



school bulletin

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

November 18, 2005

More Schools Up For National, State Prizes

Hill Classical Middle School is in the running for the 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award, the highest national honor a school can earn.

The award is presented by the U.S. Department of Education in recognition of strong academic achievement.

"We're not totally surprised because we've been watching our scores go up," said principal Peter Davis. "But we are very happy."

Only 35 schools in California were nominated for the award. Nominated schools had to meet the national Adequate Yearly Progress criteria and the state's 2004 and 2005 school-wide and subgroup Academic Performance Index growth targets.

The Blue Ribbon Award winners will be announced in September.

LBUSD also has 17 elementary and K-8 schools that are eligible to apply for the 2006 California Distinguished School Award.

District schools eligible to apply are Buffum, Carver, Edison, Fremont, Gant, Gompers, Holmes, Hudson, International, Lee, Madison, Muir, Newcomb, Prisk, Robinson, Tincer and Twain.

CSEA, District Reach Tentative Agreement

The Long Beach Unified School District and the California School Employees Association have reached a tentative bargaining agreement. The tentative agreement was subject to formal ratification by CSEA's members and the Board of Education.

Negotiators agreed to a 2.26 percent raise retroactive to July 1, 2004. The raise is the same as the amount recently approved for the school district's non-represented and management employees.

The bargaining teams also reached tentative agreement on changes to employee health benefit plans. As a cost-savings measure, the district will close its two self-insured CCN health plans to CSEA members and instead re-open PacifiCare HMO and Blue Shield HMO, a move that would save an estimated \$3.9 million. The same arrangement for non-represented employees will save an estimated \$1.5 million. The district also will continue to offer Blue Shield PPO and Kaiser plans to classified and non-represented employees.

CSEA-represented employees will be able to participate in health benefit open enrollment at the benefitenroll.com web site starting **November 19**. The login ID is the employee's Social Security number with no dashes. The password is date of birth (mm/dd/yy). For information, contact Ceridian at (800) 582-6764. Classified and non-represented

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SKY HIGH SUPPORT—

JetBlue Senior Vice President of Operations Al Spain, right, accompanies Superintendent of Schools Chris Steinhauer during the annual Principal for a Day event. Spain received a standing ovation from 95 school principals and 208 guest principals from business and industry who spent the day learning what it takes to run a successful school. JetBlue donated round-trip plane tickets to each principal. Fifty local high school seniors and staff will be selected to fly to Washington, D.C. this spring for a first-hand look at the Capitol, courtesy of JetBlue.



Guest Principals Rave About Local Schools

More than 200 guest principals from business and industry were impressed by the high quality of local schools that they saw during a recent day of shadowing principals here in California's third largest school district.

Following a day at their school, the Principals for a Day gathered for a debriefing to share their observations. At the reception, Al Spain, JetBlue Airways Corporation's senior vice president for operations, earned a standing ovation when he announced that he was giving each of the school district's everyday principals a free plane ticket to any non-stop destination. Spain had spent the day as Superintendent for a Day, shadowing Chris Steinhauer, superintendent of schools.

"Today was an opportunity to see a broad spectrum of what's going on in the school district," Spain told the audience. "I've served as principal for a day in New York, and what I've seen here today really challenges everything New York is doing in their public schools. I saw some great instruction and teachers, great principals, and I'm so thankful for what you're doing here." JetBlue is based at New York's JFK International Airport.

Principal for a Day has been the most successful business-in-education activity of the last decade. Hundreds of business and education partnerships have begun through this popular event. It is co-sponsored by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the Long Beach Unified School District and the Long Beach Education Foundation. Co-chairs of this year's event were Ryan Alsop, manager of government and public affairs for the Long Beach Water Department, and Bruce MacRae,

public affairs manager for UPS.

At the debriefing session, Spain also announced that JetBlue was donating 50 airline tickets for high school students and staff to travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators and learn the ropes at the Capitol. An additional two tickets per high school were donated to help raise funds for school projects. Boeing announced a donation of \$100,000 for teacher professional development, early childhood education, Advanced Placement college preparation and other efforts.

The debriefing session was taped and will be aired on Channel 24 in Long Beach and on Channel 35 in Lakewood. Airtime is 6:30 p.m. on November 18, 24 and 25, and December 1 and 2.

Principal for a Day participants raved about their experience visiting classrooms and learning what it takes to run a public school.

"I am so impressed with the high schools. I went to Lakewood last year and Wilson this year. The schools are large, with more than 4,000 kids, but what a nice job they do in class. The students are very attentive and well behaved. I can understand why the school district won the Broad Award. My hat's off to the school district." — Ray Jankowski, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community Hospital of Long Beach

"The principal at Hudson is doing a great job. We had a wonderful assembly with about 1,200 students sitting there patiently. The Chamber of Commerce believes that a great community begins and ends with a great educational system. Principal for a Day is more

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• Guest Principals

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than a few hours away from the office. I encourage everyone to get involved with your schools and stay involved all year." — Larry Whitley, Chairman of the Board, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, and Director of Boeing 767 Tanker Communications

"Kudos to Barton Elementary School. The principal, Luana Wesley, is doing a fine job. I learned a great deal about what teachers are doing, and I just wish some of them had been my instructors." — Willie Denton, Sales Representative, California Lottery

"The principal at Hoover Middle School, Mike Troyer, went through every program that's offered at the school, and I agree 100 percent with what he's doing there. The results are highly commendable. It was a good experience, and I recommend that everyone do it at least once." — Joe Esquivel, Mayor, City of Lakewood

"Hiring Sally Gregory as principal at Avalon was the best decision the school district has ever made. She's doing an outstanding job." — Ralph Morrow, Mayor, City of Avalon

