



school bulletin

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

June 3, 2005

Baldrige Star Named Employee of the Year

Paula Wiesenhutter, certification services supervisor for the Personnel Commission, was named Classified Employee of the Year at the recent Classified Employee Barbecue.

She was selected by a districtwide committee of classified employees from a field of 55 nominees and five top finalists.

"It was very exciting to be named at the barbecue," Wiesenhutter said. "It was very flattering."



Wiesenhutter

Other finalists included Christine Burns, elementary school office supervisor, Roosevelt; Alex Castro, plant supervisor II, Newcomb; Ronald Jacobs, plant supervisor I, Emerson; and Brian Linton, plant supervisor I, Holmes.

In her nomination, submitted by the staff of the Personnel Commission, it was noted that Wiesenhutter meets the educational mission of the district by providing excellent customer service, support and guidance to school site personnel and principals who are trying to fill classified employee vacancies at their sites. In these hiring freeze years, she has researched funding sources, staffing levels and overall need for all items that go to the Hiring Freeze Committee. In addition to this full-time activity, she continues to supervise staff involved in filling vacant positions.

Wiesenhutter leads by example and motivates her staff and colleagues by her positive attitude. She volunteers for projects and has taken the lead in developing and distributing materials for the schools which are her designated liaison sites. She is often sought out by employees and managers throughout the district for her advice and knowledge of the classified hiring process. She works very hard to convey even disappointing information in the most positive way, making customers feel good in situations where the potential is high for displeasure.

Wiesenhutter was one of the original members of the online VA (Vacancy Action Form) creation team. Her knowledge of the classified hiring process has proven invaluable to the district. She actively participated in developing the online VA training manual, and has been called upon to train district employees in the use of the online VA.

After initial training, Wiesenhutter has embraced the district's quest for continuous improvement through the Baldrige total quality management strategies. She has been an eager participant in department workshops and volunteered to appear in an informational video on Baldrige which has been shown throughout

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Largest Graduating Class To Earn Diplomas

A record 5,543 local high school seniors, the largest graduating class in the history of the Long Beach Unified School District, are scheduled to receive their diplomas this month.

Poly and Poly Accelerated Academy of Learning (PAAL) have the largest combined graduating class with 1,052 seniors. Wilson will award 904 diplomas, Lakewood, 872; Millikan, 830; Jordan, 690; Cabrillo, 480; EPHS, 251; School for Adults, 200; CAMS, 139; Renaissance, 58; Avalon, 58; and Reid, 9.

CAMS will hold its graduation Wednesday, June 8. Jordan and Poly/PAAL will award diplomas Wednesday, June 15. Avalon, Cabrillo, Lakewood, Millikan, Renaissance and Wilson will conduct ceremonies on Thursday, June 16. EPHS will award diplomas on Friday, June 17, and School for Adults conducts its ceremony Wednesday, June 22.

Scheduled to present diplomas are:

Avalon—Deputy Superintendent Karen DeVries, 4:30 p.m., Avalon Casino; **Cabrillo**—

Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 6 p.m., Cabrillo Stadium; **CAMS**—Board of Education Member Jon Meyer, 6 p.m., Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center;

EPHS—Board of Education President Mary Stanton, 1 p.m., Lakewood Auditorium;

Jordan—Board of Education President Mary Stanton, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium;

Lakewood—Board of Education Member Jim Choura, 2 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **School for Adults**—Board of Education Vice President Suja Lowenthal, 6:30 p.m., Wilson Auditorium;

Millikan—Board of Education Member Jim Choura, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium; **Poly/PAAL**—Board of Education Member Felton Williams, 7 p.m., Veterans Stadium;

Renaissance—Board of Education Vice President Suja Lowenthal, 6 p.m., Long Beach City College Auditorium; **Wilson**—Board of Education Member Jon Meyer and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, 5:30 p.m., Stephens' Field (Wilson Stadium).

Dowell Selected as Secretary of the Year

Joy Dowell at Madison was named Secretary of the Year by ALBEM, the Association of Long Beach Educational Managers and Confidential Employees.

