



# school bulletin

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

October 22, 2004

## Lindbergh Outpaces State, Federal Targets

Lindbergh Middle School has achieved the greatest gains on the state Academic Performance Index (API) of any school in the Long Beach Unified School District, improving by 57 points. This increase surpasses the state's nine-point target by more than six-fold. The recent improvement builds on last year's impressive gain of 73 points, catapulting Lindbergh's performance index from 453 to 678 in five years. The state's ultimate goal for schools is 800.

Lindbergh Principal Avery Hall attributes her school's unusual success to high expectations, an intense focus on literacy and math, careful planning, analysis of student work, teamwork, a positive school climate, strong interventions, supportive parents and top-notch teachers and department chairs.

"We're ecstatic," she said. "We're smiling from ear to ear. All of our hard work has paid off. I'm so pleased and proud of the staff that I'm going to host an appreciation luncheon for them this Friday."

Most schools in the district have met or far exceeded state growth targets in recent years, but Lindbergh's growth is among the most dramatic. This year, Lindbergh also exceeded its (Continued on back page)

## Employees Honored With Monthly Awards

Outstanding Long Beach Unified School District employees may now be nominated for new honors, the LBUSD Employee of the Month awards.

The monthly awards will provide each winner \$100 from the Long Beach Education Foundation. The first awards will be presented in January 2005. Nominations for the January award are due Tuesday, November 30. Nominations for subsequent months will be due on the last day of each month.

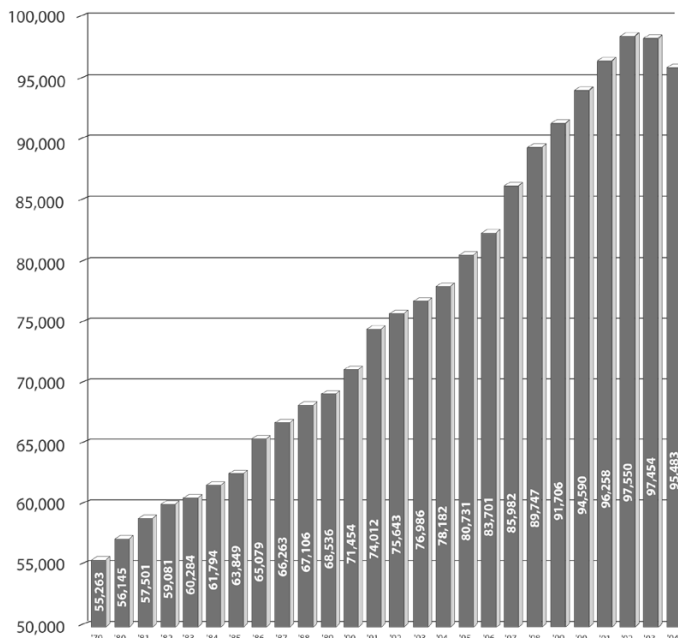
A district employee may nominate another employee in good standing who has gone above and beyond in performing their regular duties. The awards are not for career achievement, but to recognize extraordinary service during a particular month. Each employee may nominate one employee per month.

The Board of Education and superintendent will honor up to three employees each month. Winners will be selected by a committee of their peers. Awardees will be invited to a Board of Education meeting to be recognized.

Nominations may be submitted via district email. An email copy of the application will be sent to each site secretary. Email the completed application as an attachment to Lori Betschel, Employee Relations Office. Completed applications may also be sent via district mail. For information, call ext. 8220.

### UPS AND DOWNS--

After 24 years of steady increases, enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District has reversed that trend. For two years in a row, enrollment has decreased. The latest drop in districtwide enrollment includes a loss of 1,554 students this fall. Local elementary schools reported the greatest enrollment loss--down 1,646 students. Middle schools lost 26 students. Special and charter schools lost 374 students. In contrast, high school enrollment increased by 492 students.



## Elementary Enrollment Down; High Schools Up

For the first time in a quarter of a century, local elementary schools have experienced a significant enrollment loss. This fall's official enrollment report revealed 1,600 fewer K-5 students on teachers' roll sheets in Long Beach schools.