"We clearly saw a lot of positive things going on in the classroom. I've done principal for a day in four cities, and Long Beach is doing a lot of things that I haven't seen elsewhere, using creative approaches to reach kids through technology and other means. I'm looking forward to continuing a relationship with Millikan High School." — Eric Brown, Senior Vice President, Charter Communications

"As a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, I was pleased to see the music program that has been reinstated at Franklin Middle School. My experience there exceeded my wildest expectations. It was an incredible learning experience. They're accomplishing steady progress. It's awesome to see that our schools have quality teachers, textbooks, physical plants and an administrative team working together with the community to help students achieve more than at any time in the past decade. The key to that is the principal at Franklin, David Taylor. He's the kind of administrator that every school should be blessed to have." — Bill Grisolia, Chief Executive Officer, Sunfish Restaurants

Names in the News

Pat Essington and **Jackie Gonzalez**, both fifth grade teachers at Lowell, were named Drug Abuse Resistance Education Educators of the Year at the recent DARE Luncheon.

The Lakewood High School deaf and hard of hearing program received a \$25,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation. Teachers **Lisa "Sid" Shapiro** and **Marilee Elam** and aides **Sue Fry** and **Rosemarie Padilla-Tan** will use the funds for laptop computers and printers for the class. The grant was presented by **Mike Murray**, government affairs manager for Verizon and vice president of the Long Beach Education Foundation. **Judy Seal**, LBEF executive director, authored the grant.

Mel Collins, co-principal at Cabrillo, was recently awarded the Champion for Character Award by the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section. The award recognizes his encouragement of athletic excellence in accordance with the character values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

Back in the States

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tom Murphy, husband of Bircham counselor Nancy Murphy,

will return to the Long Beach Unified School District this month as assistant principal at Wilson Classical High School. Murphy is ending a 15-month tour of duty which included 11 months stationed in Iraq flying Black Hawk helicopters in support of U.S. troops on the ground. His 38-year military career has included active duty tours in Viet Nam, providing air security at the 1984 Summer Olympics, as well as flying air support in numerous wildfires, earthquakes, search and rescue missions, and other public emergencies. Murphy was previously assistant principal at Hughes Middle School.



Murphy

What Others Say

Appreciative parent Mayra Fernandez recently gave Longfellow Elementary School Principal Marnos Lelesi a \$2,000 check to purchase school supplies for students. Fernandez is the mother of 17 — 11 of whom are adopted — and she is highly satisfied with the education her children are receiving in the Long Beach Unified School District.

"The personnel is so cooperative, and the education my kids receive here is very balanced. They teach the students to have character," Fernandez said. "It warms my heart to see how my house has more than doubled in price since I bought it four years ago. I truly believe that a reason for property values going up is the high quality of education schools like Longfellow are offering. It is my hope that by giving this some publicity, it will encourage others in the neighborhood and local real estate agents who are profiting from mounting property values to do the same. If our schools are better, our society will be better."

Retirement Event

Honoree	Date	Contact
Delores Solorzano	Jan. 21	Janet Dominger ext. 8034

SCHOOL BULLETIN

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• CSEA Agreement

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employees currently enrolled in CCN must switch plans by November 30, or they will not be covered by health insurance.

An informational meeting on health plan options is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22 in the Lakewood High School Auditorium.

As part of the tentative agreement, the district pledged to rescind eight layoffs of employees approved November 1 by the Board of Education.

Recent Promotions

The following classified employees recently received promotions:

Yaopou Chao, instructional aide-special, Hamilton;

Steven Crothers, computer equipment support supervisor, Information Services;

Fabiola Enciso, school community worker-bilingual Spanish, Stanford;

Laura Gross, instructional aide-special, Carver;

Diane Marton, instructional aide-special, International;

Rhonda Mendoza, Nutrition Services supervisor I, McKinley;

Judy Mitchell, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Hamilton;

Marsha Resner, instructional aide-special, Carver;

Karen Robinson, instructional aide-special, Carver;

Marina Rosales-Diaz, Head Start family services liaison, Head Start;

Karol Shettlesworth, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Stephens;

Mary Sungura, intermediate Nutrition Services worker, Jefferson;

Lynette Williams, Nutrition Services supervisor I, Henry;

Lydia Young-Davis, senior Nutrition Services worker, Millikan.

Dates to Remember

December

1	World AIDS Day
1	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Taking Care of Your School Building," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
2	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "McGruff on the Law: Bicycles and Pedestrians," Grades 2-5, ed.tv 8
6	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Preventing Conflicts and Violence," Grades 6-12, ed.tv 8
7	Pearl Harbor Day
8	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "School Bus Safety," Grades 3-5, ed.tv 8
9	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Food For Fun," Grades K-3, ed.tv 8
10	Human Rights Day
13	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Kwanzaa," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
14	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "Christmas (Holidays for Children)," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
15	Bill of Rights Day
15	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Hanukkah/Passover (Holidays for Children)," Grades K-4, ed.tv 8
16	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "December Holidays," Grades 1-5, ed.tv 8
20	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Celebrate," Grades K-8, ed.tv 8
21	8:00, 10:15, 11:30, 1:00, 2:00— "New Year's Day," Grades K-5, ed.tv 8
22	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "A Christmas Carol," Grades 4-9, ed.tv 8
23	10:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30— "Ebenezer," Grades 4-6, ed.tv 8
25	Christmas Day
26	Christmas Day-Legal Holiday
26-Jan. 6	Winter Recess
26-Jan. 2	Hanukkah
26-Jan. 1	Kwanzaa
27	Declared Holiday
30	Non-duty equalization day