Dowell was chosen for her effectiveness, organization, professional attitude and excellent judgement. Madison principal Geraldine Rescinito recalled a time when two students left the campus without permission.

"Joy called district security and the Lakewood Sheriff's Department to 'get the ball rolling,'" Rescinito said. "Because of her quick response, the students were located in a



Dowell

relatively short amount of time."

Dowell's qualities of enthusiasm, flexibility, patience and humor were also noted.

"She comes to work with a smile on her face, she stays late when necessary and we laugh every single day," said Rescinito.

ALBEM also awarded \$6,500 in scholarships to deserving high school students.

The \$500 scholarship winners are Kymada Nichole Cathey, School for Adults; Judith Gallardo, Poly; Zara Kand, EPHS; Bettine Lindsey, Jordan; Melody Lorn, Renaissance; Carlos David Mora, Cabrillo; Maricela Salcido, Millikan; Anne Taylor, Cabrillo; Tin Mai Trung, Lakewood; and Evans Tran, Wilson.

Winner of ALBEM's \$1,000 Carl Cohn Scholarship for Aspiring Teachers is Melissa Merrill, Wilson. Winner of the \$500 Every Student Succeeding Scholarship is Jaelyn Cristiano, EPHS.

Reynolds Chosen 2005 Nurse of the Year

Long Beach Unified School District nurses recently celebrated the accomplishments of Judy Reynolds. She was selected as the 2005 School Nurse of the Year. Long Beach School Nurse's Association received 32 letters describing the care and dedication Nurse Reynolds gives to her students, staff, parents and community at Carver. This professional, kind, patient, top-notch nurse makes every child who visits feel special.

"Judy demonstrates the vital role school nurses play in improving the health and well being of our children," said Lynette Talbott, president of the association.

Reynolds is an active board member of LBSNA, a member of California School

Nurses Organization and the National Association of School Nurses. Last year TALB honored her with the Golden Apple Award for outstanding service. She works with the Long Beach Health Department's annual Health Fair and as the medical director for the Royal Family Kids' Summer Camp. Her fundraising has provided campership experiences for many neglected, abused and homeless children in foster care.



Reynolds

What Others Say

(The following letter was sent to Judy Seal, executive director, Long Beach Education Foundation.)

Dear Ms. Seal,

On April 20, our daughter was one of the fortunate recipients of a Most Inspiring Student Award presented by your Foundation. She was nominated by her school, Kettering Elementary, for her courage and perseverance in her struggle with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

While we knew of the nomination, we had no idea of the magnitude of the event or of the honor it would bring her. She was thrilled to see her name and picture in the paper the day of the event. All dressed up at the Hilton, we were dazzled by the scope of the banquet, thrilled to see all those beautiful faces on the big screen, entertained by the speeches, music and video, and extremely moved by the presentation of the gold medal and plaque. It was truly a memorable evening! The final touch for us was seeing our beautiful daughter on the cover of the Press-Telegram the following morning with Misty May and Brian Gimmillaro. Not only do we have her medal and plaque prominently displayed, but we also have the newspaper framed and hung as well! These will serve as vigilant reminders of the silver lining in this cloud. . .

For, as parents, we spend so much time standing behind our daughter, pushing her gently to keep her up with her peers. Most people have no idea that children can get arthritis, let alone how devastating and life threatening it can be. We are constantly engaged in trying to find a way for her to be healthy, while trying to find a way for her to have a happy childhood now, because childhood cannot wait for a cure, unfortunately.

We spend so much time in this effort behind her, that we often have missed the view from the front: that she is a very brave, very courageous and indeed very inspiring little girl. Thank you so much for everything this event has brought to our family. Not only did it provide wonderful memories that will spark pride and joy, but the experience will sustain us with hope and inspiration through the struggles in the future.

With deep thanks,

Colleen Ryan and David Ryan
Parents of Caitlin Ryan, first grade

CBET Trains Aides

The award-winning Community Based English Tutoring Program recently held a training workshop for recreation aides to help them assist parents and students who are learning English.

In CBET, adult second language learners learn English while their older children are in school. Their younger children are cared for by the aides in a safe environment on the same campus where parents learn English.