After decades of steady enrollment increases, total enrollment in the Long Beach Unified School District has dropped below last fall's 97,037 students. After one month of school, enrollment in California's third largest school district fell to 95,483--down 1,554 students--1.6 percent below the same time last year. Official enrollment figures are reported to the state every October.

Elementary school enrollment here decreased 1,646 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Middle schools lost only 26 students in sixth through eighth grades. Charter schools and special schools lost 374 students. In contrast, high school enrollment increased by 492 students in ninth through twelfth grades.

The enrollment downturn means a loss of approximately \$7 million in revenue. The state pays local school districts \$4,807 per student.

With enrollment down in elementary schools and flat at middle schools, it appears that the past decade's bulge in elementary school enrollment has now moved up into high schools. High schools here remain among the largest in the state. Several are at or near their capacity.

As a result of lower total enrollment, the Long Beach Unified School District has alleviated overcrowding in elementary schools and

should be able to accommodate all students in the years immediately ahead. Many elementary schools for the first time have been able to reduce class size in fourth and fifth grade.

If enrollment remains at or near the present level, school bonds from Measure A, approved by local voters in 1999, will allow enough schools and classrooms to be built to further reduce overcrowding and busing. The bonds are also being used to upgrade many existing older schools that will be modernized during this decade.

The recent halt to more than two decades of steady enrollment growth is not unique to Long Beach. In fact, many school districts in California have reported significant enrollment declines. Contributing to the school enrollment change are the current state budget crisis, slow job recovery, and young families with children being priced out by the booming Southern California housing market. Some are buying more affordable homes elsewhere.

The largest Long Beach one-year enrollment decrease this fall occurred in first grade, with 439 fewer six year olds enrolling than last year.

Kindergartens reported the smallest total enrollment in elementary schools--513 students below first grade enrollment. Until elementary enrollment bottoms out, districtwide enrollment is expected to continue to decrease.

Birthrates in local hospitals are usually a reliable predictor of what kindergarten enrollments will look like five years later when those children enter school. However, changes in employment, housing and migration into or out of the state can change that picture.

## Health Plans Hold Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for employees begins Monday, November 8 and ends Tuesday, November 30. Re-enrollment this year is required for all retirees and employees, including those who are not changing health plans.

The Long Beach Unified School District will continue to offer the same choice of plans. Current employees have four health plan options and three dental plans to choose from. The district also provides a vision plan, a life insurance plan, and the Employee Assistance Program.

Eligible employees and retirees will be able to re-enroll online or by submitting enrollment forms to Risk Management. Open enrollment booklets and additional information about online enrollment will be distributed to plan participants on or before Friday, November 5. For information, contact Risk Management at ext. 8233.

## Dates to Remember

<b>November</b>	American Indian Heritage Month
	National PTA Child Safety & Protection Month
<b>2</b>	Election Day
<b>2</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "The Reference Section," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
<b>4</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "If Books Could Talk," Grades 1-3, ed.tv 8
<b>5</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "America's Veterans," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
<b>9</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Molly's Pilgrim," Grades 2-8, ed.tv 8
<b>10</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Louis Pasteur," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
<b>11</b>	Veterans Day
<b>12</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
<b>14-20</b>	American Education Week
<b>14-20</b>	Geography Awareness Week
<b>15-21</b>	National Children's Book Week
<b>15-21</b>	Youth Appreciation Week
<b>16</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Pilgrims at Plymouth" (Thanksgiving), Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
<b>17</b>	Education Support Professionals Day
<b>17</b>	Geographic Information Systems Day
<b>17</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "William Bradford--The First Thanksgiving," Grades 3-8, ed.tv 8
<b>18</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Turkeys in the Wild," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
<b>19</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Thanksgiving," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
<b>23</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "First Thanksgiving," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
<b>24</b>	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00-- "Thanksgiving Day," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
<b>25</b>	Thanksgiving Day
<b>26</b>	Declared Holiday
<b>30</b>	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30-- "Respecting Others," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8

## Natural Hazards Plan

The Board of Education of the Long Beach Unified School District this week approved a natural hazards mitigation plan. The plan allows the school district to remain eligible for federal funding for natural disasters.

