



school bulletin

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

February 4, 2005

National Fellowship Awarded to Principal

Garfield Elementary School Principal Jill Baker was selected recently to participate in the prestigious Broad Superintendents Academy. The 10-month academy trains working CEOs and other top executives from business, non-profit, military, government and education backgrounds to lead urban public schools. Baker is the only school principal in the group.

"I feel truly fortunate to be a part of the 2005 Broad Superintendents Academy," Baker said. "The rich leadership opportunities that have challenged me throughout my career in LBUUSD have prepared me well for the challenge of being a Broad Fellow."



Baker

Baker submitted an in-depth application and participated in several interviews. Participants in the academy, which is run by the Los Angeles-based Broad Foundation, will attend seven extended weekend training sessions in Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia and St. Louis. They will use case studies to learn about finance, management, operations and organizational systems.

The 2005 class includes five senior military officials, six executives who spent the majority of their career in business and government, and nine career educators. The newest class is the fourth to be trained by the Broad Superintendents Academy.

(Continued on back page)

More School Districts Plan Painful Budgets

Ten school districts statewide received negative financial certifications last year, meaning they could not meet their financial obligations. The year before, eight districts received negative certifications. Most are large urban school districts. Recent headlines depict no fiscal relief in sight and a worsening crisis that is forcing deep budget cuts at districts throughout the state.

- The Los Angeles Unified School District recently approved a plan that would eliminate dozens of teaching, clerical and other positions to help close a \$168 million shortfall in its 2005-06 budget.

- San Diego City Schools have cut more than \$150 million during the past three years because of dwindling state funding and declining enrollment. Jobs eliminated include landscaping, clerical and nursing positions. Counseling staff has been reduced by 39 full-time equivalent positions. Schools also cut 13

(Continued on back page)

Star CAMS Student Earns Astronomy Honors

When the Space Shuttle flies again, the safety of astronauts on board may rely in part on the award-winning research of high school student Ved Chirayath.

The new mid-year graduate of the California Academy of Mathematics and Science was recently named a semifinalist in the 2005 Intel Science Talent Search for identifying a planet in orbit around a star 150 light-years away using only amateur astronomy instruments.

His inspiration came three years ago while reading about early discoveries of planets circling distant stars.

"I just wanted to take part in that," Chirayath said. "I wondered if I could do it."

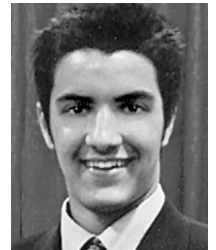
With a modified Schmidt-Newtonian telescope assembled to his specifications, hours of computer programming and 14 trips to the new-moon darkness of the night sky above Mt. Piños, an hour and a half north of Los Angeles, he succeeded.

Thomas Jett, one of Chirayath's science teachers at CAMS, said he had little to do with the project.

"I didn't babysit this kid," Jett said. "He came to me with this project. It was already cooking."

"He's an awesome student," Jett said. "He identified a problem, overcame the obstacles, put in the work and got some well deserved recognition for his accomplishments. And he did it with his own resources and some creative thinking."

Chirayath followed up his pioneering low-cost search for a planet circling Star HD 209548 by using what he learned to identify and track objects in Earth orbit, successfully imaging the International Space Station. In the future, telescopes on Earth may use similar techniques to inspect an orbiting space shuttle, hoping to spot any damage that could lead to the destruction of the vehicle on re-entry. Such inspections, had they been available, might have prevented the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and its crew in 2003.



Chirayath

Although others around the world are pursuing the problem, Chirayath wanted to see how much performance could be squeezed out of relatively inexpensive instruments with his innovative combination of techniques.

He was able to produce the images with remarkable resolution.

"If there had been a spacewalk while I was tracking it," Chirayath said, "the astronaut would have been in the picture."

The academic star hasn't scheduled much downtime following his early graduation.

Chirayath is in Russia this month to prepare Moscow State University's group of six telescopes to identify and track satellites in Earth orbit.

Professors at the university familiar with his work invited him for a six-week stay to modify the software used to run the telescopes and capture observations.

After that, he leaves for India, where he will spend three months teaching French and installing teleconferencing equipment at a school for Tibetan refugee children. He was inspired to help there by a presentation in middle school when he learned about the needs of the children at the school.

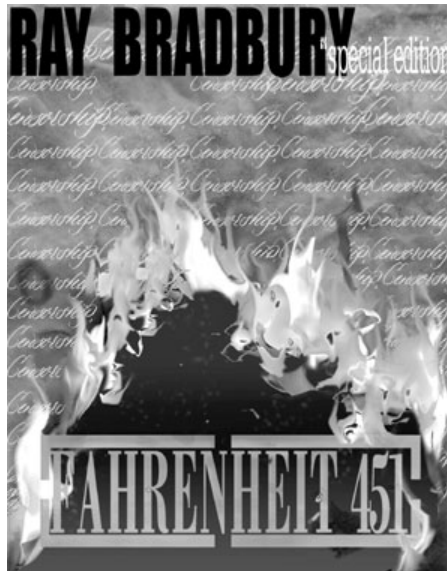
Sometime in April he should learn where he will be enrolling as a college freshman. Harvard, MIT, Columbia and Cal Tech are at the top of his list of schools, all with outstanding undergraduate astrophysics programs.

MIT's Lincoln Laboratory named an asteroid after him in honor of his achievements.

"Astrophysics may not be a very practical field, but I know I want to major in it," Chirayath said. "After that, we'll see."

His teacher is confident Chirayath will sort out all the options available to him.

"Ved'll do fine," said Jett. "That's just life when you're 17 and a genius."



