



school bulletin

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

October 7, 2005

Teachers of the Year Uphold High Standards

Three outstanding Long Beach Unified School District teachers have been selected as 2006 Teachers of the Year.

Joyce King teaches second grade at Gompers Elementary School. Patricia Nelson teaches fourth grade at Burcham Elementary School. Sherwin Reyes teaches fifth grade at Addams Elementary School.

The three were honored at a recent luncheon hosted by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for top teachers throughout the county.

Joyce King challenges each student and makes a point of helping them take responsibility for their own learning.

"I have high expectations for each and every child," she said.

King also emphasizes creating conditions for a child's social skills to grow.

Patricia Nelson's underlying philosophy of teaching stresses instilling a passion for learning so that students feel encouraged and comfortable.

"I make my classroom as nurturing as possible for every child who comes in my door," she said. "When we feel that acceptance, we can make mistakes and know that those around



King



Nelson

NAACP Awards

Honorees at this evening's NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet and Awards include Fitzgerald Jones, director of both Long Beach School for Adults and Reid Continuation School, and Maurice Turner, plant supervisor and girls basketball coach at Poly High School. Jones will receive the Lillie V. Grigsby Community Service Award. Turner will receive the Ernest McBride, Sr. Community Service Award.

The two employees are among 13 people being honored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for their work in education and other fields. Jones has worked as a teacher and counselor. Turner, a graduate of Poly, is an ordained minister and has worked with several social service agencies.

Also being honored with a Lifetime Achievement award are community activists Ebenezer and Wynona Bush. Wynona Bush was the first black teacher at Whittier Elementary School and remained in the classroom for 28 years.



Jones



Turner

us will not look down on us but rather give us credit for trying."

Sherwin Reyes used her early struggles as a teacher as motivation for her own professional growth.

"To turn things around, I sought out colleagues who were having success with their students, and I scheduled time during my off-track periods to observe and talk with them," she said. "I did lots of professional reading and attended onsite and LBUSD staff development that targeted my greatest areas of weakness. As my knowledge increased, so did the effectiveness of my teaching. It was exhausting, but exhilarating."



Reyes

Emerging Leaders Examine Lindbergh, Roosevelt Strengths

They want to learn from the best.

That's the goal of 23 outstanding emerging leaders. They have been chosen by the Broad Foundation to participate in The Broad Residency to gain national exposure to the most successful educational practices in urban schools.

The talented up-and-coming graduates of the top business, law and public policy universities in the U.S. have selected two schools to visit here: Lindbergh Middle School and Roosevelt Elementary School. Both schools have achieved exemplary academic gains for students from low-income families.

Only 5 percent of Americans with strong literacy skills live in poverty, according to the Broad Center for the Management of School Systems.

Last year, Lindbergh achieved the greatest gains on the Academic Performance Index of any school in the Long Beach Unified School District, improving by 57 points. During the past two years, Lindbergh increased its enrollment in algebra I by 66 percent, compared to the districtwide increase of 26 percent.

Roosevelt won the California Distinguished School Award last year for its high academic expectations and achievement above state standards.

Both schools serve high percentages of students on AFDC or qualifying for free or reduced price meals, yet they have attained superior gains in student achievement.

The Long Beach Unified School District earned the Broad Prize in the 2003-04 school year as America's Best Urban Schools. The national prize recognized the narrowing of achievement gaps among various socioeconomic and ethnic groups here.

Generous Students, Staff Contribute to Hurricane Relief

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell visited Gompers Elementary School last week to honor exemplary efforts here to raise donations for Hurricane Katrina victims.

He singled out Gompers first grader Joe Aubuchon, who donated his entire savings of \$217. The generous youngster had been saving for two years to buy a German shepherd puppy. He decided hurricane victims needed help more than he needed a dog.

O'Connell also thanked Gompers for contributing \$1,350 so far and praised efforts by students statewide to help alleviate the suffering caused by the powerful hurricane.

Schools that have raised funds may contact O'Connell's office and receive a certificate of recognition as part of the statewide California Kids Care effort to raise hurricane relief funds. The form is available on the California Department of Education website at

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Brittany Murray/Press-Telegram

GENEROUS JOE—Gompers first grader Joe Aubuchon contributed to Hurricane Katrina survivors the \$217 he had been saving to buy a German shepherd puppy. State Schools Superintendent Jack O'Connell thanked him for his selfless example to others.

Emerson Award Visit

Emerson Parkside Academy will receive a site visit next week to determine if they will win the Eureka Award for Performance Excellence, the state version of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

If Emerson wins the prestigious award, it will become the first charter school in California to earn the high honor.

The visitation will take place Wednesday, October 12 and Thursday, October 13. Four visitors from the California Council for Excellence will meet with staff and review the school's application.

"This truly is a significant honor to receive this visitation," said Cynthia Young, Emerson director. "Every single employee on this campus has contributed to the success of our students and this school."

National Certification

The school district supports teachers who are interested in applying for National Board Certification. Teachers who are accepted and who successfully complete the Pre-Candidacy Program are eligible for payment of National Board application fees, a \$2,300 savings.

Teachers who earn this certification are eligible for up to a 10 percent salary increase for the life of the certificate (10 years) in addition to any compensation provided by the state.

