



school bulletin

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

April 22, 2005

Teacher Raise OK'd Despite Lean Times

Despite lean times for school districts statewide, the Board of Education approved a cost-of-living salary increase for teachers this week, retroactive to July 1, 2004. The actual percentage raise for individuals will vary. The Long Beach Unified School District agreed to restructure parts of the salary schedule for certain classifications of teachers, depending upon years of experience and college education levels.

Most teachers received a 2.56 percent raise, but some, with higher degrees and more education, get a 1.11 percent raise and, starting this month, move to a higher schedule.

Lump sum checks to pay the retroactive amount earned will be issued by June 10.

If you have questions about your salary adjustments, contact your payroll clerk.

For more information, visit www.lbusd.k12.ca.us and click on Employee Relations in the alphabetical index.

Newcomb's Tracy Wins National Grant

Fay Tracy, teacher at Newcomb Academy, has been awarded the MetLife Foundation Ambassador in Education Award.

The award honors middle school, junior high, and high school educators who are making an impact beyond their schools for the betterment of the entire community. It is a project of National Civic League and sponsored by MetLife Foundation.

Tracy received a \$5,000 grant that the K-8 school will use for further community-building activities.

In addition to coaching volleyball and track at Newcomb, Tracy has become a one-person community service resource at the school. She advises the scholastic honor society on campus, California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF).

Many CJSF students take part in the tutoring program she organized, Scholarship Kids Are Tutoring Elementary Students (SKATES). Tracy also organized the SOS program, where students volunteer to help teachers and other school staff members.

The MetLife Foundation started the award because secondary school educators face considerable challenges in achieving a sense of community within their schools and extending that relationship to those who live and work in the surrounding area.

The award was established in 1976 to strengthen communities and education.



Tracy

Hill, Hughes, Wilson Earn Highest State Honor

Three schools in the Long Beach Unified School District won the California Distinguished School Award this week. Hill Classical Middle School, Hughes Middle School and Wilson Classical High School earned the state's top honor for public schools.

Both Hughes and Wilson have earned the honor before. Hill is a first-time winner.

"We're so proud of our school, our students, our parents and staff," said Peter Davis, principal at Hill. "Four years ago Hill was threatened with being taken over by the state if it didn't improve student achievement. Now it's a California Distinguished School. That's an amazing turnaround in a short period of time."

Davis credited the school's achievement gains to a school-wide focus on writing, the implementation of Baldrige problem-solving strategies that are used by some of the nation's most successful businesses, and the use of a Safe and Civil Schools model that has minimized tardies and created a calm, business-like

atmosphere.

The California Distinguished School Awards ceremony will be held on Friday, May 20 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim.

To earn the award, schools compete in rigorous selection and screening conducted by the California Department of Education. Winning schools are qualified to apply for the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Winners must demonstrate high academic expectations for all students, achievement levels at and above state standards, strong leadership, competent and caring teachers focused on standards, and outstanding curriculum.

California Distinguished Schools also must show exemplary family involvement and partnerships with the business community, comprehensive guidance and counseling services, ample support for students who have a wide range of needs, and a safe learning environment that promotes citizenship, caring, fairness, respect, responsibility and trustworthiness.

Gold Medalist, Coach Salute Inspiring Students

U.S. Women's Volleyball Gold Medalist Misty May and three-time national volleyball Coach of the Year Brian Gimmillaro honored 96 exemplary students this week at the annual Most Inspiring Student Awards.

The students and their success stories inspired more than 500 guests who attended the awards dinner, sponsored by the Long Beach Education Foundation at the Long Beach Hilton Hotel. Students were honored as role models for contributing to their schools and communities. Some have made significant academic gains and personal improvement.

"You are amazing," May, the 2004 Gold Medalist, told the students. "You inspire me with all of your hard work and all the obstacles you've had to overcome. I know you won't let anything stand in your way." May overcame an abdominal injury to win the gold in Athens.

"When the odds are against me, that's what inspires me the most," May said. "When people tell me I can't do something, that's what inspires me. There's that 1 percent chance, and if you work hard enough, you're going to turn it around and the odds will be in your favor."