SIZZLING LITERATURE—Jordan student Daniel Barajas created this cover artwork that will be used on a special limited edition printing of the popular Ray Bradbury book, selected for this year's "Long Beach Reads One Book" to take place in March. Other artwork submitted in the contest open to students from Long Beach schools went on display on the lower level of the Long Beach Main Public Library this week.

• Broad Fellow

(Continued from front page)
dents Academy. Forty-three percent of the 63 graduates in the first three classes have been hired as superintendents or into cabinet positions or have been promoted to those positions.

"We have identified and trained stellar leaders who are making a difference improving student achievement in urban school systems where the need is greatest," said billionaire philanthropist Eli Broad, founder of The Broad Foundation, which funds The Broad Center for the Management of School Systems. "We are excited that this new class has made a commitment to public education and is ready to tackle the challenge of learning the skills necessary to effectively manage an urban school district."

The Broad Center covers tuition, travel and all expenses during the academy.

Employees of Month

Three employees were recognized as Long Beach Unified School District Employees of the Month at this week's Board of Education meeting:

- Jorge Montanez, staff assistant at Hoover, was honored for the hundreds of small things he does each day in support of students and teachers. He is considered the ambassador of the school, who greets students as they arrive and depart each day.

- Beverly Stanley, instructional aide at Burcham, has a dynamic personality that has helped to create strong relationships with students and the community. She recently planted four separate flower gardens as a beautification effort at the school.

- Kenneth Fisher, teacher at Cabrillo, donates time and pizza money for Wednesday night sessions helping students prepare for AP calculus exams. He also advises the community service club, which collected and distributed 2,216 holiday gifts this year.

The monthly award provides each winner \$100 from a private donation to recognize extraordinary service in a particular month.

Applications are available from each district site secretary. Applications must be received by the Employee Relations Office by the last day of the calendar month.

For information, call ext. 8220.

Yokkaichi Exchange

The Long Beach-Yokkaichi Sister City Association is now accepting applications from teachers and high school students interested in traveling to Japan for three weeks this summer as goodwill ambassadors from Long Beach. One teacher and two students who reside in Long Beach will live with Japanese families in Yokkaichi, a bustling seaport 300 miles south of Tokyo. All expenses are paid.

All LBUSD teachers and high school students in the tenth or eleventh grade who live in Long Beach are eligible to apply.

For an application or more information, contact Dr. Lionel Gatley at 598-6704. Deadline to apply is March 1.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Carolyn Robbins	March 4	Nate Guzman 422-5393

Transfer Requests

Human Resource Services will be accepting requests for transfer from teachers who wish to change school sites. Please refer to the TALB Agreement, Article VIII, for guidelines.

Transfer request forms for 2005-06 will be available at all schools and the TALB Office during the week of February 14. 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 teaching four consecutive years in a special education program. The deadline to apply is Thursday, March 31.

The Job Board

Millikan High School is accepting applications for the 2005-06 school year for a technology/computer applications teacher and an English teacher. To apply, submit resumes to Karen Brinkman, principal. For information, call ext. 4104.

Job Opportunities

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for data center/user services manager and human resources assistant.

Feinstein to Speak

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein will speak at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach February 23 as part of the 2005 National Leaders Luncheon Series. She will use the occasion to announce the contribution of \$100,000 to the Long Beach Unified School District High School Initiative.

The Long Beach Education Foundation and the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsors of the luncheon. Tickets are \$35. For information, call 983-1241.

Spend Year in Japan

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 Monday, March 21, 4 p.m., at the ABC Conference Rooms, Teacher Resource Center. For information, call ext. 8247.

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

• Other Districts

(Continued from front page)
full-time equivalent librarian positions. Three of the district's neediest high schools do not have librarians. The district's landscaping staff has been reduced from 132 gardeners down to 35.

- The Santa Ana Unified School District is considering increased class sizes in primary grades. Santa Ana district has struggled through three years of funding cuts in programs and staff. To help close a \$29-million budget shortfall this year, Santa Ana's teachers agreed to a 4 percent pay cut.

- The San Juan Unified School District, facing a \$20 million shortfall next year, has been threatened with takeover by Sacramento County and the state. Proposed cuts include athletic programs and nearly all middle and high school counselors. In anticipation of 1,500 fewer students next year, 60 teachers could be cut.

San Juan also is considering eliminating the jobs of 26 vice principals, three principals, and several librarians and nurses. San Juan could have a single principal responsible for several campuses. Plans also include a 50 percent increase in class size for all kindergarten through third grade classes. The district is considering closing three elementary schools by fall and 13 schools over the next three years. Health care costs are projected to rise 16 percent next year and 20 percent the following year.

- The Fresno Unified School District faces a deficit of at least \$35 million, a crisis that could lead to a state takeover if Fresno doesn't fix its financial problems.

- In the Orange Unified School District, music classes in the primary grades will likely be cut, and class size reduction will be eliminated.

- Capistrano Unified and Fountain Valley school districts will raise money by selling land, after years of deficit spending by both districts.

- The Escondido Union High School District recently announced plans to increase class sizes next year.

- The San Pasqual Union School District has managed cuts by not replacing teachers who leave, resulting in larger classes.

- Oceanside Unified School District, anticipating about \$5 million in budget cuts over the next two years, has drafted a list of programs and positions that could be eliminated. Among the options are reducing campus security, cutting teachers' aides, increasing class sizes and closing schools with fewer than 500 students. At the same time, a report showed that the school district's employee medical benefits have soared, rising 250 percent in five years.

- The Ukiah Unified School District has proposed the elimination of 12 teaching positions as the result of declining enrollment and the state budget crisis.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 8, from 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.