Adults walk to class in neighborhood schools to study English and learn tutoring strategies to help their children with schoolwork. They also take home videos and cassettes to continue their practice of listening, speaking, reading and writing English at home.

The workshop helped CBET aides learn strategies to increase learning of students, including reading books aloud to the children, changing activities often, group singing and communicating effectively with parents.

Names in the News

Stanford sixth grader **Sean Stewart** received the Community Service Award at the recent Long Beach Police Department Awards Ceremony. Honest Sean was honored for informing police and returning a wallet he found containing \$500.

Two graduating seniors from each LBUSD high school recently received first-place (\$500) and second place (\$350) scholarship awards from the Kiwanis Club of Long Beach. Honorees, listed in first- and second-place order, are **Christopher Harris** and **Marline Ab-Kui**, Cabrillo; **Tony Phan** and **Betty Almeida**, Jordan; **Jonathan Stenstrom** and **Amber Haney**, Lakewood; **Sarah Deister** and **Matthew Barnett**, Millikan; **Monique Chhoeun** and **Samantha Heep**, Poly; **Bobbie Buckley** and **Jasmine Peterson**, Renaissance; and **Chanel Soares** and **Madeline Welty**, Wilson.

Mike Smith and **Kieth Cagan**, teachers at Wilson, were given the Miracle Worker Award as outstanding health teachers by STOP-GAP, a non-profit organization which uses theater to make a positive difference in individual lives.

Robin Sinks, health education curriculum leader, published her article "Standards-Based Health Education" in the Spring 2005 issue of *CAHPERD Journal*, a statewide magazine published by the California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in Sacramento. "Teacher observations, evidence from student assessments and trend data from the California Healthy Kids Survey indicate that students are learning to be healthy and engaging in healthier behaviors," Sinks wrote.

Henry teacher and 2005 LBUSD Teacher of the Year **Sylvia Padilla** and Millikan teacher **Stephen Dublin** each won a \$100 debit card to use for purchasing classroom supplies from the Macerich Company, owner of Lakewood, Stonewood and Los Cerritos malls.

James Has Doctorate

Linda James, director of Head Start, recently earned her Ed.D. from the University of Southern California. The title of her dissertation is "Early Literacy Achievement with an Emphasis on Urban Public Schools."

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Linda Maury	June 12	Florinda Johnson 420-3588

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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CHRISTOPHER J. STEINHAUSER
Superintendent of Schools

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Chicken Feed Project

As a service project, 80 Newcomb kindergartners were asked to bring in \$1 from their piggybanks or from doing tasks to earn \$1. Together, they raised \$100 for Heifer International so that five flocks of chicks can be given to feed five villages across the world.

The project was the outgrowth of a field trip to Centennial Farms at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Students got to hold a baby chick—the highlight of the trip—and learn about the life cycle of the chicken. Heifer International provided a packet of information to help students understand the nutritional value of eggs, chickens and other farm animals.

National Powerhouse

A recent article in the national publication *School Administration* highlighted the Long Beach Unified School District's professional development programs for their implementation of data-driven decision-making.

The district was praised by experts as having "powerhouse professional development."

Peggy Gutierrez, math department chair at Lindbergh, was quoted at length in the story with tips and guidelines on how to encourage teachers to ask difficult questions about their own teaching methods and to implement ways that data could drive instruction in class.

The article quoted Jean Rutherford, director of educational initiatives at the National Center for Educational Accountability, saying that LBUSD has a "powerhouse district-level research and data department."

The Job Board

- Lafayette is seeking a dynamic fifth grade literacy teacher. For information, contact Damita Myers-Miller, principal, at ext. 7952.
- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for Head Start instructional aide and heavy truck driver.

• Wiesenhutter

(Continued from front page)

the district and at many state and national conferences.

At some lively department Baldrige meetings, she can be counted on to dress in her "Miss Baldrige" ballgown, complete with tiara. As she anoints staff for "being Baldrige," she helps to set and attain the standards of excellence for herself and those around her.

In Memoriam

Janice Ray-Reaves
teacher, Robinson
May 15, 2005

Catherine Kennedy
former nurse
May 15, 2005

Sylvia Allison
Head Start teacher
May 22, 2005