and put it in a plastic bag.

If you see standing water that would be a breeding place for mosquitos, eliminate it. If it needs to be sprayed for mosquitos, call LBD-HHS Vector Control at 570-4132.

Mosquitos are most active at dawn or dusk. Wear loose, light colored, long sleeved shirts and pants outdoors. Use mosquito repellent containing DEET. Keep screens on doors and windows to prevent mosquitos from entering.

Pioneer Educator Dreamed of Camp Hi-Hill

April 19, 1948--After two years of planning, the first class of elementary school students arrived at Camp Hi-Hill for a week-long outdoor education experience. The sixth graders from Roosevelt were the first of more than 275,000 local students to have the memorable outdoor science experience in the Angeles National Forest. For many, it was their first taste of nature, something they'd never forget.

For J. Holley Ashcraft, it was a dream come true. He was the physical education department assistant to Walter Scott, supervisor and coordinating director of municipal and school recreation.

An avid fisherman and outdoorsman, Ashcraft believed the outdoor experience would provide a healthy, valuable learning experience to children who might otherwise never see the healthful scenery, plants, animals, geology and ecosystems nearby.

In 1946, Superintendent Kenneth E. Oberholtzer and Dr. Frank Harnett wanted to do more for youth in the community. With their approval, Ashcraft attended a national conference in Michigan to see what they were doing there to take city kids to study the outer doors. He heard that old Camp Singer, formerly a Girl Scout Camp owned by John Opid, might be available. Located near Mt. Wilson, it was directly inland from Long Beach and could be leased by the city. At that time the City of Long Beach and the school district par-

Aquarium Passes

Students who get off to a good start in school this fall will also get to meet schools of fish face to face, thanks to the generosity of the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific.

A free student admission to the aquarium is the reward for not missing a day of school September 8-17 in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Each local student who attends the first two weeks of school this fall without being tardy or missing a day will receive a pass good for a day at the popular Long Beach educational attraction.

To earn the reward, students must show up on time for school on Wednesday, September 8 and attend the next full week of school this fall to receive the special reward.

Each student who attends the first eight school days will receive a free student admission coupon. Students must be accompanied by a regular paid adult admission, but one parent may bring up to six school children for free.

"We are delighted that the aquarium is offering such an enjoyable reward to help our students get off to a good start in this important year of learning," said Board of Education President Mary Stanton. "We are so fortunate to have one of the best educational attractions in the nation here in our front yard."

The popular Shark Lagoon is attracting thousands of visitors each month. Local students will be able to touch more than 150 small sharks on display at the aquarium. Larger sharks are available only for viewing, not touching. To earn the pass to see them, students must show up every day for the entire first two weeks of school and not be late.

The Aquarium, deserves our thanks for providing this gift to our children," said Stanton. "This reward is something our students really appreciate. To earn it, they need to be certain to get to school on time ready to learn."

icipated in coordinated school and municipal recreation governed by the Long Beach Recreation Commission.

It took the combined backing of the City of Long Beach and the Long Beach Unified School District to buy the camp and open it to local elementary students.

The city had held a naming contest. More than 3,000 names were submitted. Camp Hi-Hill was selected. Over the years it has been changed to Hi-Hill Outdoor Science School, but most often it's simply called Hi-Hill by the students who have gone there.

In January 1949, the City of Long Beach bought the property and later sold it to the Long Beach Unified School District after the coordinated municipal-school recreation program had been discontinued.

When the district moved sixth grade into middle schools, Hi-Hill became a fifth grade experience.

Over the years, more than 275,000 students for three generations have experienced the hiking, cabins, memory sticks, camp songs, astronomy, rock collecting, bird watching, plant identification and the wonder of the water cycle, the food chain and discovering the plants, streams, insects and animals that exist in this very special place--thanks to the pioneer efforts of Holley Ashcraft.

Summer Scholars

Seventeen local elementary school students recently took advantage of more than \$3,000 in scholarships to attend summer enrichment courses in computers, physics, chess, art and other subjects.

Students attended three-week sessions at Tincher Preparatory School. The Long Beach School for Adults offered the classes three hours a day, four days a week.

Molina Healthcare donated \$6,000 for scholarships, each valued at \$185. This year's scholars earned a total of \$3,330. The remainder of the funds will be used for scholarships next summer. Scholarships are based on need and academic achievement.

This year's scholarship winners were Yashua Ovando from Barton; Gaspar Garcia, Raul Vasquez, Mayra Bugarin, Juan Salinas (two scholarships) and Yadira Enciso from Garfield; Mireille Takou from Hudson; Jonathan Mendez, Angel Ramirez, Daniel Hernandez and Enrique Gandarilla from International; Anthony Ramirez and Sergio Garcia from Sutter; and Myles Davis and Sandra Mendez from Tincher.

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

CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER

Superintendent of Schools

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARY STANTON, President

SUJA LOWENTHAL, Vice President

JAMES CHOURA, Member

JON MEYER, Member

FELTON WILLIAMS, Member

CHARISSA GOGGIN, Student Member

District Intervenes In Williams Case

The Long Beach Unified School District will play a key role in resolving a class action lawsuit to secure greater educational resources for poor and minority students.

The suit was brought against the State of California on behalf of children in 18 different school districts by the ACLU and MALDEF.

LBUSD is not a defendant in the case. The district petitioned the judge to become an intervener, monitoring negotiations and evaluating proposed settlements of the case.

The Board's closed session vote this week to support or oppose the tentative agreement will be announced at the next open session meeting.

The lawsuit, known as the Williams case, claims that students are not being given sufficient resources by the state to learn.

The California Legislature may decide to enact new laws this month and approve additional funding to implement the proposed settlement. Other interveners in the case include Los Angeles and San Francisco unified school districts and the California School Boards Association.

• Kim Stallings

(Continued from front page) achieving goals. But our job is made more difficult because of the unsupportive economic conditions we have to cope with. We are guardedly optimistic that there will be a moderate increase in revenue in the years ahead. But I don't foresee an expansion of economic growth and any windfall of revenue like we had at the turn of the century."

Even in the face of difficult economic times, he finds his greatest satisfaction in providing attractive, well-maintained school environments where students, teachers and employees can see at a glance that learning is prized and expected.

"Teaching is the most valuable profession there is," said Stallings. "I don't think there is anything more important in this country than public education."

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Cathy Coy, Emergency Preparedness program manager, School Safety & Emergency Preparedness;

Marlene Dowell, elementary school office supervisor, King;

Judith Peale, school support secretary, Jordan;

James Poper, administrative coordinator Facilities, Facilities;

Terry Stanley, painter, Maintenance.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for choral accompanist, Emergency Preparedness program supervisor, human resources supervisor, Research Office technician, senior Research Office technician, sports trainer and student intervention specialist.