Her former coach, Gimmillaro, told students that they possessed the same tenacious qualities as May.

"When things are most difficult, she has the ability to make her teammates around her comfortable with the challenge," he said.

Gimmillaro is the nationally honored California State University Long Beach coach of some of the world's best women's volleyball players. He is the only coach in the nation to have won national championships three times at the club, high school and NCAA Division I college levels, yet he considers his work as a teacher even more important than his accom-

plishments as a coach.

Also honored with Superintendent's Community Service Awards at the event were Verizon, a long-time supporter of local schools, and Mike Murray, who is this year's President of the Education Foundation. Both Verizon and Murray were honored for creating outstanding business partnerships that support student achievement. Murray emceed the event with Frank Mottek, news anchor with KNX News Radio and KTLA TV Channel 5.

Nominate Year's Best Classified Employee

Employees may submit nominations for the Long Beach Unified School District's Classified Employee of the Year Award until Friday, April 29. Now is the time to spotlight outstanding classified co-workers—the unsung heroes who deserve recognition for supporting good schools.

Nomination forms are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us. Visit the Personnel Commission entry in the alphabetical index. Completed nomination forms may be faxed to 983-1588 or sent through district mail to the Personnel Commission, Attention: Employee Recognition Committee, or they may be dropped off in person at 999 Atlantic Avenue, Third Floor.

Finalists and the top winner will be announced at the Classified Employee Barbecue at the Teacher Resource Center on Friday, May 20. The award winner also will be recognized at a Board of Education meeting this spring.

For more information, call 435-5708.

CalSPRA Awards

The California School Public Relations Association recently gave an Award of Excellence to the Long Beach Unified School District's New Teacher Recruitment Marketing Campaign, which used tabletop displays, banners, signs and DVDs. An Award of Merit went to the district's "Every 15 Minutes" program on the dangers of drinking and driving.

A commentary article in the Long Beach Press-Telegram by former Board of Education President Bobbie Smith also won a CalSPRA Award of Excellence for writing. Smith, a former librarian, was president of the LBUSD board when she submitted the article, "All Children Deserve a Good Education." The May 16, 2004 article addressed the 50th anniversary of the landmark Brown vs the Board of Education ruling, describing Smith's own experiences growing up in segregated Mississippi, and detailing the Long Beach Unified School District's efforts to provide outstanding opportunities for all students.

Smith's article also will be published in the upcoming book, *African American Librarians of the Far West: Pioneers and Trailblazers*.

Top Health Educator

Ann Rector, teacher on special assignment in the Health/Physical Education Office, received the Health Education Teacher of the Year Award at the recent California Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Annual Conference.

The statewide award recognizes individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to school health programs and the promotion of children's health.

Friday Evening Jazz

Millikan High School is hosting the tenth annual Jazz Showcase on Friday, April 29, in the Millikan auditorium from 3:10 to 9 p.m.

Jazz ensembles from Bancroft, DeMille, Hughes, Rogers, and Stanford middle schools, and Millikan, Poly and Wilson high schools will perform. Long Beach Brethren, McAuliffe Middle School and Mayfair High School will also perform. The Assistance League of Long Beach provides the music educators who will judge each performing group.

Admission is free and donations to help support this special program are welcome. Contact Bonnie Annes at ext. 4142 for information.

Name in the News

Michael Diaz, eighth grader at Cubberley, qualified for the second time for the California State Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic. He missed only one question in the nine preliminary rounds, finishing in a tie for 20th place overall in California. Michael was the only LBUSD student to qualify for this prestigious event.

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Carla Watson	June 2	Becky Robbins ext. 7964

Camp Fire Pals Earn Highest Honor

Seven selfless seniors from four high schools have made headlines for their 13 years of service. From their kindergarten days at Twain Elementary School, these students have grown up together in their Camp Fire Club. They've learned about their community, earned hundreds of merit patches and spent thousands of hours serving others.