The plan will be available on the district website at [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us) under Emergency Preparedness in the alphabetical index. For information, call ext. 8006.

## In Memoriam

**Barr Doty**  
music teacher  
October 5, 2004

## Hi Hill To Re-Open

Hi Hill Outdoor School, closed earlier this month as a result of drought conditions and heightened fire danger in the Angeles National Forest, will re-open for students November 1.

Recent rains have lowered the fire danger. The U.S. Forest Service once again is allowing visitors into the forest.

Hi Hill staff will return to the popular outdoor science school next week to prepare for fifth graders arriving the following week. Some schools will attend for 2-1/2 day sessions. Schools will be notified of the new schedule next week.

## Principals for a Day

More than 230 business and community leaders will head to school to become principals for a day on Thursday, October 28.

Each honorary principal will work alongside the school's official principal, seeing first hand the successes and challenges of the job.

Two will also serve as superintendents for a day: Randal Hernandez, Governor Schwarzenegger's appointments secretary, and Lou Anne Bynum, Long Beach Chamber of Commerce chair and LBCC assistant superintendent for economic and resource development.

## Beach Walk for Kids

The 14th Annual Beach Walk will be held Saturday, November 6. All school district employees and their families are invited to participate and raise funds in support of The Children's Clinic, which serves local students.

The walk starts at the Marina Green, at Shoreline Drive and Ocean Boulevard at the west end of the Long Beach Bike Path. Registration opens at 8 a.m. The walk begins at 9 a.m. Lunch and the awards ceremony begin at 11:30 a.m. A wellness fair will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. For information, call ext. 8464.

## Marathoners Report

Hudson cafeteria supervisor Matt Brigham ran the recent Long Beach Marathon in 3 hours 33 minutes. The half-marathon was completed by Jennifer Sweet, Muir counselor, in 2 hours 8 minutes; and Jeanne Spicer, Tucker teacher, in 2 hours 19 minutes. To report a time for the next *School Bulletin*, call ext. 8250.

### SCHOOL BULLETIN

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(562) 997-8000. [www.lbusd.k12.ca.us](http://www.lbusd.k12.ca.us)

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Superintendent of Schools

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## • Lindbergh Excels

(Continued from front page)  
federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets. In fact, African American students at Lindbergh not only doubled the federal target for proficiency in math. They exceeded the target set for the year 2008 four years early. They also performed the best in math among African American students at middle and K-8 schools throughout the school district.

Lindbergh last year achieved the most overall academic growth of any middle school in the district. At that time, the API for African American students at Lindbergh increased 89 points.

Many of Lindbergh's students live in poverty. Eight out of 10 Lindbergh students receive free or reduced price lunches. Among statewide schools with a similar socioeconomic profile, Lindbergh's student achievement is rated a top 10 on a scale of 10.

Others schools in the Long Beach Unified School District have noticed Lindbergh's significant academic growth and want to learn from this turnaround school. Lindbergh's math teachers, led by department chair and math coach Peggy Gutierrez, two weeks ago provided training for all local middle schools' math department chairs. In the training, Lindbergh's teachers showed other teachers in the district how to examine student work together to get better results.

"We show them what questions to ask, what we say when we look at student work, how we speak to each other," Gutierrez said.

She credits much of the school's success to the amount of time teachers spend working together to examine and discuss student work and lesson plans. Teachers from each of the school's grade levels -- six, seven and eight -- meet together each month to compare notes and fine tune instruction in reading, writing and math.

Lindbergh, a multi-track year-round school, has arranged its class schedule so that teachers of common subject areas have common conference periods when they can get together to share their best ideas.

Gutierrez has been freed from teaching daily classes so that she can assist other teachers throughout the day. The math expert taught at the district's nationally acclaimed California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS) for five years before arriving at Lindbergh more than a decade ago. This year she is visiting other middle schools in the district to share her successful methods.

"Whenever another school asks for assistance, our principal always says, 'Go help them--give them whatever they need,'" Gutierrez said.

Lindbergh is beating the odds, proving it can be done, and sharing what works.

## Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for lead custodian and warehouse materials processor.

## Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Dick Van Der Laan	Nov. 17	Madeline Smith ext. 8111