A meeting on this certification and the district's Pre-Candidacy Program is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 18 at the Teacher Resource Center, Room A. Applications are available at www.lbusd.k12.ca.us under National Board Candidate Support in the alphabetical index. For information, call Lisa Isbell Hager, ext 2900.

Growth Meetings

An informational meeting about the district's Professional Growth Requirement will be held 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, November 2 in the Longfellow Elementary School Auditorium. Reservations are not needed for this optional meeting. Certificated employees with the California Single Subject or Multiple Subject Professional Clear Credential may attend to learn about professional growth hours, district procedures and Professional Growth Advisers.

For information, call ext. 2901 or the TALB Office at 426-6433.

Coffee With Chris

The next Long Beach Unified Family Committee meeting will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 11 in the Administration Building Community Room. The informal meetings encourage open dialogue between employees and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser. All interested employees are invited to attend.

In Memoriam

Ross Yadon
former lead custodian
September 27, 2005

Qualified Teacher Website Launched

New federal regulations under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) affect the qualifications of teachers. The school district is implementing the regulations and helping teachers to document their qualifications.

NCLB requires teachers of core subjects to be highly qualified by the end of the 2005-06 school year. Core subjects are defined by law as: English, reading, language arts, math, science, foreign languages, civics and government, history, geography, economics and the arts. Elementary teachers are also required to complete the process because the core subjects are the foundation of elementary content.

The highly qualified designation requires:

- a bachelor's degree,
- a valid California credential or intern credential in the subject(s) taught, and
- subject matter competency in the subject(s) taught.

A district webpage to help teachers document qualifications is now up and running. It is located in LROIX, which is LBUSD's Research website. Teachers may enter the site from any computer with Internet access by:

1. Opening www.lbusd.k12.ca.us on your web browser,
2. Clicking on LROIX in the alphabetical index,
3. Logging in, using your regular district user name and password,
4. Single clicking on "Highly Qualified Teachers," and
5. Typing in qualifications as directed.

Five steps are involved in the process: Teaching Experience, Degrees, Teaching Credential, Subject Matter Qualifications, and Verification of Entries.

The entire process takes approximately 30 minutes. Each school has received a brochure with step-by-step instructions and contact information needed to complete the requirement. In addition, sites have received a list of frequently asked questions and a preparation worksheet.

If needed, an alternate paper process is also available by emailing a request to jsuarez@lbusd.k12.ca.us.

The Job Board

Applications are now being accepted at the Personnel Commission, 999 Atlantic Ave., third floor, for instructional aide-speech and language communication and truck driver.

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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• Hurricane Relief

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www.cde.ca.gov by clicking on the Hurricane Katrina item on the right hand side of the home page and scrolling down to options for downloading the California Kids Care form.

The target date for submitting the form is Monday, October 10, although some late submissions will be accepted.

The Long Beach Unified School District has accepted 30 students who were displaced from the Gulf Coast, and many schools have already helped with Hurricane Katrina relief:

- Sutter raised \$3,000, nearly \$2 per student, for the Houston Independent School District, which took in thousands of displaced Louisiana students.
- Garfield conducted a "Kids Helping Kids" Dollar Donation fundraiser. Many teachers have pledged to match donations brought in by students, and the school has surpassed its \$1,000 goal with donations from families and students alone.

• Carver students made and sold lemonade at a stand across the street from school to raise funds. Their refreshments brought in \$650.

• At Poly, students from different clubs are visiting classes and distributing collection buckets to solicit donations. Long Beach firefighters have circulated through the crowd at Poly football games collecting funds.

• The grandparents of a student at Burnett have been directly affected by Katrina. Fundraising at the school will be used to purchase and send needed items to them.

• Roosevelt is holding a penny drive to support families in need as a result of the hurricanes. Students have raised more than \$1,000.

• Lakewood sent funds raised to Habitat for Humanity.

• The student council at Mann raised \$807.59. A check was presented to the American Red Cross at a recent assembly.

• A penny drive at Kettering raised \$1,537.03 in one week for Hurricane Katrina victims. Third grader Eric Harris donated \$225.05 in coins, money he had been saving since he was five for a family trip to Hawaii.

• Longfellow students collected \$1,593.16 for Hurricane Katrina victims, almost \$900 in the first two days alone. The PTA is sponsoring a Harvest Festival in November, with proceeds going to hurricane victims.

• McKinley staff and students have raised more than \$600 to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina via the American Red Cross.

• Millikan students in the Sweet As Kandee Club donated \$500 to relief efforts. The Kidette Team washed cars and raised \$600.

• Addams raised \$2,378.87 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

• Naples students collected nearly 70 backpacks filled with school supplies, books and small stuffed animals. The backpacks were delivered to an intake center for distribution.

• Powell collected \$120.75 in donations for the Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund during its annual pancake breakfast and gym dedication.

• Renaissance contributed \$500 of student store profits to Habitat for Humanity for their hurricane recovery effort and to Best Friends Animal Society Hurricane Relief Fund.

• Henry students raised \$1,567 for Katrina's relief fund in "Henry's Hurricane Spare Change" drive during the first week of school. Funds went to the American Red Cross.

• Cleveland students and teachers collected \$1,228 which will be donated to the American Red Cross.