Since sixth grade they have collected gifts and presented a heartwarming holiday Angel Tea for pediatric AIDS patients at Memorial and St. Mary medical centers. Each of the seven scholars recently earned Camp Fire's highest honor—the equivalent of Eagle Scout—known as the WoHeLo Medallion.

Lakewood's Chelsea Montgomery earned the Congressional Award Gold Medal, is a talented vocalist, pianist and flautist, sings in the school choir, inline skated the Long Beach Marathon and has a 3.5 GPA.

Millikan's Sarah Deister is a four-year member of Millikan's swim team, is a summer camp leader, earned the Girl Scout Gold Award and is a candidate for the Congressional Award Gold Medal. Katlin Greiving is a member of the Millikan varsity swim and water polo teams.

Poly's Maria Dowell is president of the Choral Club and sings in the top two choirs at Poly. She performs in musical theater, has completed six AP courses and has a 4.1 GPA. She is a candidate for the Congressional Award Gold Medal. Stephanie Leyba volunteers at the Care Center at Poly as a peer counselor in the Yellow Ribbon teen suicide prevention program.

Wilson's Cassandra Flanigan is active in drama and is a talented dancer. Ashlee Mattera coordinated Make A Difference Day, collecting hundreds of household items for people leaving the homeless shelter to use in their new apartments and homes. She's a varsity tennis player and volunteers at Memorial. She is a candidate for the Congressional Award Gold Medal.

Renaissance Poetry

Renaissance High School for the Arts was winner of the recent High School Poetry Slam Contest, an annual event featured in the Long Beach Poetry Festival.

The team earned \$400 in Barnes and Noble gift certificates for its victory. Poly placed second and earned \$300 in gift certificates, while Cabrillo and Lakewood tied for third and earned \$200 in certificates for each school.

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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Superintendent of Schools

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Grant's Starry Night

U.S. Grant recently hosted its 2nd Annual Starry Family Astronomy Night where the students, their families and the staff enjoyed an educational evening under the stars.

Students were first introduced to space crafts, making replicas of comets, constellations and nebulas. Then students enjoyed a short slide show presentation of what they were about to witness through the 20 telescopes provided by the Santa Ana College Planetarium. Students viewed the moon, Saturn, Jupiter and Orion's Belt through the telescopes. Many students exclaimed, "I can see the craters on the moon!" and, "Look at the rings around Saturn!"

The Job Board

- Emerson Parkside Academy Charter School is accepting applications for a full time media specialist for the 2005-06 school year. Please email or call Cindy Young, principal for more information at cyoung@lbusd.k12.ca.us or 420-2631.

- Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for computer support specialist assistant and computer support user representative.

Hughes Way Parking

Beginning May 1, the number of available parking spaces located in the Raytheon Parking lot adjacent to the Administration Building at 1515 Hughes Way will be reduced to 36 available spaces.

Six years ago, the 72 spaces were leased to accommodate Administration Building employees and district employees using the Administration Building for meetings. Today, with decreased use of Administration Building facilities for meetings, demand for parking has declined as well.

Administration Building employees have been asked to use the adjacent parking structure and leave the overflow Raytheon lot for visitors and occasional employee use.

Dates to Remember

May	
1-7	Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
1-7	National Physical Education and Sports Month
1	Reading Is Fun Week
3	Teacher Appreciation Week
4	Law Day
5	National Teacher Day
8	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00; 5 - 10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Adventures in Poetry II," Grades 3-6, ed.tv 8
9	Cinco de Mayo
10	Holocaust Remembrance Day
10	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Paper Sculpture," Refuse," Grades 5-8, ed.tv 8
11	California Day of the Teacher
11	National School Nurse Day
11	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Florence Nightingale," Grades 4-8, ed.tv 8
12	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"The Paper Crane," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Southeast Asia: How Does Change Occur?" (Asian/Pacific Cultures), Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
15-21	National Educational Bosses' Week
16-20	Classified Employee Week
19	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"Total War" (Memorial Day), Grades 9-12, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30—"High School Graduation—A Day You Will Never Forget," Grades 6-8, ed.tv 8
21	Armed Forces Day
25	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00—"Memorial Day/Veterans' Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
30	Memorial Day